

WEEK #1 OF 4 "ROME BECOMES A REPUBLIC" (HANDOUT #1 OF 2)

Sunday Mornings: World of the Roman Empire—By Pastor Daren Erisman

INTRODUCTION TO CLASS

- Expectations
- Outline
 - Mar. 20 **A Roman Republic?**
 - Rome becomes a Republic
 - Mar. 27 **Empire: Render to Caesar what is Caesar's...**
 - Roman Empire during Christ's public ministry & the Early Church
 - Apr. 3 **Is Christianity responsible for the "decline" of the Roman Empire?**
 - Civil wars, Constantine and a Christianized Roman Empire
 - Apr. 10 **A Greek & German Roman Empire?**
 - The Byzantine Empire and the Rise of the Holy Roman Empire

ANCIENT WORLD EMPIRES

www.essentialhumanities.net/s_civ_his_timeline.php

3500-3000 BC	3000-2000 BC	2000-1000 BC	1000 BC-0	0-500
Mesopotamian civilization ca. 3500-550 BC		First Persian Empire ca. 550-330 BC		Inter-Persian period ca. 330 BC-200 AD
Egyptian civilization ca. 3000-550 BC		Ptolemaic Egypt ca. 330-27 BC		Second Persian Empire ca. 200-650
Indus civilization ca. 2500-1500 BC		Vedic age ca. 1500-500 BC	Indian kingdom age ca. 500 BC-1200 AD	
ancient China (Xia? > Shang > Western Zhou > Han) ca. 2000 BC-500 AD				
Aegean civilization ca. 2000-1200 BC		Greek age ca. 1200-27 BC		
			Late Republic ca. 250-27 BC	Roman Empire ca. 27 BC-476 AD
Formative age of Mesoamerica ca. 1500 BC-0				Classic age of Mesoamerica ca. 0-1000
ancient Andean culture (Chavin period > Moche/Nazca period) ca. 1000 BC-500 AD				
early Steppe empires (Iranian empires in the west, Xiongnu in the east) ca. 1000 BC-500 AD				

Ancient History Timeline - Supplementary

the age of Egyptian decline (ca. 1000-550 BC) was also the great age of Jewish civilization (Israel > Israel/Judah) and Phoenicia
an offshoot of Phoenician civilization, the city of Carthage, was established in North Africa during the great age of Phoenicia; it amassed an empire which flourished until its destruction by the Late Roman Republic (ca. 250-27 BC)
Independent Nubian civilization spanned ca. 1000 BC-1500 AD; throughout this period, Nubia experienced several cycles of unification and disintegration
Ethiopian civilization spans ca. 0-Present; throughout this period, Ethiopia has experienced several cycles of unification and disintegration
Etruscan civilization flourished for roughly the same period as Greek civilization (ca. 800-27 BC)

ROME AND A ROMAN REPUBLIC

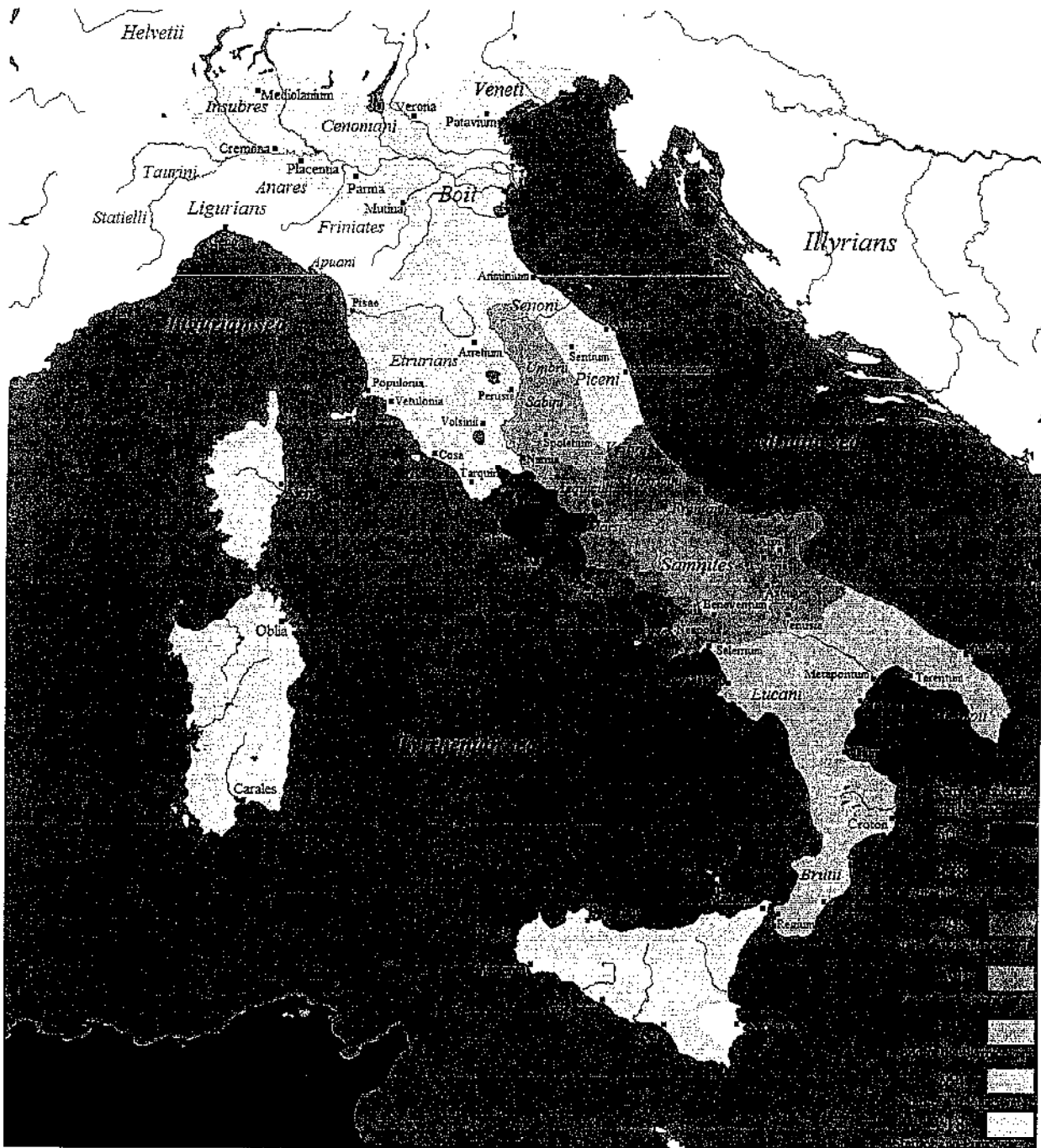
- **Rome (753 BCE)**
 - Legendary tale of twin brothers, **Romulus and Remus**, raised by a she-wolf, decide to build a city, and after an argument, Romulus kills Remus → hence: Rome.
 - Rome is traditionally said to be founded **April 21, 753 BCE**
 - Surrounded by the **region of Latium**, where the ancient tribe of Latins settled and spoke the immediate predecessor to **Old Latin**.
- **Roman Kingdom: Rule of the 7 Kings of Rome (753 – 509 BCE)**
 - Legend says that 7 kings ruled Rome before the Republic was formed
 - The **Etruscans**, an Ethnic group North of Rome, controlled Rome and a couple of the Roman Kings were said to be Etruscan.
 - The Etruscans were great engineers, teaching the Romans how to build bridges and temples
 - They may have introduced the worship of a **triad of gods: Jupiter, Juno and Minerva**
 - The **Greeks** controlled much of Southern Italy
- **Rome becomes a Republic (509 – 27 BCE) → Lasts ~482 years!**
 - Legend has it that a revolt, after King Tarquin's son raped the wife of a nobleman, led to the beginning of the Roman Republic
 - Latin: *res publica* "public affairs" → republic
 - **Key: A balance of power**
 - **Patricians**: Aristocracy, stemming from the earlier Kingdom
 - **Plebeians**: Common person, who might own land, but was not part of an aristocratic bloodline.
 - **Senate**: Made of patricians. A structure that had been present since the beginning of the Kingdom period (they had elected the Kings)
 - To be a Senator, you had to have at least 100,000 denarii worth of land, be born a patrician, and had previously served in a public office.
 - **Consuls**: After the revolt, two Consuls were selected by the Senate to rule Rome akin to co-Kings
 - **Plebeian Tribunes & Council**: Over the years of the Republic, the plebeians would gain power and elect the powerful Plebeian Tribunes with independent power (if someone harmed a Plebeian Tribune they would have to answer to all the Plebeians!). They oversaw a Plebeian Council.
- **Governance of Roman Republic**
 - **Senate** (Consisted of wealthy, powerful patricians)—Managed civil affairs, oversaw foreign affairs, gave "advice" to the Magistrates
 - **Legislative Assemblies**
 - **Century Assembly, Comitia Centuriata** (Consisted of the military of Rome divided up by centuries—fighting units akin to modern platoons)
 - Importantly, rank in the military was determined by the amount of property owned; this meant that patricians would hold higher ranks and would largely control the Century Assembly.
 - **Tribal Assembly, Comitia Tributa** (All the non-military people of Rome, broken down into 35 tribes based on geography, not based on ethnic or kinship groups)—Presided over by a Consul
 - **Plebeian Council, Concilium Plebis** (The plebeians, the non-patrician people of Rome)—Presided over by the Plebeian Tribune.
 - This group evolved and gained power over the course of the Republic
 - The **Plebeian Tribune** could veto any legislation, but the other Magistrates could only veto Magistrates of equal or lesser power.

