



**WELCOME
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BIBLE HOUSE
OF
GRACE**

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VVV

**Map Locations
And
People of the Bible**

(2017)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

VALERIAN 1

The Roman Emperor Valerian 1 reigned AD 253-260) (7yrs) during the eighth Roman Christian persecution. Upon the murder of Emperor Gaius and the death of Gallus's rival, Valerian 1 was proclaimed Emperor of Rome by his troops. He was an able ruler, but throughout his reign invading armies threatened every frontier of the Roman Empire. He left Gallienus in charge of the European wars in, order to concentrate on the invasions of his eastern boundaries by the Goths and the Persians. The Persians destroyed the Roman army and took Valerian prisoner at Edessa (now Sanliurfa, Turkey) in AD 260 Valerian 1 died in Persian captivity.

Valerian 1 and Christian persecution: Valerian 1 is remembered by history for the Valerian persecution. According, to historians, he was manipulated by the ambitious general, Macrianus, to issue anti-Christian edicts calculated to create civil unrest from which Macrianus planned to benefit. In AD 257, Valerian 1 forbid Christians to hold assemblies and sent clergy, priests, ministers and evangelist into exile and in the following year, he made it law that whoever was identified as a bishop, priest or deacon was to be instantly put to death. If a Christian was of a political or noble rank, they were first to be given the opportunity to recant and prove their loyalty to Rome by sacrificing to the pagan gods, if they refused to recant, they and those in their household were to be sent, in chains to perform forced labor.

High ranking Christian women were banished from Rome and all property belonging to them and to Christians refusing to recant was confiscated. Valerian 1 became such a despiser and oppressor of the Christian faith that Christians old and young, men and women suffered brutal and cruel treatment. During this era, Christian martyrs were many, they were thrown to wild animals, beaten, wounded and killed with the sword, covered with oil and burned as human torches, tortured and torn limb from limb etc.

During the era of Valerian 1 Christianity was not only attracting the lowly and the poor, but was also gaining converts from the highest ranks of society. The Gospel was penetrating further into the upper ranks of prominent people and reaching those of high rank in the Roman Empire and many were responding to it, so much so that by the end of the century there were Christians in prominent positions in the royal palace and in the army. Valerian 1 failed to recognize, that despite his brutal and cruel persecutions and confiscations of Christian property the tide of history was running in Christianity's favor and that rather than dying it continued to grow. His blindness to recognize this trend brought about his downfall.

NOTE: one of the reasons that Christianity grows in times of persecution, is because persecution manifests those who have true faith, it separates the false Christians from the true Christians since no one who does not have the love of Christ and the grace of God dwelling in their heart is going to give themselves over to suffering. Naturally a Gospel that proclaims, prosperity, success, health and a charmed life attracts multitudes, churches worldwide are crowded, since these are all things, we all desire and because of this it is difficult to know who are truly Christian and who are not.

It is only when persecution, hardships, troubles and sorrows come, that those who are confessing to believe in Christ solely for the benefits they believe (or have been taught they can have) by believing in him are separated from those who truly belong to Christ. Those who are confessing Christ for their own selfish gain fall away when persecution and hardships come, whereas those who are truly devoted to Christ remain faithful regardless of what troubles and hardships come across their path.

The ten most significant Roman Kings: during the persecution of Christians. The dates are not the Emperor's birth, death or even the exact beginning of their reign to its end, but the approximate peak years of the persecutions.

1. **Nero** (64 to 68 A.D. He reigned four years. Nero ordered the first mass persecution and is remembered as the person who set fire to Rome and then set the blame on Christians.
2. **Domitian** (94 to 96 A.D. He reigned two years. Domitian mainly persecuted Christians of the nobility, but blamed all natural disasters like earthquakes and famines on Christians and put them to death.
3. **Trajan** (98 to 117 A.D. He reigned nineteen years. Trajan considered Christianity a threat to the Roman Empire and during his reign over ten thousand Christians were put to death.
4. **Marcus Aurelius** (166 to 180 A.D. He reigned fourteen years. Marcus confiscated the property of Christians and had them tortured.
5. **Septimius Severus** (202 to 211 A.D. He reigned nine years. Severus had Christians burned, beheaded and savaged by wild animals.
6. **Maximinus Thrax** (235 to 238 A.D. He reigned three years. Maximus persecuted the clergy, had Christians slain with no trial and buried together in mass graves (pits).
7. **Decius** (249 to 251 A.D. He reigned two years. Decius began one of the cruelest persecutions in which Fabian, the bishop of Rome was the most prominent person martyred.
8. **Valerian** (247 to 259 A.D. He reigned twelve years. Valerian persecuted the clergy and nobility, during his rule Christians were mocked for their beliefs and used for the entertainment of the rulers and their guests.
9. **Aurelian** 275 A.D. He reigned one year. Persecution under Aurelian started with the persecution of Felix who was the bishop of Rome.
10. **Diocletian** 303 to 305 A.D., He reigned two years. This period is commonly called the Era of the Martyr's, it was the bloodiest persecution as it was mostly carried out with swords, draggers and poisons. Since the rule of Diocletian until the edict of Milan in 313 A.D., (which protected Christians) there were more than 20,000 Christians put to death.

Summary of the ten most significant Roman kings: (also called horns), there were literally thousands of Christian men, woman and children, imprisoned, robbed of their homes and land, tortured, and martyred under the persecutions of these Ten kings of the Roman Empire.

VALLEY

Valley of Aven: is in Lebanon.

Valley of the LORD: The valleys of the LORD'S mountains are:

- Mount of Olives.
- Mount Sinai (also called Horeb).
- Mount of Zion.

