

1. Last week I exegeted verse thirty five and read you several excerpts from leading eschatological "treatises" and when time expired I was about to give you several summary points on Dan 2:35.
2. Before continuing the analysis of Dan 2:35, I want to review an expanded translation of Dan 2:31-35.

Dan 2:31 What you saw O King was this: there before you stood a great statue. This great image was awesome in brightness; its colorful appearance signified several future glamorous empires; its form was terrifying; a symbol of the great power of the empires to come.

Dan 2:32 The golden head represented you O King as ruler of Chaldea, the breast and arms of silver represent the Kingdom of the Medes and the Persians to follow and the belly and thighs of bronze represent a Grecian empire whose Kingdom will supplant the Medo-Persians.

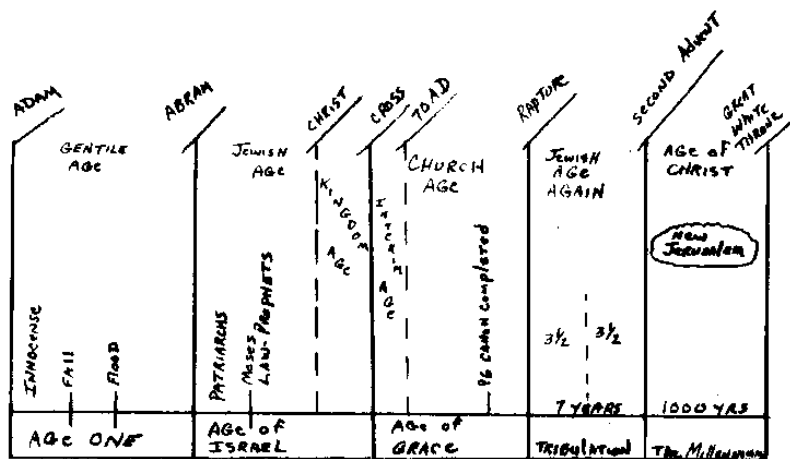
Dan 2:33 The legs of the image were made of iron representing the Roman Empire and the feet were made of both iron and clay representing the Revived Roman Empire.

Dan 2:34 Then you saw a large uncut stone rolling down a steep grade; it struck the base of the image and the iron and clay were smashed into many pieces. The Stone represented Jesus Christ in His Second Advent Role.

Dan 2:35 As a result of the Stone striking the image, the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold were broken into pieces and a great wind blew them away, not a trace of the shards could be found: and the Large Uncut Stone, a representation of Jesus Christ, became a great mountain, and filled the entire earth; His rulership was recognized by all the nations of the world.

Summary Points:

1. The Revived Roman Empire with headquarters in Rome and led by the Antichrist is defeated by Christ at His Second Advent.
2. There is a short period of judgment and carnage removal and then the Millennium is established, a perfect 1000 year reign of Christ.
3. Believing saints from the Gentile Age, the Age of Israel, some from the Kingdom Age and the saints of the Tribulation will first inhabit the earth in Christ's perfect kingdom, properly called the Millennium.
4. Church age believers will live in the heavenly New Jerusalem coming down from heaven and resting above the earth during the Millennium. Let's see how the ages look in chart form.



5. The Baptism of Fire takes place at the Second Advent when Christ judges who is worthy to enter the Millennium. Those judged at this judgment will be those who lived in the Gentile Age, the Age of Israel, Kingdom Age and the Tribulation. All will have to answer the question “did you believe in the Christ?” Salvation is every age is product of faith alone in Christ alone.

6. There will be severe judgments for unbelievers at the Second Advent, the unbelievers will be cast into the torment side of Sheol will come later. More about the order of the resurrections and a schematic of Sheol will come later.

7. There will also be a wedding supper at which time church age believers as the Bride of Christ will be introduced to believing Israel. The marriage of the Church to Christ took place in heaven, just after the rapture.

8. Now let's go to Dan 2:36 as Daniel interprets the dream:

KJV

Dan 2:36 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

NIV

Dan 2:36 "This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king.

