

CHANGES IN THE ROMAN GOVERNMENT

1. There were 72 emperors in the history of the Roman Empire; 23 of them were assassinated!
It was a dangerous occupation.
2. In 285 Emperor Diocletian divided the nation into two parts:
 - A. The Western division - headquarters in Rome
 - B. The Eastern division - headquarters in Byzantium (modern Istanbul, Turkey)
3. Constantinius ruled from the Roman Empire from 293-306.
 - His son, Constantine, was a high ranking soldier.
 - When Constantianus died, his soldiers pronounced him the emperor.
 - But rival army generals claimed the same title. Constantine would have to fight to gain control.
 - A. On October 27, 312, the night before the battle in the West, Constantine had a dream.
He saw a cross in the sky with these words above it:
In this sign conquer.
Constantine order all of his soldier to put this sign on their armor.
 - B. On the next morning, his army won the battle decisively -- the Western empire was his.
 - C. In 324 he won another internal battle; the Eastern empire was now his as well.
4. Constantine was the first Christian Emperor of Rome:
 - A. He stopped all persecution of Christians and legalized Christianity
 - B. He promoted the spread of Christianity throughout the Empire
 - C. Sunday was made a holiday for rest and Christian worship
 - D. Pastors were exempt from paying any taxes
 - E. In 325 he convened the first Church Council in order to unite the Church & his empire
5. Constantine made Byzantium (Istanbul, Turkey) his capital city.
The army of Rome would reside there.

CHANGES IN THE CHURCHES OF ROME

1. In the Biblical period churches were governed by the apostles and elders.
2. When the apostles died, BISHOPS took their place.
 - A. A Bishop would oversee all of the elders and churches in a city.
 - B. An Archbishop would oversee all the Bishops in a small region.
 - C. A Patriarchal Bishop would oversee the Archbishops in a larger region.The Patriarchal Bishops were located in four main cities:
 - Rome
 - Constantinople
 - Alexandria, Egypt
 - Antioch
3. In 452 Attila the Hun (and his soldiers) came to Rome.
 - A. There was no Roman ruler or Roman soldiers in Rome at that time.
 - B. The leader of the city was Patriarchal Bishop Leo.
 - C. When Leo asked the emperor for help, he got none.
 - D. Leo negotiated terms of peace with Attila the Hun
4. In 455 Vandals entered Rome.
 - A. Again, Leo asked the emperor in Constantinople for help; he got none.
 - B. Again, Leo negotiated a peace agreement -- 14 days of looting, but no burning.
5. These events (and others) caused Leo to view himself as more than a Patriarchal Bishop. He was the first church leader to call himself “the Pope” (the Father) of the universal church.
6. Eventually, a struggle for power would emerge in the church, and THE ORTHODOX CHURCHES would arise.