



# Rome and the Rise of Christianity



# Rome/geography

- Italy = peninsula about 750 miles long
- Appenine Mountains run down the river
- Three important fertile plains = Po River, Plain of Latium-location of Rome, and Plain of Campania
- Extensive farmland allowed for large population
- Rome located 18 miles off Tiber river, safe from pirates but sea accessible
- Rome was easily defendable because it was built on 7 hills
- Italian peninsula jutting out into the Mediteranean Sea made it major stopping point for trade and travel

# People of Rome

- 1.) Latins – lived in Latium/ herders and farmers who lived on Rome’s hills/ spoke Latin
- 2.) Greeks – settled in southern Italy/ gave Romans their alphabet and artistic models for sculpture, architecture, and literature/ occupied parts of Sicily
- 3.) Etruscans – had more impact on early Rome’s development/ controlled much of Rome and Latium after conquering Latins/ turned Rome from a village to a city/ gave Romans mode of dress = toga and short cloak/ Roman army was modeled after Etruscan army
- Early Roman kings were Etruscans who abused power and were overthrown

# Roman Forum Built By The Etruscans



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# Roman Republic

- Established republic after overthrowing Etruscans
- Republic = leader was not a king and certain citizens have the right to vote
- Roman armies had to fight off invaders and were in constant warfare = Etruscans, groups of Latiums, people of the Appenines
- Devised Roman Confederation = Latins had full citizenship, other groups controlled their local affairs but gave soldiers to Rome
- Believed success was based on 3 virtues = duty, courage, and discipline

# Roman Republic

- Were successful because Romans were good diplomats, skilled and persistent soldiers, and brilliant strategists
- After conquering parts of Italy they built towns and connected them with roads
- Romans were practical and created institutions that responded effectively to problems

# Major Bodies of the Republic



- ✦ Senate
- ✦ Centuriate assembly
  - ✦ Consul
  - ✦ Praetor
  - ✦ Censor
  - ✦ Dictator
- ✦ Council of plebs
  - ✦ Tribunes



# Punic Wars

- First Punic War = between Rome and Carthage/  
Rome worried about Carthage presence in Sicily/  
Rome built a large navy to defeat Carthage/ Sicily  
became Rome's first province
- Hannibal = Carthage's great general wanted revenge  
and started the 2<sup>nd</sup> Punic War/ lasted 17years/  
Hannibal crossed the Alps with large army- many  
soldiers and animals died
- Battle of Cannae = Rome lost 40,000 men & forced  
to raise another army/ Rome attacked Carthage –  
forcing Hannibal to come back
- Battle of Zama = Rome crushed Hannibal's forces &  
Spain became a Roman province



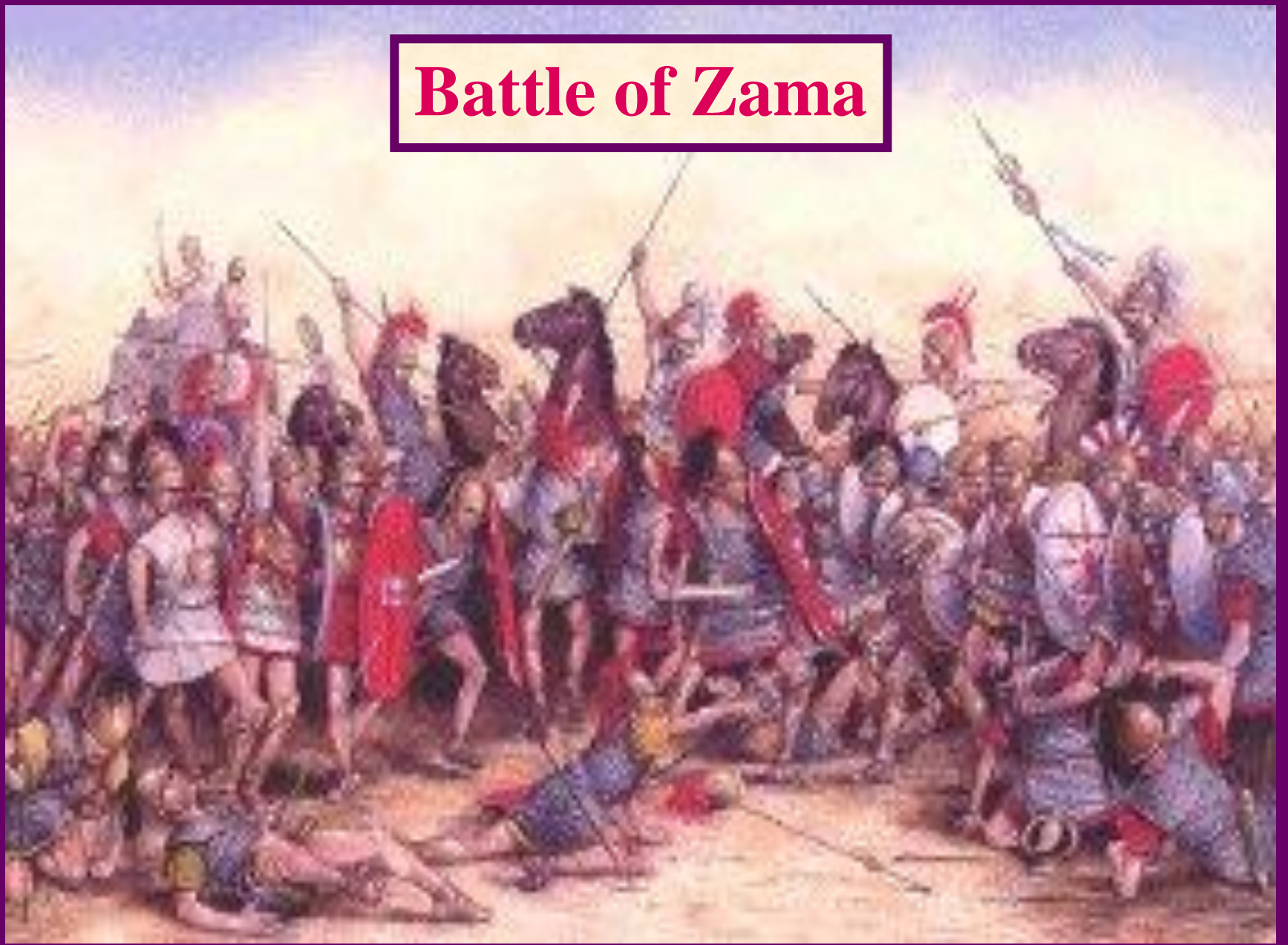
# Punic Wars



# Hannibal and His Elephants



# Battle of Zama



# Punic Wars

- Fifty years after the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Rome fought a 3<sup>rd</sup> Punic War
- In 146 b.c. Roman soldiers sacked Carthage and fifty thousand men, women, & children were sold into slavery
- Carthage became the Roman province of Africa
- 2<sup>nd</sup> century b.c. Rome conquered Macedonia & Greece and became master of the Mediterranean Sea

# “Carthage Must Be Destroyed”



Juliet Hight/Hutchison Library



# Eat Your Spinach

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# Republic to Empire

- Senate became too rich and powerful, aristocracy controlled the country
- Rome's successful small farms were lost to large landowners = formed a new class of urban landless poor which caused economic and social unrest
- Tiberius & Gaius Gracchus = reform minded aristocrats who called for laws giving land of the aristocrats back to the poor
- Group of senators killed Tiberius and Gaius was later killed.....Discontent in Rome grew