WEEK #1 OF 4 "ROME BECOMES A REPUBLIC" (HANDOUT #2 OF 2)

Sunday Mornings: World of the Roman Empire—By Pastor Daren Erisman

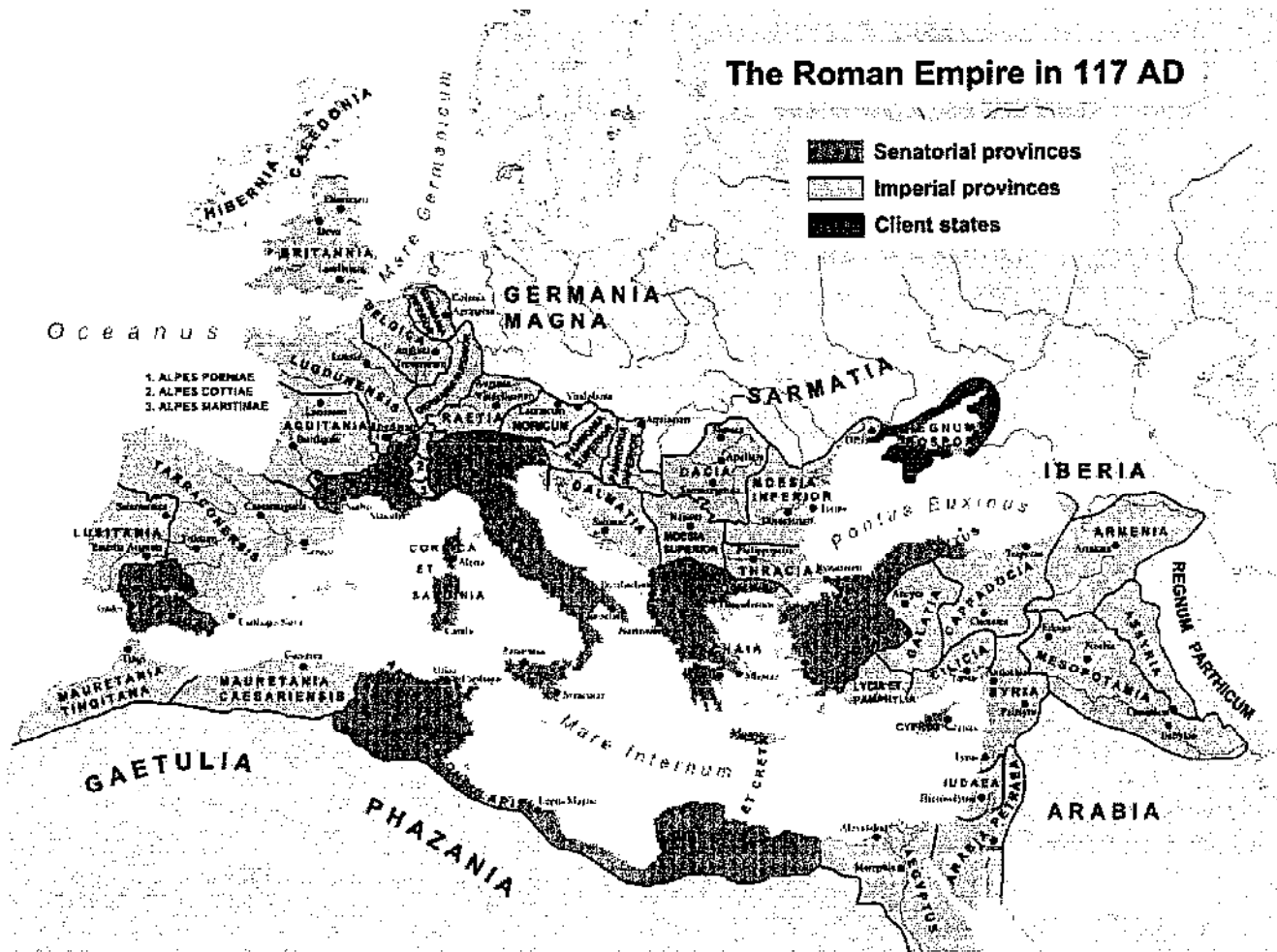
- Governance of Roman Republic cont...
 - **Magistrates** (Always at least two in each position)
 - **Powers of Magistrates**
 - Conferred by the citizens of Rome (patrician and plebeian)
 - **Imperium**: Authority to command a military force
 - Given to Consuls and Praetors
 - **Coercion**: Ability to enforce the law (flogging, imprisonment, fines, enslavement)
 - Given to all Magistrates
 - **Provocatio**: Basically due process for a citizen of Rome. Allowed Roman citizens to appeal any punishment. However, coercion outside the city of Rome was absolute.
 - **Omens**: Magistrates were charged to watch for omens, particularly during the process of legislation, which would cause them to veto that legislation (observe heavens, study flight of birds, study the entrails of sacrificed animals—usually carried out by priests)
 - **Collegiality**: Each magisterial office had to be held by at least two people.
 - **Consul** (Head of State)—Two people with annual terms who co-lead the Republic like Kings
 - **Censor** (Public Morality)—Added and removed Senators; technically outranked Consuls and consisted of previous Consuls
 - **Praetor** (Law Officer)—Administered civil law, presided over the courts, and commanded provincial armies; the position of Dictator with absolute power was known as *Praetor Maximus*
 - **Curule Aedile** (Public Works)—Oversaw care and maintenance of the city
 - **Quaestor** (Treasurer)—Lowest ranking magistrate, they often served as personal secretaries to other magistrates and were in charge of the allocation of money such as paying the army.
 - **Plebeian Tribune** (Defended Plebeian interests)—Independent, powerful and only answered to the Plebeian Council → but had no power outside the city of Rome.
 - **Plebeian Aedile** (Assistant to Plebeian Tribune)
 - **Dictator, Praetor Maximus** (Ruler in Crisis)—In times of emergency a dictator with absolute power would be appointed for a 6-month term, the constitutional government would be dissolved and afterwards the government would be restored—theoretically!
 - **Pontifex Maximus** (Religion)—Literally "greatest bridge-builder," this was the highest office of the Roman religion and directed the College of Pontiffs; depending on the circumstances, he could have political power and often military power
 - **Slaves**: No power, but a growing population as the Republic will grow from a city, to a region, to an overseas power
- Some Key Events in the Life of the Roman Republic
 - **The Patrician Era (509-367 BCE)**
 - **(509 BCE)** King Lucius Tarquinius Superbus overthrown by noblemen. The King tried to retake Rome but failed. Two Consuls elected by the Senate will replace the rule of the Kings.
 - **(494 BCE)** Plebeian soldiers, in the midst of Rome's battle with neighboring powers, seceded to Aventine Hill refusing to fight in protest for power concessions by the patricians. They demanded the right to elect their own officials: Plebeian Tribunes.
 - **(390 BCE)** Gauls invade from the north and sack Rome.

