



Ancient Rome



- The **Italian Peninsula** is in a strategic position at the center of the Mediterranean Sea.
- Unlike Ancient Greece the geography of the Italian Peninsula allowed the people of Ancient Rome to unite under one government.

Geography



Geography

- Located in Italy
 - Fertile plains & mild climate good for growing food
 - Low easy to travel mountains.
 - Alps to the North, provide protection from invaders



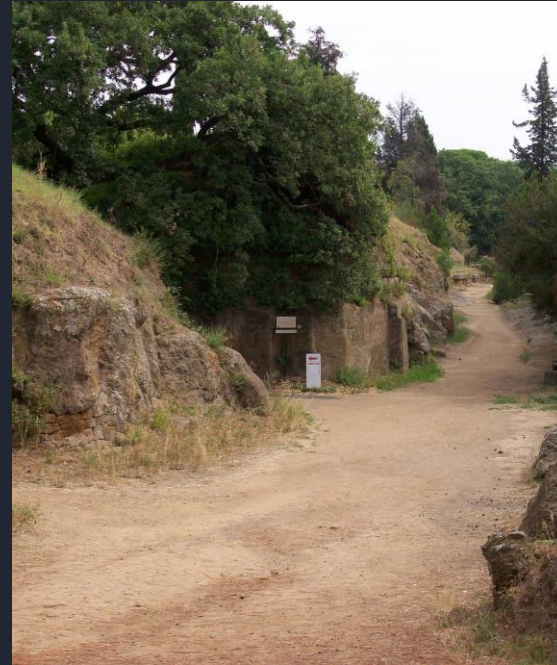
Legend of Rome

- According to **legend** there were twin brothers, **Remus and Romulus**. They were abandoned at birth and raised by a wolf.
- When the twins grew older a kind farmer took them in. Over time the boys founded a city on the banks of the Tiber River and its seven hills
- **The boys designed the city** but fought over the name. They fought, and Remus was killed. As such, **Romulus named the city Rome** and became a just and fair lord.





Lur and the Palm of Victory. Villa del Cassale Sicilia, Italy. Roman, circa 300 AD



Early History of Rome

- Rome was settled by the Etruscans around 650 BC. They moved from Asia Minor to the Italian Peninsula.
- The Etruscans brought many elements of Greek Culture with them to Rome, especially mythology and architecture.



509 BC

Rome the Republic

- In **509 BC** the Romans overthrow the Etruscan King and **established a republic.**
- A Republic is an **“indirect democracy”** where the people participate in government by choosing representatives to run the government for them.
- The governing body in Ancient Rome was called the **Senate.**



Republican Government in ROME



- **Senate—300 Members** {Patricians}
 - Led by 2 Consuls {Serve a 1-year term}
 - One consul leads the army
 - One directs government
 - In times of war or crisis the Senate would choose a **dictator** {for a 6th month term} used to make quick decisions.
- **Praetors**—lower ranking magistrates serving under the consuls



2 Classes of People in Ancient Rome



- Patricians—Upper Class/ Aristocratic families

- Controlled politics, religion, economy, military, government

- Plebians—Common people/ artisans, merchants, farmers

- Made up MOST of the population, had very little power.

Slaves were not citizens

Twelve Tables

- **12 Tables were written laws** that provided political and social rights for the Plebians
- 12 Tables were posted in the Forum { a meeting place in the center or Rome }
- **Gave Plebians the right to elect Tribunes** { a representative body to protect their interests }
- Tribunes had the right to veto laws that would be harmful to the Plebs

12 Tables Influence Western Law

- Aspects of the Twelve Tables that serve as the basis for western law:
 - EQUAL protection under the law
 - INNOCENT until proven GUILTY
 - Rules of EVIDENCE



Law of Nations

- Written laws to regulate how Roman citizens were to conduct themselves with foreigners from other countries.





