

Luke 2:1
The Beasts

Iron and clay ...

I. Under the Rule of Rome

A. Caesars

B. The Savior

C. His Saints

II. Under the Test of Time

A. Persecution

B. Intervention

C. Disintegration

III. Under the Reign of Christ

A. Submission

B. Resistance

C. Confidence

... can't withstand the Kingdom of God.

Children, Listen ...

1. What powerful nation ruled over God's people in Jesus and the apostle's days?

2. What were the rulers of that nation called?

3. There is only one Kingdom that lasts forever. Whose Kingdom is that?

4. How can Christians still obey God even when rulers make it very difficult?

A Family of Beasts

The Caesars loom large in the history of civilization. The presence of at least some of them is evident throughout the New Testament. From Jesus' birth to the apostle Paul's last missionary journey the influence of these Roman rulers is either directly or indirectly involved. These powerful men were not good people – some were better than others – but they were all immensely wicked. They were also significant figures among rulers that took “counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed.” But these were small men after all, and each one of them returned to dust, most often in some dramatic fashion. The Roman Empire itself would diminish in time losing its power and its periodic reign of terror leveled against believers in its realms would finally subside. Nations rise and fall and Rome was no exception. There is only one Kingdom that endures forever, the Kingdom of our God. The accusation leveled against Christians in Acts 17 actually rings true: “they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.” There is indeed another King, and while we may not live under the rule of a literal Caesar, we unashamedly declare that our allegiance is above all to our King of Kings and Lord of Lords who reigns forever, Jesus Christ the Righteous.