1. I want to repeat and amplify for emphasis several points I earlier made about the image.
2. From the head to the toes, the material used decreased in intrinsic value.
3. This is analogous it would seem to the manifest decadence of the nations represented.

4. It is interesting to note that the proponents of evolution contend that Homo sapiens are constantly improving.

5. This is not only antithetical to what the Bible teaches, but historical records work against such supposition and in fact tend to disprove the theory.

6. From the first man, Adam, to the present time, man has been in a steady state of degeneration.

7. True we live in the most highly technical and advanced society the world has ever known; but for all our accomplishments, most of the world still lives in poverty and most of the world suffers from war, pestilence, floods, tornadoes, brutality, political chaos and general despair.

8. And now for the dream's interpretation, much of which we have covered. Because we have covered most of this earlier I will teach Dan 2:37 and 38 together.

KJV

Dan 2:37 Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

Dan 2:38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.

NIV

Dan 2:37 You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory;

Dan 2:38 in your hands he has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.

1. The emergence of the Chaldean Empire began in the mountainous plateau of the southern part of Iran and extended south toward the Arabic Gulf.

2. As time progressed these industrious people moved from the highlands to the coastal plains, which are also called by a few ancient historians "as the swamps."

3. They soon became well organized, moving out at various times to conquer other peoples.

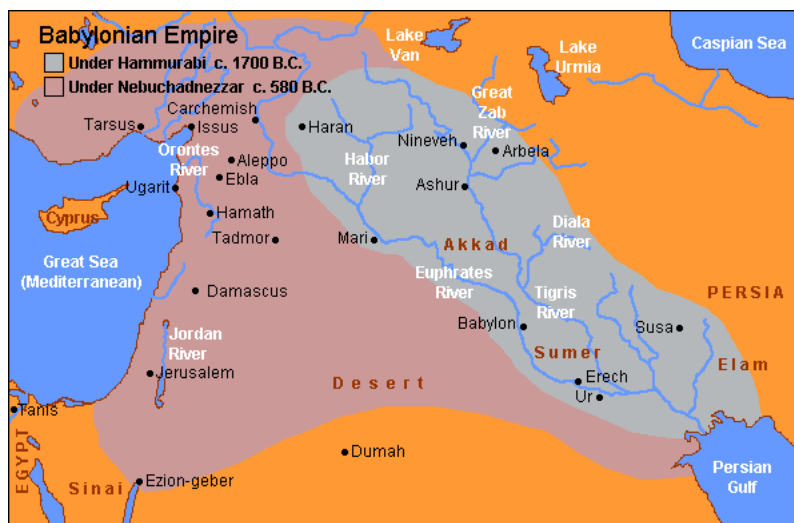
4. On what has been termed "their forays to the north" they eyed the lush Tigris Euphrates Valley (the Fertile Crescent) and at different periods in history these highlanders actually ruled as Kings of Babylon.

5. Nabopolassar, the father of Nebuchadnezzar, was hired by the Assyrians to defend Chaldea against an invasion of these "people of the sea."

6. In verse 37, Daniel makes the application "the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom."

7. Nabopolassar with a well- trained army marched into the capital city of Babylon in the name of the Assyrian King but he seized the opportunity to revolt against his royal Assyrian master and put together a new state.

9. Nabopolassar established Babylon as capital of a new "empire", the Babylonian or Chaldean Empire.



10. Finally with the help of the Medes and Scythians Assyria was defeated and Babylon reigned supreme over most of the "civilized."

11. Nebuchadnezzar succeeded his father as king; under his leadership the empire reached its zenith-the head of gold.

11.1 Several Kings would follow Nebuchadnezzar, some good some bad.

12. In about 556 B.C. a co-regency of Nabonidus and Belshazzar is defeated by a Medo-Persian alliance ending what the world knows today and in fact marvels over - the Babylonian Empire.