Expansion

- Rome quickly became a strong military power
- **By 270 BC the Republic controlled all of Italy and became a colonial power conquering other lands**
- Rome treated conquered lands with Justice
- Conquered people could keep their local customs and local governments
- Were offered Roman citizenship in some cases



Roman Military

- Roman soldiers were posted all over the Empire
- Romans built roads to connect their areas across the Empire





Roman Soldiers

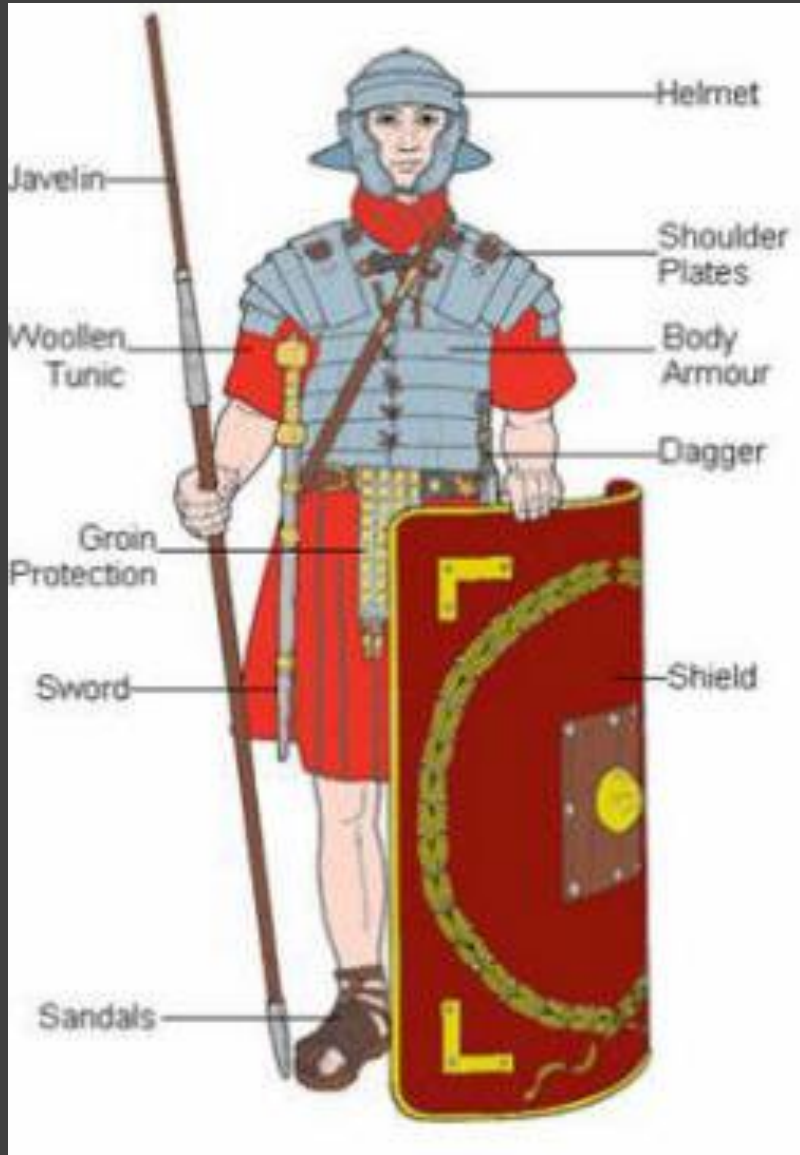
- Roman Soldiers were “citizen-soldiers” fought without pay and supplied their own weapons
- Loyal and well-trained
- Legions {groups of approx. 5,000
4,200 Infantry, 300 cavalry}
- Centuries {between 80-100
soldiers}





Imperator

A Roman Commander.... A Title given to a victorious general of the Roman Empire.



The Roman Soldier

- Soldiers were rewarded for good service, however if the troops lost a battle then one in every ten would be killed.

