

The Roman Emperor Domitian: What Sort of Man Banished John to Patmos?

1. The emperor Domitian lived from 51 to 96 AD.
2. His reign was from 81 to 96 AD.
3. Vespasian, his father considered Domitian to be unfit for power or leadership; he deprived him of that leadership during his lifetime.
4. His brother Titus ruled instead, during which he gave Domitian very few responsibilities. When Titus died, Domitian, having an insatiable lust for power, took charge.
5. Domitian was jealous of his brother Titus.
6. Domitian was said to be bald, with a protruding stomach and spindly legs. It is said that he was often mocked or ridiculed behind his back. Domitian became very nervous about all the ridicule, and began by his power and authority to execute people he suspected had been mocking him. Even shadows on the drapes would disturb him; when he detected movement at the windows, he often assumed that some people were mocking him, and then he would have them executed.
7. Domitian, perhaps disturbed about his own baldness, wrote a book about the care of hair.
8. Domitian set aside his own wife, daughter of Nero's famous general, to replace her with his niece Julia, daughter of his brother. The incestuous relationship did nothing to give him credit with the people of that day.
9. Domitian ultimately caused her death by performing an abortion on her, having no skills as a medical practitioner.
10. Domitian was involved in many adulteries and homosexual activities. He enjoyed bathing with prostitutes and taking on mistresses, shaving off all their hair.
11. He was addicted to watching gladiator fights between women and dwarfs; he enjoyed pulling wings off of flies, and watching people suffer. In addition to his perversion and depravity, Domitian was also a religious hypocrite:
 - a. He often had people killed for immorality despite his own lifestyle. In 83 AD, he sentenced 3 women to death for immorality.
 - b. In 90 AD, the chief vestal virgin was condemned to death for fornication. Her accused lovers were forced to bury her alive, then they were beaten to death with rods over her grave.
12. This is the kind of man who banished the apostle John to the Isle of Patmos.

But we must remember JESUS CHRIST CONTROLS HISTORY. John was on isolated on Patmos in difficult circumstances, yet it turned out to be the perfect place for John to provide us the "Panorama of Human History", the Book of Revelation. We must know that God knows what He is doing, that He works our circumstances to the very best.