**Christianity**

- **Roots in Judaism**
- **Conflicts w/ Rome’s polytheistic beliefs**
- **Jesus of Nazareth** proclaimed Messiah (Greek – Christos = Messiah)
- Jesus – Son of God & Incarnation of God
- New Testament – Holy Book; Gospels – Bio of Jesus
- Christian Doctrine established by Church Councils – Nicene Creed

**Spread of Christianity**

- Popular Message
- Carried by Apostles; Martyrs inspire devotion
- Persecution by Emperors
- Acceptance by Constantine – Edict of Milan
- Theodosius – Official Religion of Empire (380 CE)

**Decline of the Empire**

1. **Geography**: Difficult to Defend & Administer
2. **Economy**: Taxes for Military & Inflation
3. **Military**: Use of Mercenaries & decline of discipline
4. **Moral Decay**
5. **Political Problems**: Civil conflict & weak Administrators
6. **Invasion**: Germanic Tribes & Huns

**Pax Romana**

- 200 year period of **Peace & Prosperity**
- Augustus improves Empire: Civil Service, Secure Travel & Trade, Common Coin, & Expansion of Empire.
- Augustus fails to provide for peaceful succession of rulers.

**Second Triumvirate**

- Octavian, Marcus Lepidus, Marc Antony
- Octavian defeats Antony at Battle of Actium
- Octavian becomes 1st Emperor – **Augustus Caesar**

**The Empire Divides**

**Officially ends 476 CE**

**Contributions**

- Architecture: Pantheon, Colosseum, & Forum
- Technology: Roads, Aqueducts, Arches, Dome
- Science: Ptolemy
- Medicine: Emphasis on Public Health
- Language: Latin – Romance Languages
- Literature: Virgil’s Aeneid
- History: Tacitus, Livy
- Law: 12 Tables, Innocent until Proven Guilty

Constantine moves capital from Rome to Byzantium; Renames city **Constantinople**