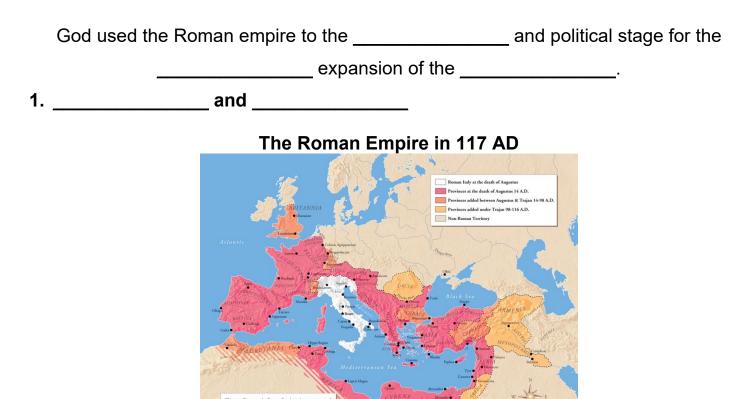# Backdrop: The Roman Empire

Opening Discussion:

1. When you hear about the Roman empire, what comes to mind?
2. How has the Roman empire influenced the western world and the United States?
3. How did the Roman empire impact the New Testament and Christianity?

God used the Roman empire to the _____ and political stage for the

_____ expansion of the _____.

1. _____ **and** _____

The Roman Empire in 117 AD

2. _____ **importance**
- The reign of Caesar Augustus began the Pax Romana, a 200-year time of peace in the Roman world.
- The Romans did not propagate Roman culture. They adopted Greek culture.
- The Romans were ambitious builders: cities, roads, bridges, aqueducts.

3. _____ significance

- The Roman empire is the political backdrop of the New Testament story.
- Roman Emperors mentioned in Scripture:
  - Octavian/Augustus; Luke 2:1
  - Tiberius; Luke 3:1-2
  - Claudius; Acts 11:28, 18:1
  - Nero (not by name); Acts 25:1
- Other Roman characters of note:
  - Pilate, Roman Governor of Judea
  - Roman Centurions; Matthew 8:5ff, Mark 15:39ff, Acts 21-27
  - Cornelius; Acts 10:1ff
  - The Philippian Jailer; Acts
- Rome can be helpful and evil.
- Submission and honor for the government and emperor are commanded in Scripture.

Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. . . . Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. **1 Peter 2:13-14, 17**

4. The Roman Empire and the _____ of the _____
When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. **Galatians 4:4**

After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. **Acts 18:1-2**

Fill in the Blank Answers

God used the Roman empire to the <u>geographical</u> and political stage for the <u>rapid</u> expansion of the <u>gospel</u>.
1. Geography, location
2. Historical
3. Biblical
4. spread, gospel