

A BRIEF SURVEY OF ROMAN HISTORY

From 814 B.C. To 476 A.D.

PART I:

1. 814 B.C. - The Founding of Carthage, a Phoenician Settlement in North Africa. What is going on in Israel at this time? What is happening in Greece at this time?
2. 753 B.C. - The Founding of Rome (Traditional Date)
 - A. Rome was founded upon Seven Hills
 - B. The Tiber River Flows through Rome

PART II: 509 B.C. To 31 B.C. - THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

- A. 509 B.C. - The Last ETRUSCAN King, Tarquin Superbus (Tarquin the Proud) is driven out by the Romans. Thus ends the period of the monarchy.
- B. 449 B.C. - The Twelve Tablets of written Roman Law are placed before the people.
- C. 265 B.C. - By this date, the Romans had defeated the Etruscans in the north and the Greek cities in Southern Italy, thus gaining control of the whole Italian Peninsula.
- D. 264 B.C. to 241 B.C. - THE FIRST PUNIC WAR - Rome vs. Carthage - Carthage loses Sicily, Sardinia and Corsica to Rome.
- E. 218 B.C. to 202 B.C. - THE SECOND PUNIC WAR (Hannibal Crosses the Alps into Italy)
 1. 216 B.C. - THE BATTLE OF CANNAE (Rome was defeated by Hannibal) ROME'S DARKEST HOUR
 2. 202 B.C. - THE BATTLE OF ZAMA IN NORTH AFRICA. Hannibal was defeated by Scipio (Aemilianus) Africanus the Elder
- F. 149 B.C. to 146 B.C. - THE THIRD PUNIC WAR
 1. Cato the Elder ends his speeches in the Roman Senate with the words "Carthage must be destroyed."
 2. 146 B.C. - Carthage is COMPLETELY destroyed
- G. 107 B.C. - MARIUS VS. SULLA
 1. Roman Civil War
 2. A NEW ARMY/MAKES AND BREAKS EMPERORS
- H. 58 B.C. to 50 B.C. - Julius Caesar extends Roman authority into Gaul
 1. Julius Caesar builds a strong army
 2. He writes his GALLIC COMMENTARY (A History of the Roman Wars in Gaul)
- I. 49 B.C. - Julius Caesar crosses the Rubicon River in Northern Italy (No Turning Back, The Die Is Cast)
- J. 46 B.C. - Julius Caesar Assumes Full Dictatorial Power
- K. 44 B.C. - On the Ides of March (March 15) Julius Caesar is Assassinated by a group of Roman Senators

PART III: 31 B.C. to 476 A.D. - THE ROMAN EMPIRE

- A. 31 B.C. - The Battle of Actium (The Forces of Mark Anthony are defeated by Octavius nee Augustus). Mark Anthony and Cleopatra, the last of the Ptolomies, commit suicide
- B. 31 B.C. to 180 A.D. = THE PAX ROMANA or ROMAN PEACE
- C. 31 B.C. (27 B.C.) - 14 A.D. - The Reign of Caesar Augustus (Luke 2:1)
- D. 14 A.D. to 37 A.D. - The Reign of Tiberius Caesar (Luke 3:1)
- E. 37 A.D. to 41 A.D. - The Reign of Caligula Caesar (He appointed a horse as Consul)
- F. 41 A.D. to 54 A.D. - The Reign of Claudius Caesar (Acts 11:28 and 18:2)
- G. 54 A.D. to 68 A.D. - The Reign of Nero (Acts 25:21, 25; 27:1)
 - 1. Nero persecuted the Christians
 - 2. Nero beheaded the Apostle Paul (Paul was a Roman Citizen)
 - 3. Nero crucified Peter upside down (Peter was not a Roman Citizen)
 - 4. Nero helped to murder his step-father, Claudius, his mother, his first wife and his step-brother Britannicus, who should have been Emperor instead of Nero, since he was the son of Claudius Caesar.
- H. 68 A.D. to 69 A.D. - The Year of the Four Emperors (Otho, Galba, Vitellius and Vespasian)
- I. 69 A.D. to 79 A.D. - The Reign of Vespasian. During his reign the Roman Colosseum was built.
- J. 66 A.D. to 70 A.D. - THE JEWISH REVOLT (Daniel 9:26)
- K. 79 A.D. to 81 A.D. - The Reign of Titus
 - 1. Daniel 9:25
 - 2. 79 A.D. - The Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius (Pompeii and Herculaneum were destroyed)
- L. 81 A.D. to 96 A.D. - The Reign of Domitian, the brother of Titus (Domitian persecuted the Christians). SEE the Book of Revelation.
- M. 96 A.D. to 180 A.D. - The Age of the Five GOOD Emperors
 - 1. Nerva - 96 A.D. to 98 A.D.
 - 2. Trajan - 98 A.D. to 117 A.D. - The LAST Emperor to Conquer any substantial Territory
 - 3. Hadrian - 117 A.D. to 138 A.D. - Built a Wall Separating Scotland from England
 - 4. Antoninus Pius - 138 A.D. to 161 A.D.
 - 5. MARCUS AURELIUS - 161 A.D. to 180 A.D.
 - a. The Philosopher-Emperor
 - b. MEDITATIONS
 - c. Marcus Aurelius was followed as emperor by his son, Commodus (180-193). Commodus was no good

PART IV:

- A. 50 A.D. - Rome becomes The Capital of the Mediterranean World
- B. 192 A.D. to 284 A.D. - Civil War

- C. 284 A.D. to 305 A.D. - The Reign of Diocletian
 - 1. Diocletian persecuted Christians
 - 2. Diocletian divides the Roman Empire into four parts with four rulers. (2 Augusti; 2 Caesars; Diocletian steps down in 305 A.D. and goes into retirement)
- D. 313 A.D. to 337 A.D. - THE REIGN OF CONSTANTINE I THE GREAT
 - 1. The Council of Nicea - 325 A.D.
 - 2. The capital is moved from Rome to Constantinople (Istanbul/Turkey)
 - 3. The Council of Nicea settled the issue of Arianism
- E. 378 A.D. - THE BATTLE OF ADRIANOPOLE. The Emperor Valens falls in battle. The first time a Roman Emperor is killed in battle
- F. 395 A.D. - The Emperor Theodosius I the Great divides the Empire between East and West
- G. The Eastern Half of the Roman Empire is known as the Byzantine Empire. The Byzantine Empire lasts from 395 A.D. to 1453 A.D. In 1453 A.D. Constantinople (The City of Constantine) falls to the Ottoman Turks.
- H. 410 A.D. - Alaric, the barbarian, sacks Rome
- I. 451 A.D. - The Huns are defeated at Chalons
- J. 455 A.D. - Attila the Hun dies (Attila the Hun was known as the “Scourge of God”)
- K. 476 A.D. - THE FALL OF ROME - The Fall of the Western Half of the Roman Empire. Odoacer the Barbarian defeats the last Roman Emperor, Romulus Augustulus

PART V: THE FALL OF ROME: Why?

“God’s Preparation of Individuals and the launching of Historical Events”

“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.” [Proverbs 14:34]

The English historian, Edward Gibbon, in his book, THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE gives his penetrating insight in the five reasons why Rome fell: “(1) The Rapid increase in divorce. The undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society. (2) The craze for pleasure. Higher and higher taxes and the spending of public money for free bread and circuses for the populace. Sports becoming every year more exciting and more brutal. (3) The building of gigantic armaments when the real enemy was within. (4) The decadence of the people. (5) The decay of religion. Faith fading into mere form - losing touch with life and becoming impotent to guide the people.”

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