



ANSWER GUIDE

Ancient: Episode 8

Ruins and Romans

Discussion Questions and Answers

1. The Romans built many impressive structures without steel or modern tools to assist them. What were some of their building techniques?

Examples include: concrete, arches, and columns.

2. It is strange to think there was a time when columns didn't exist. What are some famous examples of columns in the United States today?

An example: If you visit Washington D.C., you'll be surrounded by columns. Corinthian columns can be seen at the U.S. Supreme Court. The White House prominently features Ionic columns. And all three styles of columns are on display at the U.S. Capitol Building.

3. During the Roman Empire, what were amphitheaters and how were they used?

During the Roman Empire, amphitheaters were huge public buildings used for entertainment, spectator sports, public games, artistic performances, etc.

4. How do earthquakes provide clues for historians regarding certain New Testament letters?

Earthquakes have provided clues to historians regarding when certain New Testament Letters were written. For example, many historians argue that Paul's letter to the church in Colossae was written before the year 60 AD. Paul had such deep concern for this group of believers that it's almost unimaginable he would have failed to mention the devastating earthquake that occurred in 60 AD, especially if citizens were still suffering from its effects.

5. Describe the message embodied in Paul's letter to the Colossians.

Paul taught the true philosophy of Jesus Christ, in whom he claimed are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. He advocated that God shows no favoritism -- there is neither Jew, nor Greek -- and even slaves and free individuals share equal status in Christ. The idea that all people share the same status before God was a radical and revolutionary lesson for the Colossians.

6. Why was Paul's message of equality, as detailed in his letter to the Colossians, groundbreaking and counter-cultural?

In the 1st century, the Roman Emperor determined the value of an individual. In addition, one out of every five people was a slave, and considered disposable property. Therefore, the Christian teaching on equality was a radical idea that directly confronted the worldview and practices of the Colossians. In fact, many believe the Christian concept of equality has done more to influence the bedrock of justice and fairness in Western Civilization than anything else.