

**Study Questions to accompany**  
**UNIVERSAL HISTORY OF THE WORLD**  
**Published by Golden Press, 1966**  
**CHRISTIANITY AND BYZANTIUM**  
**Volume 4 A.D. 29 – A.D. 1250**

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As you read through this and other volumes, you will need to add important dates and people to a timeline to help you keep historical events in perspective.

*Special note:* I have not included a great deal of discussion on the segments of the book devoted to Jesus Christ and His ministry because this is covered in our church/Sunday School/devotion time. Remember as you read the sections on Jesus Christ that the text is \*not\* from a Christian perspective. They are presenting the life of Christ from a historical perspective.

**I. The First Palm Sunday A.D. 29** (p.266-270)

- Why was Pontius Pilate gathering soldiers for special duty during the Jewish Passover feast?
  
- Briefly describe the way the kingdoms under Roman rule were set up. (Where did Pilate and others get their power from?)
  
- What unusual event occurred on the afternoon of the Passover? (i.e. procession)
  
- Who was Caiphias, and what was/were his concern(s)?
  
- What was unusual about the religion of the Jews?

**II. The Life of Christ 6 B.C. – A.D. 29** (p. 270 – 282)

- On p. 276, what teaching of Jesus angered the Jews?

- How did the laws and rules of the Pharisees develop?

### **III. The Resurrection and the Faithful Few A.D. 29-35 (p. 282-288)**

- List a few characteristics of the following Jewish sects:
  - Pharisees
  - Sadducees
  - Essenes
- What made the Christians stand out as not being just another Jewish sect?
- What are some reasons the Christian community grew?
- Who was the first of the Christian martyrs?
- Why did Peter's dream and his understanding of it trouble the Jews?

### **IV. Paul of Tarsus A.D. 35 – 64 (p. 288-298)**

- Use various references to see if you can determine the origin of the story found in the end of the first paragraph at the top of p.291. "But the resurrection and all that it meant was new to Paul. He withdrew from society and lived for a time as a hermit in a desert area called Arabia."
- What sentence(s) on pp. 290-291 emphasize Paul's boldness for Christ?

- What Jewish practice upset the Gentiles when certain Christian Jews told them they had to follow?
- What was Paul's basis for the belief that continuing Jewish practices were not necessary for salvation?
- One section that begins on p. 294 is titled "Defeat in Athens." Was Paul defeated when he got to Athens (Rome)?

**V. Rome and the Christian Church A.D. 64-180 (p. 298 – 301)**

- What types of rumors helped fan the persecution of the Christians after Nero accused them of setting fire to Rome?
- List a few of the things that helped the spread of Christianity.
- In Pliny's area of jurisdiction, what was causing the conflict between the Christians and the non-Christians?

**VI. The Growing Church A.D. 100-500 (p. 301-308)**

- What was the purpose of the Nicaean Council of 325 A.D. ? Do some research to see if you can find a copy of the Nicene Creed. Cut and paste the text to a document to attach to this study guide.
- How did the Apostles' Creed come to be? Find a copy of the Apostles' Creed. Cut and paste the text to a document to attach to this study guide.
- What were some of the criteria that Christian writings had to meet in order to be accepted as part of Scripture?

- What does the word “catholic” refer to?
- Describe the organization of the Christian Church.
- Where did the idea of a “pope” or “father” in the Catholic church come from?

**VII. Great Church Fathers A.D. 340-430** (p. 308 – 312)

- Give a brief description of each of the following:
  - Jerome
  - Augustine

**VIII. The New Capital: Constantinople A.D. 306 – 532** (p. 313 -317)

- What were some of the factors that led to the building of a new capital in Constantinople?
- According to the section “Christianity and Empire” what were some of the desires Constantine had for Constantinople?
- What were some of the positive achievements and social reforms Constantine was responsible for?
- List some of the reasons that the East was cut off from the West over a period of time.

**IX. The Great Justinian A.D. 532-565** (p. 317-327)

- What mistakes did Justinian make that caused the riots and revolts in Constantinople?

- What changes and improvements did he make once the riots and the great massacre had ended?
- Name some of the problems Justinian saw with the laws made by other emperors. What did he do to correct these problems?

**X. Byzantine Glory A.D. 610-1057 (p. 328-331)**

- Why was the period from 610-717 called the “one of the darkest in Byzantine history?”
- What were some of the ways that the missionary work of the Byzantine Empire helped to promote peace?
- Describe some of the contributions of the Byzantine Empire to the world of art, architecture, and literature.

**XI. The Church and the Empire A.D. 527-1261 (p. 331-334)**

- What were some of the contributions of the monasteries and convents to the empire and Christianity?
- Name some of the problems that led to a split between the Eastern and Western Roman Empires.

**XII. The Fall of an Empire A. D. 992-1453** (p. 335-338)

- List three things outside of the problems within the church that helped lead to the downfall of the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine Empire).
- What marked the end of the Byzantine Empire and Constantinople? What group of people now had control?

**XIII. Byzantium and Russia 400 B.C. – A.D. 1240** (p. 339-351)

- What event is usually considered to be the beginning of Russian history?
- What is the *Ancient Chronicle*?
- What annual event was important to the people of Russia?
- What was “Greek fire”?
- How did Vladimir decide to become a Christian?
- What contributions did Vladimir (and later his son, Yaroslav) make to the Russian society in the hopes of spreading Christianity?

- How did Byzantium influence the development of the city of Kiev?
  
- What were some of the factors that led to the decline of Kiev?