- **The Conflict of the Orders and the expansion of Roman power (367-287 BCE)**
 - **(367 BCE)** Laws passed to have a Plebeian Aediles, an assistant to the Plebeian Tribune. The patricians followed by creating the Curule Aediles. Plebeians would gain the ability to be Consuls (first Plebeian Consul in 366 BCE), Censors, Praetors, and even Dictator and a **new nobility of patrician-like plebeian aristocracy arose.**
 - **(363 – 290 BCE) Samnite Wars**—neighboring power to the south.
 - Rome will emerge as the most powerful state in Southern Italy.
 - **(287 BCE)** The plebeians revolted due to poor economic conditions centered around indebtedness. A dictator was appointed to end the secession and a law was passed, the "**Hortensian Law**," that ended the requirement that the Senate had to agree before any bill could be considered by the Plebeian Council. The Plebeian aristocracy had gained full power.



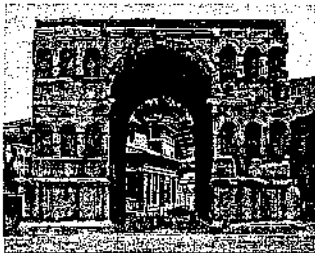
WEEK #2 OF 4 "FROM REPUBLIC TO EMPIRE" (HANDOUT #1 OF 2)

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THE ROMAN REPUBLIC EXPANDS

- (272 BCE) Rome takes control of major Greek Cities in Southern Italy after a victory over King Pyrrhus of Epirus.
 - Rome allied with Phoenician Carthage
- **Punic Wars between Rome and Carthage (264 – 146 BCE)**
 - (264-241 BCE) **First Punic War**
 - Carthage was originally a Phoenician colony
 - **Roman Consul Regulus** becomes a remembered hero when after being captured and used as a bartering tool by the Carthaginians, he tells the Romans not to settle with the Carthaginians.
 - Amazingly, he had been sent to Rome itself as part of the bargaining, but Regulus, holding to his word and honor, willingly goes back to Carthage to the dismay of the Carthaginians and is summarily suffers a brutal death at their hands.
 - Regulus becomes a supreme example of Roman courage and principle.
 - **Rome takes control of Carthage controlled Sicily**
 - The Romans have become an overseas power.
 - They use it to protect the Greek Cities from pirates help secure their loyalties against Macedon.
 - Rome will subsequently take Sardina and Corsica
 - Due to the heavy losses of soldiers, the long held requirement of having soldier be a citizen and land-owner would be removed.



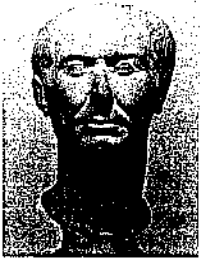
- **(218 – 201 BCE) Second Punic War**
 - The famous and brilliant Carthaginian General Hannibal, goes up through Spain, across Southern France, and over the Italian Alps into Northern Italy using his war elephants and intent on invading Rome.
 - Hannibal beat the Roman armies but could not take the city itself. He had hoped for the local powers to join him and revolt against Rome, but Rome's relative sharing of power and prosperity squelched any sizable resistance to Rome—and Carthage did not supply needed troops. Eventually (after 15 years!), Hannibal left on his own and Rome was on the offensive at Carthage. The Romans conquered the Carthaginian Empire and now controlled North Africa and what is now Spain.
 - Carthage paid a heavy debt to Rome for 50 years.
- **(149 – 146 BCE) Third Punic War**
 - Carthage is conflict with the neighboring Numidians in North Africa. Rome sides with the Numidians, a favored client state of Rome and demands are made to push Carthage into war including moving the whole city of Carthage inland!
 - After 3 years of siege, General Scipio Aemilianus sacks the city and burns it to the ground.
- **Rome also subdues Greece** during the time of the Punic Wars, especially with a decisive battle and razing of Corinth in 146 BCE.
- **Results of expansion**
 - Rome has become more than a city controlling a province, but a power that would control an empire.
 - Rome now controlled overseas provinces and client states.
 - **Proconsuls, Propreators, and Proquaestors** would govern the new provinces as kind of lieutenants to the Magistrates in Rome, but having absolute power in their respective provinces.
 - **Urbanization** occurred at an accelerated rate.
 - Long military campaigns took farmers away from lands, leaving the lands in disrepair and the farmers in debt. Low food prices aided the problem and the Patricians bought up the bankrupted farms.
 - **Huge farms with slave labor** seized from foreign conquests also replaced Plebeian farmers. Plebeians flooded Rome and there was massive unemployment.
 - Rome became **ripe for populism** as all these Plebeians joined the Assemblies.
 - The leaving of ancestral farming lands to populate the cities was also a **leaving of the societal fabric that had birthed the Republic in the first place** with its values, loyalties, etc.
 - **Populares party and the Optimates party**
 - Two broad categories of people emerge in the last century of the Roman Republic and are akin to the Plebeians and Patricians
 - **Populares** → the people's supporters
 - **Optimates** → supporters of the aristocracy
 - **Seeds of civil unrest**
 - Urban poor sought government support
 - Italian allies claimed the right to be citizens
 - Soldiers' loyalties transferred from state to individual commanders and hence became political tools

WEEK #2 OF 4 "FROM REPUBLIC TO EMPIRE" (HANDOUT #2 OF 2)

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• Three Civil Wars and the end of the Republic

- (91 – 88 BCE) "**Social War**" or "**War of the Allies**"
 - Italian allies rose up in resistance as they sought Roman citizenship. They lost, but ultimately became citizens as Rome realized the political necessity of politically incorporating all of Italy.
- **80s BCE Marius versus Sulla**
 - **Marius**, a virtually unknown **populares**, is elected consul in 107 BCE and successfully invades a revolting Numidia.
 - Later, in 88 BCE, Marius' rival **from the optimates party, Sulla** is made consul and is ordered by the Senate to wage war against the Mithridates. Marius uses his influence with the tribune to revoke Sulla's command of the war against the Mithridates resulting in Sulla bringing his army back to Italy and seizing control of Rome.
 - When Sulla leaves to wage **war with the Mithridates**, Marius once again takes control of the city with the help of the populares party and flout the conventions of the day by electing Marius as consul several times without the mandatory 10 year interlude in between as well as other transgressions.
 - In 83 BCE, Sulla once again returns to Rome in with his military, takes control and **slaughters most of Marius' supporters**.
- **50s & 40s BCE Caesar versus Pompey**
 - **Julius Caesar** had become popular and powerful from his victories over the Gaul's (in France) and tribes in Spain.
 - **The First Triumvirate** was a political alliance between Julius Caesar, Pompeius Magnus ("Pompey the Great") and Marcus Crassus in their efforts to subdue the senatorial elite.
 - After Crassus dies, **Pompey and Caesar fight a civil war** with Caesar "**crossing the Rubicon**" with his troops to enter and take Rome causing Pompey, the consuls and the senate to flee toward Greece.



