

(6) In 65 A.D. the Jews revolted vs. R. and successfully defeated the R. army. The R. however, gradually reconquered the area @ in 70 A.D. destroyed Jerus. and dispersed the Jews. (Christians had fled to Titus Transjordan)

(7) In 132 A.D. the J. again revolted lead by a false Messiah the "Son of a Star". Bar Kopa They were defeated @ 100 thousand were slain. No J was allowed within ten miles of Jerus.

- 4. A General Summary of the Factors which prepared the way for Christianity.
  - a. R. area of peaceful travel.
  - b. R. concept of law, providing a large measure of pers. freedom.
  - c. Gr. language.
  - d. The breaking down of provincial narrowness due to the succession of empires.
  - e. A wide spread dissatisfaction with the life of the times, engendered by comparative luxury epitomized in the Stoic attitude "the satisfaction of the physical appetites is not the good life."

B. The Beginning of the Expansion of the Church.  
 That the scattered, disillusioned, terrorized followers Christ should found so widespread and lasting an institution vs. so great odds, Dr. Laird has termed the greatest miracle. (Mohammed is seen as having failed until he associated opportunity of plunder and human aggrandizement with his cause.) How then, was the expansion of the church possible in its early days?

- 1. The Resurrection of Christ. The firm belief that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead, after having died the death of a felon, was a powerful stimulus in the lives of the apostles.
- 2. Supernatural help.
  - a. That supernatural help was given the early church to nurture a new organism is clearly taught in Acts.
  - b. The specific revelations of God are mostly in the early chapters. Since these supernatural means were not the appointed means for the spread of the gospels, they decline as the church becomes established.

(That which is vital God stresses. Don't build your doctrine on an obscure passage.)

- 3. Foundation of church life and order
  - a. Est. of order of deacons