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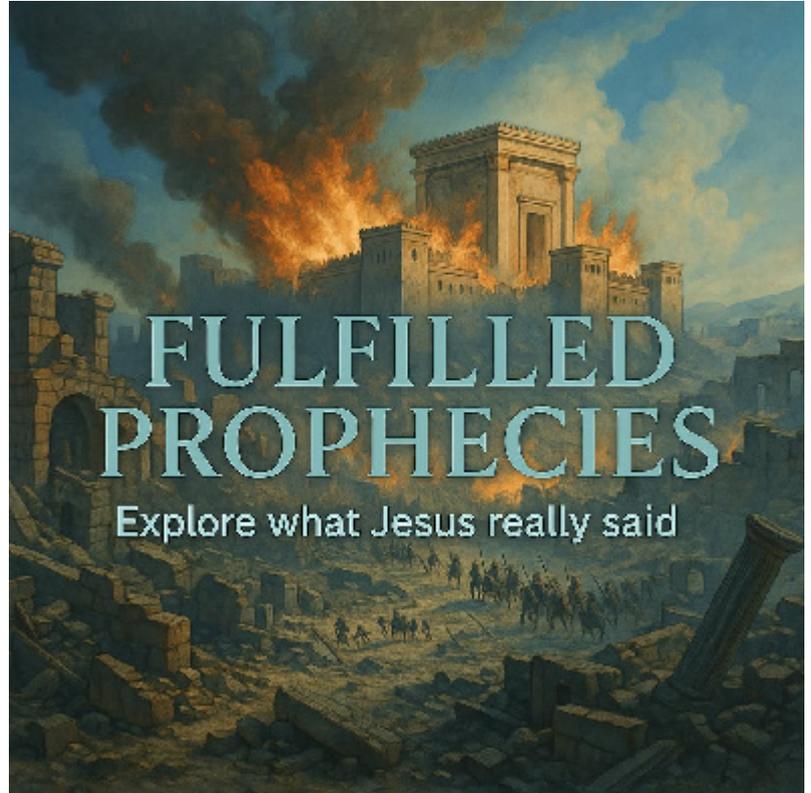
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**Historical Writers - Nero
Persecutes The
Christians, 64 A.D.**



By Dan Maines

Nero Persecutes The Christians, 64 A.D.

A generation after the death of Christ, Christianity had reached Rome in the form of an obscure offshoot of Judaism popular among the city's poor and destitute. Members of this religious sect spoke of the coming of a new kingdom and a new king. These views provoked suspicion among the Jewish authorities who rejected the group and fear among the Roman authorities who perceived these sentiments as a threat to the Empire.

A Roman mosaic shows prisoners put to death in the arena as part of a festival In the summer of 64, Rome suffered a terrible fire that burned for six days and seven nights consuming almost

three quarters of the city. The people accused the Emperor Nero for the devastation claiming he set the fire for his own amusement. In order to deflect these accusations and placate the people, Nero laid blame for the fire on the Christians. The emperor ordered the arrest of a few members of the sect who, under torture, accused others until the entire Christian populace was implicated and became fair game for retribution. As many of the religious sect that could be found were rounded up and put to death in the most horrific manner for the amusement of the citizens of Rome. The ghastly way in which the victims were put to death aroused sympathy among many Romans, although most felt their execution justified. Continue reading at: <http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/christians.htm>

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