



Roman Republic & Empire

AP World History - Unit 0

This presentation was made by E. Adamson. Find more at
www.theadamsonadventure.net

Development of States and Empires

As the early states and empires grew in number, size, and population, they frequently competed for resources and came into conflict with one another. In quest of land, wealth, and security, some empires expanded dramatically. In doing so, they built powerful military machines and **administrative institutions** that were capable of organizing human activities over long distances, and they created new groups of military and **political elites** to manage their affairs. As these empires expanded their boundaries, they also faced the need to develop policies and procedures to govern their relationships with ethnically and culturally diverse populations: sometimes to integrate them within an imperial society and sometimes to exclude them. In some cases, the successes of these empires created further problems. By expanding their boundaries too far, they created political, cultural, and administrative difficulties that they could not manage. They also experienced environmental, social, and economic problems when they over-utilized their lands and subjects and when disproportionate wealth became concentrated in the hands of privileged classes.

Development of States and Empires

Empires and states developed new techniques of imperial administration based, in part, on the success of earlier political forms.

In order to organize their subjects, in many regions the rulers created administrative institutions, including centralized governments as well as elaborate legal systems and bureaucracies. (*Ex. of new administrative institutions: China, Persia, Rome, South Asia*)

Imperial governments promoted trade and projected military power over larger areas using a variety of techniques, including issuing currencies; diplomacy; developing supply lines; building fortifications, defensive walls, and roads; and drawing new groups of military officers and soldiers from the location populations or conquered populations.

Questions to Consider

- What **specific** methods did the Romans utilize for managing their vast, diverse empire?
- What **specific administrative institutions** did the Romans utilize in order to manage their empire?
- Did the Roman integrate diverse populations or exclude them?
- What environmental, social, and economic problems did the Romans experience?

Add this Chart to Your Notes

Roman Empire

**Specific Methods Used to
Manage Empire's Size &
Diversity**

**Specific Methods Used to
Maintain Political Power**

**Political, cultural, and
administrative difficulties
created**





The Roman World, 265 B.C.—A.D. 117



Roman Republic: Political Characteristics

- Originally ruled by king
- Around 509 BCE Roman aristocrats threw off monarchy & established republic where wealthy class (**patricians**) dominated
- authority was exercised by two consuls - advised by an patrician assembly - the Senate
- Conflict with poorer classes (**plebeians**) who wanted protection from abuse - conflict led to changes
- Created new office called **tribune** that represented the plebeians - could block unfavorable legislation



PATRICIANS

- Wealthy Landowners
- Leading Class: Consuls, Senators, Praetors (judges)
 - Descendants of “Founding Fathers”
 - Could Veto on Laws

PLEBIANS

- Lower Class/Ordinary Citizen
 - Have to Pay Taxes
- One Common Job a Plebian Had Was a Shop Owner
 - Cannot Lead in Government

FREEDMAN

- Could have jobs like: Craftsmen, and Traders
 - Free from Slavery
 - Had Little Rights
- Could Own Small Shops and Farms

SLAVES

- No Rights
- Many Jobs: Mines, Factories, Farming, and Building Roads
 - Could Pay to get Out of Slavery
- Took Many Years to Save up to Pay to Get Out of Slavery

Rome: Republic to Empire

- Stable gov't allowed for empire-building which Romans saw as defensive
- Created something new: empire that extended around Mediterranean basin & beyond (even to Spain, France, & Britain)
- took more than 500 years
- the well-trained army (and men looking for fame, land, & fortune) built the empire
- rowing empire could not be sustained by a republican gov't
- wealth of empire only enriched a few who bought large estates & slaves to work the fields (power shifting to those with wealth)
- free farmers were bought from their land which pushed them into cities & poverty
- power was in the hand of a few elite military leaders
- this led to the first emperors and the Roman Empire
- first was Octavian (later given the title of Augustus) - 27 BCE - 14 CE



A GLIMPSE OF
TEENAGE LIFE
IN ANCIENT ROME



Roman Republic : 509 BCE

Reign of Julius Caesar: 49 - 44 BCE

Document A: The Silk Roads in Han-Roman Times

SILK ROAD



- Note: Goods and ideas spread across the Silk Road for centuries. This process of sharing is called "cultural diffusion" by historians. Below are a few examples of goods and ideas that moved by way of the Silk Roads. From China: silk, iron, bronze, ceramics, orange trees, paper, gunpowder, Confucianism
- From Central Asia: Ferghana Horses
- From Africa: Ivory, Rhinoceros Horn
- From India: Spices, Buddhism
- From Europe: Music, Glassward