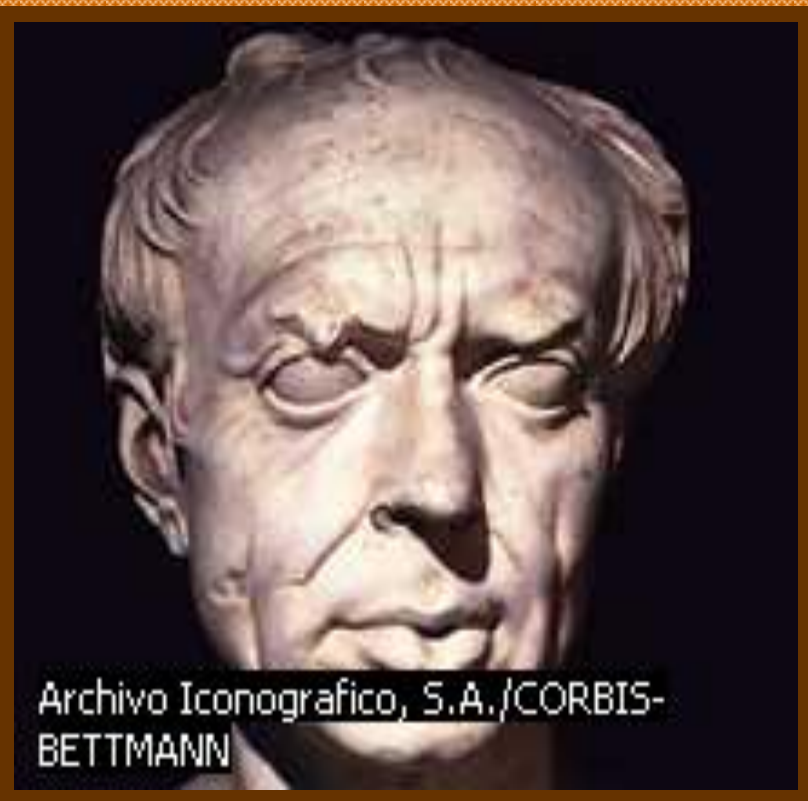
# Gaius Gracchus



# Tiberius Gracchus

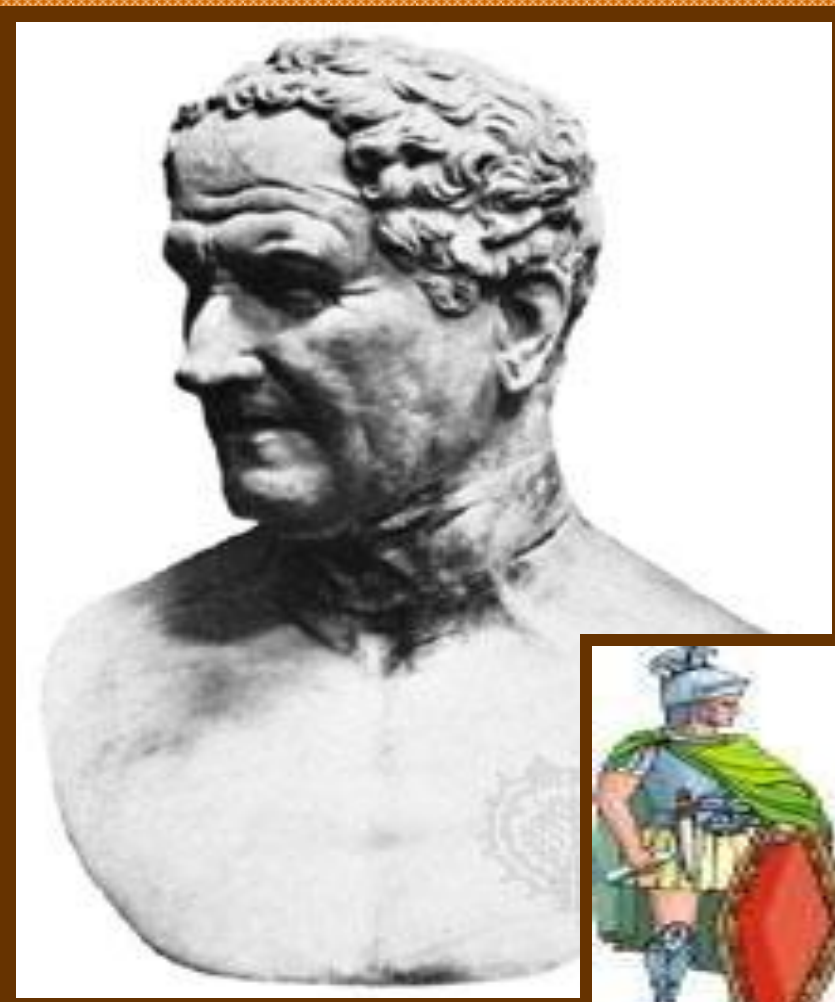
# Republic to Empire

- Marius = general who recruited soldiers from the poor and promised them land if they swore allegiance to him
- Before Marius, farming soldiers were loyal to the state but became loyal to individuals and general became more political
- Council of plebs tried to give command of army to Marius/ Civil War broke out and Sulla used his own army to take control of Rome in 82 b.c.
- Sulla restored power in Rome by giving power back to the senate and taking away from assemblies
- Sulla's example of taking power would be repeated



Archivo Iconografico, S.A./CORBIS-BETTMANN

**Sulla: Military Dictator**



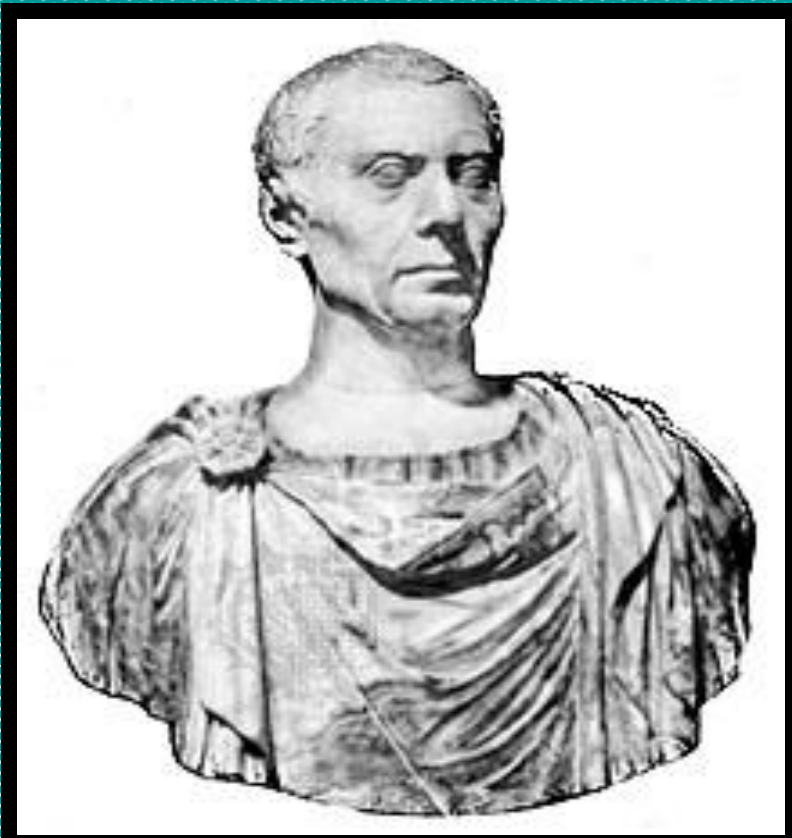
**Marius: Created  
A Loyal,  
Professional  
Army**

# Collapse of Republic

- From 82-31 b.c. civil wars dominated Rome
- Crassus, Pompey, & Julius Caesar emerged victorious and became 1<sup>st</sup> Triumvirate
- Crassus was wealthy, other two were military leaders & heroes
- Crassus was killed, Senate decided to give power to Pompey alone and ordered Caesar to give up power
- Caesar kept his army and moved across the Rubicon river into Italy
- Caesar defeated Pompey in 44 b.c and became dictator

# Julius Caesar

- Gave land to the poor and expanded the senate to 900
- Filled the senate with his supporter which ultimately weakened it
- Implemented many reform plans
- A group of senators assassinated Caesar after he declared himself dictator for life



*Julius Caesar*

*Pompey*

**Major Rivals of the First Triumvirate**

**Ides of March**  
**March 15**



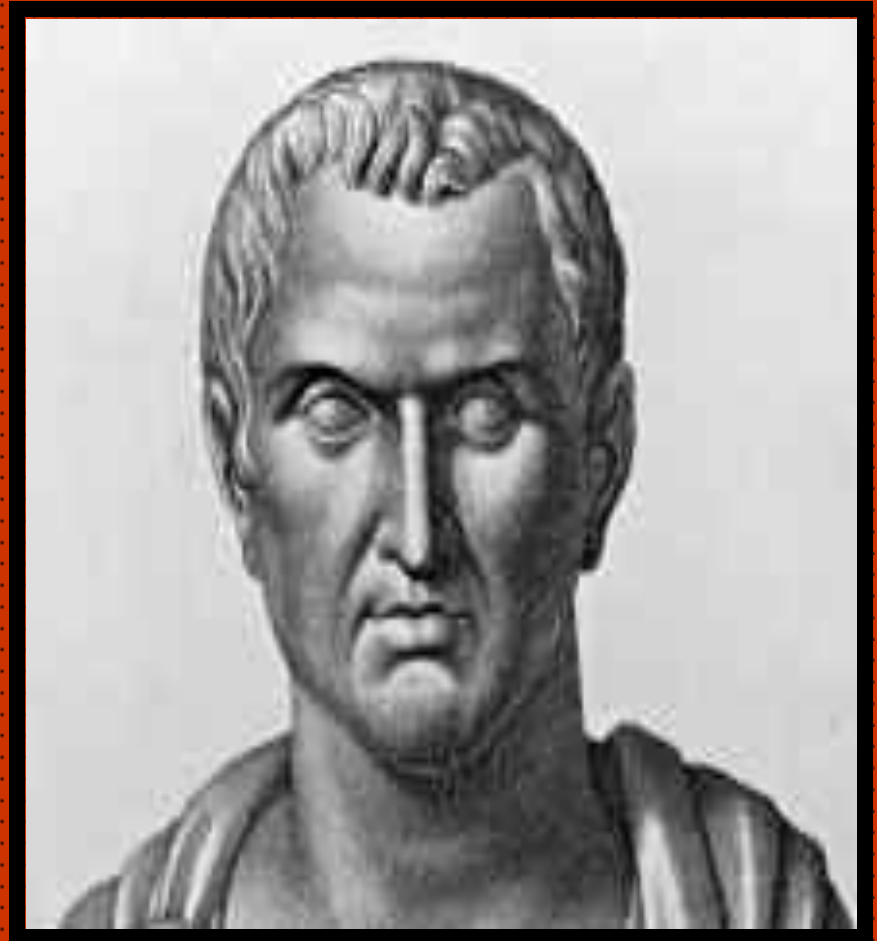
# 2<sup>nd</sup> Triumvirate

- Octavian, Antony, Lepidus = formed 2<sup>nd</sup> Triumvirate after Caesar's death
- Soon after Octavian and Antony divided the Roman world up between themselves
- Octavian took the west and Antony took the East
- Antony became allied with Cleopatra VII of Egypt which caused conflict with Octavian
- Octavian defeated Antony at the battle of Actium
- Cleopatra and Antony both committed suicide back in Egypt one year later
- Civil Wars ended & age of Augustus emerged



