

Preface

What is unusual, especially significant about these seven councils?

Chapter 1

What was the Roman dyarchy? How long had the Roman Republic and Empire existed before the advent of Christianity?

What causes led to Rome's political instability during the first several centuries of the Common Era?

Describe the Empire's basic organization. What was a province? A diocese? A prefecture? What persons governed each?

How high were taxes on farm goods by the time of Diocletian?

Who were the Western and Eastern rulers at the beginning of the 4th century?

Briefly describe Roman religious beliefs before Christianity. How did Christianity resemble religions already in the Roman world? How did Christianity differ from those earlier religions?

What is *communio*? What was the first great crisis in the church?

What was Montanism? How did it threaten the church? How did the church adapt and use Roman organization and governance?

What were convocations? *Sententiae*?

How, when, and with what efficacy did Roman rulers persecute the church and its members—both before and after 250? Specifically describe Diocletian's persecutions.

Why were Justin Martyr and Origen—and why important?

How and where did Constantine become emperor? What happened at Milvian Bridge to affect Christianity? How did Rome come to "tolerate" Christianity? When? Why?

Review the chronology on page 31.