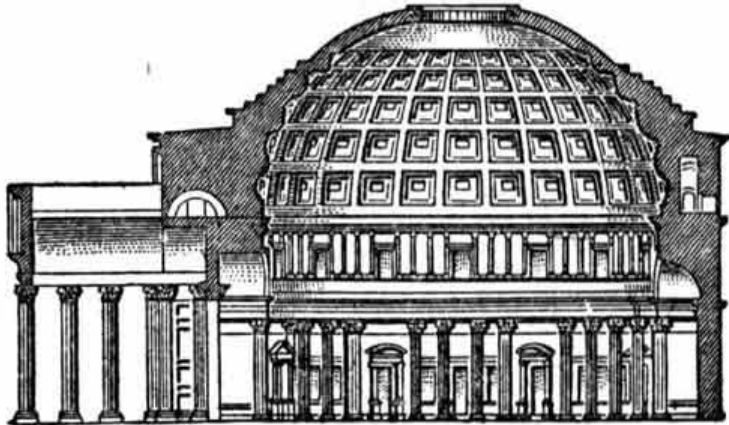
Analyzing Primary Sources: Augustus Caesar



- What does the statue suggest about the basis of Augustus's legitimacy as a ruler?
- What kind of future for the empire does the statue evoke?
- Although Augustus resisted being portrayed as divine, the statue is laced with religious imagery. What does that imagery suggest about the way Augustus was coming to be viewed?
- What elements suggest a realistic portrayal of Augustus and what suggests an idealized image?



Roman Art & Architecture



This Roman aqueduct is in Southern France. It was built around 40-60 C.E. What does it reveal about the Roman Empire?





Pompeii





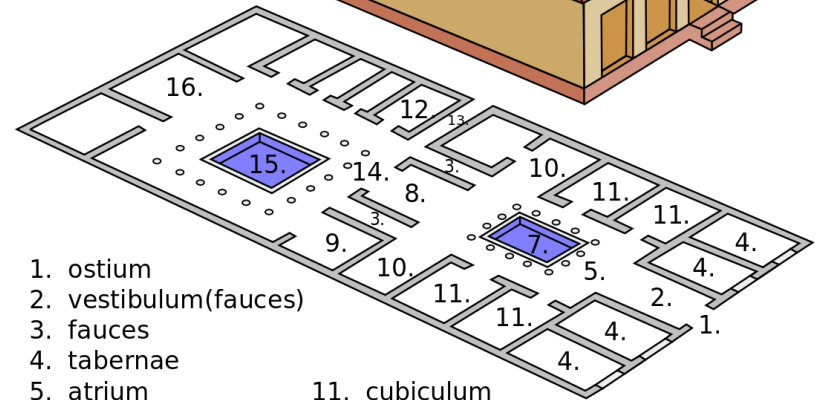
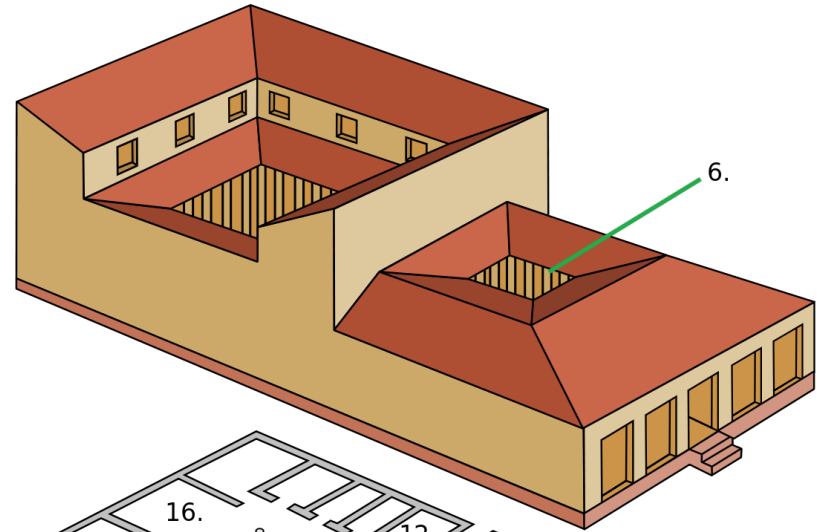
What do we know about Roman SPICE characteristics based on this map of Pompeii?







