

This course does not seek to enumerate all the governmental changes in Palestine save to note that the Roman influence was continuous throughout the biblical period and there was never a time when the state could set its own course without concern for what the feelings from Rome would be. That the Jews violently resented this cannot be denied...several times they held minor revolts and on two occasions the zealots led major disturbances. But the hand of Rome was dominant until the Islamic conquests in the 7th century AD.

II.1.f
Grecian
culture

Grecian Culture

Although the Romans had conquered Greece in a series of long-ago military campaigns, they admired and copied Greek ideas and ideals. This gave a spread to Hellenistic concepts of life throughout the Mediterranean area that would not have been possible otherwise. To us it may not seem significant but in that day it simply meant that one could travel the entire western world and be "at home." Manner, culture, dress, etc., varied very little in the total empire save for provincialisms. The Greek language was a large part of this. It served the literate and scholarly community in a way that Latin could not. This small fact would be enormously important in the spreading of the Christian message and the Gospel accounts.

Similarly the Grecian concepts in philosophy, study, and world ideals were uniform throughout the west. Everyone could understand everyone else! The advantage of this common cultural heritage can best be appreciated by those who have travelled in the present world, lived in different places, and noted how divergencies in these areas complicate life and work.

Like the Romans, the Greeks were notoriously polytheistic and the mythological gods lived like persons among them. There are many works on this subject but the student wishing to begin to get a grip on the Grecian/Roman mythology is advised to begin with Bullfinch: MYTHOLOGY...published in a number of editions by a number of editors and publishers.

Just as the Roman culture dominates much of our imagery today, the Grecian culture dominated much of the Roman world in the time when the church began.