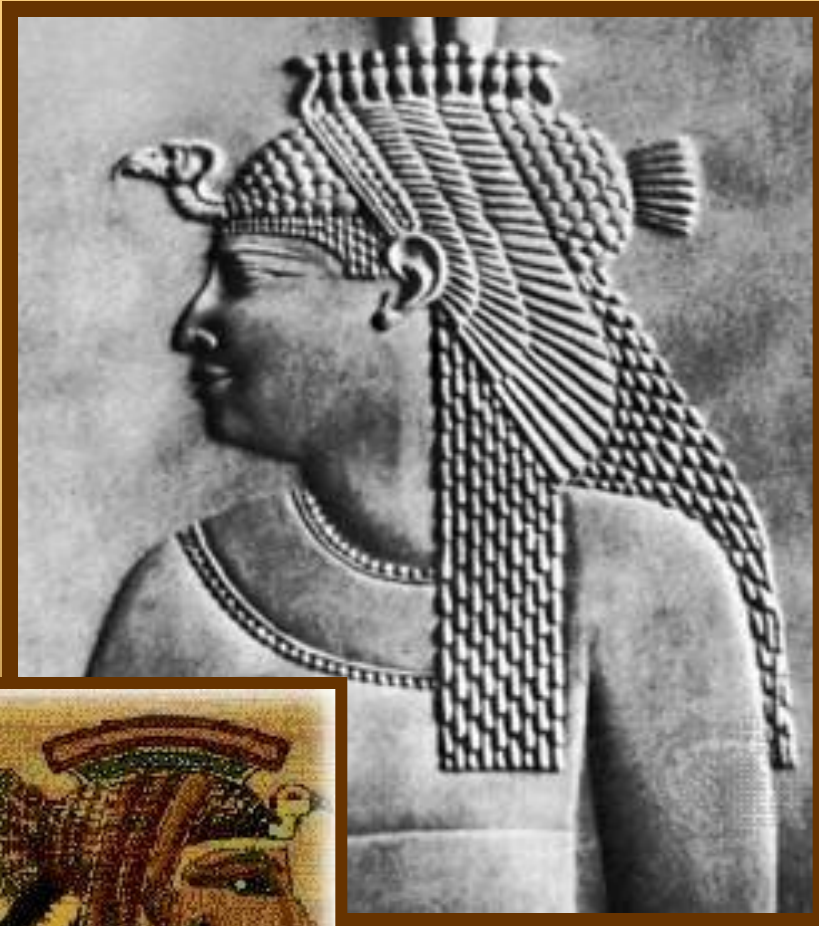


***Octavian***



***Marc Antony***

**Rivals of the Second Triumvirate**



**The Legendary  
Cleopatra VII**



# Age of Augustus

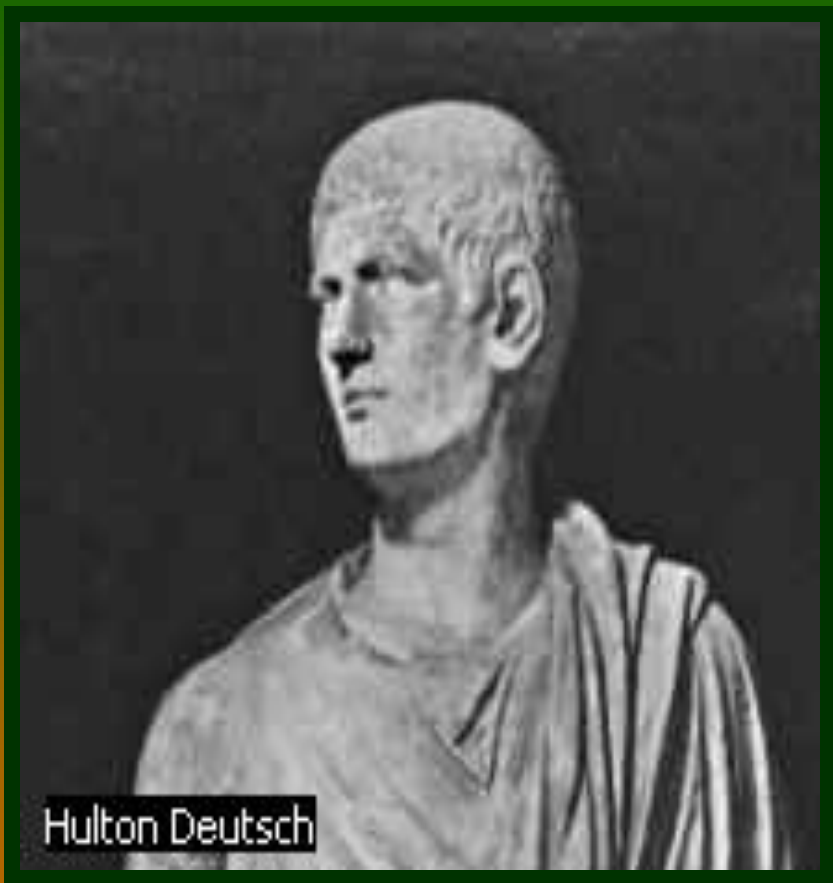
- Octavian proclaimed the “restoration of the Republic” and became known as Augustus, very popular with people
- Gave only some power to the senate and became Rome’s first emperor = *imperator*
- Chief source of power was the army = 28 legions of 5,000 troops each/ only citizens could be in the legions/ established praetorian guard of 9,000 to protect the emperor
- Stabilized Rome’s frontiers and conquered new areas/ humbled by German forces

# Roman Empire

- Early empire = a.d. 14 to 180
- First four emperors was from Augustus family = Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, Nero
- Caligula =
- Nero = very evil/ killed anyone in his way including mother and wife/ legions finally revolted against him and he committed suicide
- Good emperors = Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Antonius Pius, & Marcus Aurelius

# Pax Romana

- Good Roman emperors created a time of peace and prosperity called = *Pax Romana*- “Roman peace”
- Pax Romana lasted for about 100 years
- Emperors stopped executions, respected the ruling class, and maintained peace, adopted capable men into their families to replace them
- Building projects = built bridges, roads, aqueducts, roads, and harbors
- Trade grew beyond empire’s frontiers
- Traded with China = “Silk Road”



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Caligula

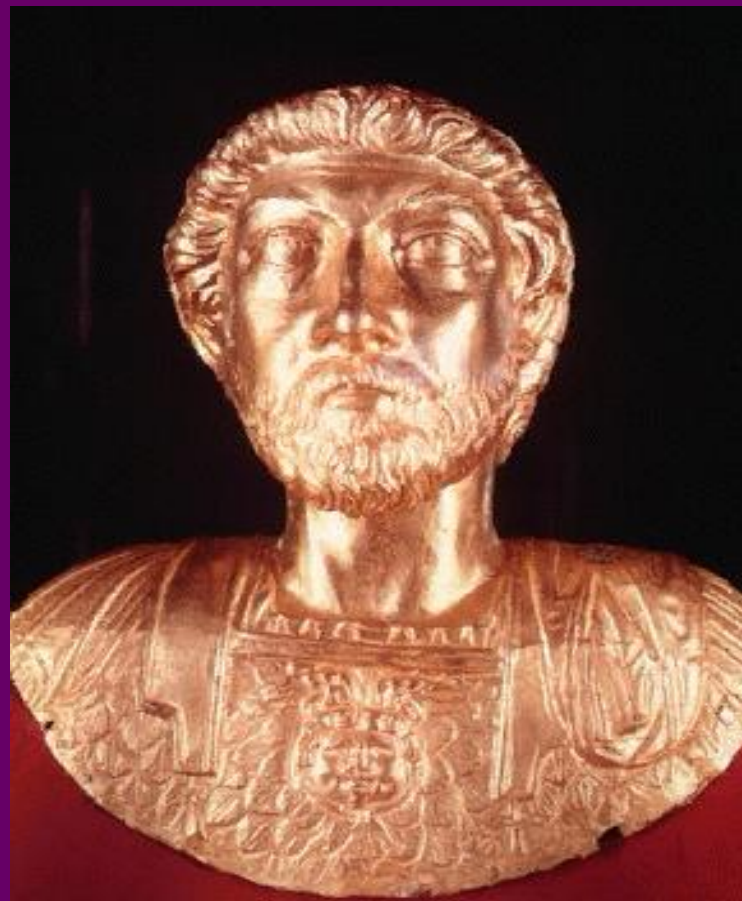


Nero



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**The Most Infamous Julian Emperors**