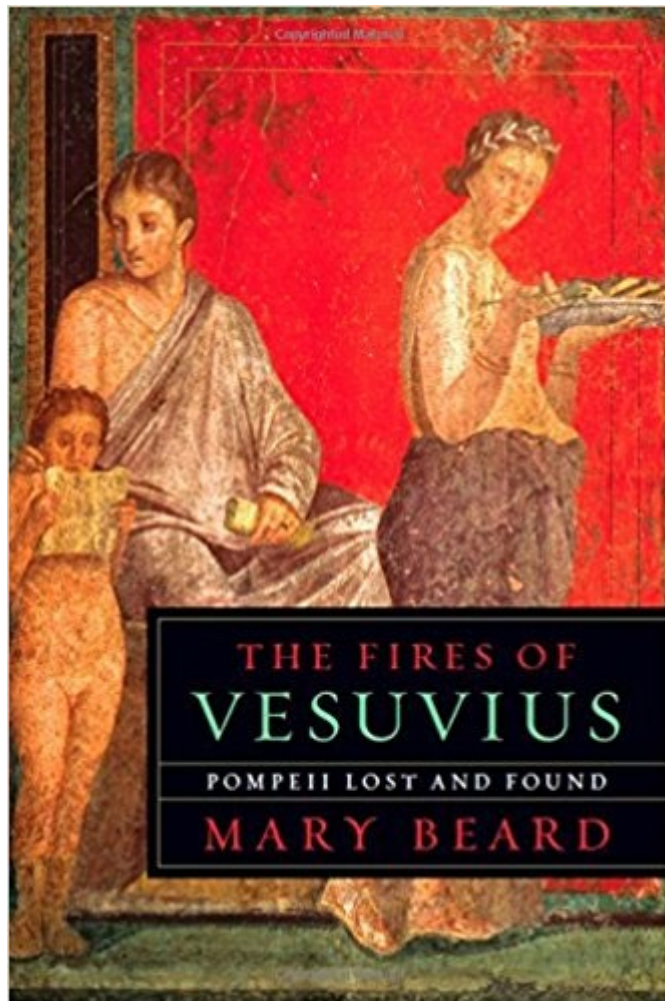
The floorplan of a Roman villa.



- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. ostium | 11. cubiculum |
| 2. vestibulum(fauces) | 12. culina |
| 3. fauces | 13. posticum |
| 4. tabernae | 14. peristylum |
| 5. atrium | 15. piscina |
| 6. compluvium | 16. exedra |
| 7. impluvium | |
| 8. tablinum | |
| 9. triclinium | |
| 10. alae | |



Copyrighted Material



THE FIRES OF
VESUVIUS

POMPEII LOST AND FOUND

MARY BEARD



Development of States and Empires

The Roman, Han, Persian, Mauryan, and Gupta empires created political, cultural, and administrative difficulties that they could not manage, which eventually led to their decline, collapse, and transformation into successor empires or states.

Through excessive mobilization of resources, erosion of established political institutions, and economic changes, imperial governments generated social tensions and created economic difficulties by concentrating too much wealth in the hands of elites.

Do you think this is actually what happened when Rome collapsed? Why or why not?





THE FALL OF ROME

The Collapse of the Roman Empire

- 476 CE - although decline had already been occurring for several centuries
- Western half collapsed, Eastern half becomes the Byzantine Empire (which we'll learn about in Period 3)
- Empire became too big, too overextended, and too expensive to be sustained by the available resources
- Large landowning families quit paying taxes
- Free peasants became impoverished tenant farmers
- Diminished power of the central government

Western Rome becomes mostly Christian by 1100 CE and is generally decentralized and **feudal** with many rival kingdoms.

Emperor Constantine moved the capital East creating Constantinople and eventually the **Byzantine Empire**.





