



## **ANSWER GUIDE**

### **Ancient: Episode 3**

A Time of Challenges

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

1. What were the Punic Wars and who won them?

*The Punic Wars were a series of three wars between Rome and Carthage from 264 BC to 146 BC. The Carthaginians were led by a general named Hamilcar, whose oldest son, Hannibal, became one of the most famous generals in world history. Ultimately, Rome was the victor.*

2. Why did Hannibal bring his troops over the Alps? How did this work to his advantage?

*Hannibal decided against taking the traditional route to Spain by sea. Instead, he attempted to transport his 90,000 soldiers, 12,000 horsemen, and dozens of war elephants through Spain, north through France, and east over the treacherous Alps to invade Northern Italy. This gave him the advantage of surprise.*

3. How did Hannibal lose the war against the Romans despite not losing a single battle?

*Hannibal simply lacked reinforcements. Citizens of Carthage grew weary of the war and abandoned him, and his new allies were unable to provide the support his military needed. He was eventually defeated by slow attrition due to lack of support from home.*

4. What did Hannibal do to win the Battle of Cannae? Why is this battle so famous?

*In the Battle of Cannae, Hannibal utilized military strategies against Roman forces that maximized the specific strengths of his men and exposed fatal vulnerabilities in the opposing Roman infantry. His methodical deployment of his troops in the Battle of Cannae are considered brilliant, even to modern-day historians, and have inspired military commanders for centuries. His military of only 6,000 Carthaginians systematically annihilated what is estimated to have been 47,000 to 60,000 Roman soldiers in this battle. If these figures are accurate, that makes the Battle of Cannae one of the bloodiest, single day battles in recorded human history.*

5. What happened in the Colosseum?

*The Ancient Roman gladiator games. Crucifixions. Wild beast fights. Ship battles. Parades.*

6. Who was Telemachus and what did he do? What was the message of his story?

*Telemachus was a Christian monk who traveled from Asia Minor to Rome in the early fifth century AD. He hated the bloody combat of a gladiator game he witnessed in the Colosseum, and jumped down into the arena floor to attempt to single-handedly stop the fight. The bloodthirsty crowd was infuriated that their entertainment was interrupted, and brutally stoned the monk to death. Later, word reached Emperor Honorius, who was a Christian, and he issued an edict forbidding all future gladiatorial games. Telemachus stands today as a symbol of the influence one person can have when they hold the line of their convictions and take a stand for truth, goodness, and justice. The monk's story is also a tangible example of how Christianity emphasized the value and dignity of human life in a way that ran counter to the Roman culture of the time.*