**Good Emperor:  
Marcus Aurelius**

# Altar of the Pax Romana

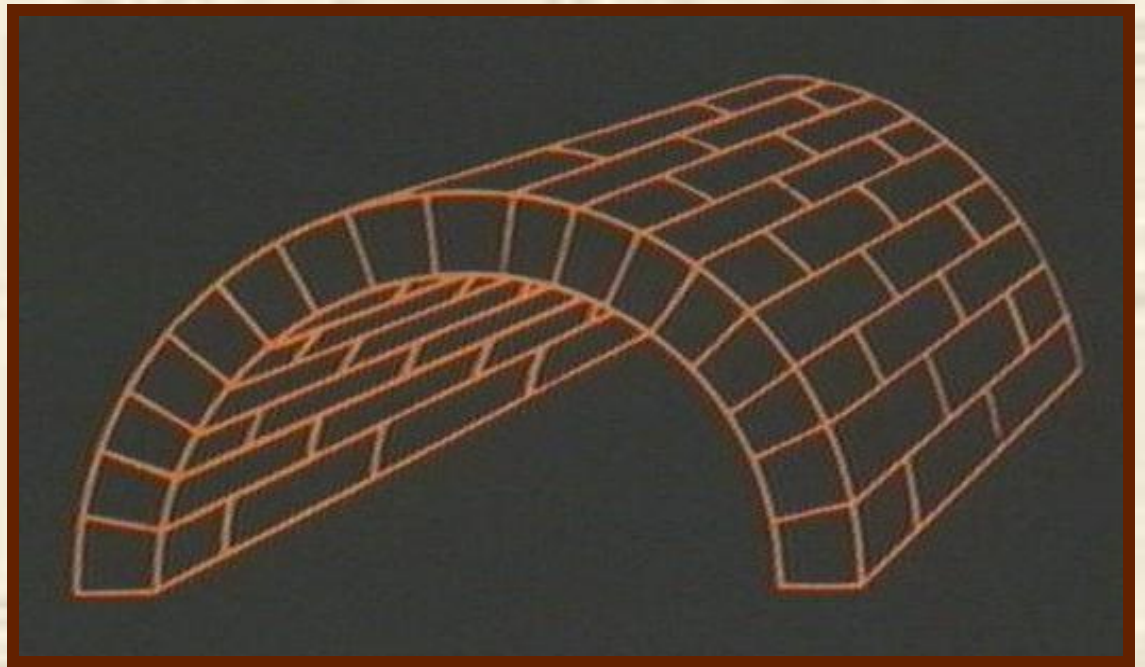


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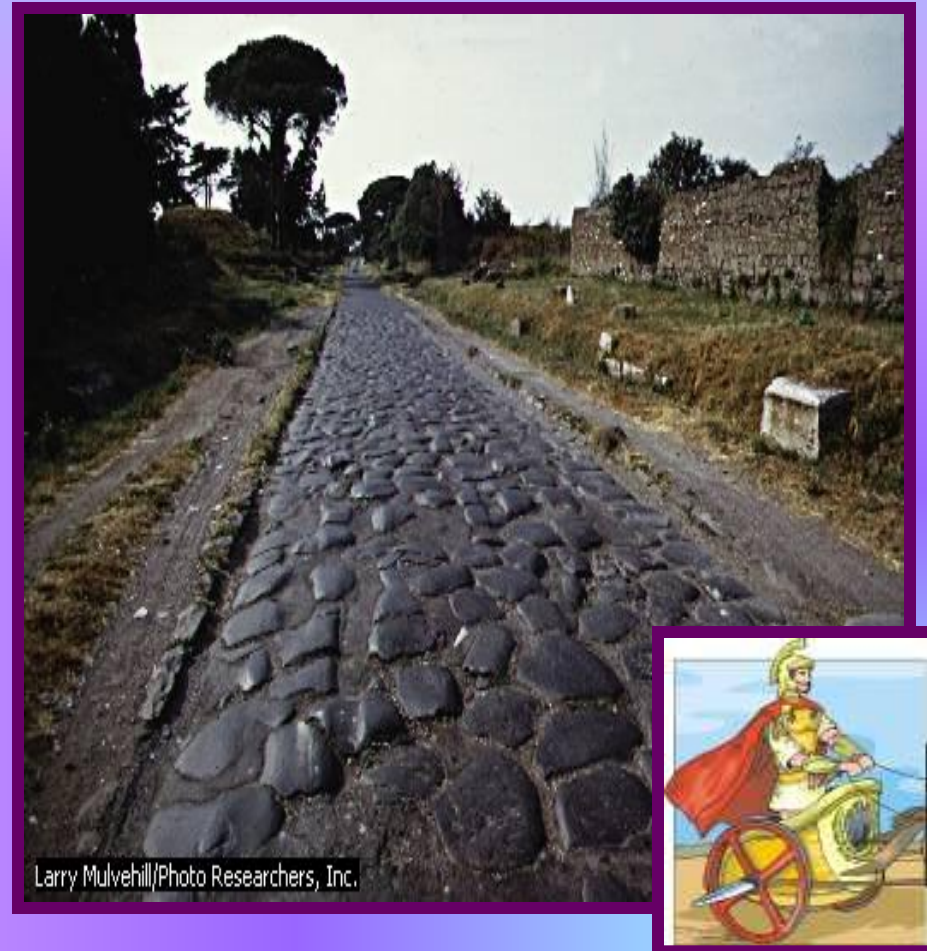
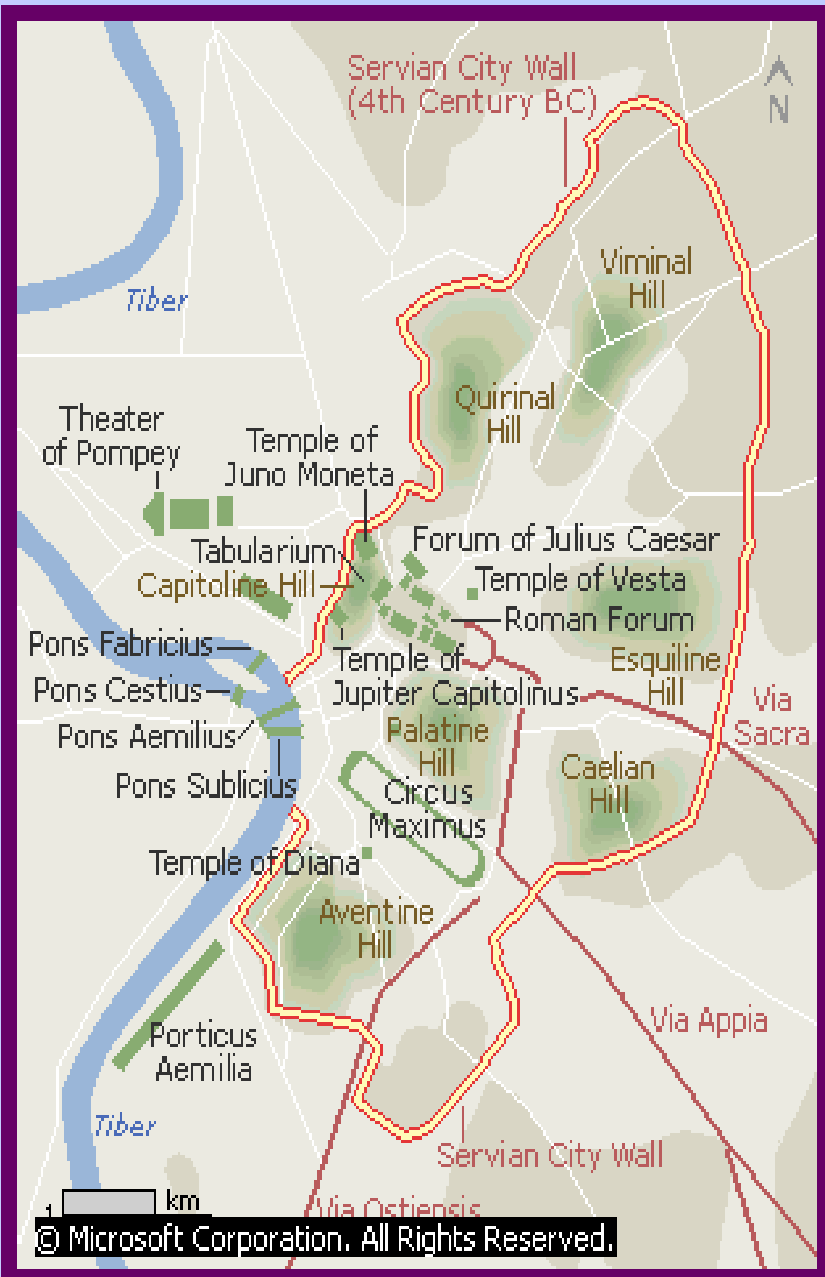




