

235 - 284

**Roman Empire in
continual civil war**

260 **Emperor VALERIAN (253-260) was
captured and skinned by the
Persians**

(God's vengeance for persecuting Christians?)

**ROMAN EMPIRE CLOSE TO
COLLAPSING**


Help is on the way!


DIOCLETIAN (284-305)



- To help inflation – set price limits
- ordered workers to stay in jobs to death
- Sons had to follow trade of fathers
 - Ensure steady production of food and services
- Had support of military
- Tried to increase Roman Unity
 - Worship of emperor as a mark of loyalty
 - Persecuted Christians more because of non-participation and separateness, than beliefs
 - Oddly, persecutions increased # of people converting to Christianity
- Divided empire into 2 parts

Division of the Roman Empire

 Western Empire  Eastern Empire

 Dividing line between lands under Diocletian and Maximian

Home of Constantius I, Maximian's Caesar

Trier

Rhine

Danube

ATLANTIC OCEAN

Mediolanum

Home of Galerius, Diocletian's Caesar

Home of co-emperor Maximian

Rome

Thessalonica

Black Sea

Byzantium

Nicomedia

Mediterranean

Sea

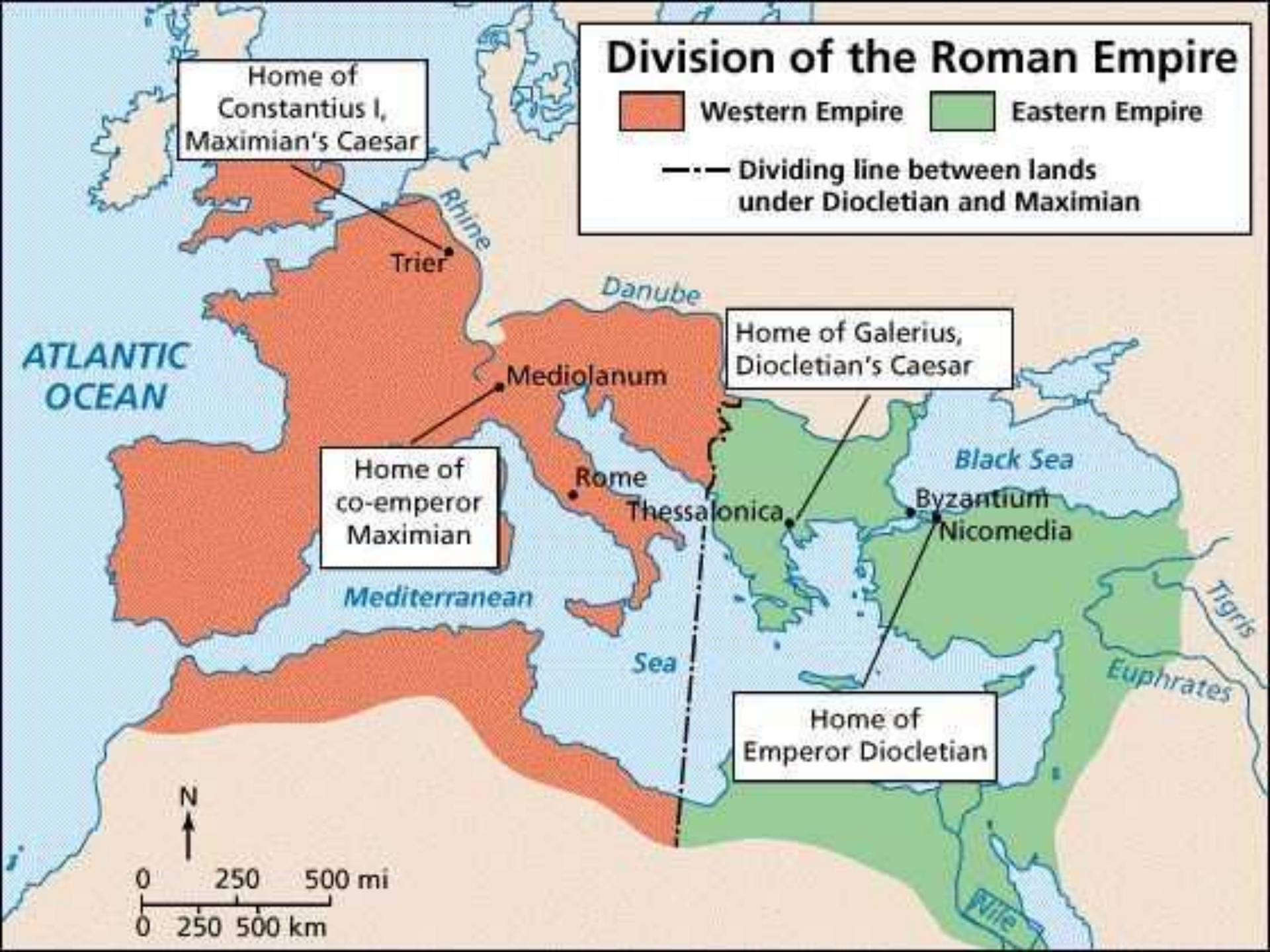
Tigris

Euphrates

Home of Emperor Diocletian

N

0 250 500 mi
0 250 500 km



CONSTANTINE (306-337)



- 312 **BATTLE OF MILVIAN BRIDGE** became Emperor of western half
 - Prayed to **GOD** before battle
 - “In this sign, Conquer”
- 1st Christian emperor
- 313 – **EDICT OF MILAN**
- 324 – *Battle of Adrianople* - defeated eastern Roman Emperor, Licinius giving him total control of empire
- Moved capital to **BYZANTIUM**