The Collapse of the Roman Empire

- Between 235-284 CE, Rome had 26 emperors (only one died of natural causes)
- Epidemic disease
 - Rome's population dropped by 25% in the two centuries following 250 CE
 - Less population = less tax revenue for the state
 - Fewer men for the military

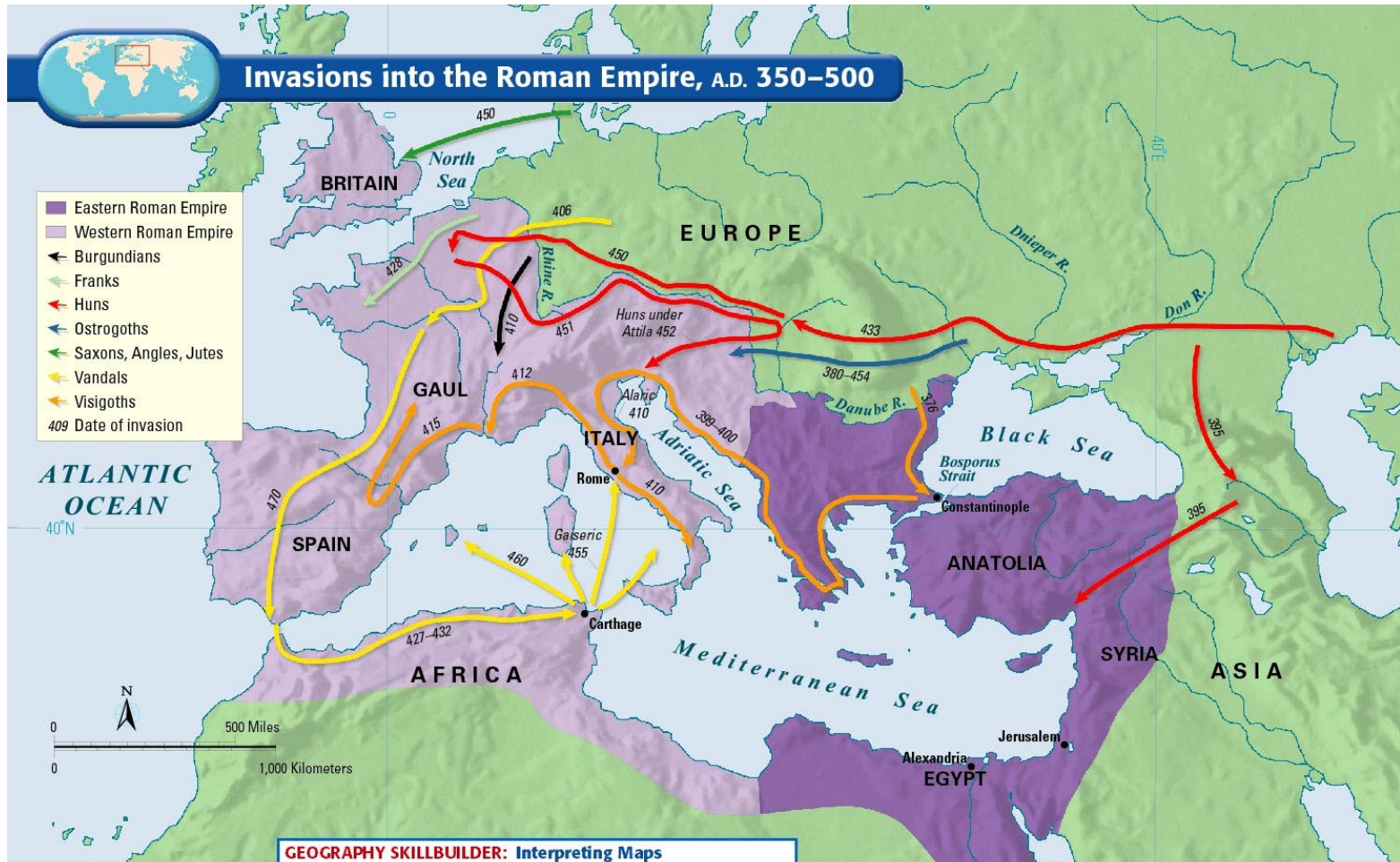
Decline of Rome

- Climate fluctuations led to drought then cold and wet conditions
 - Soil erosion and declining agricultural productivity
- Invasions from nomadic or semi-agricultural peoples, Germanic groups
 - Some were refugees fleeing the Huns, some mercenaries
 - Germanic groups established their own kingdoms within the remnants of the Roman Empire and ruled Rome after 476 CE



Invasions into the Roman Empire, A.D. 350–500

- Eastern Roman Empire
- Western Roman Empire
- Burgundians
- Franks
- Huns
- Ostrogoths
- Saxons, Angles, Jutes
- Vandals
- Visigoths
- 409 Date of invasion



GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

- 1. Movement** What group of invaders came the greatest distance?
- 2. Location** What areas of the empire were not threatened by invasion?