VATICAN CITY

Vatican City is the world centre of the Roman Catholic faith it is situated on Vatican Hill in north-west Rome, just west of the River Tiber. Vatican City was established in 1929 and is the smallest independent country in the world. It is an independent state within Italy in which the Holy See (the jurisdiction of the Pope) has full sovereignty and absolute authority of the Roman Catholic Church. Its most important building is St Peter's Basilica, built between the 15th and 17th centuries. Vatican City is governed by the Pope, who has absolute executive, legislative, and judicial powers. The executive powers are delegated to a governor, who is responsible directly to the Pope. In the exercise of his legislative powers, the Pope is advised and assisted by the Sacred College of Cardinals and by the various Sacred Congregations. The Secretariat of State represents the Holy See in diplomatic relations with foreign powers. Swiss Guards maintain internal security and protection of the Pope.

The real heir of the Roman Empire: The Papal Church more than anything was the real heir of the Roman Empire. The papacy continued to be based in Rome and exerted enormous authority over most of Europe, keeping alive not only many of the ideas of the Roman world, but also a sense of a wider community which looked to the ancient city for support and leadership.

Rome and the Vatican City: Rome today is the capital city of Italy and the Vatican City, the seat of the papacy of the Roman Catholic Church is, located in an enclave within Rome and is recognized as an independent state by the Italian government. The majestic dome of St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City dominates the Roman skyline. It became recognised as an independent Papal country that is culturally and politically distinct and different from its surrounding and larger neighbours and today new residential developments extend it far out into the countryside.

Present day Rome: a century ago, Rome was a quiet city; its people were living largely in the past. It is today not only the capital and nerve centre of Italy but, as the seat of the Roman Catholic Church and the headquarters of major international agencies and multinational corporations.

Rome has assumed a place of worldwide importance.

VIRGIN DAUGHTERS

Virgin daughter and nations: the word daughter is a term often applied to a beautiful city or town. In Scripture Jerusalem is pictured as the mother city and the lesser towns on Mount Zion (the hill Jerusalem sits on) are referred to as her daughters. Likewise, any nation birthed out of another is often personified as the daughter of that nation. In Old Testament Scripture, the word virgin comes from the Hebrew word (*b^ethuwlah*) it can refer to a city, a nation, a state or a maid or bride or to a virgin in its truest sense. It literally means to separate a virgin from her privacy. When the expression, "Virgin daughter," is applied to a nation, city or state it carries the following seven ideas:

1. Of being pure in contrast to being defiled or deflowered, but not to sexual purity, but to never knowing defeat, once a city or nation had been defeated it would be referred to as being defiled or deflowered by the conquering enemy.
2. The expression, "O oppressed virgin daughter" when applied to a city or nation could be expressed in the following way, "O defiled and deflowered virgin daughter, which expresses the sense of the Hebrew word (*b^ethuwlah*) in that the nation has now been separated from its beauty, pride and glory.
3. The LORD when inspiring Nahum to prophecy against Nineveh had him express their defeat in the following way:

- Behold, I am against you (Nineveh), declares the LORD of hosts, and will lift up your skirts over your face; and I will make nations look at your nakedness and kingdoms at your shame. (Nahum 3:5).

The implication here is that Nineveh prior to their defeat where as an undefiled woman whose nakedness has never been seen, but after been defeated they are pictured as a shameful, naked, defiled and corrupt woman who all nations looked upon.

- 4 In some contexts, the word virgin when applied to a nation city or state is used to express the great magnificence and beauty of the city and its power and authority over other nations and that its inhabitants are living in luxury, pleasure and great ease since they have never been defeated or suffered loss.
- 5 In ancient literature, it was common to personify a city or nation as a virgin woman, firstly, because of her beauty, pride, and lasciviousness, and secondly because she had never been subdued, taken or oppressed. In contrast to this a city that had been subdued, taken and oppressed would be referred to as a city that had been deflowered, plundered, ruined and in this manner robbed of rob her virginity.
- 6 The expression, "O virgin daughter," carries the idea that the daughter had be raped, abused and defiled. When applied to a city it carries the same idea in that the city had been invaded by armies and robbed of its beauty and glory.
- 7 In its widest sense, "virgin daughter," carries the idea that a city or nation had never been touched, defeated, oppressed or afflicted by an enemy.

The city of Tyre is referred to as being a virgin, firstly, because of her magnificent beauty and pride and its inhabitants were living in great ease and pleasure and secondly, because up until now it had never, before been subdued, taken and oppressed by enemies. Tyre was as a fortress, stronghold and sanctuary of refuge that no one could penetrate, until Nebuchadnezzar the conquering king of Babylon and his armies ransacked, plundered and brought Tyre to ruin and in this manner deflowered it of its famed virginity (beauty, triumph and prosperity). (Isaiah 23:12).

The virgin daughter of Zion: the title, daughter is a collective feminine personification of the population of a city or the whole nation of Jerusalem it is a term often applied to a beautiful city or town. There are times in Scripture when Jerusalem is pictured as the mother city and the lesser towns on Mount Zion (the hill Jerusalem sits on) are referred to as her daughters. The expression, "virgin daughter," is an honourable term that implies that a woman has not been violated or defiled. When applied to a city it carries the idea that the city had not been invaded and plundered or taken by force by an enemy and when applied to Zion and Jerusalem it also carries the idea of only having one husband (i.e., one God) in contrast to the surrounding nations having many husbands (i.e., many gods). The expression, "the virgin daughter of Zion," carries the idea that Zion has never been forced or taken.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.