

## Roots of Revelation: 1st Century Roman Emperors Timeline

<u>Roman Emperor</u>	<u>Reign</u>	<u>Summary</u>
Augustus	27BC - AD 14	Transitioned Rome from Republic to Empire; Jesus was born during his reign.
Tiberius	AD 14 - AD 37	Stepson of Augustus; Reigned during life and crucifixion of Christ.
Caligula	AD 37 - AD 41	Known for extravagance and cruelty, and insanity.
Claudius	AD 41 - AD 54	Expelled Jews (including Christians) from Rome (Acts 18:2).
Nero	AD 54 - AD 68	Likely caused the Great Fire (64 AD) but blamed it on Christians. First major persecution of Christians. Torture, burnings, wild animals, & executions including the apostles Peter and Paul.
Galba	June AD 68 - Jan AD 69	1st emperor of Year of the Four Emperors. Overthrown by Otho.
Otho	Jan AD 69 – April AD 69	2nd emperor of Year of the Four Emperors. Overthrown by Vitellius.
Vitellius	April AD 69 – Dec AD 69	3rd emperor of Year of the Four Emperors. Defeated and killed by Vespasian.
Vespasian	AD 69 – AD 79	4th emperor of Year of the Four Emperors. After seizing power he ended the Jewish Revolt by destroying Jerusalem and the 2nd Temple (70 AD) via his son Titus.
Titus	AD 79 – AD 81	Carried out Jerusalem's destruction, along with the Temple for his father Vespasian (70 AD). Captured Jewish prisoners of war brought to Rome and forced to work on the construction of the Colosseum (AD 72-80). The main source of funding for the construction of the Colosseum was plunder from the sack of Jerusalem. This included looting of gold, silver, and other precious materials from the Temple.
Domitian	AD 81 – AD 96	Son of Vespasian, brother of Titus. Authoritarian, paranoid; strict enforcement of loyalty to the state including emperor worship. Promoted the imperial cult. Demanded to be called "Lord and God" Persecuted Christians refusing to do so. Likely exiled John the Apostle to the island of Patmos. Revelation probably written ca. 95 AD during his reign. Assassinated in AD 96.
Nerva	AD 96-98	Helped the empire heal from Domitian's reign of terror. More tolerant of Christians.