Punic Wars

- The Punic Wars were **a series of three wars between 264 and 146 BC** fought by the states of Rome and Carthage, area in Northern Africa.
- The Wars were fought to gain control of the Mediterranean.
- **Rome wins the 1st Punic War... gaining Sicily, Corsica, and Sardinia**





Hannibal of Carthage

- During the first Punic War, Hannibal's father was a general. When Carthage lost, he swore revenge on Rome, and Hannibal followed through with this promise after his father's death.
- **Hannibal decided to attack Rome in 218 BC and would launch an attack from the North.**
- He would have to cross the Alps





Hannibal Crossed the Alps

- Hannibal planned to **use elephants to cross the Alps.**
- In just **15 days** he crossed the Alps but lost half his military and most of the elephants.
- However, his daring attack **surprised the Romans** who were expecting an attack from the South.





2nd Punic War

- Hannibal remained in Italy for 15 years, winning battle after battle, but **failing to take Rome.**
- Eventually, ***the Romans attacked the city of Carthage, forcing him to leave*** to defend his home
- ***Carthage loses all its land outside of Africa and must pay a huge tribute (tax) to Rome***
- Rome becomes the dominant power in the Mediterranean

3rd Punic War

- ***Rome, still fearful of their rival, destroys Carthage.***
Any survivors are killed or sold into slavery.
- ***Carthage becomes a colony of Rome.***
- By 133 BCE, Rome's power spanned from Spain to Egypt.



Julius Caesar

- A brilliant military strategist, *Caesar was able to take over the area of Gaul (France)*
- Pompey convinced the *Senate to order Caesar to return to Rome and disband his army*, as he feared Caesar's popularity
- *Caesar did return to Rome, but did so with his army, crushing Pompey and his supporters and seizing control of Rome.*
- *Veni, Vidi, Vici → I came, I saw, I conquered*

