

The background of the slide is a rich, multi-layered painting. The upper portion shows a grand Roman cityscape with classical architecture, including tall columns, arches, and a large temple-like structure. The sky is filled with dramatic, swirling colors of blue, green, and red, suggesting a storm or a divine intervention. The lower portion of the painting depicts a chaotic scene in a public square. A central figure, a man in a dark, tattered tunic, stands with a sword raised, addressing a crowd of people. Some people are lying on the ground, while others are in various states of distress or despair. The overall atmosphere is one of a city in its final, turbulent days.

The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire

Political Instability

- After Marcus Aurelius Rome is ruled by weak rulers
 - After 180C.E. = Century of political turmoil
 - 26 different emperors over 50 year span
 - Only one died of natural causes



Social and Economic Problems

- Exhausted Farmland
 - Overuse of farmland lessens agricultural production
- Raising Taxes
 - More troops needed to protect borders meant citizens were taxed more



Diocletian (284-305 C.E.)

- Came to power with goal of reviving Empire
- Increased bureaucracy with hope of making empire run more smoothly
 - Decided to co-rule with Maximian



Division of the Empire 284 B.C.E.



- Diocletian became Emperor of the East and Maximian ruled the Western Emperor

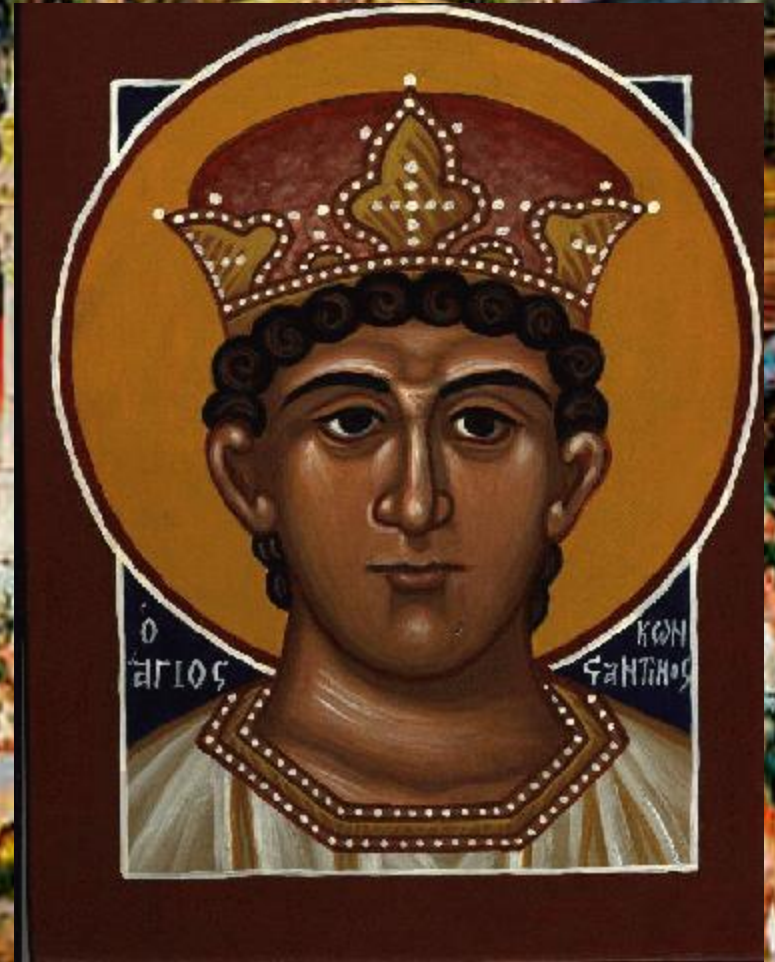
Impact of Diocletian's Rule

- Allowed Rome to exist for another 100 years
- Only emperor to ever willingly give up throne



Constantine 306-337 C.E.

- Started out as General in Western Empire
 - After civil war controlled Britain, Roman Germania, Gaul and Spain
- Believed himself to be rightful heir to Western Empire
 - Had to defeat Maxentius, Ruler of Italy to legitimize rule



