

**Class Objectives** – After this class you will be able to:

- Recognize the significance of key A.D. events in the history of Israel.
- Describe various Graeco-Roman social relations.

**Key Terms:**

- Doubt
- Authority
- Herod the Great
- Pontius Pilate
- Slave / Freedperson / Free
- Non-citizen / Citizen
- Patron / Client

**The First Century and the Context(s) of the New Testament (cont.)**

**I. Devotional:**

A. Matthew 28:16-17

1. Context

2. use of “doubt”

B. Methodology

C. Practical Application

D. Matthew 28:18

1. use of “authority”

E. Practical Application

## II. New Testament Backgrounds (cont.):

1. Herod the Great

2. **Palestine in the Roman Period (cont.)**

A.D.

**6-41** *Judaea a Roman province*

**26-36** *Pontius Pilate prefect of Judaea*

41-44 *Agrippa I king of Judaea*

44-66 *Roman procurators rule Judaea*

**66-73** *Revolt against Rome*

**70** *Fall of Jerusalem*

73 *Fall of Masada (some say 74)*

**115-117** *Revolt under Trajan (esp. in the diaspora)*

**132-135** *Bar-Kochba revolt under Hadrian*

**c. 200** *Mishnah compiled*

3. Pontius Pilate

4. Rebellion

**Early Roman Emperors**

23 B.C.-A.D. 14	Augustus
14-37	Tiberius
37-41	Gaius Caligula
41-54	Claudius
54-68	Nero (persecution of Christians A.D. 64)
68-69	Galba
69	Otto
69	Vitellius
69-79	Vespasian
79-81	Titus
81-96	Domitian
96-98	Nerva
98-117	Trajan
117-138	Hadrian
138-161	Antonius Pius

A. Centres of Jewish population in the Herodian period.

B. Some Key Graeco-Roman Terms

1. **Roman Social Class**

Slave – Freedperson – Free

*The instruments by which the soil is cultivated:* some men divide these into three categories: (1) articulate instruments, i.e., slaves; (2) inarticulate instruments, i.e., oxen; and (3) mute instruments, i.e., carts...

However, overseers should not be allowed to force obedience with whips rather than words, if words can achieve the same result. Don't buy too many slaves of the same nationality, for this is very often accustomed to cause domestic quarrels.... Slaves become more eager to work when treated generously with respect to food or more clothing...

**Varro, *On Agriculture*, 1.17 (excerpts)**

Citizenship

Patricians – Plebeians // Senators – Equites

Patron – Client

Men of the lower class have only one way of either earning or repaying favors from our class, and that is by working on our political campaigns and following us around.... This constant attendance, which we have come to expect for men who are honorable and generous, is an appropriate activity for friends who are of a lower and not busy.... Allow these men, who hope to gain everything from us, to have something which they can give us in return.... As they themselves often say, they cannot plead cases for us, or pledge security, or invite us to their homes. Yet they ask all these things from us, and they think that the favors which they receive from us can be repaid by their service.

*Cicero, Speech in Defense of Murena, 70-71*

### III. Questions for Consideration:

1. What was the impact on Israel of the key events at the following A.D. dates: 6-41, 26-36, 66-73, 70, 115-117, 132-135, 200.
2. Outline some of the key aspects of Graeco-Roman social relations.