

Ancient History

Name _____

Date _____

1. Who were the two main leaders during this first Roman Civil War?
2. Who were the three members of the first Triumvirate?
3. How did each of these three members die?
4. Why did Caesar cross the Rubicon?
5. Who were the two main conspirators against Caesar?
6. Caesar defeated Pompey at what battle?
7. Caesar defeated Brutus at what battle?
8. Who were the three members of the Second Triumvirate?
9. Most modern historians believe Our Lord was born in what year? Why?

Because the Gospels tell us he was born in the reign of Herod and Herod died in 4 B.C.

10. What were the chief sects of the Jews when Our Lord was born? Give a brief description of each sect.

Pharisees- They were usually middle class, devout Jews. Unfortunately, many were far too concerned with the external adherence to customs rather than interior holiness. It was the Pharisees who would constantly accuse Our Lord of violating the Jewish Law, especially when he cured the sick on the Sabbath.

Sadducees- They were usually upper class, secular minded Jews who had adopted the Hellenistic (Greek) culture. They denied the resurrection of the body. They turned against Our Lord because they feared his preaching would either bring upon them the anger of the Romans or intrude on their control of the Temple.

Herodians- They were politically minded Jews who sought to protect the Herodian line, because the Herodians had brought material and political success to the Jewish people.

11. Our Lord grew up in what Jewish town?
12. Gabriel appeared to Our Lady when she was praying in what Jewish town?
13. How old was Our Lord when stayed in the temple for three days without the knowledge of Mary or Joseph?
14. Who was ruling in Jerusalem at the birth of Our Lord?
15. On what mountain did the Transfiguration take place?
16. Joseph was from what Jewish tribe?
17. Why didn't the leaders of the Jewish people accept Our Lord as the Messiah?
18. Why was it important that Our Lord started his missionary journeys during the Jubilee year?

Because on a Jubilee year the land was left idle, all debts were forgiven, all Jewish slaves were freed, and all property returned to the original family. Since no one was working the land, the people had time to listen to Our Lord's preaching and meditate on spiritual truths.

19. Where did the Incarnation take place?

In Nazareth.

20. List the twelve apostles. Include where they preached, their feast day, how they died, and what Catholics recognize them as their patrons.
21. What miracle convinced all of the divergent Jewish sects that Our Lord must die?

The raising of Lazarus from the dead- particularly since it was impossible for anyone to doubt Our Lord's miraculous power in this case, because Lazarus had been dead for so long that "he stinketh."

22. Who was the first apostle to be martyred?

St. James the Greater

23. Who was the first Bishop of Jerusalem?

St. James the Lesser

24. Who was the first martyr of the Church?

25. St. Paul was from what city?

26. Where did the first Council of the Church take place? When? What was the main topic of discussion? Why was it so significant?

1. Jerusalem

2. Around 50 A.D.

3. Whether the new Gentile converts should be required to follow the Jewish customs.

4. St. James the Less was of the opinion they should, while St. Paul argued that they shouldn't. St. Peter decided the issue and all of the apostles abided by his decision. This shows clearly that Peter was already recognized as the head of the Church.

27. St. Peter was the bishop of what ancient city before going to Rome?

28. In what year were St. Paul and St. Peter martyred? How did each of them die? Why?

29. What bishop (mentioned in the Apocalypse) was a direct disciple of St. John?

30. What story in the life of this direct disciple of St. John shows clearly that the bishops of the early church were just as critical of heretics as they are today? Why is this such an important point to make with the Protestants?

