



## **ANSWER GUIDE**

### **Ancient: Episode 1**

The Rise of Western Civilization

#### **Discussion Questions and Answers**

1. What were the three main political structures of ancient Rome?

- *Monarchy (Rome was founded as a monarchy.)*
- *Republic (The Republic of Rome was founded in 509 B.C. and its territory and influence spread vastly.)*
- *Empire (Rome eventually morphed into an empire, ruled with supreme authority by a Caesar. Many citizens of the Roman Empire regarded the Caesar as the manifestation of a god on earth, and the embodiment of divine morality.)*

2. Why was Julius Caesar assassinated?

*Julius Caesar quickly rose to power as an emperor of Rome and was given a mandate by his people to rule as “dictator for life.” However, a group from the senate--some of whom were his close friends--feared Julius' excessive power, and plotted to assassinate him before he established a monarchy. His murder on the Ides of March, or March 15th, is perhaps the world's most notorious political assassination.*

3. Describe the tale of Romulus and Remus. According to legend, which of these two brothers founded Rome?

*According to legend, Romulus and Remus were the sons of the Roman god of war, Mars. As infants, they were set adrift in a basket down the Tiber River by a wicked king named Alba. They were rescued by a she-wolf and nourished back to health. When the boys grew up, however, they fell into a heated debate over the founding of Rome. Legend details that Romulus killed Remus, and became the king of Rome.*

4. How was our modern-day western calendar developed?

*Roman Emperor Julius Caesar is largely responsible for our modern western calendar. The Romans initially divided the year into ten--not twelve--months. But the ten-month calendar was confusing and inaccurate. So, Julius Caesar eventually established a twelve-month year, with 365 ¼ days. His calendar remained unchanged, until Pope Gregory tweaked it in 1582, producing the calendar we use today.*

5. Name three of the Emperors of Rome.

*Julius Caesar, Caesar Augustus (Octavian), Mark Antony*

6. What was the *Pax Romana*? Who brought it about and why is it important?

*The Pax Romana means the “peace of Rome.” Octavian, who renamed himself Augustus, was responsible for bringing about this era of peace. Caesar Augustus brought an end to civil war, instituted a public welfare program, stabilized the work force, stimulated free trade, began an extensive building program, ordered the construction of quality roads, and strategically glorified Rome over himself. Under his reign, Rome shifted permanently from the Roman Republic to the Roman Empire, and Caesar Augustus’ people esteemed him as their supreme ruler and emperor. Rome was truly reborn, and the Pax Romana--or peace of Rome--that Augustus brought about returned Rome to its former glory.*

7. What happened to the Jewish temple in Jerusalem?

*The Jewish temple in Jerusalem was obliterated by the Romans. Its destruction was one of the most significant events in the entire history of the Jewish nation. The New Testament tells us that Jesus of Nazareth foretold this event over 30 years before it took place.*