



WORKSHEET

Ancient: Episode 12

The Best of the Ancient World

Quote

“You cannot parcel out freedom in pieces because freedom is all or nothing.”
(Tertullian)

Summary

In this final episode, we retrace our footsteps across the map of ancient history. We take a seat in the Roman Colosseum and discuss the grave implications of Emperor Claudius’ lust for the brutality of his gladiator games. We then jump back in the Mini Cooper and speed through Greece, straight up the cliffs of the legendary Mount Parnassus, to pay a visit to the Oracle at Delphi. We observe the ripple effects of the Apostle Paul’s speech in Athens. We return to Turkey and dig deeper into the impact of Polycarp’s death on the spread of Christianity, and reconnect with the Apostle Paul to unravel some Biblical teachings in the area. We end by examining the expansion of Christianity in Western Civilization. We look at the defining qualities of the Christian faith – the dignity of the individual, equality for all people, and a new foundation for morals based on the teachings of Jesus Christ – that changed the world and eventually formed the bedrock for the founding of America.

Discussion Questions

1. According to legend, who was the king that set Romulus and Remus adrift in a basket down the Tiber River?

2. Describe the toll the gladiator games took on animal populations across Africa and Mesopotamia.

3. Who were typical gladiator recruits?

4. Were the ancient Greeks monotheistic or polytheistic?

5. What is the name of the infamous fortune-teller who resided on the slopes of Mount Parnassus?

6. What was the name of the council that the Apostle Paul delivered his speech to on Mars Hill in Athens?

7. What was the name of the man who studied directly under the Apostle John, served as the minister of the church in Smyrna, and was ultimately martyred for his faith?

8. What was the final conclusion of the Council of Nicaea?

Suggested Reading

Declaration of Independence

Side Road

The influence of the ancient Greeks and Romans has stood the test of time. From the Renaissance forward, significant cultural renewal was often linked to the Greek and Roman empires, especially in France, Germany, Italy, and Britain. Even art, architecture and infrastructure in the early United States of America took direction from Greek and Roman precedents. For instance, the Roman Empire was the first society to develop a vast and complex road system, which paved the way for modern road networks. They also perfected designs for bridges and aqueducts, and extensively used columns, domes, and arches. Perhaps most significantly, the Romans developed concrete, which proved stronger than marble, could be sculpted for specific purposes, and could be produced locally and at lower costs than previous techniques. Concrete is still a mainstay of modern design and construction. Go to any city, church, or university in America today, and you will see important Greek and Roman influences on art, architecture, and infrastructure.