



MZBMP

Sunday School – Teens Class  
www.mzbmp.org | facebook.com/mzbmp |  
sermonaudio.com/mzbmp | youtube.com/@mzbmp

**TITLE:**

World of Paul

**TEXT:**

Acts 16:6-10

**BC and AD**

- "A.D." stands for anno domini (Latin for "in the year of the lord"), and it refers specifically to the birth of Jesus Christ.
- "B.C." stands for "before Christ."

**THREE POWERFUL INFLUENCES IN THE TIME OF PAUL**

- Greek Culture – giving the world one LANGUAGE
- Roman Power – giving the world one GOVERNMENT
- Jewish Religion – testifying to the world of the one GOD.

**THE CONTRIBUTION OF GREECE**

- The Grecian Empire extended from 331B.C. to 146 B.C.
- The Grecian Empire Territory:



- Greek Language:
  - The great contribution of the Grecian Empire to New Testament Christianity was its LANGUAGE.
  - Greek became the lingua franca (common language) of the Mediterranean world.
  - All the books of the New Testament were written in koine (common) Greek.

## THE CONTRIBUTION OF ROME

- The Roman Empire extended from 27 B.C. to 476 A.D.
- Roman Empire Territory:



- Roman provinces were either senatorial or imperial.

Senatorial	Imperial
Achaia, Macedonia, Asia Minor, Bithynia, Cyprus and etc.	Judea, Syria, Cilicia, Pamphylia, Cappadocia, Galatia, and etc.
Governors were appointed by the senate.	Governors were appointed by the emperor.
Their term was annual.	Their term was indefinitely.
E.g. Acts 13:7; 18:	E.g. Pontius Pilate, Antonius Felix, Porcius Festus
It doesn't require a stronger hand.	It requires a stronger hand and military presence.

- Emperors of the first century:

Common Name	Reign	Biblical Reference
Augustus	27 B.C. to 14 A.D.	Luke 2:1
Tiberius	14 A.D. to 37 A.D.	Luke 3:1
Caligula	37 A.D. to 41 A.D.	
Claudius	41 A.D. to 54 A.D.	Acts 11:28; 18:2
Nero	54 A.D. to 68 A.D.	Acts 25:10; 28:19

- Rome united the world into one great empire by:
  - Building roads and bridges – The system of highways paved the way for the spread of the Gospel.
  - Establishing uniformity, laws, and protection – Roman government gave considerable freedom for the spread of the Gospel.

## LANGUAGE IN THE TIME OF PAUL

- Greek was the common language.
- Hebrew was the language of the religion for the Jews.
- Latin was the official language of government.
- Aramaic (Syriac) was a common shop language in Palestine.
  
- Paul was an educated man who could speak several languages. See 1 Cor. 14:18, Acts 21:37; 22:2.

## PAGAN RELIGION

- Religion in the first century Roman world was mainly pagan.
- Roman empire contained a mix of all their religions.
- Each city had its patron deity.
- Paganism is superstitious. Occult practices were part of the idolatrous system of worship. See Acts 8:9-11; 13:6-8; 16:16-17; 19:13-16; 19:19.
- Idolatrous religion abounded throughout the empire. See Acts 14:11-14; 17:16, 22-23; 19:35; 28:6; 1 Cor. 10:14-20; 1 Thes. 1:9-10.
- The religion of the Greeks and the Romans was similar. The Greek gods and goddesses all had Roman equivalents.

<b>Greek Pantheon</b>	<b>Roman Pantheon</b>	<b>Biblical Reference</b>
Hermes	Mercury	Acts 14:11–15
Zeus	Jupiter	Acts 14:11–15
Castor and Pollux		Acts 28:11
Artemis	Diana	Acts 19

## JEWISH RELIGION

- Groups:
  - Pharisees (“separated ones”) – strict legalists and Jewish “fundamentalists” who believed in the supernatural.
  - Sadducees – liberal, Hellenistic, and naturalistic in theology. Most of the priests belonged to this party.
  - Scribes – those who copied the Law and the traditions.
  - Herodians – a political group that supported the rule of the Herods and the Romans.
  - Sanhedrin – the ruling religious tribunal of the Jews. Under Romans, it rules over religious matters and some internal civil affairs. It consisted of 71 men.
- Synagogue:
  - This institution came into existence during the days of Jewish captivity.
  - It was a place of Jewish instruction, praise, prayer, reading of the scripture and sermon.
  - Paul often went first to the synagogues to preach Christ.