Julius Caesar

RISE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

• Caesar becomes "Caesar"

- (49 BCE) Caesar gave himself both the dictatorship and the tribunate, and alternated between consul and proconsul.
- (48 BCE) Caesar was given permanent tribunician powers and therefore could veto the Senate and dominate the Plebeian Council.
- (46 BCE) Caesar was given censorial powers so that he could pick and remove Senators and he increased the senatorial membership to 900, thus robbing senatorial aristocracy of any real power.
- Caesar passed laws so that in the future, when he would go off to wage war with the Parthian Empire, he could install his own magistrates and tribunes to maintain his power while he was away.
- All the Magistrates and Tribunes who were suppose to be representatives of the citizens of Rome were now to be representatives of the dictator!
- (44 BCE) **Caesar is assassinated** by members of the Senate.

• Second Triumvirate formed

- Between **Mark Antony, Gaius Octavian** (Caesar's adopted son & great-nephew), and **Marcus Lepidus**
- **Antony and Octavian go to war**, with Antony being defeated in 31 BCE in the naval Battle of Actium. **Antony and his love, Cleopatra of Egypt** committed suicide.
- **Octavian** returns to Rome and later accepts the title of **Augustus "Exalted One"** which will become synonymous with **Emperor of the Roman Empire**.

ROMAN RULE AND THE JEWS

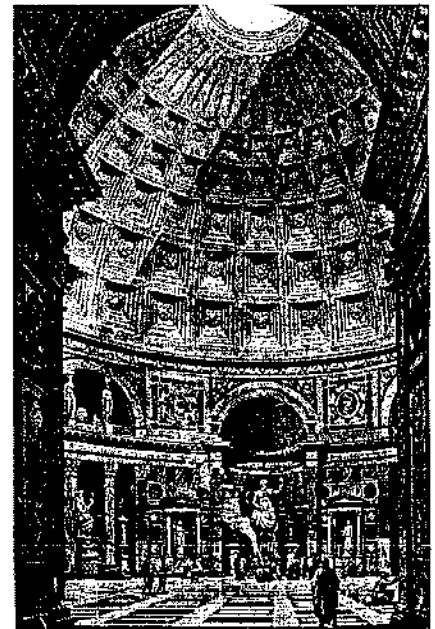
- **Roman Occupied Israel (Named the Roman Province of Iudaea in 6 CE)**
 - **Jewish Maccabean Family or Hasmonean Dynasty (165 – 37 BCE) Falls from Power**
 - Becoming independent from Seleucid (Greek) control, Israel briefly gained independent control under the Hasmoneans and gained recognition from the Roman Senate in 139 BCE.
 - **Herodian Monarchy under Roman Control (37 BCE - 92 CE)**
 - Roman influence and gradual control occurred with brief bouts of independence, but by 40 BCE, the Roman Senate declared **Herod the Great** as King of Israel.
 - Herod the Great, with Roman military authority, gained final control of the Iudaea province by 37 BCE and eliminated the last Hasmonean heirs.
 - Herod the Great died in 4 CE and the kingdom was divided between his sons.
 - One of his sons, **Herod Antipas** had control of Galilee (4 – 39 CE) and was therefore the Herod mentioned in the Gospels responsible for John the Baptist's death and involved in the death of Jesus.
 - **Pontius Pilate as Roman Prefect (26 – 36 CE)**
 - Under control of the Emperor, the Roman prefect had military control of the province.
 - **Great Jewish Revolt & the Destruction of the Temple (66 – 70 CE)**
 - A political group arising in the Iudaea Province against the Roman occupiers and their Jewish sympathizers
 - Their aim was to remove Roman occupation since only a King from the lineage of David could rightly rule Israel.
 - **Sicarii**: A violent group within the larger Zealot movement that carried out assassinations of Romans and Jews associated with the Roman rule such as the Sadducees.
 - The Zealots coalesced as a group particularly in the **Great Jewish Revolt of 66 CE**
 - The Zealots seized control of Jerusalem and held it until **70 CE** when Titus, the son of Emperor Vespasian, retook the city and destroyed the Jewish Temple.
 - After the Temple's destruction, 960 Zealots fled and took the Roman fortress of **Masada** and kept it for 3 years against the Romans. When the Romans finally captured it, they found that almost all the Zealots had committed suicide.
- **Jews in Rome**
 - Earlier Jewish diasporas had left a sizable community of Jews in Rome. These Jews were relatively poor and were regarded by the Romans with little interest.
 - With the association through the Maccabean and Herodian dynasties, some interest grew, particular in regard to the Temple in Jerusalem.
 - **Jews were expelled or left Rome during Emperors Tiberius and Claudius**
 - (19 CE) When the cult of Isis was driven out of Rome, Jews were also expelled it was said because a noble woman, inclined towards Judaism was deceived by Jewish swindlers. Jews were allowed to return in 31 CE.
 - (49 CE) Emperor Claudius, in response to controversy among the Jews regarding the advent of the Messiah, forbid Jewish religious services causing many Jewish citizens to leave Rome.
 - **(61 CE) Jewish-Christians in Rome received Paul...**

WEEK #3 OF 4 “EARLY CHRISTIANITY & ROME” (HANDOUT #1 OF 3)