Ravenna

Rome

Carthage

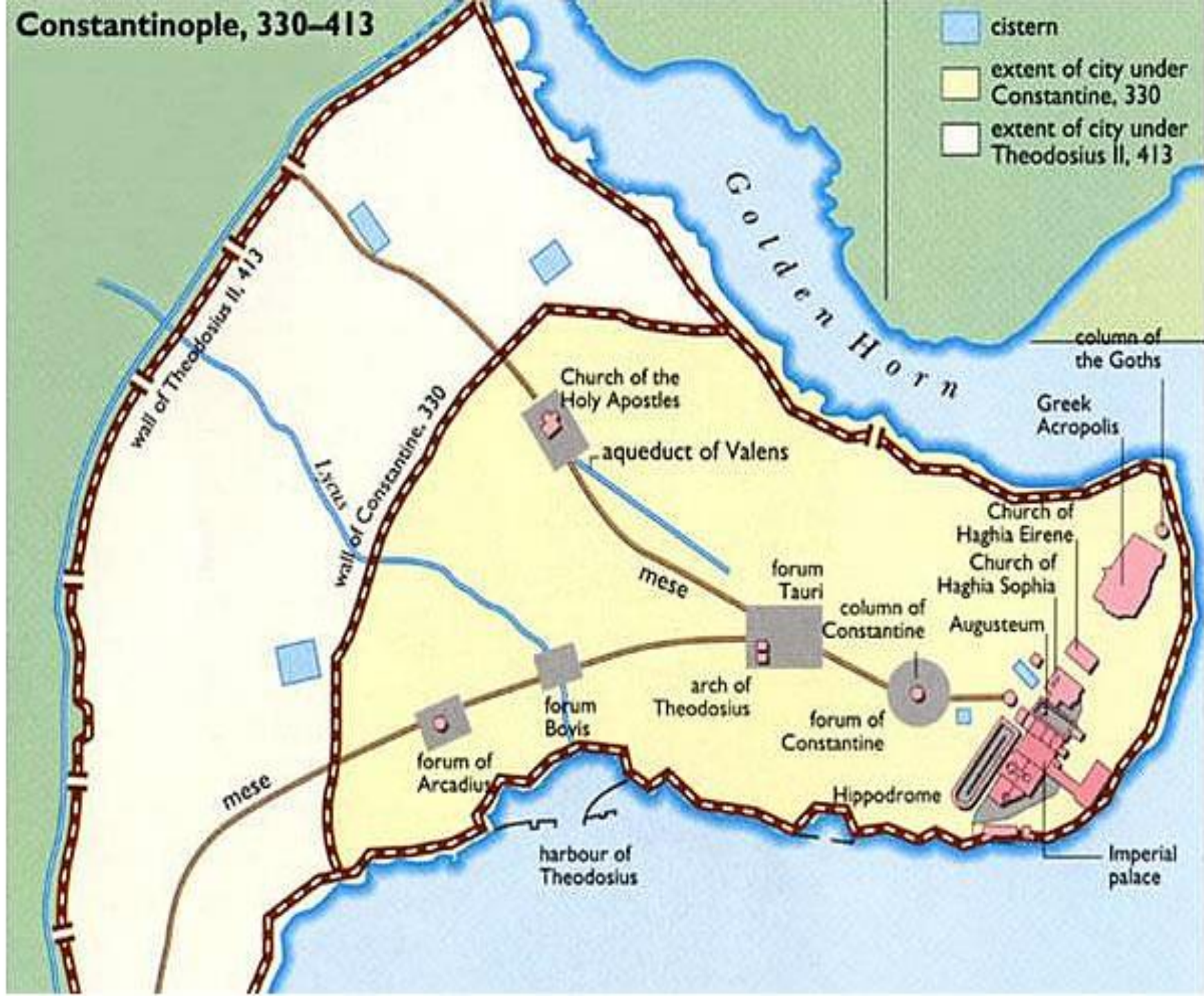
Black Sea

Mediterranean Sea

Constantinople
(Byzantium)

Constantine moved capital to
Byzantium

Constantinople, 330–413



Reasons for moving capital to Byzantium

- 1) stronger economic half**
- 2) easier to defend**
- 3) stronger Christian half**

THEODOSIUS (379-395)



- Theodosius could not rule the empire, divided it again into **East** and **West**
- 380 – makes **Christianity** the official religion of Roman Empire

THE ROMAN EMPIRE CONTINUED TO DECREASE REGARDLESS OF THE EMPEROR OR WHAT THEY TRIED TO DO TO HELP

