

Rome



- The famous capital of the ancient world is situated on the 'Tiber River, at a distance of about fifteen miles from its mouth.
- The "seven hills" (Revelation 17:9) which form the nucleus of the ancient city stand on the left bank of the Tiber River.
- The city of Rome is mentioned in three books of the New testament:
 - Acts
 - Romans
 - 2 Timothy
- Ancient Rome was settled around 753 B.C. The Roman Empire came several centuries later.
- Rome has sometimes called "The Eternal City" is because of its long and important history.
- Augustus, the first emperor of Rome, had many beautiful buildings built. He is quoted as having said, "I found Rome a city of brick and left it a city of marble."
- It is believed that Rome once had as many as 300 temples.
- Gibbon estimates that the population of Rome was approximately 1,200,000 of which about half of the population were slaves.
- Large Jewish colonies were settled quite early in Rome, perhaps as a result of the conquests of Pompey. Many of these Jews were made freedmen.
 - Julius Caesar was kindly toward them, and they were also favored by Augustus.
 - Tiberias showed kindness to them during the latter part of his reign.
- Claudius drove all of the Jews from Rome. **Acts 18:2**
- Acquilla and Priscilla were among the number who fled during this time.
- This banishment did not last too long because at the time of Paul's visit to Rome (**Acts 28:17**) large numbers of Jews resided in Rome.

- Paul's first Roman first imprisonment in Rome occurred between two famous epics in the history of the city, namely, its restoration by Augustus and its destruction by Nero.
- Two famous sayings:
 - "All roads lead to Rome"
 - When in Rome do as the Romans do."
- Rome was burned in 64 A.D. while Nero was the emperor. Rome was divided into 14 regions, and fire destroyed 3 of the 14 plus dividing and greatly damaging 7 others.

- In 410 A.D. Barbaric hordes destroyed Rome. The Bible speaks of the Roman Empire ending.

The Roman Empire

- Judea became the subject to the Roman Empire in 63 B.C., and although it had its own rulers, it was required to pay tribute to the Roman.
- It was during the reign of Caesar Augustus that Christ was born
- It was during the reign of Tiberias that Christ was crucified.
- In its height, the empire:
 - Extended 2,000 miles from north to south.
 - 3,000 miles from east to west.
 - Had a population of about 120,000,000.
- Through corruption within and attack from without, the empire began to decline until it was destroyed in about 476 A.D.
- The religion of the Roman Empire was pagan. Although, under its rule, Christianity was tolerated but persecuted.
- Under Constantine in the fourth century, Christianity was declared the religion of the state.
- Jews from Rome were present in Jerusalem at the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ when the church was established. **Acts 2:10**
- Aquila and Priscilla spent some time in Rome until all Jews were commanded to leave. **Acts 18:2**

Paul and Rome

- Paul had long purposed to visit Rome. **Romans 1:9-13; 15:22-29**
- Numerous sites in and around the city are especially connected with Paul's life.
 - The Appian Way by which he approached Rome. **Acts 28:15**
 - The Palace. **Philippians 1:13**
 - The Mamertine Prison in which tradition says Paul was kept during his second Roman imprisonment and from which he wrote 2 Timothy.

- The Ostian Road where Paul supposedly met martyrdom.
- Paul's journey for Palestine to Rome. **Acts 27 - 28**
- Paul's first Roman imprisonment lasted for about two years. To this period belongs the prison epistles:
 - Philemon
 - Colossians
 - Ephesians
 - Philippians
- It seems that after an imprisonment of two years or more at Rome, Paul was freed and spent some years in various journeys eastward and westward.
 - Toward the close of this time he wrote the first letter to Timothy and his letter to Titus. These letters seem to have been written about the same time.
 - Paul was arrested a second time. Whereas during the first Roman imprisonment he was treated as an honorable prisoner, this time he was treated as a felon. **2 Timothy 2:9** – “For which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.
- During this imprisonment Paul wrote 2 Timothy in which he expressed a confident expectation of a speedy death. **2 Timothy 4:6** — “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.”
- Nonetheless, he hoped Timothy might join him from Ephesus and “Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come -- and the books, especially the parchments” **2 Timothy 4:13**
- Timing was important. “Do your utmost to come before winter.” **2 Timothy 4:21**

The Roman Forum

- The Roman Forum was the center of the commercial, religious, and political concerns of the city of Rome and the Empire.
- In times of various fires, the forum was devastated.
 - 1st — At the beginning of the Republic of Rome.
 - 2nd — 64 A.D. during the reign of Nero.
 - 3rd — Under the Emperor Commodus.
 - 4th — Under the Emperor Carinus in 283 A.D.
- Disastrous earthquakes and barbaric invasions contributed greatly to its destruction.

The Arch of Titus

- Was built to celebrate the victory over the Jews by the Emperor Vespasian and his son, Titus
- Their victory brought an end in 70 A.D. to the Jewish revolt that had begun in 66 A.D.
- The Arch of Titus was built during the periods in which Domiziano and Trajan reigned.

The Colosseum

- “Colosseum” come from the Latin word “colossus” which means gigantic.
- In shape, the Colosseum resembles a modern football stadium.
- The wooden floor of the Colosseum was covered with red sand to soak up and conceal blood.
- Underneath the floor were rooms to house men and animals.
- The Colosseum floor area could be flooded to enact naval battles.
- Vespasian began the Colosseum and Titus dedicated it in A.D. 80.
- It is oval shaped.
 - 615’ long.
 - 510’ wide.
 - 157’ high.
- Historians estimate that from 50,000 to 80,000 persons could sit in the Colosseum at once.
- The Colosseum has 76 entrances and can empty or fill in 15 minutes.
- A traditional saying: “As long as the Colosseum stands, Rome lives.”
- Note: The Colosseum was built after the death Paul.

The Catacombs

- Catacomb S. Domitilla
- 10 miles of catacombs under the city of Rome.
- Construction on the catacombs began near the end of the 1st century and continued until about 350 B.C.
- They were built for burial places.
- Christians used them as places of worship when the persecutions came.
- One guide said they were “sacred, not secret.”
- Constantine, in 313 A.D., recognized the Christian religion as the official state religion.

The Pantheon

- After the Colosseum, the Pantheon is the most interesting and best preserved monument of Augustan Rome.
- Pantheon is from the Greek and means “of all the gods.”

- It was built by Marchus Agrippa in 27 B.C.
- It burned and was rebuilt after the time of Christ.
- Many former kings of Italy are buried there.
- Raphael, the famous painter, is buried there.

Vatican City

- Vatican City is an independent state that houses the government of the Roman Catholic Church.
- It covers 108.7 acres and is the smallest independent state in the world.
- St Peter's Square in front of St. Peter's Basilica.
- St. Peter's Basilica is the largest church building in the world.
- It is more than 450 ' wide at its widest point.
- It covers an area of 15,500 square yards.
- The dome is more than 400' high and measures 38 'across.
- The Basilica was largely financed by the sell of indulgences.
- Vatican City and St. Peter's Basilica contain many original works of Michaelangelo.
 - The Pieta
 - The Moses
 - The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

