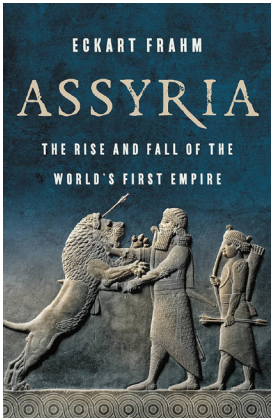
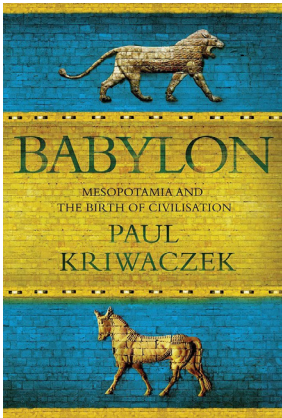
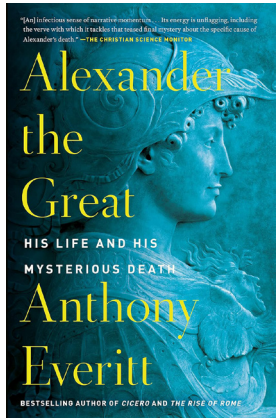
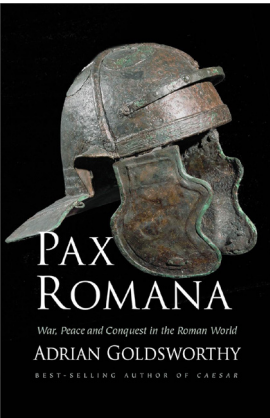
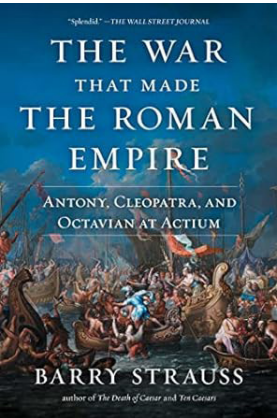
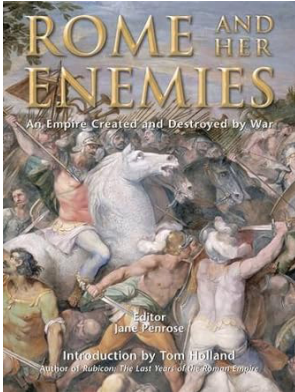


HOSEA LESSON 30

Isaiah 37:26	Isaiah 37:26	Daniel 8:8	Galatians 4:4	Daniel 11:40	Daniel 2:40
					
<p>“When Tiglath-pileser III died in the winter of 727 BC, Assyria was more than twice as large as it had been at the beginning of his reign. The country’s new western border was no longer the Euphrates River but the Mediterranean Sea, and in all other directions the king had made enormous territorial gains as well. This turn of fortune is nothing but amazing, especially given that the years of plague and internal unrest prior to Tiglath-pileser’s reign has been joined by other mounting problems.”</p>	<p>“To supplement their national resources, Assyrians needed to trade, offering both woollen goods produced at home from their flocks, best quality textiles bought from neighbouring Babylonia, and commodities like metal ores originally sourced from the mountains to their east. ... The precise details of how this nation of roving merchants became, in the course of little more than a millennium, the most awe-inspiring and feared imperialist power of the ancient world, are not at all clear. Records are sparse. Archaeology has been able to open no more than a few narrow windows, at widely different times, on to the grand saga.”</p>	<p>“Alexander’s death is an unsolved mystery. Was he a victim of natural causes, felled by some kind of fever, or did his marshals assassinate him, angered by his tyrannical ways? An autopsy would decide the question, but it is too late for that. The trail is long cold.”</p>	<p>“It is important to remember just how rare this has been in recorded history, most of all in the areas controlled by Rome. At no other period since then has Western Europe, North Africa or the Near East experienced a single century without major conflict, and usually it has been a good deal more common than this.”</p>	<p>“Victory at Actium meant peace. ... [Augustus] ended a century of civil war and laid the foundations of two hundred years of peace and prosperity: the famous Pax Romana, or ‘Roman Peace.’ Trade flourished in the Augustan peace. The cheapest way to transport goods was by sea. Thanks to Agrippa’s victories, Rome ruled the waves, and piracy virtually disappeared. Rome represented a huge market for grain imports, but many other goods were traded as well. Stability and the security of Roman law encouraged money lending. A military drawdown took pressure off taxes. In short, conditions were ripe for good times.”</p>	<p>“Lying at its heart is a mystery as profound as any in the records of human civilization. How on earth did the Romans do it? How did a single city, one that began as a small community of castle-rustlers, camped out among marshes and hills, end up ruling an empire that stretched from the moors of Scotland to the deserts of Iraq?”</p>