**REASONS FOR THE
FALL OF THE
ROMAN EMPIRE**

MILITARY PROBLEMS



- Barbarian Invasions
 - Destroyed farmland
 - Fewer crops
 - Less trade goods
 - Decrease in Wealth
- Roman military decrease in power
 - Training, discipline, not enough \$\$
- Hiring Mercenaries
 - \$\$ // No patriotism
- Empire too large to protect

ECONOMIC PROBLEMS



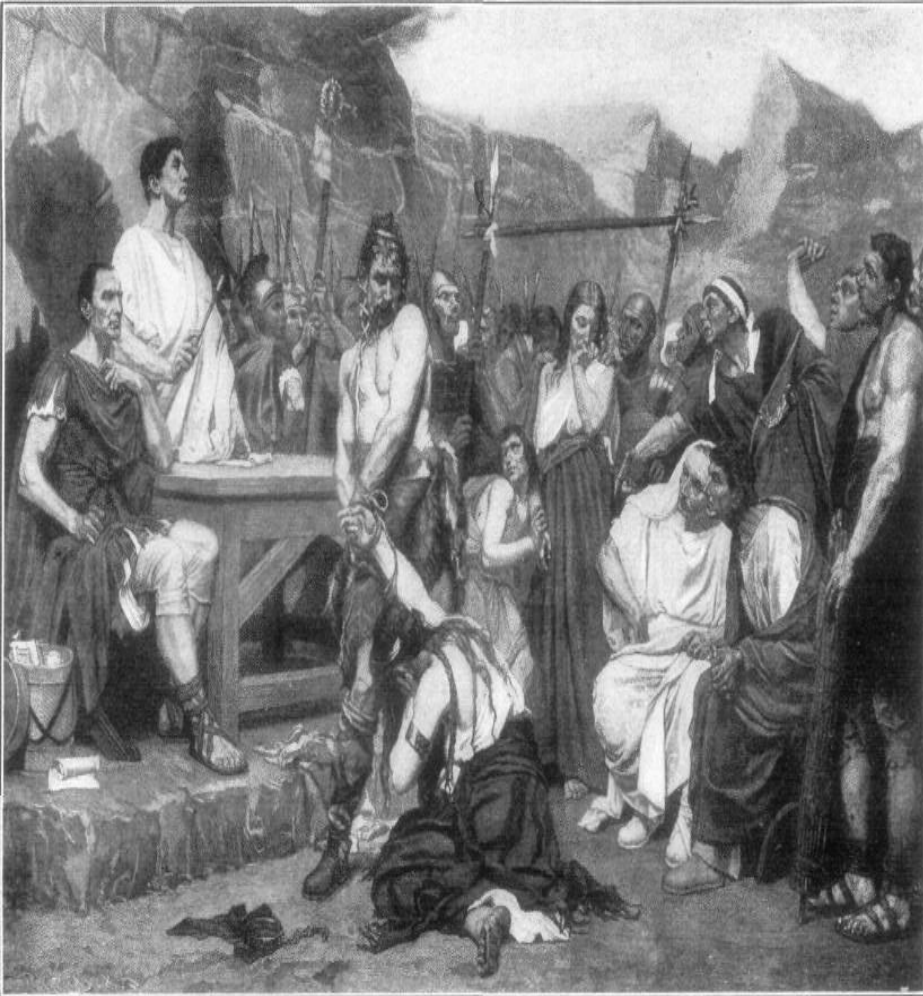
- Decrease in farming
 - Barbarian raids
 - Shortage of food
- Heavy taxation
- Decrease in Population
 - Fewer people to tax
- Inflation
- Increase in bartering