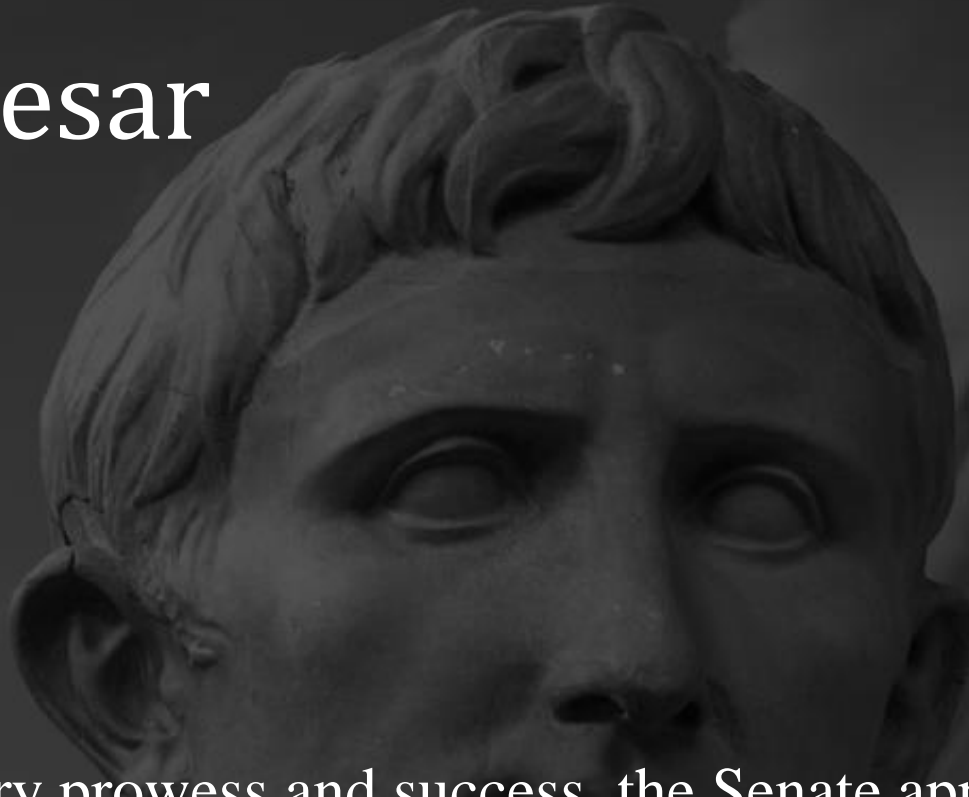


Julius Caesar

- Rome was involved in a civil war for nearly 100 years
- During the civil war, several leaders attempted to gain control and restore order, **but it wasn't until Julius Caesar that order was restored.**
- Caesar was **one of the Generals who had led Rome's expansion**, and he and another general, Pompey, dominated Roman politics for a time



Julius Caesar



- Due to his military prowess and success, the Senate appointed Caesar “Dictator for life,” which he turned into absolute power.
- Caesar made many **reforms** to Roman government/society
 - **Public works program to hire the unemployed**
 - **Gave public land to the poor**
 - **Roman/Julian Calendar based on the Egyptian Calendar**



Caesar's Death

- Senators began to **worry that Caesar would make himself king**, and plotted against him
- According to legend, Caesar was warned by an oracle to "**beware the Ides of March**"
- **The Ides of March (March 15th) was his death day in 44 BC.** He was stabbed 23 times.



The Triumvirate

- Three of Caesar's closest friends vowed revenge, and tracked down his murderers: **Marc Antony, Octavian and Lepidus**
- **Marc Antony and Octavian** soon killed all the betrayers, then **fought to determine who would lead Rome.**



Octavian



Antony



Lepidus



Pax Romana

- Latin for “Roman Peace”
- *A 200-year period of peace and stability.*
- Traditionally dated from the ascension of Caesar Augustus in 27 BC and ending with Marcus Aurelius in 180 AD



Expansion during Pax Romana



Rome expanded and spanned from England in the north to Morocco in the south and Iraq in the east.

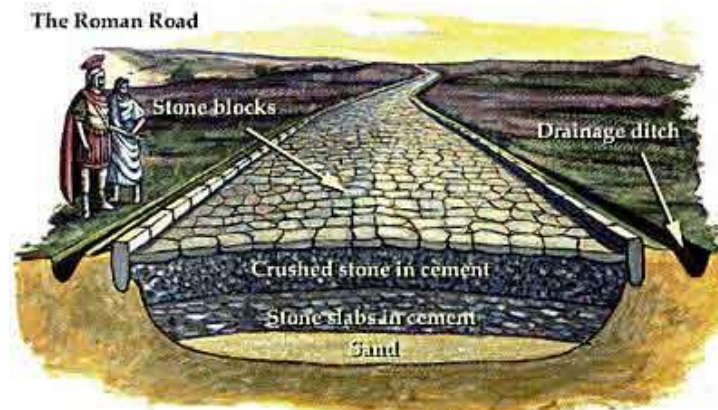
5 Great Emperors of Rome

Emperors who presided over the most majestic days of the Roman Empire

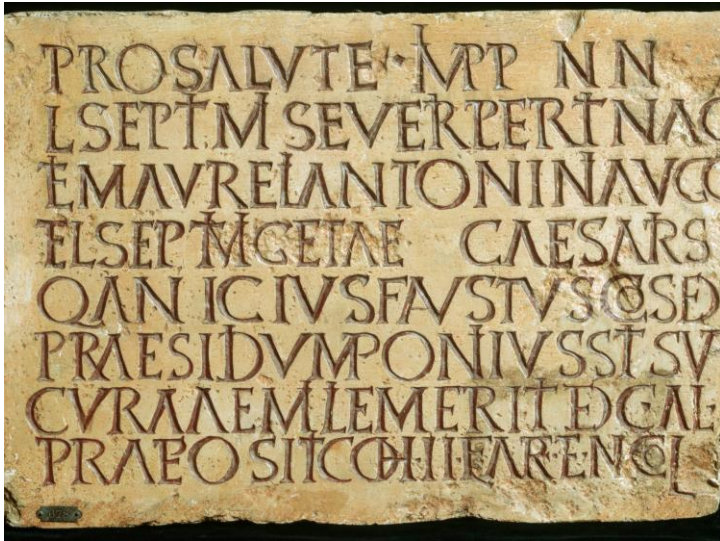
- Nerva (reigned 96–98 AD)
- Trajan (98–117 AD)
- Hadrian (117–138 AD)
- Antoninus Pius (138–161 AD)
- Marcus Aurelius (161–180 AD)