Sunday Mornings: World of the Roman Empire—By Pastor Daren Erisman

THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

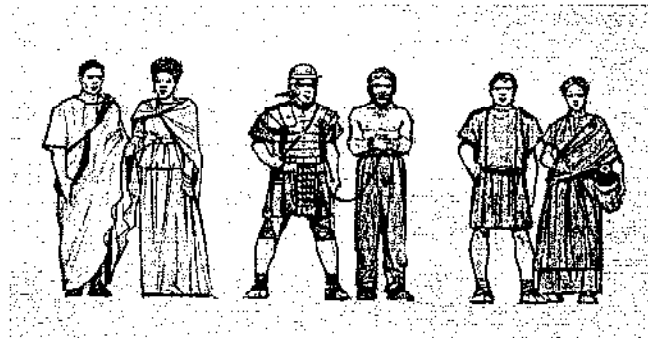
- **Military & Roads**
 - **Legions** comprised of 6,000 fighting engineers and based at the frontiers of the empire. There were about 25 legions in the early part of the 1st century.
 - Legions **built paved roads** (no mud), and high-arched **bridges** (no flooding) to be able to move 15 miles per day to crush any rebellion within the empire.
 - By the 1st century CE, recruits were expected to serve a minimum of 20 years.
- **Commerce & Culture**
 - Trade flourished along these Roman roads as well as communication
 - This resulted in **Romanization** (language, culture, urbanization, ideology)
- **Power & Security**
 - Importantly, the newer provinces had legions directly under the control of the Emperor, including the province of Iudaea (Area around Israel)
 - **Egypt was the “breadbasket” for the empire** and directly controlled by the Emperor. A Roman Senator was not even allowed to enter the province.
 - **Romanized aristocracy** from the provinces allowed some local elites to rise in power within the empire, even to the level of the Senate or eventually, Emperor.
 - **Pax Romana (27 BCE – 180 CE)**
 - A time of relative internal security within the Roman Empire, roughly between the time of the ascension of Augustus in 27 BCE to the death of emperor Marcus Aurelius in 180 CE
 - Given the numerous trade routes, paved roads and security it was time when people could travel the empire in safety, hence the ability of Christian missionaries to travel with relative ease such as St. Paul
- **Ideology & Religion**
 - The Roman empire understood itself as divinely mandated to conquer and rule the world eternally
 - The Roman empire largely tolerated the religions and cultures of the peoples it conquered as long as they observed and offered sacrifices to the divine emperors and loyalty to the empire
 - With the rise of the Emperor’s power and accompanying **Imperial Cult**, friction increased between the Jews and the Romans
 - **Some important gods:**
 - Jupiter- The King of the Gods
 - Juno- Jupiter’s wife (and Queen of the Gods)
 - Mars- The god of war
 - Mercury- The messenger of the gods
 - Venus- The goddess of love and beauty
 - Neptune- The god of the sea
 - Cupid- The god of love
 - Minerva- The goddess of wisdom
 - Ceres- The god of grain



Pantheon in Rome

- **The Roman Family**

- The father, the *paterfamilias*, was not only the head of the family, but his power was absolute (a state within a state) → Technically, only a Roman citizen was a *paterfamilias*
 - The father was the sole owner of all property acquired by his sons
 - He could kill his wife for adultery
 - He could sell his children into slavery or kill them
 - Emperors would later identify themselves as THE *paterfamilias*, the father of the empire and in trying to counter a declining birthrate in Rome, instituted laws to encourage the birth of children including compelling marriage within a certain age range, etc.
- **Women** were not segregated in society like in Athens but were visible, shopped, went to games, temples and theaters
 - Women were social center of the family
 - Women were however not part of public life and **could not vote**
 - Upper-class women could own property and operate businesses
 - Women's status was tied to their father or husband
- Mothers usually arranged the marriages
 - Girls could legally be married by 12, but 14 was more common
- It was common for the extended family to live together in one large household.
- Divorce was introduced in the 2nd century BCE and was relatively easy to obtain
- The Romans practiced infanticide, contraception and abortion to limit the number of children in a family
- **Education**
 - There was no public education, but only private schools, tutors and parents
 - It was largely influenced by Greek thought and language
 - Educated Romans were bilingual (Latin & Greek—and perhaps a third dialect)



- **Social Classes**

- **Emperor and relatives**
 - Supreme power and prestige (but a lot of intrigue, murder & suicide)
 - Particularly, the **Julio-Claudian Family** (First 5 Emperors) → Related to Julius Caesar
 - Augustus (Octavian) (31 BCE – 14 CE)
 - Tiberius (14-37 CE)
 - Caligula (37-41 CE)
 - Claudius (41-54 CE)
 - Nero (54-68)
- **Patricians**
 - The aristocratic families of Rome, the Roman Republic, and now the Roman Empire
 - Though this group of people would over the years share more and more power, the patricians still wielded the most power (underneath the emperor and his relatives of course)

WEEK #3 OF 4 "EARLY CHRISTIANITY & ROME" (HANDOUT #2 OF 3)

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- **Social Classes cont...**

- **The census classified citizens based upon wealth**

- **Senatorial**

- Worth at least 1,000,000 sesterii (equivalent to \$1,500,000 today)
- Originally of the patrician class (Aristocracy of the early Roman Kingdom) but during the later Republic included wealthy plebeians
- The senatorial class were the wealthy landowners, but could not technically engage in business and trade (they would however do this through others)
 - Some of the larger fortunes were around 400,000,000 sesterii (equivalent to \$6 million today)
 - Compare this with the fixed wages of an ordinary legionary of 900 sesterii a year (\$1350 a year)
- Governors of major provinces of the empire were of the Senatorial class and usually controlled the legions

- **Equestrian**

- Worth at least 400,000 sesterii (Equivalent of \$600,000)
- The business people who could engage in commerce and were quite influential
- A governor of a lesser province of the equestrian class was called a "**prefect**" in the early 1st century, and later a "procurator"
 - They usually controlled less than a legion, the major exception being Egypt, where Senators were not allowed
 - Pontius Pilate was the Roman Prefect in Judea
- The **Praetorian Guard** was headed by a prefect (who had to be of the equestrian class)
 - The Praetorian Guard functioned differently at different times, but became the elite guards of the emperors (and were often hired to assassinate those emperors!)

- **Plebeians**

- Working class, Roman citizens who **had vote**, but not enough money to move into the Equestrian class
- Emperor Augustus sought to keep the Plebeians happy and therefore instituted what the writer Juvenal called "**Bread and Circuses**"
 - The goal was to keep the citizens fed and not bored
 - Citizens were given free grain and were entertained by gladiators, chariot races, and other usually violent activities involving animals and eventually criminals like Christians.

- **Foreigners**

- **Could not vote**, but allies of Rome were extended a form of **Latin Right** (akin to the rites given to the original allied cities of Latium) that gave them rights similar to Roman citizens
- In **212 CE**, **Emperor Caracalla** extended **full Roman Citizenship to free-born men in the empire**

- **Freedmen**

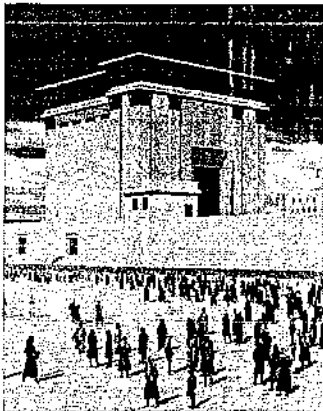
- Freed slaves who had a Latin Right of sorts in that **their children were given the status of free-born.**
- Some would even attain great wealth and could move up into the Plebeian or even Equestrian classes
 - The writer Pliny tells of a freeman, who despite losses from civil wars, left in his will 60,000,000 sesterii, 4,116 slaves, 3,600 pairs of oxen, and 257,000 head of other cattle.