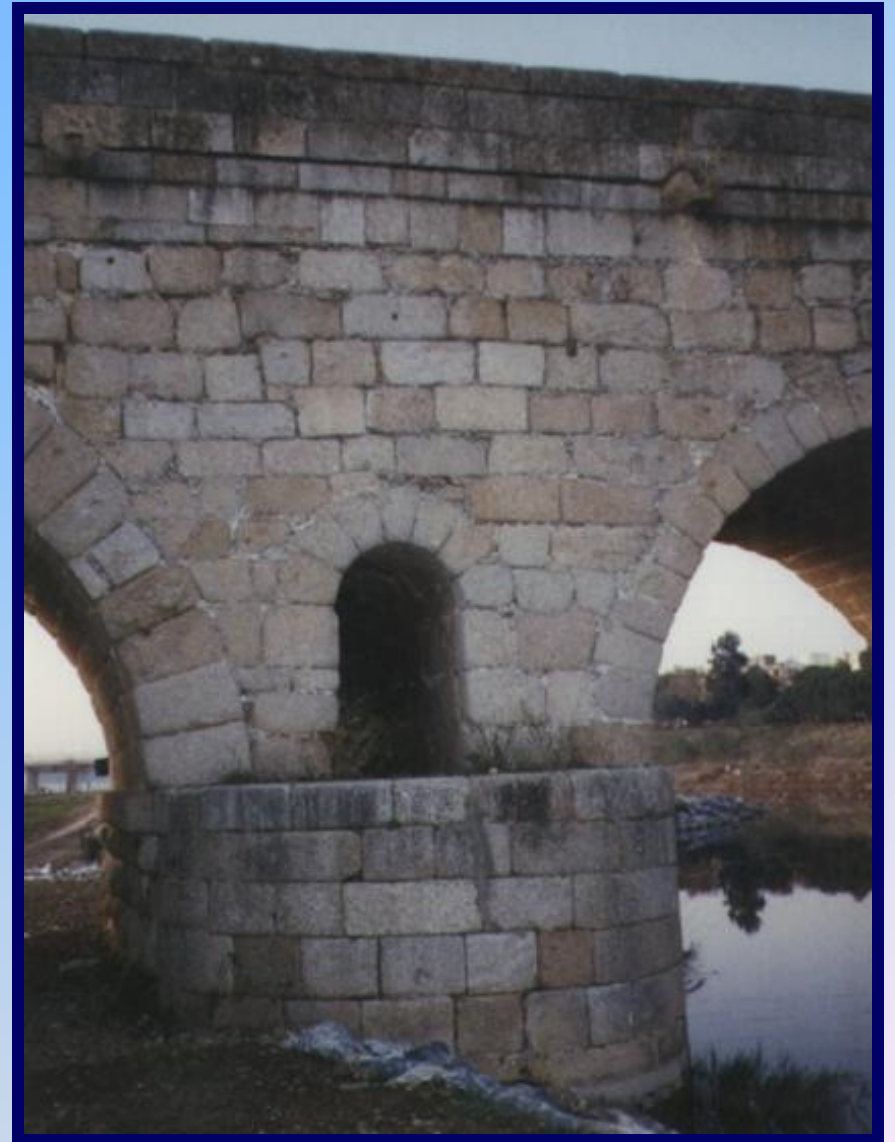
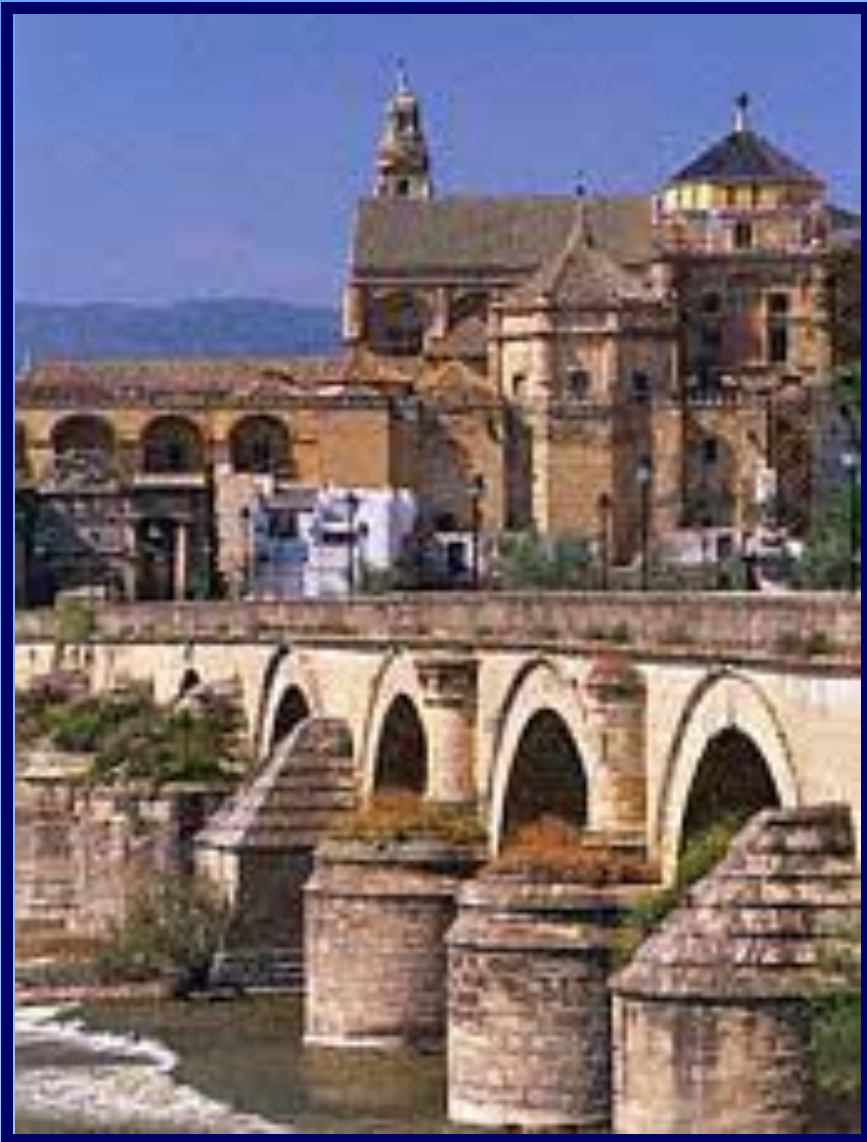
# ***Roman Architecture***



# All Roads Led To Rome



# Roman Bridges



# Roman Aqueduct



Porterfield-Chickering/Photo Researchers, Inc.

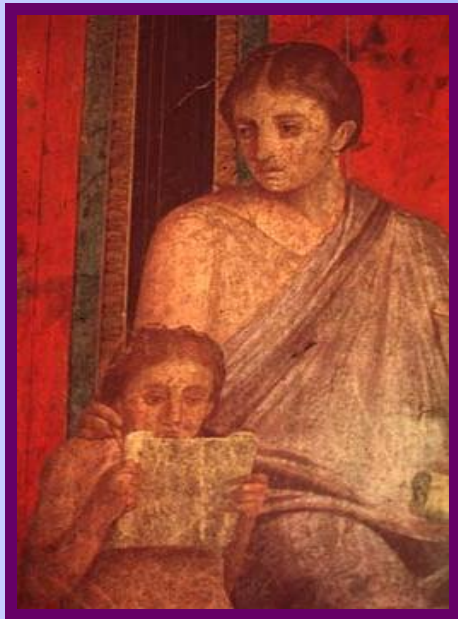
# Roman Family

- Family ruled by paterfamilias = dominant male
- Romans raised children at home/ all upper class Roman children learned to read
- Roman boys learned reading, writing, moral principles, family values, laws, & physical training
- Roman males ended childhood at 16 with a special ceremony/ exchanged purple edged togas for white ones
- Some upper class girls were educated

# Roman Family

- When boys went to secondary school, girls got married
- Arranged marriages by paterfamilias
- Legal age for women to marry was 12, average =14
- Divorce was introduced in 3<sup>rd</sup> century b.c.
- By 2<sup>nd</sup> century a.d. paterfamilias no longer had complete control

# And Family



# Slavery/Spartacus

- Romans heavily relied on slavery/All landowners had slaves
- War captives were brought back to be used as slaves
- Slaves worked in shops, kept houses, waited tables, personal servants, & made crafts
- Conditions for slaves were bad/ Masters feared slave revolts
- The gladiator Spartacus led the most famed slave revolt in 73 b.c.
- 70,000 slaves joined up with Spartacus and defeated several Roman armies before being defeated