Accomplishments during the Pax Romana



- Colosseum
- Aqueducts
- Roman Roads



LATIN ALPHABET

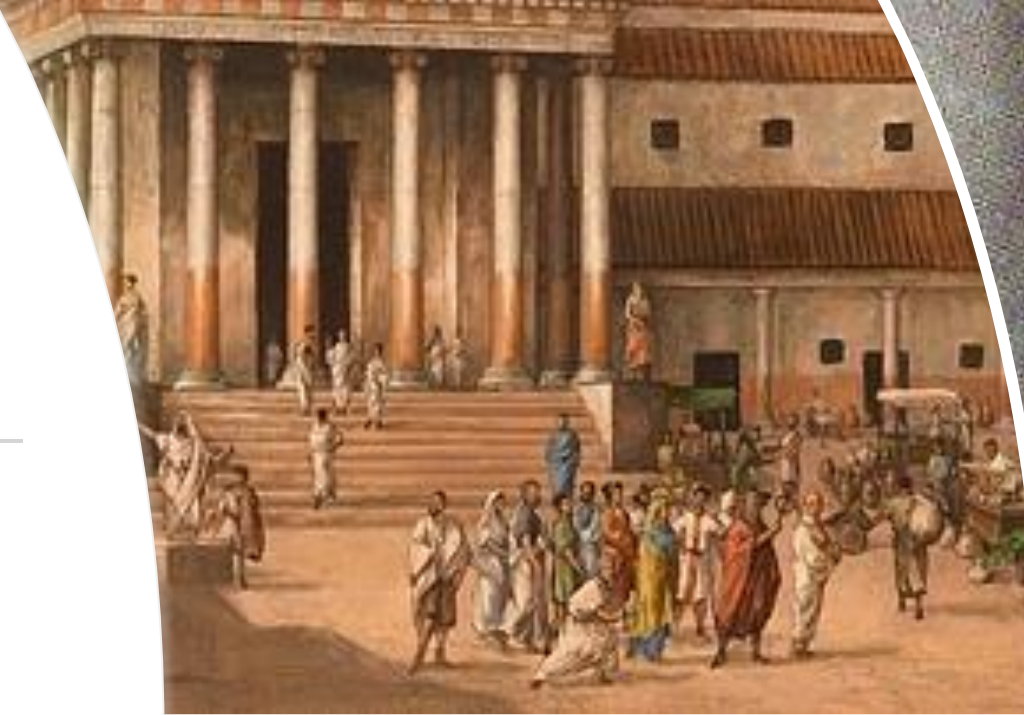
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LATIN

The written and spoken language of ROME

Roman Society

- **Males were the head of the house** with absolute power
- **Women were to be loyal, obedient, and dutiful.**
 - Later gained more rights/freedoms
 - Some women even were able to influence politics
- Roman society **was highly educated-both girls and boys** from the upper and lower classes were taught to read and write



Roman Religion



- Romans had a *Polytheistic religion*
- They *borrowed from the Ancient Greeks* and had many of the same gods/goddess with different names.