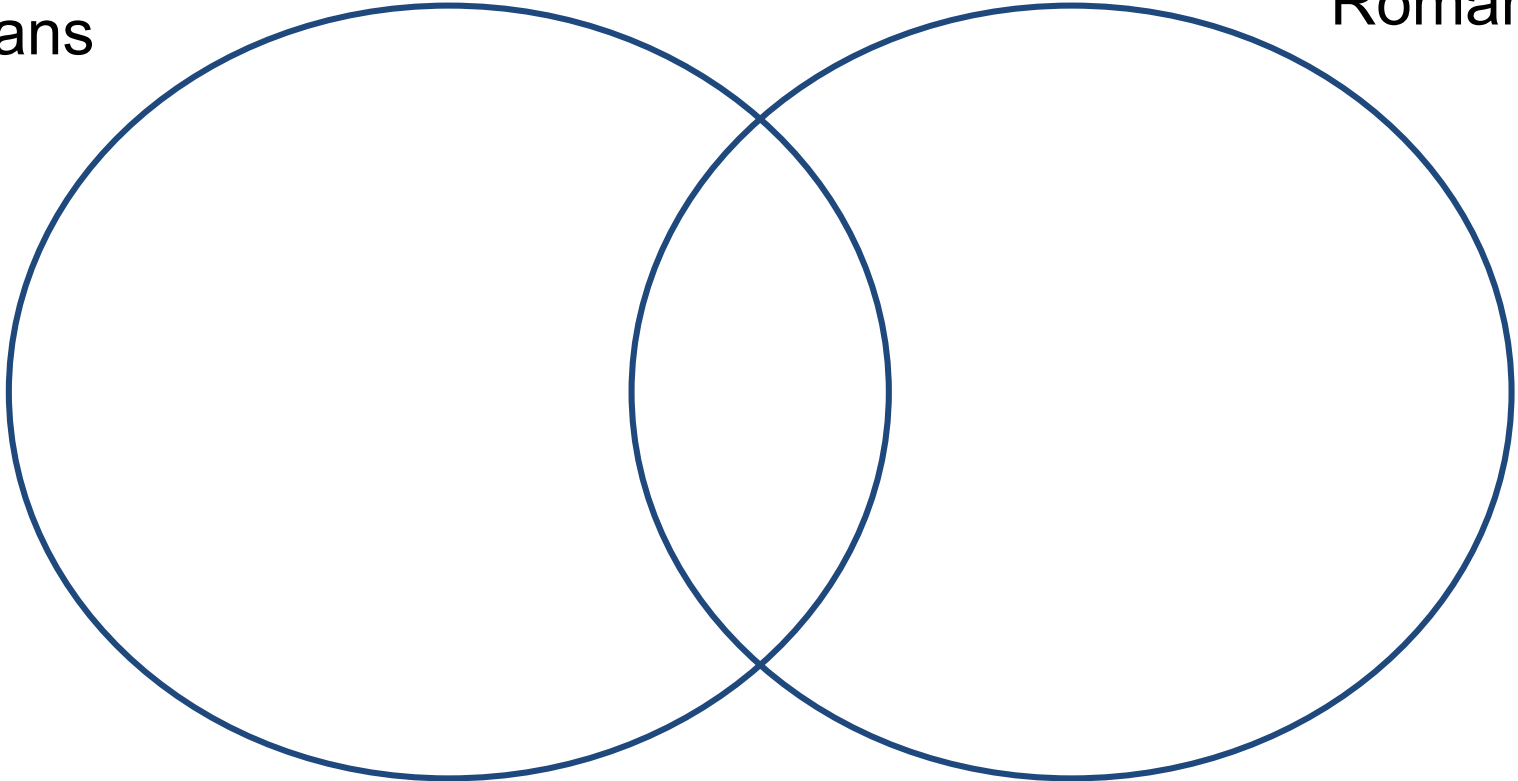
Decline of Rome

- Climate fluctuations led to drought then cold and wet conditions
 - Soil erosion and declining agricultural productivity
- Invasions from nomadic or semi-agricultural peoples, Germanic groups
 - Some were refugees fleeing the Huns, some mercenaries
 - Germanic groups established their own kingdoms within the remnants of the Roman Empire and ruled Rome after 476 CE
- Fall of Rome produced a new culture, a blend of Latin and Germanic elements
 - Adopted Christianity
 - Decline of urban life
 - Diminishing international trade