POLITICAL PROBLEMS



- No Set “**SUCCESSION METHOD**”
 - Emperor, Senate, Praetorian Guard, Army
- Poor leaders / “Power Fights” / Corruption
- Talented people chose not to serve due to the dangers involved with government and chose instead to live a life luxury
- Empire too large

SOCIAL PROBLEMS

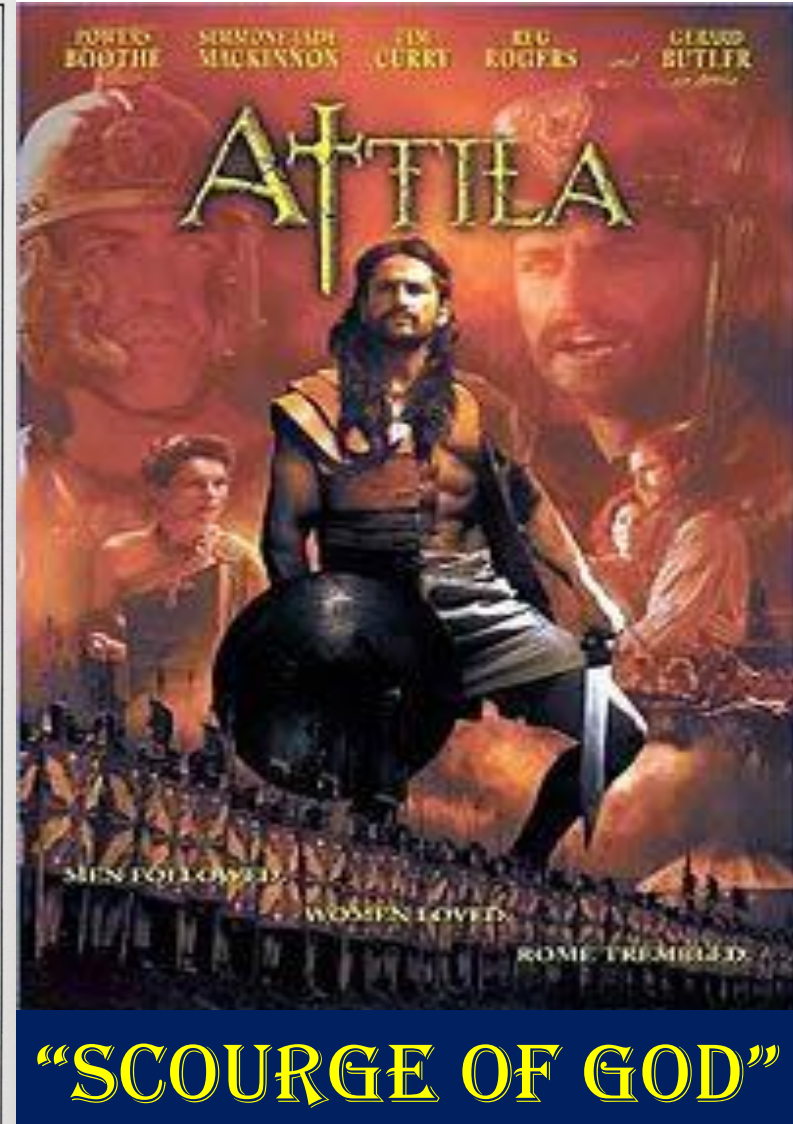