- **Slaves**
 - Not based on race (unlike modern times)
 - Slavery increased significantly, particularly during Augustus' time and for the next two centuries
 - Wealthy land owners sometimes owned more than 4000 slaves
 - Middle class folks might have around 10 slaves, but more commonly one or two
 - The fate of slaves were connected with their master
 - If a master was murdered, his slaves could/would be killed for not sufficiently protecting him (even in the case of suicide)
 - A slave could buy their freedom → **manumission**

EARLY CHRISTIANITY IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE

- **Christianity begins as a sect of Judaism**
 - They were Jews who worshipped in the Temple and the local synagogues
 - Not "Christian" but followers of Christ, the one who fulfilled Judaism
 - Term "Christian" later used first in Antioch (according to Acts 11:26)
- **Growing struggle: Jewish-Christians and Gentile-Christians → How "Jewish"?**
 - As the minority group of Greek-speaking Christians grows (particularly Gentile converts to Christianity) there is a natural strain on the community that has been almost exclusively Aramaic-speaking Jews in and around Jerusalem.
 - These Greek-speaking Christians tended to diminish the value of the Temple and its associated laws and this brought antagonism from the Jewish authorities (towards all Christians, Jewish-Christians and Gentile-Christians)
 - The **martyrdom of the Greek-speaking Stephen** is a prime example of Jewish authorities punishing a voice from what was looking less and less like a benign Jewish sect.
 - One of the Jewish authorities was a Pharisee who in a conversion experience on the way to Damascus would miraculously become, the Christian missionary to the Gentiles, St. Paul.
 - **Paul and the mission to the Gentiles**
 - **Church at Antioch**
 - Antioch a natural "second home" for the Church and the place where "Christians" got their nickname.
 - The first mixed-race church with Jewish and Gentile Christians
 - Big debate within Christianity: Circumcision required to be Christian?
 - In Antioch: "No!" In Jerusalem: "Yes!"
 - Paul had been sent to work with Barnabas in Antioch before the circumcision debate and had established numerous churches in Asia Minor (Turkey)
 - **Pax Romana** and the opportunity for a nascent Christian Church
 - In ~47 CE, Jerusalem Christians came to Antioch to offer mass circumcisions to the Gentile Christians
 - **Jerusalem Council of 48 CE → The Break from Judaism**
 - Paul shared the stories of all the churches that had been established among the Gentiles and countered the required of circumcision.
 - Amazingly, James, Peter and John agreed.
 - **This was a critical turning point of the church**
 - Up to this point, Jewish-Christians had simply been a Jewish sect and were largely able to participate in Jewish worship, etc.
 - Now, with the full inclusion of uncircumcised Gentile-Christians, **Christianity had differentiated itself from Judaism.**



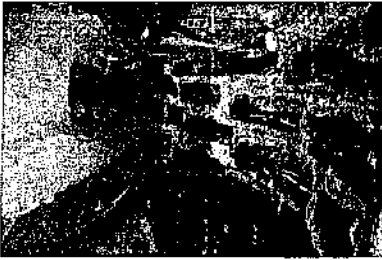
WEEK #3 OF 4 "EARLY CHRISTIANITY & ROME" (HANDOUT #3 OF 3)

Sunday Mornings: World of the Roman Empire—By Pastor Daren Erisman

- **Not Jews, but Christians—The Roman world takes notice**
 - Until now (c. 61 CE), Christians, as a Jewish sect, **had enjoyed Rome's toleration towards Jews** (7% of the Roman Empire were Jews).
 - **However, tensions were building** between Jews and these newly identified "Christians" and there was tension with Romans as well.
 - **Tacitus**, the first Roman writer to notice Christianity described it as "a deadly superstition," and Christians as "a class hated for their abominations" and "hatred of the human race."
 - **Christians were decried as an affront to Roman family values:**
 - Christians were decried as "atheists" who denied the gods, refused to sacrifice, and shunned the city feasts. They met in private in the hours of darkness (likely planning revolution) and they participated in cannibalistic rituals such as sharing the body and blood of Christ amidst what was thought to be an incestuous orgy that Christians called the "Love Feast."
 - **In 62 CE**, the High Priest in Jerusalem had **James the Just stoned to death** along with other Christians. James' devotion to the Law of Moses had not satisfied his being Christian (James the Just is either Jesus' brother or cousin).
 - **In 64 CE**, Emperor **Nero blamed the Great fire of Rome on the Christians** (Nero had been accused of starting the fire himself in order to build a new palace and park)
 - Christians were rounded up in Rome and killed in unspeakable ways. Among the **victims were Peter and Paul**.
 - **The Gospel of Mark is likely written in the 60s CE** during this tumultuous time with the gospels of Matthew and Luke following a decade later.
 - With persecution amidst the deaths of those first-hand witnesses of Jesus' public ministry, what had been shared orally was now being written down.
 - These gospels would be shared in the churches over the years along with some of Paul's letters and other texts from early Christian leaders. These writings would become the basis for the canon of the New Testament, but the selection of writings would not be determined until centuries later.
- **The final break with Judaism: The Jewish revolt and the fall of Jerusalem in 70 CE**
 - The Jewish revolt in **66 CE** against their Roman occupiers had been brewing for decades.
 - **In the spring 70 CE**, Roman legions marched on Jerusalem where 3 million Jewish pilgrims (according to Josephus) had come to celebrate Passover.
 - The entire city, including the Temple was demolished and according to Josephus, 1.1 million people were massacred in unspeakable ways.
 - **A pivotal moment for Judaism and Christianity**
 - The devastated Jews become a people of diaspora, persecution and people of little political power for centuries.
 - **The Jerusalem church is correspondingly wiped out and its emphasis on the Laws of Moses minimized within the larger Church.**
 - Important: As the Church solidifies through the next centuries; it is the influence of the Greek-speaking, Gentile-Christians outside of Jerusalem that will carry the day.
 - **Tensions escalate between Jews and Christians:**
 - The Jews regard Christians with contempt for staying neutral during the **66 - 70 CE revolt** with the Romans. Before the siege of Jerusalem had begun, Symeon, Jesus' cousin, led the Jerusalem Christians across the river Jordan to the town of Pella. Similarly in the **Kokhba Revolt (132 - 135 CE)** Christians

refused to follow the popular Simon bar Kokhba who was thought to be the Jewish Messiah. When the revolt was crushed, Jews and Christians were barred from Jerusalem.

- For Christians, the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE was interpreted a number of ways.
 - Christians began to see the destruction as God's judgment against the Jews for rejecting the true Messiah—which ironically occurred 40 years after Jesus' crucifixion.
 - They also remembered what Jesus had said, "In those days there will be suffering," and "those in Judea must flee to the mountains; the one on the housetop must not go down or enter the house to take anything away; the one in the field must not turn back to get a coat." (Mt. 24)



- **Period of intense Christian martyrdom under the Roman Emperors (64-311, 361-363)**
 - Nero (64-68)—Blames great fire of Rome on Christians; Peter & Paul executed
 - Domitian (81-96)—It is thought that the Book of Revelation written during persecution
 - Trajan (112-117)
 - Marcus Aurelius (161-180)
 - Septimus Severus (202-210)—Conversion to Judaism & Christianity forbidden
 - Maximinus the Thracian (235-38)
 - Decius (250-251)—Had to have a certificate showing sacrifice to Emperor
 - Valerian (257-59)—Clergy and later, aristocracy had to sacrifice to gods
 - Aurelian (270-275)
 - Diocletian and Galerius (303-311)
 - Julian the Apostate (361-363)—The last pagan Emperor; tried to bring back paganism



Paintings of Jesus in the Roman Catacombs:

Early Christian art in Rome (this one 3rd century) portrayed Jesus as the Good Shepherd, disguised as Orpheus, young, beardless and in a short tunic. Later (4th century), Jesus was painted with a more Jewish appearance, a full beard and long hair, not a style worn by the Romans.

