

The Eternal Kingdom

September 18, 2019

Lesson 27

Intro: We are studying the history of the Lord's church. In particular we are studying from the book "The Eternal Kingdom, A History of the Church of Christ". It is authored by F.W. Mattox and John McRay.

Last Wednesday we were looking at persecution of second and third century disciples.

Just to briefly summarize some of the things we discussed

A Review of Last Week's Lesson

- Foreign religions were looked on by the Roman authorities with suspicion.
- Christianity was considered “illegal” and they were accused of hideous crimes.
- We learned about the Druids and the Bacchants were and how they behaved.
- We discussed the two extremes held by the Gnostics.
- Ironically, Christians were called “atheist”.
- We studied Rome's emperor, Caligula (37-41)

(Review bullets).

Tonight we are going to look at other Roman emperors and we'll begin with...

Claudius (41-54)

- Claudius became emperor (41-54)
- Deification of emperors was not a high priority
- However, persecution came to the Christians in another form, what was it?
- According to Acts 12:2, which apostle was murdered?
- What measures did Claudius take when the Jews became violent in Rome?
- What husband and wife were expelled from Rome and labored with the Apostle Paul?

Nero (54-68)

- Under his reign, Jesus' brother, James, was interrogated, arrested, and murdered.
- What happened on July 18, 64 A.D.?
- Who was to blame for Rome catching on fire?
- According to tradition, what two prominent apostles were murdered during Nero's reign?

Vespasian (69-79)

- There is no record of Christians suffering under his reign.
- What passage is credited with Christians departing Jerusalem before it's destruction?

Domitian (81-96)

- He was the son of Vespasian.
- He considered himself divine.
- What were apologists saying about Domitian?
- How do we know that Christians were not treated justly and fairly by Domitian?

Trajan (98-117)

- We see for the first time a distinction between Jews and Christians under his reign.
- Trajan sought out Christianity, not for salvation, but for their destruction.
- What statements did Tacitus, Pliny (the younger), and Suetonius make regarding Christians?
- List some examples of Christians being persecuted under Trajan's reign.

Hadrian (117-138)

- Some persecution during his reign.
- The laws of Trajan were not repealed or replaced.
- In all, it was somewhat peaceful for the church.

Antonius Pius (138-161)

- No account or actual persecution of Christians.
- What might have influenced him to be lenient towards Christians?
- Were lenient sentiments agreed on by all of Antonius' subordinates?