12. Now let's go to verse 39 where Daniel speaks of two empires which will follow Babylon:

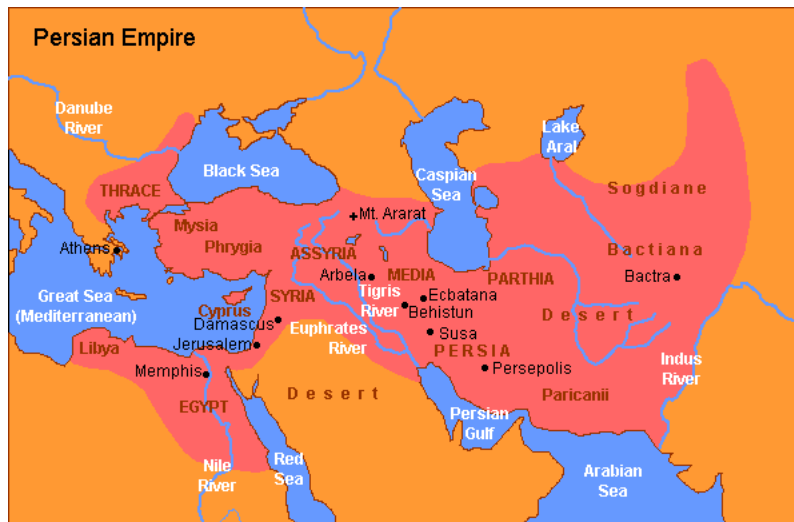
KJV

Dan 2:39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

NIV

Dan 2:39 "After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth.

1. During the rise and decline of the Chaldeans, two main forces were constantly striving for ascendancy-the Medes and the Persians-the arms of the image.
2. The leaders of each of these "nations" were cousins; who were sometimes hostile to each other but almost always hostile to outsiders.
3. About the same time that Belshazzar was made co-regent with his father, Nabonidus, Cyrus the Great of Persia was conquering the Medes. The Medes had previously ruled as overlords of the Iranian plateau just northwest of Babylon.
4. In 546 B.C., Cyrus seized Sardis, capital of the wealthy Croesus of Lydia.
5. In 539 B.C. Cyrus swept into the Crescent and took Babylonia.
6. It would seem Babylon surrendered with scarcely a fight and the head of gold was toppled.
7. The great and powerful Persian Empire was consolidated-the breast of silver.



8. Many, including the Jews welcomed Cyrus; after all Isaiah in Isa 45:1-2 had said "Thus said the Lord to his anointed "to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him ... I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight ..."

9. We have every reason to believe Cyrus accepted Christ as Savior. Keep in mind; Old Testament folks became Christians just the same way we do “faith alone in Christ alone.” It’s just that saints from the Age of the Gentiles the Age of Israel looked forward to the coming of Christ. God the Holy Spirit recall does and always has made salvation doctrine clear.

10. Cyrus the Great is mentioned in several Scriptures:

2Ch 36:22 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

2Ch 36:23 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The LORD his God be with him, and let him go up.

Ezr 1:1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

Ezr 1:2 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

Ezr 1:7 Also Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem, and had put them in the house of his gods;

Ezr 1:8 Even those did Cyrus king of Persia bring forth by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah.

Ezr 3:7 They gave money also unto the masons, and to the carpenters; and meat, and drink, and oil, unto them of Zidon, and to them of Tyre, to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the city of Joppa, according to the grant that they had of Cyrus king of Persia.

Ezr 4:3 But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us.

Ezr 4:5 And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

Ezr 5:13 But in the first year of Cyrus the king of Babylon the same king Cyrus made a decree to build this house of God.

Ezr 5:14 And the vessels also of gold and silver of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple that was in Jerusalem, and brought them into the temple of Babylon, those did Cyrus the king take out of the temple of Babylon, and they were delivered unto one, whose name was Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor;

Ezr 5:17 Now therefore, if it seem good to the king, let there be search made in the king's treasure house, which is there at Babylon, whether it be so, that a decree was made of Cyrus the king to build this house of God at Jerusalem, and let the king send his pleasure to us concerning this matter.