WEEK #4 OF 4 "ROMAN EMPIRE: GREEK & GERMAN" (#1 OF 3)

Sunday Mornings: World of the Roman Empire—By Pastor Daren Erisman

FROM AUGUSTUS TO CONSTANTINE

• Julio-Claudian Dynasty (27 BCE – 68 CE)

- **Augustus** (Octavian) (27 BCE – 14 CE) [his statue at left]
 - The first Emperor and defined the office; **died of natural causes!**
- **Tiberius** (14 – 37 CE)
 - Son of Augustus' wife by a previous marriage; adopted son of Augustus
 - Died of old age? Assassinated?
- **Caligula** (37 – 41 CE)
 - Son of Tiberius' nephew, **Germanicus**
 - Assassinated in conspiracy by **Senators and Praetorian Guard**
- **Claudius** (41 – 54 CE)
 - Nephew of Tiberius, brother of Germanicus and Uncle of Caligula; proclaimed emperor by the **Praetorian Guard**
 - Likely poisoned by his wife in order to promote her son, Nero
- **Nero** (54 – 68 CE)
 - Grandson of Germanicus; step and adopted son of Claudius
 - After being declared a public enemy by the **Senate**, he committed suicide



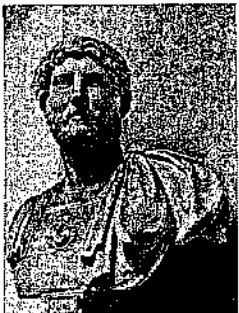
• Flavian Dynasty (and the "Year of the 4 Emperors") (69 – 96 CE)

- **Galba** (68 – 69 CE)
 - Grabbed power after Nero's suicide, supported by the **Spanish Legions**
 - Murdered by **Praetorian Guard**
- **Otho** (Jan 69 – Apr 69 CE)
 - Appointed by **Praetorian Guard**, he committed suicide after losing a battle to the next emperor, Vitellius
- **Vitellius** (Apr 69 – Dec 69 CE)
 - Gained power through **German Legions**; murdered by Vespasian's troops.
- **Vespasian** (69 – 79 CE) [his bust at left]
 - Gained power through the **Eastern Legions**; **died of natural causes!**
- **Titus** (79 – 81 CE)
 - Son of Vespasian; he died of The Plague.
- **Domitian** (81 – 96 CE)
 - Son of Vespasian; assassinated by court officials



• Nervan-Antonian Dynasty (And the Five Good Emperors) (96 – 192)

- The "Five Good Emperors" (Time of greatest expansion & prosperity—for some)
 - **Nerva** (96 – 98 CE)
 - Appointed by Senate; died of natural causes!
 - **Trajan** (98 – 117 CE)
 - Adopted son of Nerva; died of natural causes!
 - **Hadrian** (117 – 138 CE) [his bust at left]
 - Adopted son of Trajan; died of natural causes!
 - **Antonius Pius** (138 – 161 CE)
 - Adopted son of Hadrian; died of natural causes!
 - **Marcus Aurelius** (161 – 180 CE) was co-Emperor with Lucius Verus
 - Adopted son of Antonius Pius; died of natural causes!
- **Lucius Verus** (161 – 169) was co-Emperor with Marcus Aurelius
 - Adopted son of Antonius Pius; died of the Plague.
- **Commodus** (177 – 192 CE)
 - Natural son of Marcus Aurelius, he served as co-emperor with his father until Aurelius' death in 180 CE and emperor until his assassination
 - Portrayed in the movie, *Gladiator*



- **Severan Dynasty (and the “Year of the Five Emperors) (193 – 235 CE)**

- A blood bath after the assassination of Commodus as 5 different claimants seized power over the course of a year (193 CE).
- The Severan clan finally held onto power, but amidst the usual conspiracies
- **Germanic tribes** are making incursions into Roman held territory defeating a number of Roman Legions
- **The Sassanid (Persian) Empire** (224 – 651 CE) becomes a threat

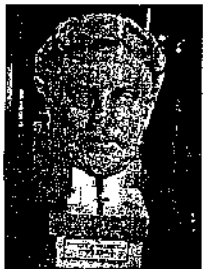
- **Crisis of the Third Century (235 – 284 CE) with some 25 claimants to the emperorship**

- After Emperor Alexander Severus was killed by his own troops, a 50 year period followed with mostly army commanders seeking to be Emperor
- **By (258 – 260 CE) the Roman Empire split up into three competing states:**
 - **Gallic Empire:** Gaul, Britannia and Hispania (France, Britain and Spain)
 - **Palmyrene Empire:** Syria, Palestine, Aegyptus (Eastern Roman Empire)
 - **Roman Empire:** Italian-centered (roughly the Senatorial provinces)
- **Invasions by the Goths, the Vandals, the Visigoths and the Persians** devastate Roman cities, which have not had to defend themselves for centuries—many great city walls are built during this time.
- **Key Soldier-Emperors of the Roman Empire** repulsed the invaders and took control of the independent (rogue) Gallic and Palmyrene states
 - **Claudius II Gothicus** (268 – 270 CE) retook Hispania from the Gallic Empire
 - **Aurelian** (270 – 275 CE) [his statue at left] **reunited the former Roman Empire** by defeating the Vandals, Visigoths, Palmyrenes, Persians and the rest of the Gallic Empire



- **Tetrarchy and Constantinian Dynasty (284 – 364 CE)**

- **The Roman Emperor Diocletian set up a Tetrarchy of power (293 CE)**
 - Vast empire run in four sections with each capital strategically placed to hold that region against bordering rivals (particularly the Sassanid Persia and Germanic tribes)
 - Importantly, the power has shifted away from Rome
- **Diocletian** (284 – 305 CE) [his statue at left] carries out perhaps the most severe persecution of the Christians



CONSTANTINE I (306 – 337 CE)

- **Early Years**

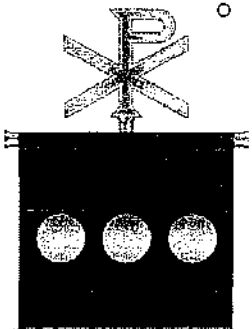
- Born in present day Serbia, son of Constantius I Chlorus
- Educated in the court of Diocletian (kind of a hostage to keep his father Constantius in line)
- Joining his father in Gaul, Constantine and Constantius fought in Britain beyond Hadrian’s Wall, but Constantius died of sickness

- **Early Rule**

- Constantius and his troops declared Constantine his successor and an Augustus, but had to settle for being a Caesar (lower title); he controlled Britain, Gaul and Spain.
- Repelled the Franks (307 CE) and was tolerant towards Christians like his father.

- **Becomes Augustus and then the sole emperor of the whole Roman Empire**

- Constantine [his statue at left] leads his troops in successful battles into Italy and finally Rome, where he defeats his rival, Emperor Maxentius
 - In Rome, along the Tiber River, the **famous story of Constantine at the Milvian Bridge** tells of him being inspired to put a form of the cross on his soldier’s shields and is victorious against the larger army of Maxentius.
 - Allows Christians to elect a Bishop of Rome, Eusebius



WEEK #4 OF 4 "ROMAN EMPIRE: GREEK & GERMAN" (#2 OF 3)

Sunday Mornings: World of the Roman Empire—By Pastor Daren Erisman

- **Constantine become sole emperor cont...**
 - Establishes the **Edict of Milan** with the Emperor of what will be the Eastern Roman Empire (313)
 - Together with Emperor Licinius, they signed the Edict of Milan which granted full tolerance to all religions of the Empire, including Christianity, which became legalized and had property restored that had been taken during Diocletian.
 - Constantine wages a civil war with Licinius (who reneged on the Edict of Milan) creating a kind of Christian vs. Pagan, West vs. East war.
 - Constantine wins and is declared the sole emperor of the Roman Empire
- **How Christian was Constantine I?**
 - Constantine was not only a patron of Christianity but of other deities as well, particularly the sun-worship which Aurelian had help introduce
 - Influenced inter-Christian conflicts by bringing together Christian leaders and serving as judge as well
 - **Dispute against Donatism**
 - The Donatists declared those who had renounced Christianity during the Diocletian persecutions and unworthy, particularly the priests, while the rest of Christianity was more charitable.
 - Ironically, Constantine would send troops against the Donatists (316 CE); the **first armed intra-Christian persecution** after 300 years of pacifism.
 - **Dispute against Arianism**
 - Arianism was the belief that since the Logos, the Son of God was created by the Father, the Logos was secondary to the Father and not equal
 - Constantine summoned the **Council of Nicaea**, the first Ecumenical Council, and dealt mostly with Arianism
 - He waited until near death to be baptized
- **Tidbit:** Constantine revived the clean shaven face fashion of the Roman Emperors from Augustus to Trajan.



