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The First Century 1 AD - 100 AD.

I. Emperors of the First Century

A. The Julian Line

1. Augustus - The Caesar of Matthew
2. Tiberius - Ruler when Christ was crucified.
3. Caligula - Suffered from delusions of grandeur
4. Claudius - Inferior in mind and body but tried to be a good emperor.
5. Nero - Made Christians the scapegoats for fire in Rome (64 A.D.)

B. The Flavian Line. (69-96 A.D.)

1. Vespasian - Sent to put down revolt in Palestine, by Nero.
2. Titus - Siege of Jerusalem, 70 A.D.
3. Domitian - Mild persecution of Christians, who were relatives.

II. Papacy of the First Century.

- A. Linus - An important leader in church at Rome.
- B. Cletus - May be same as AnaCletus.
- C. Clement - Wrote I Clement to Corinthians. (Apostolic Father also.)

III. Non-Christian Writers.

- A. Josephus - Jewish writer who mentions James, John the Baptist, Pilate and Jesus.
- B. Suetonius - (On Claudius) - Gives earliest statement on Christ.
- C. Suetonius and Tacitus - (On Nero) - Nero's cruel persecutions of Christians.
- D. Dio Cassius - Roman historian who referred to Domitian's persecution.

The Second Century 101 AD - 200 AD.

I. Emperors of the Second Century.

A. The Antonine Emperors. (96-193 AD).

1. Nerva - Chosen by Senate. Adopted man to succeed him.
2. Trajan - Good general. Gregory the Great 'prayed' him out of hell.
3. Hadrian - Great traveler. Quadratus sent him Apologetical work.
4. Antoninus Pius - Apology of Aristides written during his reign.
5. Marcus Aurelius - Philosopher who wrote Meditations. Had son succeed him.
6. Commodus - Bad emperor but he stopped persecutions.

B. Septimius Severus (See Third Century).

II. Papacy of the Second Century.

- A. Anicetus - Dispute with Polycarp over date of Easter.
- B. Eleutheros - Irenaeus urged him not to make strong stand against Montanists.
- C. Victor I - Irenaeus urged him not to break off fellowship with churches.

III. Non-Christian Writers.

- A. Pliny (110 AD) - Had correspondence with Trajan over Christians.
- B. Marcus Aurelius - Wrote "Meditations." Stoic philosopher.

IV. Christian Writers.

- A. Ignatius - Wrote 7 letters to Churches while a prisoner on way to Rome.
- B. Irenaeus - Pupil of Polycarp who opposed gnosticism.
- C. Tertullian - First Latin theological writer, who was a Montanist.

V. Apostolic Fathers.

- A. I Clement - Godly, Christian man, loved the Scriptures, (first century)
- B. II Clement - Probably not written by Clement.
- C. Barnabas - Not by Barnabas. Against Judaizers. Read as Scriptures.
- D. Shepherd of Hermas - Highly regarded. Read in early church.
- E. Epistle to Diognetus - Discovered in 1592.
- F. Papias - Work not extant, but quoted often by Eusebius and Irenaeus.
- G. Polycarp - Friend of John who wrote letter to Philipians.

NOTE: The remarks on these men are not complete, but merely serve as a guide.