Ezr 6:3 In the first year of Cyrus the king the same Cyrus the king made a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, Let the house be builded, the place where they offered sacrifices, and let the foundations thereof be strongly laid; the height thereof threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof threescore cubits;

Ezr 6:14 And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.

Isa 44:28 That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

Isa 45:1 Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;

Dan 1:21 And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus.

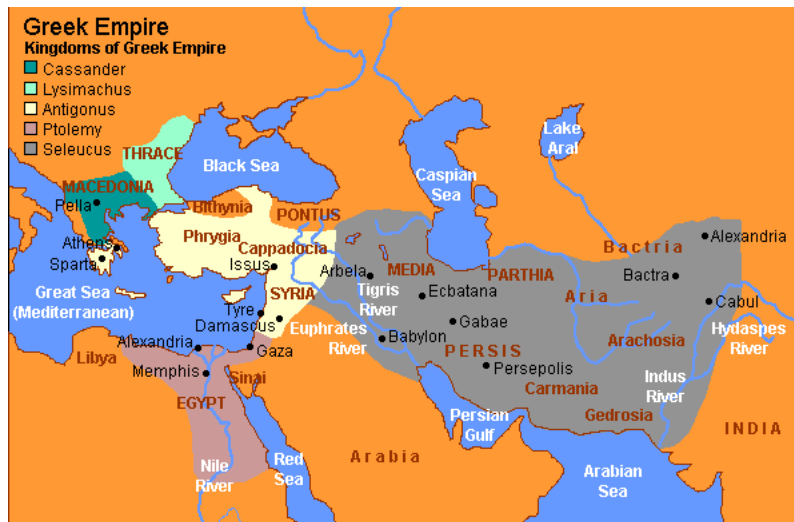
Dan 6:28 So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Dan 10:1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.

11. Now let's take a look at the third kingdom, the Kingdom of Bronze or Brass:

Dan 2:39b ... and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear the rule over all the earth...

12. As Persia gradually declined, the peoples to the south were gaining strength.
13. The belly and thighs of brass of verse 32 introduce the Graeco-Macedonian Empire.
14. The early Greeks were famous for fighting among themselves. In fact, they liked nothing better than the challenge of individual combat or small group fighting.
15. They had a genius for warfare and could possibly have conquered the world, but there was no motivation to do so.
16. All of this changed when Philip II of Macedon (brother of the king) returned from Thebes, where he had been held as a hostage. His political marriage to Olympias ultimately made Philip King.
17. While in Egypt, he observed the value of new military ideas in organization and tactics; when called to the throne, he had already organized a military force in accordance with his own ideas.
18. Philip also seemed to possess good business sense, and his judicious management of the gold mines of Macedonia insured ample funds for expeditions of conquest.
19. When a son, Alexander, was born to Philip and the beautiful redhead, Olympias of Epirus, he received the finest training and education available.
 - 19.1 His mother supposedly told Alexander he was a descendent from Hercules and destined for greatness.
 - 19.2 His dad we are told repeatedly told him he was destined to rule an empire and he was admonished not be satisfied with just maintaining his father's 'empire'.
20. In spite of having Aristotle as a teacher, Alexander was a poor student, and it was assumed that he would never amount to very much.
21. Philip had maneuvered, married and conquered until he was (through a signed treaty) ruler of most of what we call today Greece.
22. When he was mysteriously assassinated, Alexander took the throne at age twenty. There are those who believe Alexander, in concert with his mother, may have been complicit.
23. By excellent administration, Alexander proved he was truly brilliant though his earlier grades under the tutelage of Aristotle were less than spectacular.



24. The young King had been taught by his mother that he was the son of Hercules and he had a destiny to fulfill. Soon Alexander had a magnificent army ready to redeem several earlier losses to the Persians.

