

## II. Between the Testaments

1. From 400-300 B.C.
2. From 300-200 B.C.
3. From 200-100 B.C.

H. In 30 B.C., the Roman victory over Cleopatra VII put an end to the last of the \_\_\_\_\_ descendants in Egypt and with it the last remains of the Macedonian Empire.

I. In 27 B.C., Caesar Augustus \_\_\_\_\_ his opponents and became the first emperor of Rome. See Luke 2:1

The new government was a compromise between the old republicanism and the dictatorship of Julius Caesar. In 23 B.C., he was given the power for life and thus he was the permanent representative of the people. All his rights were founded upon a constitutional basis rather than upon an arbitrary seizure of power. During his reign many reforms were effected. A large part of the army was demobilized with the discharged veterans settled in colonies or on purchased land. A regular professional army was created which became a school for citizens. Upon retirement they were given a bonus and settled in communities to be loyal leaders for Rome. He sought to improve the morale of the people, reviving the state religion and rebuilding many temples. The "Imperial Cult" or the worship of Rome as a state was introduced into the provinces. In many places the emperor himself was worshipped as "Dominus et Deus" or "Lord and God." The Julian laws of 19 and 18 B.C. attempted to restore family life, encouraging marriage and the establishment of homes. To consolidate the empire he took a census of all people and property for the purposes of recruiting an army and taxation. He boasted that he found Rome made in brick and left it in marble. His adopted son, Tiberius, would succeed him.

J. Jewish Society:

- 1). There was a wealthy Jewish \_\_\_\_\_, consisting chiefly of the families of the priesthood and leading rabbis.
- 2). They controlled a large portion of the commerce channeling all they could through the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3). The \_\_\_\_\_ came into existence which was the High Council of Judaism.

- 4). There was still the moral compass of the \_\_\_\_\_ which held all men equally accountable, so the leaders were kept from becoming too oppressive.
- 5). The \_\_\_\_\_ tradition of scriptural interpretation was becoming as authoritative as the written text.
- 6). There is an ongoing societal battle between tradition and \_\_\_\_\_ (becoming Greek).
- 7). Interpretation moved from literal to \_\_\_\_\_.

**K. Roman Society:**

- 1). Landholders became the \_\_\_\_\_ of the provinces.
- 2). The middle class was almost squeezed out of the empire through their deaths in the many wars, or being starved from their homes by the larger estates. This group began to look to the \_\_\_\_\_ for their sustenance.
- 3). The “plebs” or “poor people,” were numerous and their condition pitiful. Many were \_\_\_\_\_ off than slaves who at least were assured of food and clothing.
- 4). Slaves made up a large \_\_\_\_\_ of the population of the Roman Empire.

No exact numbers were attainable but probably less than half the inhabitants of the Roman world were free, and only a handful of them were citizens with full rights. Not all of them were ignorant and many were physicians, accountants, teachers and skilled artisans.

Epictetus, the Stoic philosopher, was one of them. The effect of slavery was debasing in that the ownership of slaves made the masters dependent upon the labor and skill of the servants with the result that they lost their own ingenuity and ambition. Morality became simply an issue of the whims of an arbitrary master.

- 5). **Under Augustus came a \_\_\_\_\_ revival in Rome.**  
Virgil the poet (71 B.C. - 20 B.C.) became the prophet of his day. Horace (66 B.C. - 9 B.C.) and Ovid (43 B.C. - 17 A.D.) also wrote mythology.
- 6). **The Romans produced an excellent system of \_\_\_\_\_ which prior to the automobile were the best in the world.**
- 7). **In the early days of the Republic the dominant religion was \_\_\_\_\_.**

They adopted the Greek gods and goddesses. Worshippers often just worshipped the local deity that was said to rule over their city. The Seleucids and Ptolemy's, who had taken various titles like “Kurios,” “Soter” or “Epiphanes” are viewed as contributing factors

to Emperor worship. Most all of the state religions fostered protection from deity rather than fellowship with it. None offered personal solace or hope for times of stress and trouble.

- 8). **Many of the mystery religions, mostly of \_\_\_\_\_ origin, centered around a god who had died and was resuscitated.**

Each had rituals of formulas to initiate the individual into the secret society. The Cult of Cybele (the Great Mother) came from Asia, that of Isis and Osiris/Serapis from Egypt and Mithraism from Persia.

- 9). **The practice of \_\_\_\_\_, consisting of superstitious practices and the powers of the universe, which they could not understand but could vaguely feel, rose in prominence.**

For them the entire world was inhabited by spirits and demons who could be invoked or commanded if one only knew the right formula.

- 10). **Many continued to practice \_\_\_\_\_ in the empire.**

- 11). **Various religions had been growing for years and came to the forefront at the time of \_\_\_\_\_.**

**L. Roman Philosophies:**

- 1). **Platonism. The real world is the world of ideas of which the material world is only a \_\_\_\_\_.**

This led to the idea of “dualism.” Therefore one must become involved in reflection, meditation and asceticism to be delivered. Knowledge is salvation and sin is ignorance. Seeking the highest good is the way to be delivered from the material world.

- 2). **Gnosticism. It too promised salvation by \_\_\_\_\_.**

Followers believed God was too great and holy to have created the material world with all its corruption. They believed that the supreme Deity had produced successive emanations, each one being inferior to the last, until the last of these emanations or “aeons” created the world. Thus, matter was equated with evil and renouncing the material world and seeking the invisible world was the path to salvation. Out of this came two contradictory ethical conclusions, asceticism and gratification.

- 3). **Epicureanism. This taught that \_\_\_\_\_ accidentally brought about creation.**

In this world there is neither purpose nor design, therefore there is no absolute good other than pleasure which is defined as the absence of pain.

- 4). **Stoicism. Founded by Zeno (340-265 B.C.), who recognized no personal god but a universe controlled by Absolute \_\_\_\_\_ which was a divine will that was immanent and**

**thoroughly pervading it. Conformity to reason becomes the highest good.** Personal feeling is immaterial or harmful since it leads to unbalancing the rational solution to problems. Perfect self-control, unmoved by sentimental considerations, was the goal of the Stoic. Providence regulated the world and there was no room for altering any process, thus it was fatalistic.

- 5). **Cynicism. The man with \_\_\_\_\_ needs would usually survive under conditions that would destroy those with elaborate wants.**

They sought to abolish desire, abandoning all standards and becoming complete individualists. This is often seen in indecent language and behavior to prove oneself different. Cynicism arose from abandonment of the standard of ethics.

- 6). **Skepticism. Taught by Pyrrho of Elis (365-295 B.C.) under the premise that if knowledge rests upon \_\_\_\_\_, there can be no final standards, since the experience of each man differs.**

All terms of judgment therefore are relative. Unless one final starting point for reasoning can be found, no criteria for judgment exists and thus there is no such thing as truth. If the skeptics followed out their reasoning they would be able to make no statement of fact, since there were no acceptable premises. The logical end is intellectual paralysis. It arose from the abandonment of the standard of intellect.