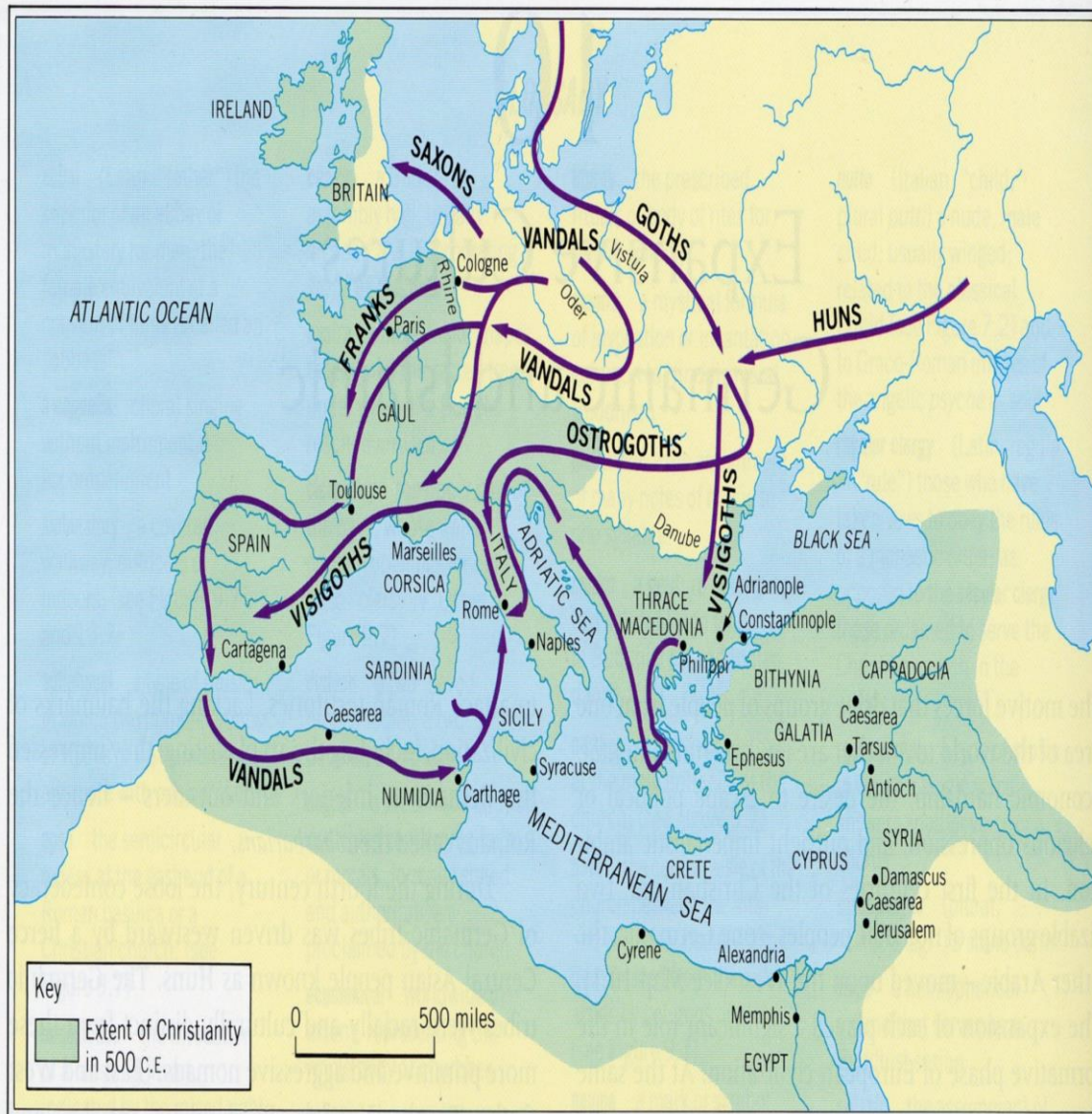


After the painting by R. Coghe

SALE OF SLAVES IN A ROMAN CAMP

- Loss of Patriotism, Discipline, and Devotion to Duty
- Loss of confidence in government
- Large number of slaves
- Plague
- Famine

BARBARIAN INVASIONS



Map 10.1 The Early Christian World and the Barbarian Invasions, ca. 500 C.E.

