

II. CHURCH BEGINNINGS

Ante-Nicene Period  
Pentecost--150 AD.

A. **Background Material**1. Roman Civilization

- a. The governmental ideal: a system of checks and balances with this arrangement:

- (1) the oligarchy
- (2) the army
- (3) the dictator or tyrant
- (4) the populus
- (5) the minor officials
- (6) the citizenry

On paper the ideas seemed great..but they did not always work as well as they appeared..but it did give a continuing controlled society that lasted in essence over a thousand years.

- b. the society

- (1) languages: the trilingual setting
- (2) commonality in community
- (3) economics of a slave state
- (4) education: reading and schools

- c. the religious ideology

--a highly developed form of polytheism... mythological concepts at their worst, I think..but not taken seriously. Emperor worship is a much more serious thing and it is in this area where the church has its most serious tests.