25. In 334 B.C. Alexander began his conquest against the Persians.

26. As his army set out, it was accompanied by geographers, botanist and special steppers to measure distances.

27. Alexander went forth not to just conquer but to study and to record and to learn.

28. His campaigns of Asia Minor, Palestine and Egypt were successful.

28.1 In Palestine at Jerusalem Alexander was met by the resident priests and shown the early prophecies of Daniel where he had been pictured as the "third kingdom of brass, which shall bear the rule over all the earth" in Daniel chapter two; "the leopard with wings" of chapter seven and the "goat who conquered the ram" in chapter eight; needless to say the young king at age 21 was impressed.

28.2 As a result Alexander showed Israel deference taking many Jewish administrators with him as he fought his way eastward across Iraq, Iran and Pakistan in hot pursuit of the Persians.

29. The old Persian Empire was completely neutralized and with the death of Darius III, the breast and arms of silver were succeeded on the scene of history by the stomach of brass.

30. Alexander the Great had arrived just as the Scriptures predicted.

31. Alexander was physically tough and a brave warrior. He suffered severe war wounds, the last being quite serious when on the Indus river he is stabbed in the chest.

32. During his short life he continued his conquests and extended his control across North Africa to Libya and eastward to India.

33. He ventured further than any other conqueror before him.

34. The great empire, which Alexander, survived him by only a few years. His successors fought each other for about forty years until territorial borders were finally established.

25. Ultimately, the dominant spheres of influence were headed by four -Seleucus, Ptolemy, Cassander and Lysimachus.

26. Let me quote from *The Cambridge Ancient History*:

"Aristotle ... gave Alexander a general interest in philosophy, scientific investigation and medicine. The latter ... bore fruit in Alexander's care for the health of his army ... he was one of the supreme fertilizing forces of history. He lifted the civilized world out of one groove and set it in another; he started a new epoch; nothing could again be as it had been ... He greatly enlarged the bounds of civilization a scope and an opportunity such as they had never yet possessed ... Greek culture spread throughout the world; and for the use of its inhabitants, in place of the many dialects of Greece, there grew up the form of Greek known as the Koine, 'the common speech'."

27. The Koine is considered by most objective philologists as the most communicative language ever developed. Any wonder that the New Testament was written in Koine Greek. Oh my, could God's hand have been in this?

28. Now let's look at the 'legs of iron' in Dan 2:40.

KJV

Dan 2:40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

NIV

Dan 2:40 Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron--for iron breaks and smashes everything--and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others.

1. The peasant shepherds living in hovels on the banks of the Tiber eventually moved to the safety of one of the seven hills around what we know today as Rome; they multiplied, spread out, and finally a city evolved.

2. Rome reached out gradually to conquer parts of northern and southern Italy.
3. She took her place with Carthage in the western world, while Syria, Egypt and Macedonia were powers in the east.
4. Rome would eventually become the the legs of iron in verse 33.
5. The thighs of brass would soon fall to the legs of iron.
6. Carthage made an attempt under Hannibal to defeat the several cities of Italy but failed for several reasons, not the least of which were extended logistical lines.
7. Rome first seized Sicily and Spain in the Punic Wars.
8. Next came Macedonia; and as war followed war, the empire took shape.
9. This fantastic expansion included Syria, Northern Africa, Asia Minor, Gaul and Egypt.
10. One historian has written "the Mediterranean became a Roman Lake."
11. Rome was mistress of the world through military might but she lacked the ability to administer her possessions.
12. Magistrates sent out as governors by the Senate often looted their provinces and returned with fortunes, leaving hatred and rebellion in their wake.
13. The Republic reeled from civil wars and the decadence of her people, and she might have suffered total collapse had Julius Caesar not crossed the Rubicon with a sizable army to grasp power and become Rome's first "dictator."
14. In less than 15 years Caesar set Rome on a path to greatness.
15. His brilliance on the battlefield ranged from the Black Sea to the Atlantic.
16. Without realizing it, this man set the stage for the ministry of Christ.
17. After the assassination of Caesar in 44 B.C., there was change again and civil wars ensued. When Caesar's nephew, Octavian Augustus became Emperor, the Roman Empire was born. Many believe that 27 B.C. was the Roman Empire's date of birth. August would rule until A.D.14.
18. Augustus did not seek new conquests, but carried forward the projects started by Julius Caesar; under Augustus the realm became an empire of splendor.