VISIGOTHS

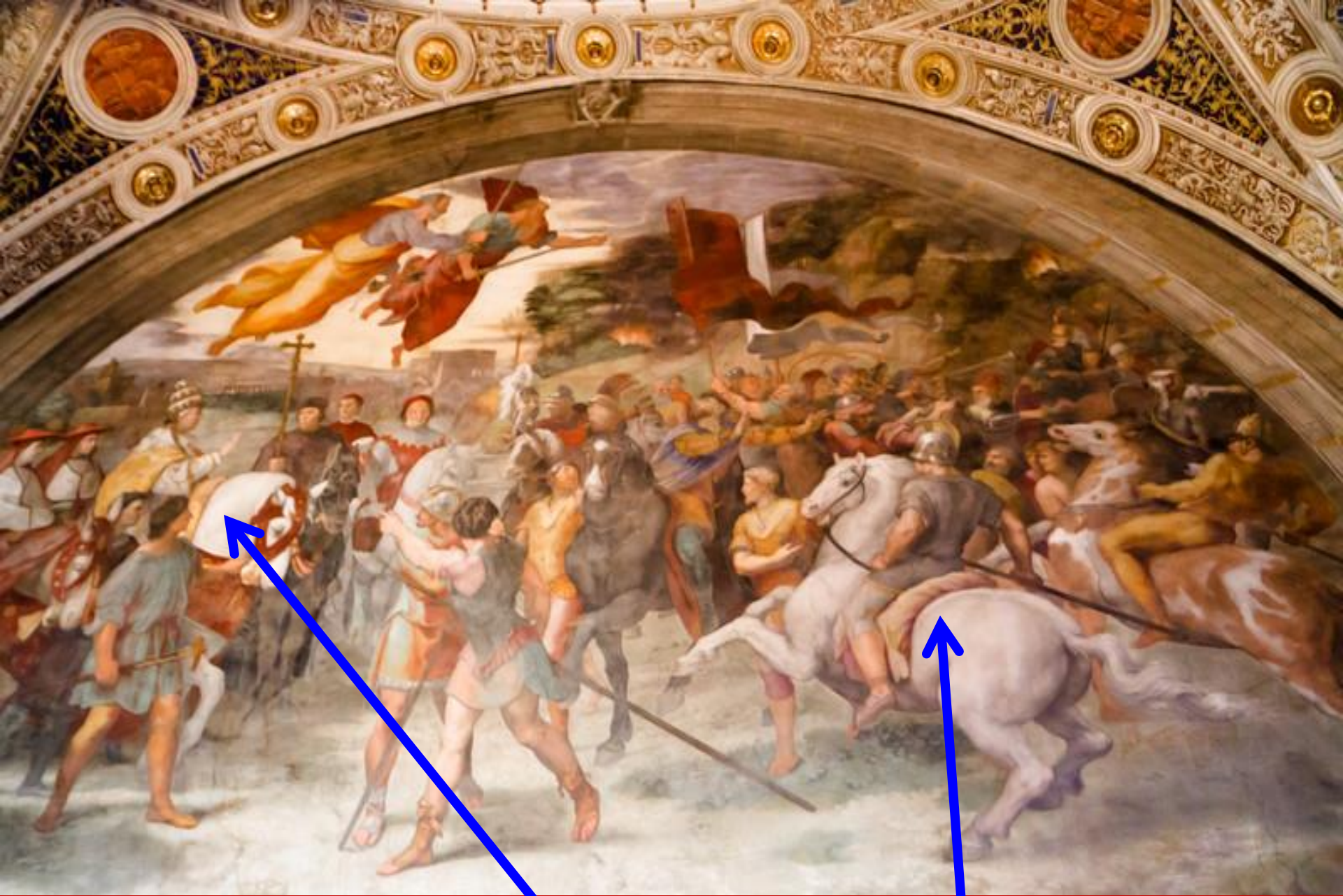


- Rome agreed to allow the Visigoths to live inside of Roman boundaries
- Romans treated Visigoths badly
- Visigoths rebelled and defeated the Romans
- 410 - Visigoth leader, Alaric captured Rome

Attila the Hun

452 -- “Scourge of God” met **Pope Leo I** who dissuaded him from destroying Rome

453 – Attila dies



Raphael - Pope Leo I meeting Atilla the Hun

VANDALS

476

Odoacer defeats last
western Roman

Emperor, Romulus

Augustulus (475-576)

Surrender of Romulus Augustulus



ROMULUS AUGUSTULUS SURRENDERS TO ODOACER THE INSIGNIA OF EMPIRE.

When Rome Fell...

All knowledge, law, culture,
technology, and protection fell
with it



Eastern Roman Empire

BYZANTINE EMPIRE

- **Although the Western Empire fell in 476 CE, the Eastern Roman Empire did not fall until 1453**