# Spartacus

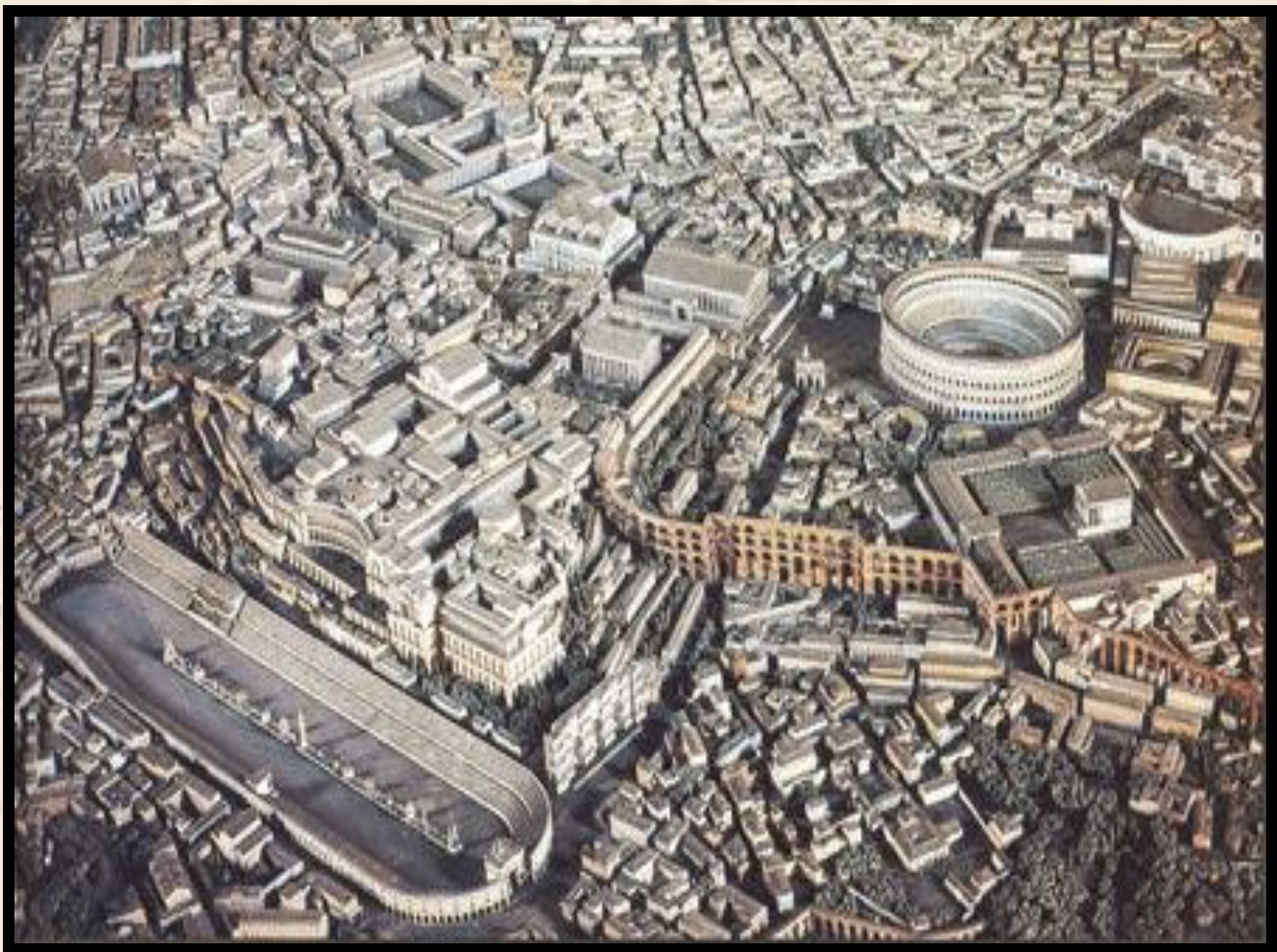


# Spartacus

- Spartacus was killed and many of his followers were crucified

# Roman Daily Life

- Rome was overcrowded, noisy, & dangerous/  
wagons were only to be used on streets at night
- *Insulae* = apartment blocks for the poor/ high rent  
forced entire families to live in one room
- Due to conditions, Romans spent most of their time  
in the street
- Entertainment = gladiator contests-animals, slaves,  
& criminals would fight to death/ horse and chariot  
races at Circus Maximus
- Magnificent buildings = baths, temples, theaters,  
markets