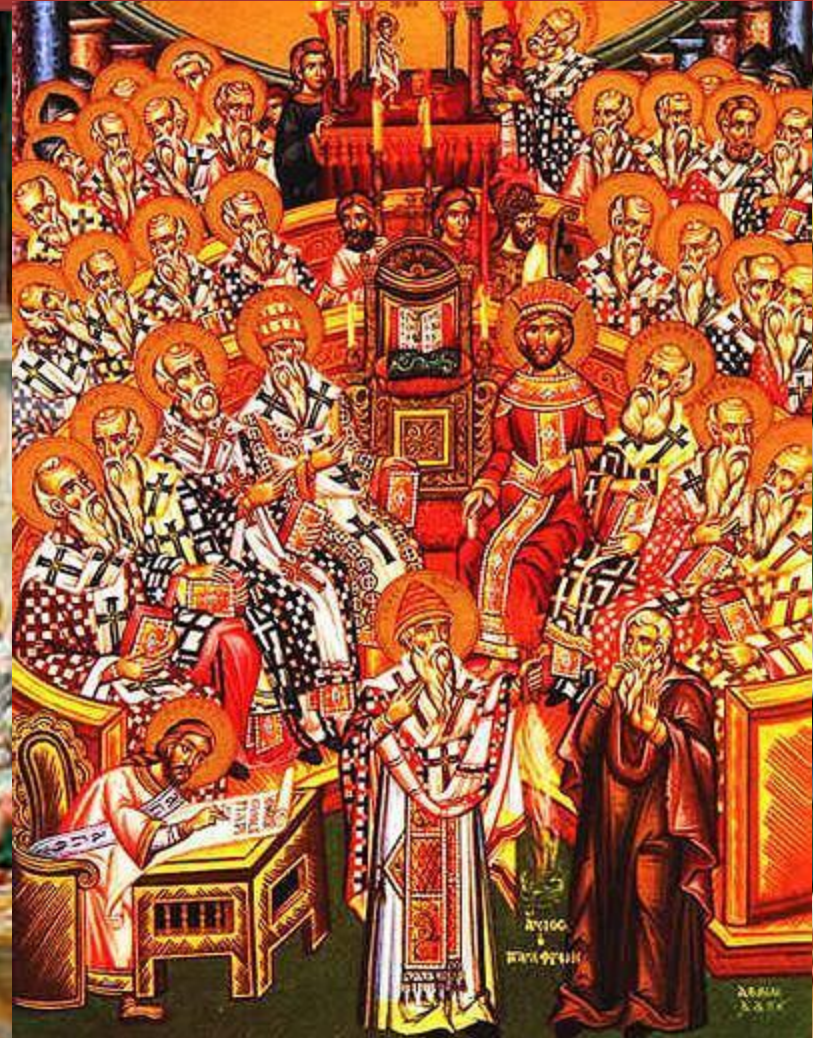
Famous For....

- Battle of Milivian Bridge (312 C.E.)
 - Constantine's plan, destroy Milivian Bridge and build pontoon bridge in it's place
 - Before battle had a vision of a Christian cross
 - "In this sign, you will conquer"
 - Forced Maxentius' army over bridge (Which collapsed) and slaughtered or captured rest of troops



Famous For....

- Council of Nicea (325 C.E.)
 - Formally makes Christianity the religion of the Empire



Impacts of Constantine

- After Civil War reunifies Empire
- Mass introduction of Christianity shaped post-classical Europe
 - Officially allowed Christianity within Empire and allowed it to spread
- Established New Capital of Constantinople
 - Shifted center of power away from Rome

Year	Number of Christians
250	1.1 Million
300	6.3 Million
350	34 Million



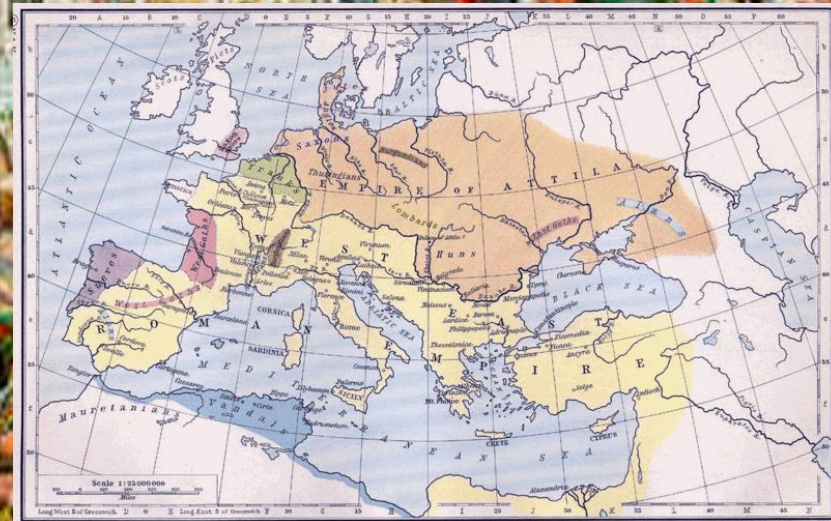
External Troubles

- Facing attacks by “Barbarians”
 - Visigoths in 378 and 410 (Rome Sacked)
- With Western Rome Getting Weaker, more areas sought independence
 - Germany, Britain, Spain, France, all broke away



Scourge of God

- Attila the Hun
 - 441 C.E. Attila begins attacks on Eastern Empire
 - Easily wins many victories and makes his way towards Rome
 - Plundered and destroyed everything in his path
 - Met inglorious death



The Fall of Rome

- Rome left Weakened by Attila
- 476 C.E.
 - Germans led by Odoacer conquer Rome

