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## II.1

Historical  
Background  
the  
Roman  
society.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### Roman Civilization

##### Roman rulers of the period

### II.1.a.

Roman  
civiliza-  
tion

These are presented for your observation and not memorization. Since the first few centuries are so closely linked to governmental acts, it is a good idea to at least see the names and periods of authority.

Augustus Caesar 30 BC -14 AD  
the taxing spoken of in the Gospels  
Tiberius 14-37  
friend of the Herods, Pilate was  
responsible to him  
Caligula 37-41  
capable but undisciplined madman..  
some persecution  
Claudius 41-54  
drove Jews from Rome  
Nero 54-68  
blamed Christians for fire in Rome..  
persecuted church in Italy  
Galba, Otho, Vitellius 68-69  
Vespasian 69-79  
conquest of Palestine and the end of  
the temple  
Titus 79-81  
Domitian 81-96  
persecuted Christians, banished many  
perhaps including John  
Nerva 96-98  
Trajan 98-117  
The famous Trajan/Pliny letters  
Some persecution  
Hardian 117-138  
Famous laws but harsh on the church  
Antoninus 138-161  
Some persecution.

The church is illegal all this time but there is no consistent effort to eliminate it.