19. For the first time, the Roman world knew great peace.
20. Jesus came into the world, lived and went to the Cross during this period of stability-a stability made possible by a strong military force.
21. Under the Augustan Caesars the dignity of man was upheld and many personal freedoms guaranteed; there were however many slaves, a direct result of military defeat.
22. It has been estimated that from one-third to two-thirds of the population of Rome were enslaved at the time of the early church; slaves were brought from defeated "provinces" where they served until being manumitted.
23. Free people had privacy to pursue their own businesses, and their freedoms were protected but soon complacency set in and people began to take their freedom for granted.
28. The Roman people became soft and the self-discipline which had maintained this vigorous race was replaced by their frantic search for happiness.
29. The loss of perspective led to cruelty-a thirst for blood and the enjoyment of gladiatorial conquest--entertainment became the vogue and "ultimate fighting" was born.
30. It is doubtful the world has ever known such depravity and decadence.
31. While under Roman rule, Israel rejected Christ and became openly antagonistic toward Christianity.
32. Even believing Israel became "dull to doctrine" and refused God's grace overtures. This was particularly true in Jerusalem.
33. This dullness resulted in the A.D.70 destruction of Jerusalem by the armies of Rome. The forces of Rome were first led by Vespasian and later his son Titus.
34. By contrast, despite persecution and discipline in the first century, the church grew and solidified, and the Canon of Scripture was completed.
35. In A.D. 96, about the same time John the Apostle died, the reign of the Flavian Caesars ended.
36. For the next one hundred years under the Antonine Caesars, history records the Golden Age of Rome - the Imperial Peace.
37. Let's take a cartographer's view of this Golden Age and how it grew.



38. The Grolier Encyclopedia has written of Rome.

“To the west of Greece, another people, similar to the Greeks in origin and institutions, was shaping an empire that was to be more durable. Founded, according to tradition, in the 8th century BC, ROME in about 510 B.C. abolished its monarchy in favor of a plutocracy. As in Athens, the wealthy families (known in Rome as the patricians) ruled the early city. Slowly the plutocracy gave way to pressures from the majority, which had originally been excluded from the government and a republic was born. This basic political institution was the Roman SENATE, in which only patricians could serve.

“The plebeians, or commoners, gathered in a popular assembly, but they eventually exerted their greatest influence through the election of officials called TRIBUNES who could veto the acts of the Senate. Disputes between plebeians and patricians led to an agreement in about 449 B.C. by which the city's laws were posted on 12 tablets for public inspection. This solution helped create a tradition of solving public problems through law. By the 3rd century B.C. Roman armies had conquered the neighboring LATINs as well as the Greeks who had settled in the southern part of the Italian peninsula. By offering citizenship or privileged treatment to those peoples who would cooperate with them, the Romans were able to unify the entire peninsula and by 270 B.C. they had created a state that extended far beyond the city walls.

“Rome's expansion continued in wars with the north African city of CARTHAGE (the PUNIC WARS) and with Macedonia. By 30 B.C. Roman rule extended into Spain and parts of North Africa, including Egypt. ROMAN LAW made it possible to unify the varied peoples conquered by the Roman armies. Like its laws, Rome's political institutions also evolved over the years. The expansion of Roman territory sharpened internal conflicts, and after a prolonged civil war the general JULIUS CAESAR took command. His rise to power marked an end to the political power of the Senate and the Roman citizen and doomed the republican form of government, which had become increasingly aristocratic.

“Caesar's enemies assassinated him in 44 B.C. Although Caesar himself had refused the title of emperor, his successors, beginning with AUGUSTUS and TIBERIUS, ruled for life and passed their authority on to their heirs.

End Lesson Taught 12-31-2000