### ROMAN EMPERORS THROUGH THE FIRST CENTURY

1. **Gaius Julius Caesar, 49–44 B.C.**
   - a. Formed First Triumvirate with Pompey and Crassus, 59 B.C.
   - b. Crossed Rubicon to defeat forces of Pompey, 49 B.C.
   - c. Assassinated by Brutus and Cassius (44 B.C.), in an effort to save the Republic from Julius’ dictatorial powers.
   - d. Four months after his death, a comet appeared at games held in his honor. The Senate proclaimed him “the Divine Julius.”

2. **Roman Civil Wars, 44–31 B.C.**
   - a. Octavian formed Second Triumvirate with Mark Antony and Lepidus, 43 B.C.
   - b. Death of Brutus and Cassius at Battle of Philippi, 42 B.C.
   - c. Forces of Octavian defeat forces of Antony at Actium, 31 B.C.

3. **Octavian/Augustus, 31 B.C.–A.D. 14.**
   - a. Great nephew, adopted son, and at age 19 heir of Julius Caesar.
   - b. Octavian, with the consent of the Senate, assumes the name Augustus, a title implying a special relationship to the gods, 27 B.C.
   - c. Maintained the fiction of Republican Rome managed by the Senate while holding the power himself.
   - d. A shrewd ruler who gave the Empire efficient organization and a stable system of laws.
   - e. Inaugurated the *Pax Romana*, the Peace of Rome.
   - f. Jesus of Nazareth was born during his reign.

4. **Tiberius, A.D. 14–37.**
   - a. Stepson whom Augustus adopted and made his heir.
   - b. The last 11 years of his reign, he ruled Rome while living on the island of Capri in the Bay of Naples.
   - c. Appointed Pilate procurator of Judea.
   - d. Ruled the Empire during the ministry and death of Jesus.
   - e. A deeply conservative Roman, he refused to accept divine honors. Unlike his two predecessors, the Senate did not declare him divine after his death.
   a. Son of the military leader Germanicus, received the name Caligula, “little boots,” in the army camp of his father.
   b. A descendant of Augustus and a great nephew of Tiberius, he was adopted by the Emperor and at age 26 inherited power.
   c. Soon intoxicated by power, he claimed to be a god and proposed that his horse be elected consul.
   d. Insisted that a statue of Zeus in his own likeness be erected in the Jewish temple at Jerusalem.
   e. Assassinated in A.D. 41 before the Jerusalem temple was desecrated. The Senate cursed his memory.

   a. A 50 year-old uncle of Caligula, made emperor by the praetorian guard.
   b. Crippled and ill-favored, Augustus had been ashamed for him to appear in public.
   c. Added most of Britain and other domains to the Empire.
   d. Expelled Jews from Rome in A.D. 49. Ruled through most of the active ministry of Paul.
   e. An able administrator, organized efficient government for the Empire.
   f. Poisoned by his fourth wife, Agrippina after she persuaded him to make Nero, her son by a previous marriage, his heir instead of his son Britannicus.
7. **Nero, A.D. 54–68.**
   a. Became Emperor at age 17. Did well during his first years under the guidance of the philosopher Seneca and the military commander Burris.
   b. Warming to his power, within six years he contrived the murder of his advisors, Seneca among them, Britannicus, his mother, and his wife Octavia.
   c. Shocked aristocratic Romans by entering poetry and theatrical contests, as well as chariot races.
   d. When Rome burned in A.D. 64, he placed the blame on Christians and killed many of them.
   e. War with the Jews broke out in A.D. 66. After initial successes by the Jews, the Roman general Vespasian systematically destroyed all resistance.
   f. A revolt of legions in Spain and Gaul led to his suicide.

8. **Year of the Four Emperors, A.D. 69.**
   a. Marked the end of the Julio-Claudian Emperors, so called because all those from Augustus to Nero wore the family name of Julius or Claudius.
   b. Galba, Otho, and Vitellius in turn managed to get control of armies, allowing each to be Emperor for a few months.
   c. Leaving the Judean War, Vespasian was declared Emperor by his army in Egypt. Came to Rome and assumed the power.

9. **Vespasian, A.D. 69–79.**
   a. His son Titus took command of the legions in Judea and destroyed Jerusalem in A.D. 70.
   b. Established a harmonious working relationship with the Senate.
   c. A wise and good Emperor, he engaged in a massive rebuilding program in Rome.

10. **Titus, A.D. 79–81.**
    a. Son of Vespasian who finished the Roman war in Judea, reducing Jerusalem to ruins and ashes.
    b. Erected a great monument, the Arch of Titus, in Rome to commemorate his victory over the Jews. The monument still stands.
   a. A younger son of Vespasian whose political and administrative powers fell considerably below those of his father.
   b. Increasing tensions between the Emperor and the Senate.
   c. During the last year of his reign he insisted on being addressed as a god.
   d. Oppressed several religious and ethnic groups, including Jews and Christians.
   e. Oppression of Christians accelerated, especially in Asia Minor where the Christians were more numerous.
   f. The last of the Flavian Emperors. Flavius was the family name of Vespasian, Titus, and Domitian.
   g. After his death, the Senate cursed Domitian’s memory as they had Nero’s. The Senate named the next Emperor.