31. Who is the only apostle not martyred?

32. Why did the temple priests have to ask Pilate's permission to kill Jesus?

33. What did the temple priests have their own soldiers if Jerusalem was technically ruled by Rome?

34. Give a brief description of the reign of Augustus (Octavian)? When did he reign?

After he defeated Mark Anthony at Actium, he settled down to rule as a philosopher emperor, effectively administering the empire for many decades. He avoided conquering new territory, preferring to concentrate on stabilizing the lands already controlled by Rome. He not only lived a frugal life, but never sought to gain the kingship, even though he probably could have had the title if he had wished to possess it. Instead he lived a frugal life and was content with the title "First Citizen." He took great pains to show respect to the Senate, even though that body generally rubber stamped his decisions during his reign. Augustus saw that Roman society was decaying. He even passed laws to encourage Romans to have children again.

27 B.C. to 14 A.D.

35. Octavian defeated Anthony at what major battle?

36. Octavian wisely avoided assuming the trappings of a king. What title did he prefer?

37. Why do I refer to Augustus/Octavian as a philosopher emperor?

38. Who assumed power on the death of Octavian?

39. Octavian created a special legion of Roman troops to be stationed in Rome. What was the name given to these troops?

40. Was it a wise idea to station Roman soldiers in Rome? Why or why not?

41. Who assumed power upon the death of Augustus? When did he rule?

Tiberius. He was the step son of Augustus. He ruled effectively, following in the footsteps of Augustus. He generally followed all of the policies which Augustus had followed before him. Toward the end of his reign, he retired from Rome to a small island along the coast of Italy.

14- 37 A.D.

42. Who followed Tiberius on the throne? Give a brief description of his reign.

Caligula (37-41 A.D.). According the Roman historians, he squandered the wealth accumulated during the reign of Tiberius. He instituted treason trials and led an extravagant life. Although he was popular at the beginning of his reign (particularly with the army), his actions caused a conspiracy to form against him. Roman accounts of his reign show him as such a tyrant that it is difficult to separate the legend from the truth. It is difficult to believe some of the Roman accounts.

43. What Roman Emperor ruled from 41 A.D. to 54 A.D.?

Claudius- He was never considered talented enough to rule, so he was left in quiet seclusion during his early years. He was forced to accept the throne by the soldiers, but ruled effectively for many years. He conquered Britain and reformed some aspects of the Roman system. Overall, he was a very effective ruler.

44. What Roman Emperor ruled from 54 to 68 A.D.?

Nero- His reign started well. During his early years, he followed the advice of his counselors and ruled effectively. He patronized the arts, preferring music and acting to war. He seems to have become mentally unstable during the later part of his reign. He was the first Roman Emperor to start a persecution of the Christians. When a rebellion was raised against him, he committed suicide.

45. Why did this Emperor start the first persecution of the Christians?

In 64 A.D. a fire broke out in Rome, burning down a considerable portion of the center of the city. Nero offered food and funds to those who had lost their homes, making him extremely popular. However, a rumor, which was almost definitely not true, circulated that he had started the fire. Nero called for an investigation. Those conducting the investigation accused the Christians, so Nero had many cruelly put to death.

46. When and where did Peter and Paul die?

Rome, 67 A.D.

47. What happened upon the death of Nero?

A short period of chaos occurred during which a civil war broke out to determine who would be Emperor. Eventually Vespasian marched from Jerusalem, where he was besieging the city, and was proclaimed Emperor in Rome in 69 A.D.

48. When was Jerusalem destroyed? Why is the destruction of Jerusalem so significant?

70 A.D.

Not only because it fulfilled Our Lord's prophecy that the temple would be destroyed, but also because it marked the end of the Jewish people as a political unit until the post-World War II period, when the British helped the Jews create modern Israel.

49. Give a brief description of the rule of Vespasian.

He was a very effective ruler, working to bring the military back under civil control. He also sought to reform the senate and fight the tendency of effeminacy in the Roman upper circles. He is sometimes accused of overtaxing the populace, but he was probably forced to raise taxes to refurbish the Roman treasury which had been depleted during the period of instability which had occurred before he came to power.

50. Who ruled from 79 A.D to 81 A.D.? Give a brief description of his reign.

Titus. He showed great promise, following in the footsteps of his father. However, he died prematurely.