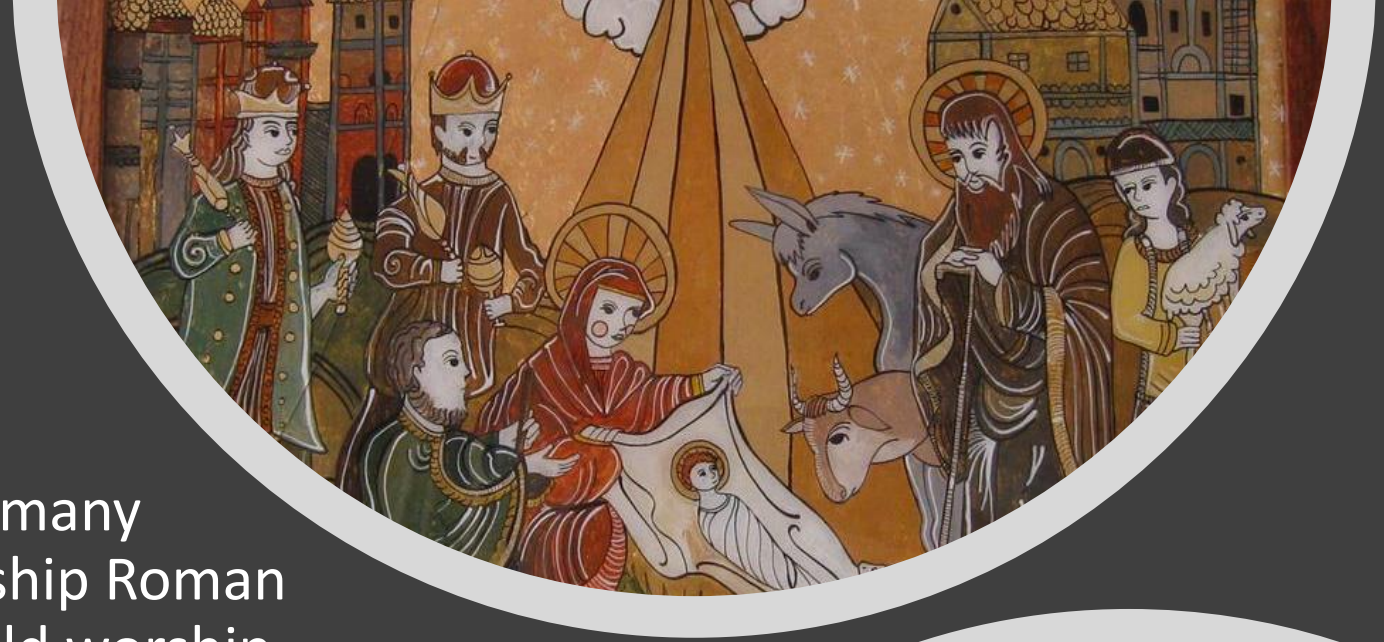
Gods and Goddesses



Greece	Rome	Role
Zeus	Jupiter	Father of the gods
Hera	Juno	Marriage
Poseidon	Neptune	Sea
Ares	Mars	War
Athena	Minerva	Wisdom

Religion in Rome

- The Roman Empire was tolerant of many religions but required them to worship Roman gods too. All but the Jews they could worship only their God.
- Judaism flourished during the height of the Roman Empire
- *Caesar Augustus* (63 BC – 14 AD) was ruling at the time of *Jesus Christ's birth*.
- *Tiberius Caesar Augustus* was the second Roman emperor, reigning from AD 14 to 37. Tiberius was the emperor at the time of *Christ's crucifixion*.



Tension between the Jews and Romans

- Rome began to tax the Jews heavily. If they wanted to practice their religion, they had to pay the tax.
- *1st Jewish-Roman War was in 66 AD.*
- Jews revolted against Roman authority
- Jewish towns and temples were destroyed
- In 70 AD, a Jewish revolt resulted in the Diaspora, which was the dispersal of Jews from their homelands throughout the empire.





