

## **“The Fall of the Roman Empire”**

### **Daniel 2:31-35**

Introduction: Rome was the largest and most famous city in the ancient world; its magnificent public buildings symbolized the wealth of the Roman Empire. It had a population of over a million people with some 50 million people living within its borders. Its civilization was so powerful that it is still with us today through languages, the Catholic Church, and the Twelve Tables, which form the basis of western law.

Rome dominated the known world for almost a thousand years. It grew haphazardly and went from brick buildings to stone and then marble. Huge palaces, great temples, and public squares were built on a scale never seen before. Romans took pleasure in the rituals of public baths, some of which covered 33 acres with a space for 1,600 bathers. Most of the streets in Rome were lined with shops and workshops with money being used everywhere for buying and selling. Outside every public building, including the baths, theater, and the circus were merchants selling wine and cooked foods. Juvenal, the poet, said that the Roman people were only interested in bread and circuses.

The Circus Flavius, Rome’s oval amphitheater, is now known as the Colosseum. It was the scene of brutal gladiatorial games. Built of concrete and marble, it held the capacity of around 55,000 people. More than 10,000 gladiators fought and 11,000 animals died.

Rome lived off its imports, and its merchants were the wealthiest men in the Empire. It was flourishing, thriving, and very prosperous, but the Lord had predicted the doom of this pleasure-seeking people.

1. Rome as the Legs of Iron and Feet, Half of Iron and Clay Daniel 2:33-35
2. Rome as the Beast Daniel 7:7-8
3. Rome as the Little Horn of the Fourth Beast Daniel 8:8-12, 23-27 (This reveals that the Anti-Christ will come out of Syria, a part of the old Roman Empire.)

Body: Why did Rome fall? In *The decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, completed in 1787, Edward Gibbon lists the following reasons for that fall:

- I. The rapid increase of divorce; the undermining of dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society.
  - A. The Perils of Adultery
    1. Look at the Society- We are living in a sex soaked society  
Jeremiah 23:10- *“For the land is full of adulterers; for because of swearing the land mourneth; the pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up, and their course is evil, and their force is not right.”*
    2. Look at the Statistics
      - a. Marriage rate has dropped 43%
      - b. In the last 30 years, divorce rate has doubled
      - c. One out of every two marriages ends in divorce
      - d. The divorce rate has risen 700 percent in the past century and continues to rise. Over a million children a

year are involved in divorce cases and 13 million children under eighteen have one or both parents missing

- e. Over one-quarter of a million illegitimate births will occur this year. Twenty-one percent of all births in the US occur in the age group between 12 and 19
  - f. 42% of teenagers polled claimed to have sexual relationships
  - g. Every day in America 2,975 teenagers get pregnant
  - h. Every day in America 7,742 teenagers become sexually active
  - i. Every day in America 2,556 children are born out of wedlock
  - j. Every day in America 2,989 children experience their parent's divorce
  - k. It is estimated that this year in America that 70% of all black children and 30% of all white children will be born out of wedlock
  - l. In January, 2000, 17.5 million internet surfers visited adult pornography
  - m. Of the 40 million adults that visit pornographic websites, seven million identified themselves as Christians
- 3. Look at the Snare II Peter 2:14- *"Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:"*
  - 4. Look at the Sentence Proverbs 6:33- *"A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away."*

#### B. The Provoking to Adultery

- 1. The Lips of Adultery Proverbs 5:3- *"For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil:"*
- 2. The Lies of Adultery Proverbs 7:5- *"That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words."*
- 3. The Look of Adultery Proverbs 7:10- *"And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart."*
  - a. Clothing I Timothy 2:9- *"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;"*
  - b. Cosmetics
    - (1) Revelation 2:20-22- *"Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat*

*things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.”*

(2) II Kings 9:30- *“And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window.”*

4. The Loudness of Adultery Proverbs 7:11- *“(She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:”*
5. The Lunging of Adultery Proverbs 7:13- *“So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him,”*
6. The Lures to Adultery Proverbs 7:17- *“I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.”*

#### C. The Prevention of Adultery

1. Watch Your Touch I Corinthians 7:1- *“Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.”*  
Proverbs 6:27- *“Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?”*
2. Watch Your Talk Colossians 4:6- *“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”*
3. Watch Your Travels Proverbs 5:8- *“Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:”*
4. Watch Your Thoughts
  - a. Corrupt Thoughts Matthew 5:28- *“But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.”*  
Matthew 15:19- *“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:”*
  - b. Controlled Thoughts I Peter 1:13- *“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;”*

#### D. The Punishment for Adultery

1. Death Leviticus 20:10- *“And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.”*
2. Damnation I Corinthians 6:9- *“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither*

*fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,”*

Hebrews 13:4- *“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”*

II. Higher and higher taxes and the spending of public money for free bread and circuses for the populace.

A. Apathy for the Poor

1. Proverbs 21:13- *“Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.”*

2. Proverbs 22:9- *“He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.”*

B. Abuses of the Poor

1. II Thessalonians 3:10- *“For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.”*

2. II Thessalonians 3:6-12

III. The mad craze for pleasure; sports becoming every year more exciting and more brutal.

A. The Scriptures on Pleasure

1. Luke 8:14- *“And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.”*

2. II Timothy 3:4- *“Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God”*

3. Titus 3:3- *“For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.”*

B. The Statistics on Pleasure

1. In one year Americans spend \$16 billion for amusements

2. \$10.5 billion for alcohol

3. \$5 billion for tobacco

4. \$2 billion for travel

5. \$325 million for cat and dog food

6. \$304 million for chewing gum

7. \$76 million for lipstick

8. Foreign missions from Protestant churches in U.S. was \$145 million, less than half of chewing gum

9. TV sets are kept on 6 hours a day on average

10. Americans drive 350 billion miles a year in the pursuit of pleasure

11. There is on average \$5 billion spent on video games a year

IV. The building of gigantic armaments when the real enemy was within: the decadence of the people.

A. The Sin of Our People

1. II Timothy 3:13- *“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.”*
2. Matthew 24:38- *“For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark”*

B. The Statistics of Our People

1. A serious crime is committed every 3.5 seconds, one robbery every 83 seconds, one murder every 27 minutes
2. More than 500,000 heroin addicts live in the US and 43 million Americans have experimented with marijuana
3. The US has more than 9 million alcoholics
4. Suicide is the second largest killer of teenagers
5. Every day in USA 1,106 teenagers have an abortion
6. Every day 6 teens commit suicide
7. Every day 27 children die from poverty
8. Every day 3,288 teens run away from home
9. Every day 437 children are arrested for drinking or drunk driving
10. Every day 211 children are arrested for drug abuse
11. Every day 1,849 children are abused or neglected
12. Each year pornography industries bring in \$4 billion in profit. Over 500,000 children are used as models in the “child porn” industry

V. The decay of religion—faith fading into mere form—losing touch with life and becoming impotent to guide the people.

A. Situation of the Church

1. Revelation 3:15-17- *“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked”*
2. I John 4:1- *“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”*

B. Sins in the Church

1. Billy Graham: “I’m not a literalist [about the Bible] in that every jot and tittle is from the Lord. This is a little difference in my thinking through the years.” (Newsweek, August, 2006)
2. Pastor Ted Haggard/Meth & Sodomy—Julie Nemecek/Sex Change

Conclusion:

1. History repeats itself.—English Proverb
2. “History teaches us that man learns nothing from history.” —Hegel
3. “Those who refuse to learn from history are condemned to repeat it.” —George Santayana