51. Who reigned after the death of Titus? Give a brief description of his rule.

Domitian. He started off well but seems to have succumbed to paranoia. If we are to believe Roman historians, he had shiny stones installed in his palace so he could ensure no one was sneaking up behind him.

52. Why was the period from 96-180 A.D. known as the period of the "Five Good Emperors"?

Because several good Emperors- all enjoying long reigns- ruled during this period.

53. What method of choosing a successor did several of the Good Emperors adopt? Who started this trend?

Several adopted their successor- thus ensuring that the best man was chosen for the job. Nerva- an old man- was chosen in 96 A.D. after the assassination of Domitian. He had no sons of his own so he adopted Trajan- an able general.

54. Who ruled the Roman Empire from 98-117 A.D.? What notable achievement occurred during his reign?

Trajan. The boundaries of the Roman Empire were carried to their greatest extent.

55. Describe the persecution under Trajan.

As laid out in Trajan's letter to Pliny the Younger, Trajan cautioned not to seek Christians out, but only to investigate if someone forced the issue by coming to the government with accusations. In such cases, the Christians were to be punished if they didn't deny it and remained obstinate. If, on the other hand, the charges proved to be untrue, Trajan recommended that the informers be given harsh treatment for leveling false accusations. In short, Trajan seems to have had little heart for persecuting Christians.

56. Who was the most famous martyr under Trajan? He was the first person to use what term?

St Ignatius of Antioch. He was the first to use the term Catholic in his writings.

57. Who followed Trajan as Emperor? How did his form of government differ from that of Trajan? When did he rule? What was his policy toward the Christians?

Whereas, Trajan was a soldier, constantly expanding the Empire through conquest, Hadrian was a diplomat. He traveled the Empire, going from town to town, hearing the grievances of the population. He voluntarily gave up some of Trajan's conquests to make the Empire's boundaries more defensible. In places, such as Britain, he actually built walls to ensure that the barbarians were kept out. (117-138 A.D.) He viewed the Christians kindly and never persecuted them.

58. Do you think Hadrian's policies might have had any unforeseen negative consequences for the Empire?

While setting fixed boundaries near easily defensible positions might have made it easier to keep the barbarians out, it also might have taken away some of the stamina and drive of the Roman military. Sitting behind walls isn't necessarily the best way to keep the Roman soldiers in tip-top fighting shape. Furthermore, there is always a danger of developing a siege mentality.

59. Who succeeded Hadrian on the throne? When did he rule? How did he treat the Christians? What was policy did he adopt for the Empire?

Antonius Pius. 138-101 A.D. He was favorably disposed toward the Christians and protected them. He followed in the footsteps of Hadrian, avoiding wars and working to make the Roman government more just and efficient.

60. Why might some view this as the high point of the pagan Roman Empire?

Antonius Pius was benefiting both from the conquests of Trajan and the efficient government of Hadrian. Kind by nature, he ruled well. Consequently, some argue that the Roman Empire was at its high point of material prosperity and governmental efficiency under his reign.

61. Who succeeded Antonius Pius on the throne? When did he rule? What policy did he adopt toward the Christians? Why was his reign unfortunate? In what way did he depart from the three emperors who preceded him?

Marcus Aurelius. (161-180 A.D.). He persecuted Christians. Not only did the Roman army suffer some reverses as barbarians put pressure on its borders, but also a plague ravaged the Empire. Instead of choosing the most able man, he chose his son as his successor. In his defense, the other emperors never had any male descendants, so they never had to make such a difficult decision. Furthermore, his son started his reign well.

62. List two famous early Church Fathers who were martyred during the reign of Marcus Aurelius. Give a brief description of each.

St. Justin Martyr- An early apologist of the Church, he was a philosopher before converting and put his philosophical studies to good use defending the positions of the Church after his conversion. He is one of the first Church Fathers to give us a fairly detailed description of the early Mass.