Christianity in Rome

- Christianity ***began during the Pax Romana, and was founded by Jesus of Nazareth***
 - It started as a small sect within Judaism.
- ***Jesus was born a Jew in the city of Bethlehem around 4 BC***
- Most of what we know about him comes from the first 4 books of the ***New Testament***
- May have worked as a carpenter, **began preaching around age 30**

Christianity

- Jesus *was a practicing Jew in his early life, and his teachings are rooted in Jewish traditions*
 - Monotheism
 - 10 Commandments
 - Teachings of Jewish prophets-mercy and sympathy for the poor and hopeless
- But he also spread new ideas
 - *Called himself the Son of God*
 - *Emphasized God's love for everyone regardless of social status*
 - *These ideas made him dangerous to the Jews and the Romans*





Christ's Death



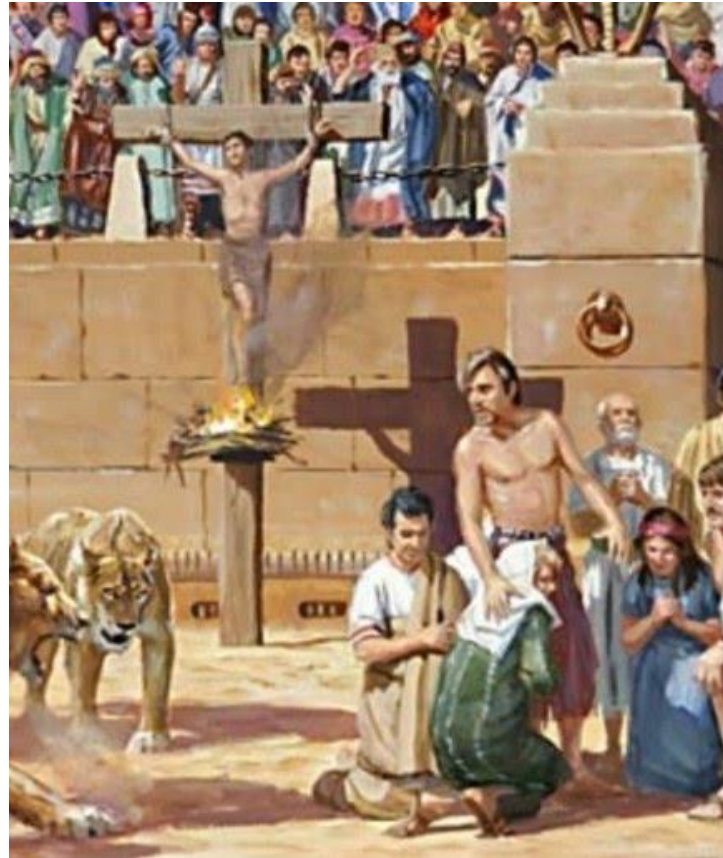
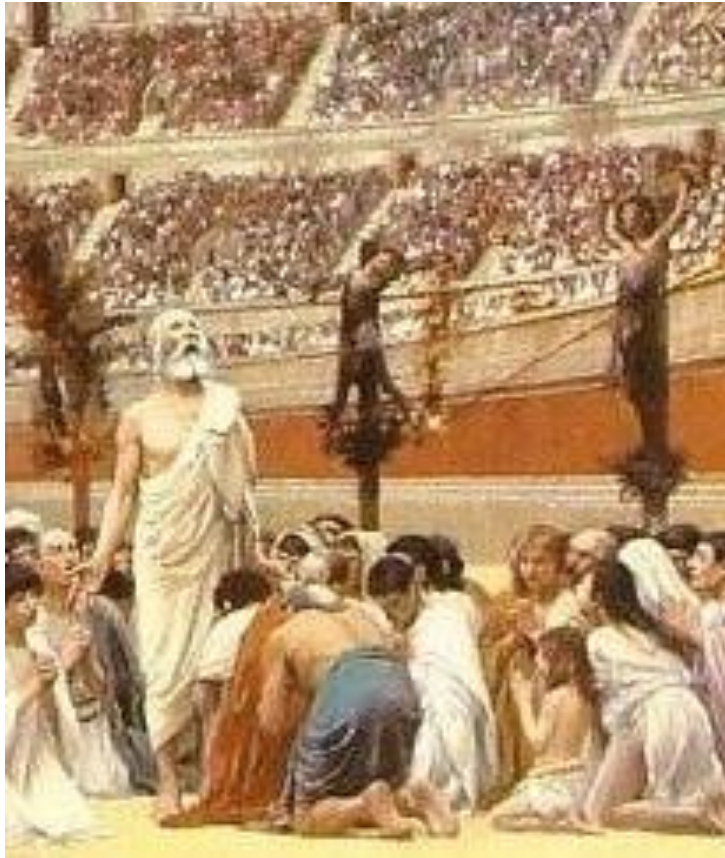
- Crucifixion was a Roman method of punishment. Crucifixion ties or nails the victim to large wooden beams, leaving them sometimes for days to die for exhaustion and asphyxiation.
- Jesus' teachings were a threat to the Jews and the Romans.
- Jewish leaders asked the *Roman governor, Pontius Pilate*, to execute Christ.
- Christ *was most likely crucified on April 3, 33 AD in Jerusalem.*
- Christianity spread after his death and reported resurrection.