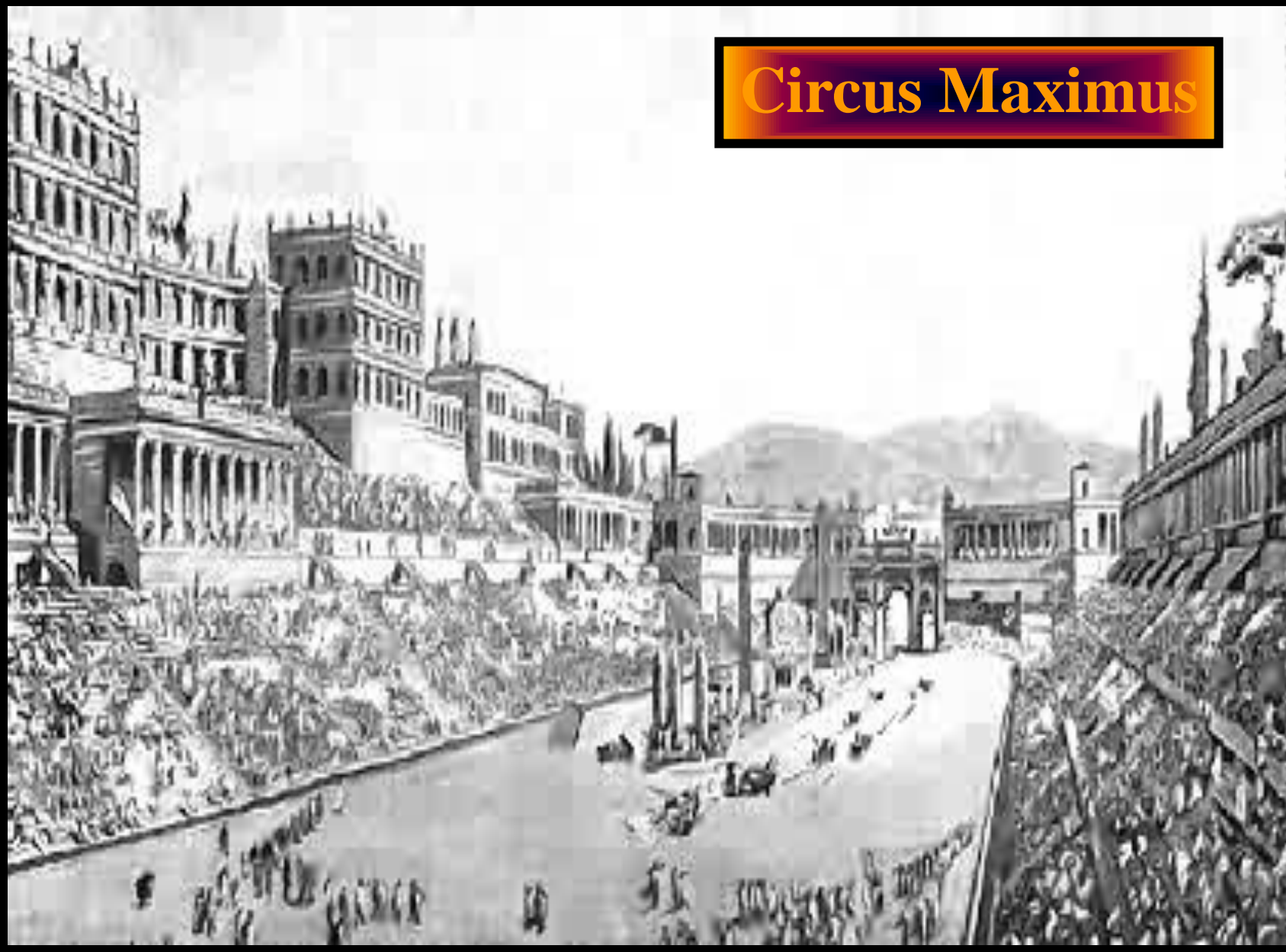
# Roman Colosseum



## Gladiators



# Circus Maximus



# Gladiator Movie

# GLADIATOR



# Early Roman Religion

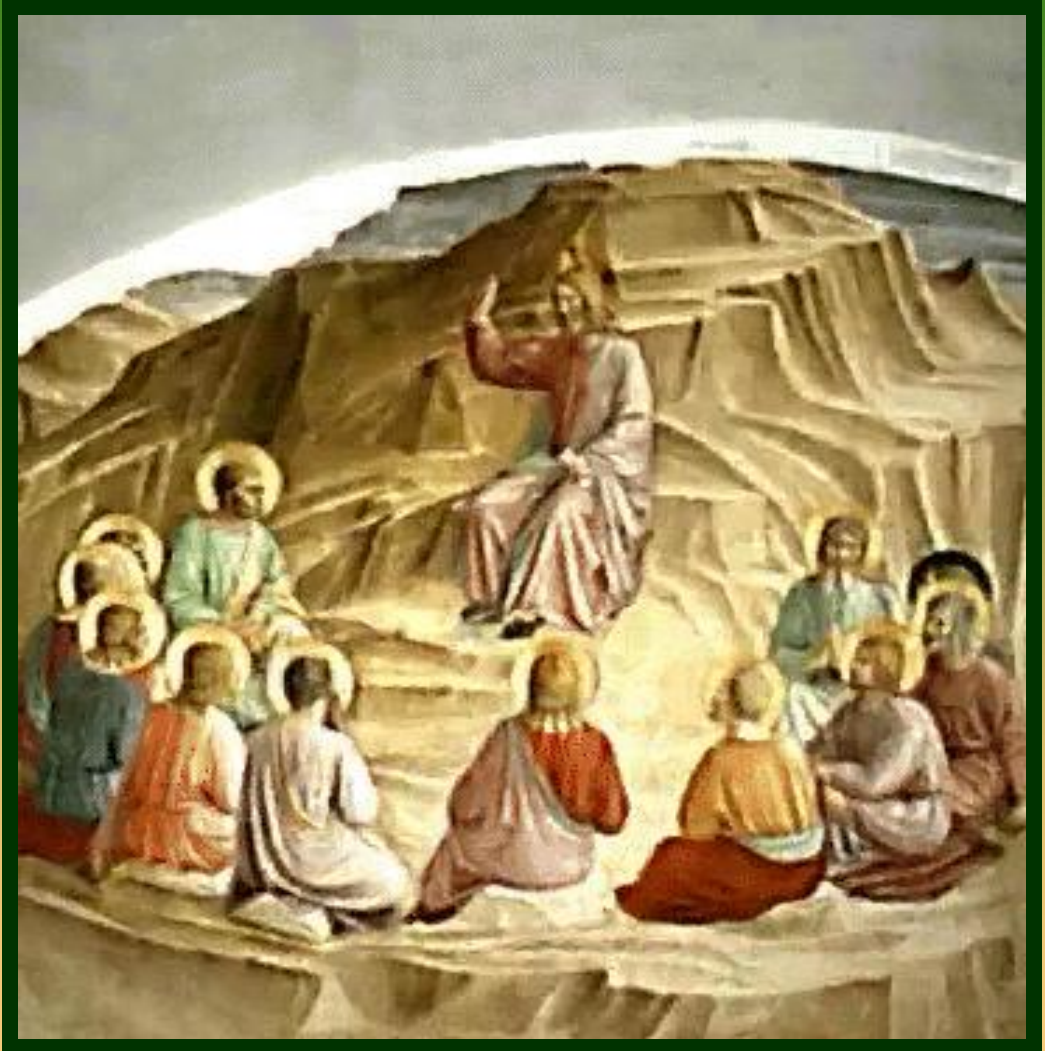
- Augustus revived early Roman religious festivals and ceremonies to bring back religion
- Roman religion focused on worship of a # of gods and goddesses
- Beginning with Augustus, emperors were often declared gods
- Romans believed that observing proper rituals brought them into a proper relationship with the gods in order to guarantee peace and prosperity



# Jewish Background

- Judaea was a Roman province/ Unrest was common among all, even Jews
- Sadducees(Jews) cooperated with the Romans/  
Essenes(Jews) awaited a messiah who could save Israel from oppression and establish paradise on Earth/  
Zealots(Jews) advocated overthrowing Roman rule
- Revolt begun in 66 was crushed by the Romans
- Romans destroyed the temple in Jerusalem
- Jesus(Jew) began to teach during the midst of the conflict

# Jesus of Nazareth



# Rise of Christianity

- Jesus taught inner transformation was most important, taught Golden Rule, taught humility, charity, and love for others
- Judaeans turned Jesus over to the Romans because they thought he might cause people to Revolt against Romans
- Pontius Pilate ordered his crucifixion
- Followers of Jesus believed that he overcame death and was the Messiah
- Simon Peter and the disciples taught that Jesus was the savior and son of God

# The Crucifixion of Jesus



# Passion of The Christ Movie



# Rise of Christianity

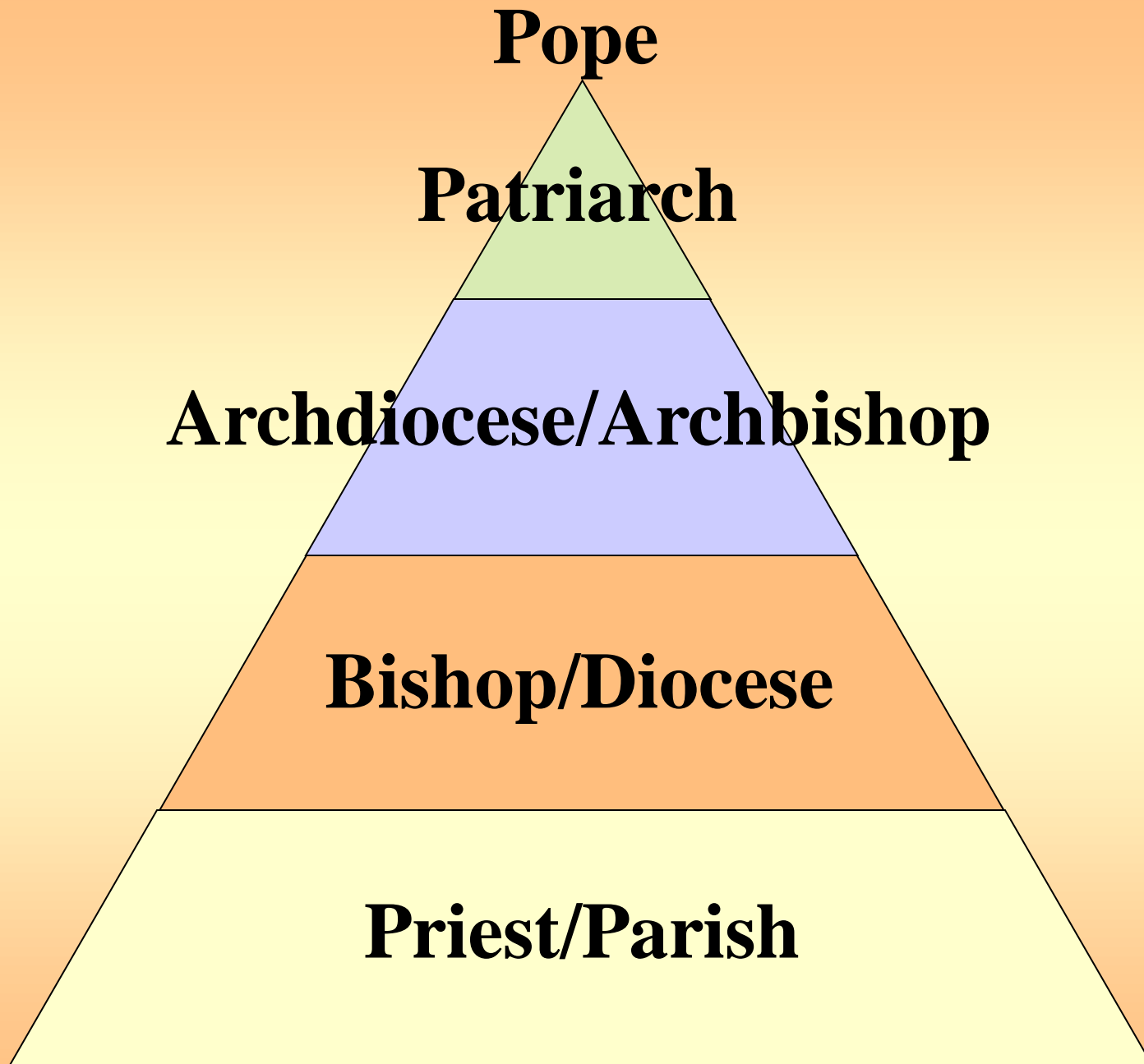
- Disciples taught that Jesus came to earth to save all people
- After word spread that Jesus had overcome death, there were many converts/ Only 60 days after crucifixion Jerusalem had 10,000 converts
- Disciples wrote down Jesus' sayings and stories about him = became known as New Testament of the Bible
- Romans paid little attention to Christianity at first then began to see it as a threat to society
- Persecution of Christians began under Nero