St. Polycarp- a direct disciple of St. John and a good friend of St. Ignatius of Antioch. His relics were venerated by the early Christians shortly after his death. The first recorded example of veneration of relics.

63. What happened after the death of Septimius Severus in 211?

A period of chaos set in. It probably appears worse in the history books than it was in reality, but there was a constant change of power at the top. Many emperors were killed by revolts or assassinations. The army was clearly becoming the most powerful institution in the nation. The senate no longer commanded the respect of the people. The army often gave the throne to the general who gained their favor. Furthermore, revolts generally meant that Romans were fighting Romans, which has a negative effect on the strength of the Empire.

64. Who became Emperor in 284 B.C.? Give a brief explanation of his rule.

Diocletian. Born to poor parents, he had joined the military and worked his way to the top. He had a great love for Roman culture, even though he wasn't technically a Roman. He made sweeping changes in the governmental system in order to improve government efficiency.

He reestablished order and reigned in the army. He was a truly great ruler. Unfortunately, shortly before he retired, Galerius convinced him to start a persecution of the Christians.

65. Give a brief description of the tetrarchy. Why did Diocletian chose this system of government?

The tetrarchy was basically a fourfold division of the Empire. Diocletian believed that the Empire had become too large for one man to rule. Consequently, he divided the empire into four parts. He and his friend Maximian would be co- emperors (Augusti), Diocletian of the East and Maximian of the West. Each Augusti would share his authority with a Caesar (Constantius in the East and Galerius in the West). When the Augusti retired, the Caesar would take their place after nominating a Caesar to fill their position. Diocletian's goal was to avoid the constant revolts by instituting a stable system for transferring power. He also saw that younger men were needed to lead the armies against the barbarians as the Emperors aged.

66. Give a brief diagram of the tetrarchy, including titles and hierarchy.

Augustus East- Diocletian- Nicomedia/Egypt

Augustus West- Maximian

Caesar East- Galerius- Greece/ Balkans

Caesar- Constantius- Gaul/France/Britain

67. Give the four phases of the Diocletian persecution.

First Edict- Christian places of worship were to be destroyed. Christians lost the right to appear at court. High ranking officials lost their jobs. Christians were ordered to give up their sacred books for destruction.

Second Edict- Ordered the arrest and persecution of all priests and bishops.

Third Edict- Offered general amnesty for all imprisoned Christians who would sacrifice.

Fourth Edict- Ordered all men, woman and children to gather in the public places to sacrifice.

68. List some of the most famous martyrs under Diocletian.

St. Sebastian- A Praetorian guard who was first shot with arrows and then clubbed to death.

St. George- A Praetorian guard who was decapitated.

St Lucy- They tried to burn her, but when this failed she was stabbed to death.

St Agnes- They tried to burn her, but when this failed she was stabbed to death or beheaded.

St. Emerentiana- Stoned to death by a pagan crowd.

St Philomena- Cruelly tortured.

69. What happened upon the death of Constantius in 306 A.D.?

Upon the death of Constantius, Constantine was proclaimed ruler by the troops of his father. About the same time, Maxentius, the son of Maximian was proclaimed Emperor of Italy. Galerius tried to send his choice as emperor, Severus, to the west to regain the lost territory, but he was defeated by Maxentius and killed. After the death of Galerius, Maximinus Daia and Licinius divided the East between them. Meanwhile, Constantine marched on Rome and defeated Maxentius, while Licinius defeated Maximinus. Thus, at the end of the chaos, Constantine ruled the West and Licinius the East.

70. When did Constantine become sole ruler of the Roman Empire? Why?

334 A.D. He defeated Licinius, becoming the ruler of both the East and the West.

71. Who was the mother of Constantine? Give a brief description of her story.

St. Helena. When her husband Constantius was made Caesar, he was forced to divorce her. She led a hidden life until her son Constantine was proclaimed Emperor by his troops. Constantine treated her as an Empress. She used her wealth and power to do much good for the Church, including the discovery of the True Cross.