Spread of Christianity

- Paul, Saul of Tarsus, is credited with spreading Christianity throughout the Empire, and starting Churches from Mesopotamia to Rome.
- Before his conversion, Paul a devout Jew persecuted early Christians.
- Early churches were not organized, but had **believers who would spread the message of Jesus Christ**



Persecution of Christians



- After the death of Christ, Christianity began to spread throughout the Empire.
- Due to their refusal to worship Roman gods, Christians were also persecuted throughout the empire.
- *Christians were first targeted for persecution as a group by the emperor Nero in 64 AD.*
- Some were torn apart by dogs, fed to lions, others burnt alive as human torches.

Survival of Christianity



- Despite being banned by the Romans and thousands of executions the Christian religion continued to spread:
 - All-encompassing message of love
 - Better afterlife
 - Welcomed people of all walks of life
 - People were impressed by the martyrs' dedication
- In **313 CE the emperor Constantine passed the Edict of Milan**. This order allowed for **total religious freedom**.
- By 400 CE **Christianity was the official religion of Rome**

The Decline of Rome



- Political
- After the Pax Romana there was nothing but **political turmoil**.
- **Government became more oppressive and authoritarian**, lost the respect of the people.
- **Frequent civil wars over succession**- in a 50-year period, there were 26 emperors.



Decline or Rome

Economic/Social

- **Heavy taxes** to support bureaucracy and military
- **Farmers could no longer pay their taxes** so they started to work the land owned by the wealthy, paying rent in crops.
- **Upper class devoted itself to luxury and prestige**, no longer on Roman values that founded the Republic





Division of Rome

- In **284 AD, the Emperor Diocletian** attempted to reform Rome to save the empire.
- He **divided the empire into two parts.**
- **Diocletian** ruled the wealthier **eastern part** of the empire, and gave control of the weaker **western half to a co-emperor, Maximian**







Why did Rome fall?

- Conflicts with German tribes resulting in *a loss of territory {Spain, England, and France}*
- 313 AD Emperor Constantine proclaimed *Christianity as the official religion*, but this undermined the Roman belief that the Emperor was a god.
- 410 AD—*Visigoths invade Rome*, plunder and destroy the city and for the 1st time in almost a 1000 years Rome was out of the hands of the Romans



The End of an Empire

- **476 AD Romulus**, the last of the Roman emperors in the west, was overthrown by the Germanic leader Odoacer.
- The order that the Roman Empire had brought to western Europe for 1000 years was no more.