BYZANTINE EMPIRE (330 – 1453 CE)

- **The Byzantine Empire = The Roman Empire**
 - Constantine creates the **New Rome** in Constantinople (330 CE)
 - Known previously as the old Greek city of **Byzantium**
 - **The Eastern half of the Roman Empire, this region was the Roman Empire, particularly with the sacking of Rome (5th & 6th centuries)**
 - Continued the succession of Roman Emperors
 - Calling it the "Byzantine Empire" was coined by a German Historian in 1557 and was not really put into use until the 19th century.
 - With the ascension of the Roman Papacy, particularly marked by the Pope's coronation of Charlemagne as Emperor in 800 CE (ignoring the already crowned Emperor in the East), and the growing Greek character of the Eastern Roman Empire, Westerners and Northerners began calling it the Empire of the Greeks.
 - **Roman law reaches its apex (425 CE)**
 - Emperor Justinian (527 – 565 CE) institutes a body of laws called the "corpus juris civilis" (body of civil law), the first systematic attempt to synthesize Roman law and Christianity. It would become the foundation of European law.

- **The Orthodox Church = The Orthodox Catholic Church**
 - Numbers Today: Orthodox is the second largest group of Christians (~250 million)
 - Roman Catholic (~1 billion);
 - The multiple protestant denominations total around (~500 million)
 - **By the 5th century: 5 “sees” or patriarchates**
 - Rome was given primacy; Bishop of Rome is the first among equals.
 - Constantinople slipped into 2nd place, putting Alexandria into 3rd place in terms of importance; Antioch and Jerusalem followed.
 - **Iconoclastic Crisis → Iconography = Idolatry**
 - Two bans on the imaging of Christ in art (iconography) were carried out (730 – 787 CE) and (814 – 842 CE) resulting in the destruction of many images and the fleeing of those who created and valued such images.
 - The Orthodox church would finally argue that the adoration of such images was not idolatry, but were necessitated by the theology of the incarnation: the Son of God, the image of the Father can be depicted pictorially precisely because he became incarnate, visible, describable, human. To deny this visible witness they argued would be to deny the mystery of the incarnation.
 - **Defined by 7 Ecumenical Councils**
 - These define its “Orthodoxy”
 - The Orthodox Church is one of unbroken Apostolic succession and considers itself a pure expression of the Early Church and its orthodox understanding as defined by the 7 Ecumenical Councils
 - **Great Schism**
 - A development that realistically took centuries, it is a prominent breach that took place **1054** as a Cardinal from the Western Papal delegation of Pope Leo IX excommunicated the Patriarch of Constantinople, Michael Cerularius, after he refused to recognize the supremacy of Rome. Cerularius promptly excommunicated the Cardinal and the lines were drawn in the sand, or at least the Empire.
 - **An early indicator of the schism:** Pope Leo III’s crowning of **Charlemagne** as Emperor in 800 CE (Emperor Charles I for Germans), did not sit well with the continuous Roman line of Emperors in the Eastern Roman Empire or the Eastern Church.
 - Charlemagne, King of the Franks basically reunited Western Europe including conquering Italy and created both French and German lines of imperial/monarchical succession.
 - **The filioque clause created defined theological separation**
 - Filioque is Latin for “**and from the Son**”
 - From Visigothic Christian controlled Spain, this language of the Holy Spirit coming from the Son as well as the Father was added to the Nicene Creed at the Third Council of Toledo (589); it later spread to Rome after 1000 but was not accepted by the Eastern Orthodox Church and became a key doctrinal difference between the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches
 - **Western Christian Crusaders of the Fourth Crusade sack Constantinople (1202 – 1204)**
 - Expected to secure the Holy Land from the Muslims (who had just taken back much of the Holy Land including Jerusalem—the Abayyid Empire that controlled Syria and Egypt), these Crusaders conquered Byzantine lands including Constantinople and made them part of a Latin State.
 - Ironically, this didn’t help with the schism...

WEEK #4 OF 4 "ROMAN EMPIRE: GREEK & GERMAN" (#3 OF 3)

Sunday Mornings: World of the Roman Empire—By Pastor Daren Erisman

- **Key points about the Eastern Orthodox Church to remember**
 - **Augustine does not play the same prominent role in the Orthodox Church as he does in Roman Catholic, and particularly, Protestant thought**
 - Augustinian thought tends to project a lesser view of human capabilities with regard to God.
 - From an Orthodox perspective, humans are shaped in the image of God and retain that partial image, despite sinning—a more positive view of humanity and its capabilities.
 - Roman Catholics and some Protestants would describe the Orthodox view as "syncretistic" in that humans work together with God in a more shared capacity than the Augustinian influenced perspective would allow (particularly because of "original sin").
 - **The eastern context of the Orthodox Church often isolated it from Western European controversies and developments**
 - The Orthodox church was not shaped by the Reformation or Counter-Reformation and its treatment of the Bible, free will, ecclesiastical differences, etc.
 - Its theology is more akin to the Early Church and is more shaped by Greek influences rather than Latin and Germanic ones
 - **Shaped against the backdrop, threat and occupation of an Islamic Empire and then Atheists States**
 - Shaped by both being a superpower as the seat of the Roman Empire under Constantine and others, as well as a second or third class citizen of an Islamic Ottoman Empire.
 - Both a confidence in being the true expression of the Early Christian Church as well as the continuity of the Roman Empire.
 - And, a humble and more esoteric understanding of its tradition as a minority with little power which is perpetuated into the 20th century with Atheistic rulers (Communist controlled Eastern Europe and Russia)
 - Such isolation also means a kind of "freezing" of time and thought as in comparison with Western practices.
 - This could make Orthodoxy seem either as more pure, less developed, less tainted, or more Orthodox!

THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE (962 – 1806 CE)

- The invading Germanic tribes of the Roman Empire would become the German Christian tribes of the Bavarians, Franks, Saxons, etc.
 - The consolidation of power by **Frankish Charlemagne (800)** would initiate a **Carolingian Dynasty** that would divide into basically France and the Holy Roman Empire (Germany)
- **Otto I, King of Germany in 962 is generally considered to be the first Holy Roman Emperor**
- A power struggle between the Papacy and German Princes would shape this Empire and eventually create the conditions for the Reformation
- **The Holy Roman Empire was formally dissolved in 1806** after Napoleon conquered the region and the last Holy Roman Emperor Francis I of Austria abdicated.
- Prussian leadership created the predecessor state of modern **Germany in 1871.**