72. What city did Constantine choose as his new capital? Why?

Byzantium- a small fishing village, which he renamed Constantinople. The village was located at the crossroads of Asia and Europe and it was surrounded by water on three sides.

73. When Constantine died, how was his kingdom divided?

Constantine (The Eldest Son)- Gaul and Britain

Constans- Italy

Constantius- The East

74. What early church father gives us one of the first direct references to the Mass in his writings?

75. Why didn't the early Christians speak about the Mass?

76. What early Church father was the first person to use the word Catholic when referring to Christians? What does Catholic mean?
77. What was the Donatist heresy?
78. In what century did the Arian heresy infect a large part of the Church?
79. Give a brief account of the Arius and how his heresy spread?
80. What emperor, who ruled from 161-180, allowed his son to succeed him? Thus, he departed from the practice of adopting the most worthy candidate.
81. What happened to the Roman Empire during the sixty years following the death of Emperor Commodus?
82. In what century did Diocletian rule?
83. Why did Diocletian divide the Empire into two different parts?
84. Why did Diocletian choose a Caesar to rule under each Augustus?
85. List the four men chosen to rule under Diocletian's new system?
86. Which part of the Empire was given to Constantine's Father?
87. What was the name of Constantine's saintly mother?
88. What was the name of the mother of St. Augustine?

89. St. Augustine is known by what title? Why?
90. What is the heresy of Pelagianism?
91. Give a brief account of the life of St. Augustine?
92. St. Ambrose was the bishop of what Italian city?
93. What was the name of the Emperor who was refused entrance into the Church by St. Ambrose?
94. What is Caesaro- Papism?
95. What claimant to the Roman throne did Constantine defeat at the Battle of the Milvian Bridge?
96. Explain the vision of Constantine which occurred shortly before the Battle of Milvian Bridge?
97. What famous event occurred in 313 A.D.?
98. What occurred in the life of Constantine in 330 A.D.?
99. How did the building of Constantinople influence the history of the Church and the world?
100. List the names of several of the barbarian tribes.
101. What occurred in 410 A.D.? Why was this event so pivotal?
102. What was the name of the great saint who fought against the Arian Heresy?

103. What was the name of the saint who was the Patriarch of Alexandria when Arius began preaching his heresy?
104. Why might the barbarian invasions be compared to a row of falling Dominoes?
105. What was the name of Constantine's three sons? Which portion of the Empire did each of these sons receive?
106. Which of Constantine's sons proved to be a staunch defender of the Catholic Faith?
107. Which pope signed a document condemning Constantine under torture?
108. What event occurred in 406 A.D., making it easy for the barbarians to invade the Roman Empire?
109. What tactics did Julian the Apostate use to secretly lessen the influence of the Catholic Church during his reign?
110. What event occurred during the reign of Julian the Apostate, which showed clearly the power of God?
111. Why was Julian called the Apostate?
112. What famous Roman general was instrumental in repelling barbarian invasions under Honorius? What happened to this general?

113. What Roman general was famous for repelling barbarian invasions under Valentinian III? What happened to this general?
114. At what battle did the “Last Roman” defeat the Huns? In what century did this battle occur?
115. What Pope forced Attila the Hun to turn away from Rome?
116. Describe the burial of both Attila and Alaric.
117. List some of the causes of the fall of the Roman Empire.
118. What is the arbitrary date given as the fall of the Roman Empire? What happened on this date?
119. Why did Arianism spread so quickly in the Church?
120. Why was the Council of Nicaea called?
121. What doctrine did it proclaim?
122. What barbarian tribe eventually conquered the North of Africa?
123. What barbarian tribe eventually conquered Spain?
124. What barbarian tribe moved into modern France shortly before the Fall of the Roman Empire?
125. How were the Huns different from many of the other barbarian tribes which came before them?