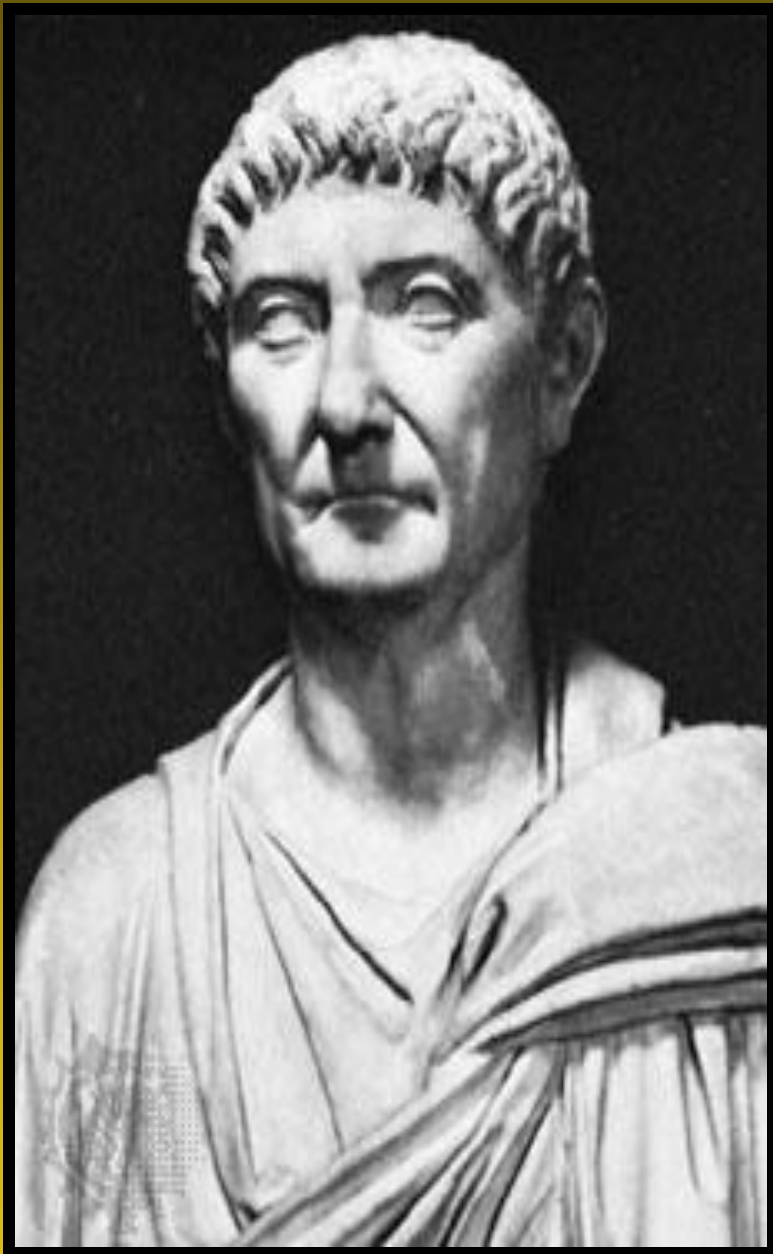
# Rise of Christianity

- Nero blamed Christians for the fire that burned Rome/ He subjected them to cruel deaths
- Persecution strengthened Christianity forcing it to become more organized
- Christianity grew because it was more appealing to the poor because it viewed everyone as equal
- Diocletian was the last major emperor to enforce persecution of Christians/ he soon realized that Christianity was too powerful to be destroyed by force
- Constantine =first Christian Emperor/ issued Edict of Milan that tolerated Christianity in Rome
- Theodosius the Great = adopted Christianity as official religion





# Diocletian and Constantine Brought Temporary Reforms

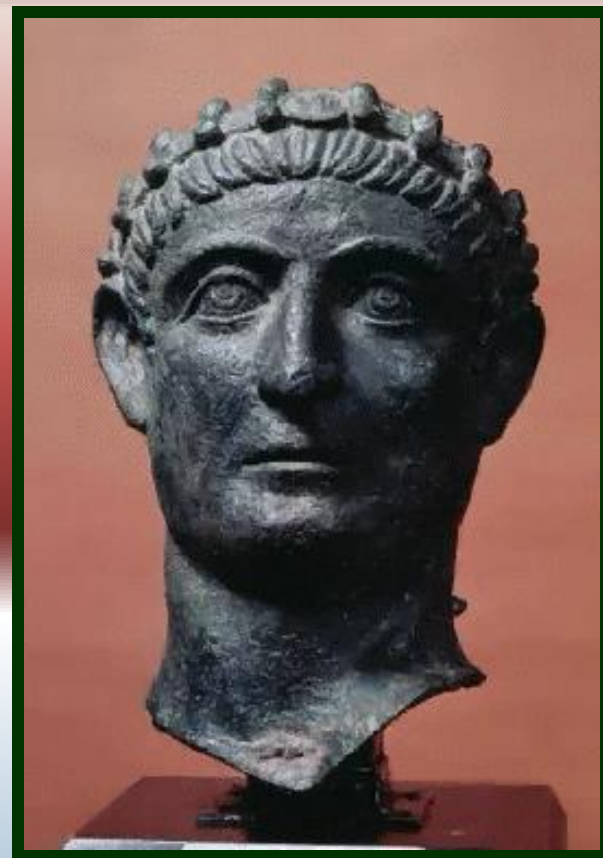


***Diocletian***



Bridgeman Art Library, London/New York

**Arch of Constantine**



**Constantine**

# Decline of Rome

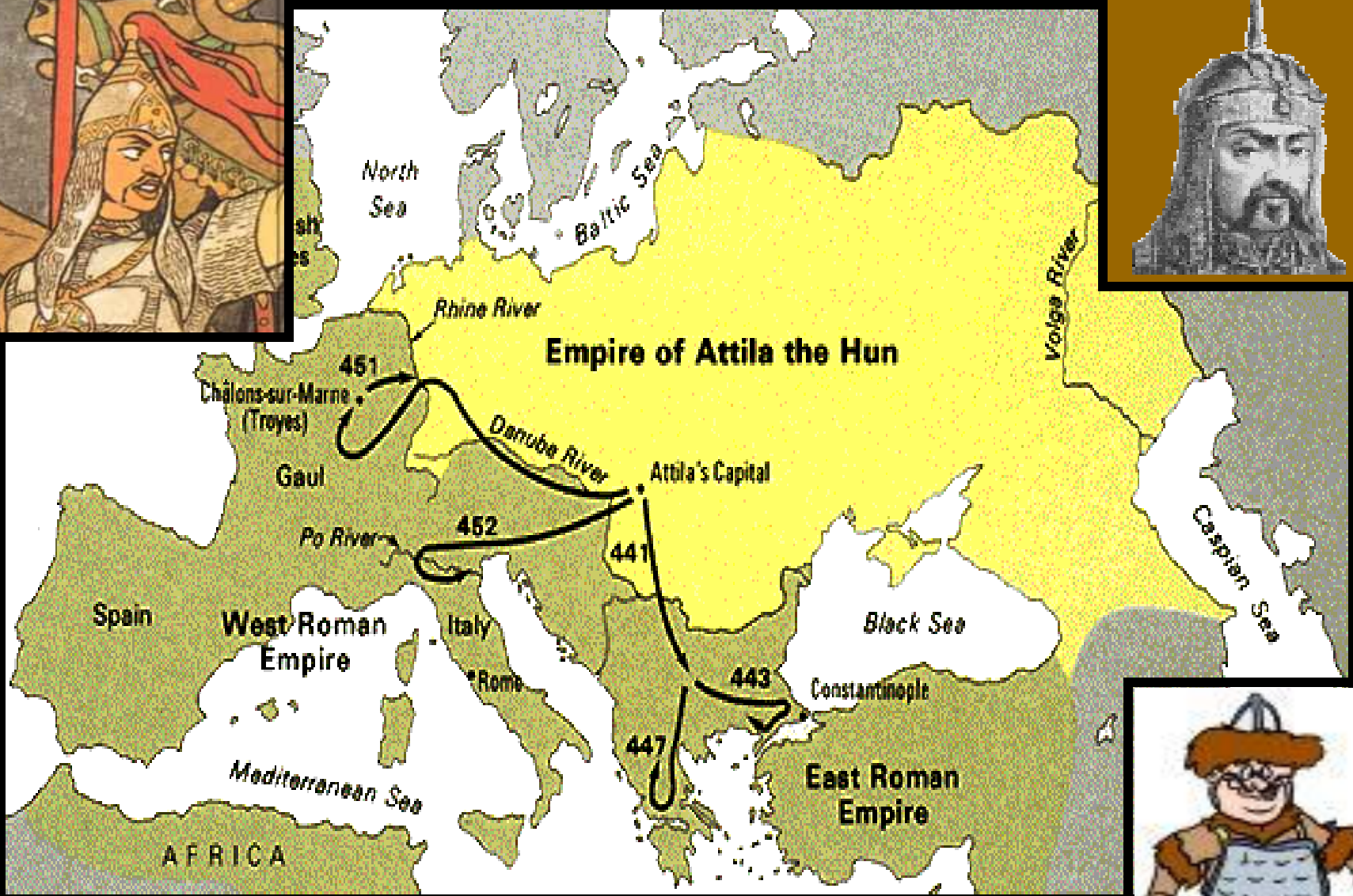
- Long period of unrest followed the death of Marcus Aurelius= last good emperor
- Rome was ruled by Severans who totally concentrated on the army for several years
- After Severans rule ended, Rome was ruled by whoever had the army to seize it
- 22 emperors over a 50 year period, 20 died violently
- During this time, Rome was invaded by Persians and Germans
- Civil war and plague almost caused empire to collapse

# Decline of Rome

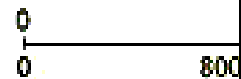
- Trade and industry declined/ labor shortage due to the plague/ farm production declined due to war torn fields
- Money became short and soldiers were scarce/ Had to hire Germanic soldiers = who had no loyalty to Rome and did not understand tradition
- Diocletian and Constantine revived Rome and founded the late Roman empire
- Policies of Diocletian were controlling and stifled Rome's vitality

# Fall of Rome

- After Constantine, Roman empire continued to be divided into two regions = west and east/ Rome = capital of west, Constantinople = capital of east
- The Huns from Asia invaded eastern Europe and forced the German Visigoths into Roman territory to become Roman allies
- Eventually Visigoths destroyed Rome and took control
- Vandals invaded southern Spain and Africa/ eventually crossed over into Italy from Northern Africa and sacked Rome also



Empire of Attila the Hun
  Roman Empire
  Route of the Huns



# Fall of Rome

- In 476 Romulus Augustulus, western emperor was killed by Germans and became symbolic end to the empire
- Many Germanic kingdoms over the years replaced the western empire
- Eastern Roman empire became known as the Byzantine Empire and thrived around Constantinople





***Romulus Augustulus  
Surrenders To Odoacer***

# Constantinople: The “New Rome”



 **Eastern Roman Empire**  
800 km  
500 miles