Compare and contrast methods of imperial administration

Persians

Romans



Spread of Christianity

Organization & Reorganization of Human Societies

As states and empires increased in size and contacts between regions multiplied, people transformed their religious and cultural systems. Religions and belief systems provided a **social bond among the people and an ethical code to live by**. These shared beliefs also **influenced and reinforced political, economic, and occupational stratification**. Religious and political authority often merged as rulers (some of whom were considered divine) **used religion, along with military and legal structures, to justify their rule and ensure its continuation**. Religions and belief systems also **generated conflict**, partly because beliefs and practices varied greatly within and among societies.

The core beliefs of Christianity were based on the teachings, divinity, and resurrection of **Jesus of Nazareth** as recorded by his disciples and drew on Judaism as well as Roman and Hellenistic influences. Despite initial Roman imperial hostility, Christianity spread through the efforts of **missionaries, merchants, and early saints** through many parts of Afro-Eurasia, and eventually gained Roman imperial support by the time of Emperor Constantine.

Opener:

Why do you think Christianity took hold in the
Mediterranean world?

Write your hypothesis.

The Spread of Christianity



The Spread of Christianity
in the Roman Empire
By the Second and Fourth Centuries

Activity: Document Analysis

1. Read the document
2. Highlight information to help you answer the questions
3. Record your answers to the questions



H
HISTORIA

A HUMANIDADE

A HUMANIDADE
O Cristianismo



S A H A R A

Christianity first spread in the eastern Mediterranean region, helped by the travels of the early Christian leader Paul. Later Christian communities were established along important trade routes in other parts of the Roman Empire.

Source: Religious historian Helmut Koester, as quoted in the 2009 PBS documentary *From Jesus to Christ*.

Why was the Christian community something that people wanted to join? ... One [reason] was certainly that the message that was preached here promised ... immortality, a future life which would be liberation from sickness and from disease and from poverty, and individual isolation. There is a future for the individual ... beyond the powers of this world....

Note: Roman society did believe in immortality, but it was a bit complicated. The ancient Romans believed that when one died, one was met by Mercury, the messenger god and son of Jupiter, and taken to the river Styx, where they were received and then judged. After judgment, if they passed muster, they would be sent to one of the two afterworlds, one for heroes, one for commoners.

Source: Religious historian Elaine Pagels, as quoted in *From Jesus to Christ, 2009*.

I was thinking a great deal about why this movement succeeded, and I thought it may have had a lot to do ... with the story they told about the creation [of the earth]. Because they told the story about how human beings were made in the image of God.... Now, if you think about the gods of the ancient world and you think about what they looked like, they looked like the emperor and his court. So those gods looked very different. But this religion is saying that every person, man, woman, child, slave, barbarian, no matter who, is made in the image of God and is therefore of enormous value in the eyes of God. ... That's an extraordinary message. And it would have been enormous news to many people who never saw their lives having value. I think that is a powerful appeal of this religion....

Source: Religious historian Helmut Koester, as quoted in the 2009 PBS documentary *From Jesus to Christ*.

[We ask again], why was the Christian community something that people wanted to join? ... Rome is a very strict hierarchical system, in which the emperor is at the pinnacle, all the way up and then all the blessings in the world that come to people come down from above. The emperor is the conduit [connecting path] to the divine world. And if you're at the bottom of that social pyramid, not a whole lot of things are coming down to you anymore....

Now the Christian community, as we have it particularly in the letters of Paul, ... says in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, neither male nor female, neither slave nor free.... Here is a community that invites you, which makes you an equal with all other members of that community. Which does not give you any disadvantages. On the contrary, it gives even the lowliest slave personal dignity and status. Moreover ... the care for each other becomes very important.... If they are hungry, they know where to go. If they are sick, there is an elder who will lay on hands to them to heal them.

Closer:

Did any of the claims from the documents support your hypothesis? Why or why not?

Santa Sabina - c. 432 C.E., Rome

