

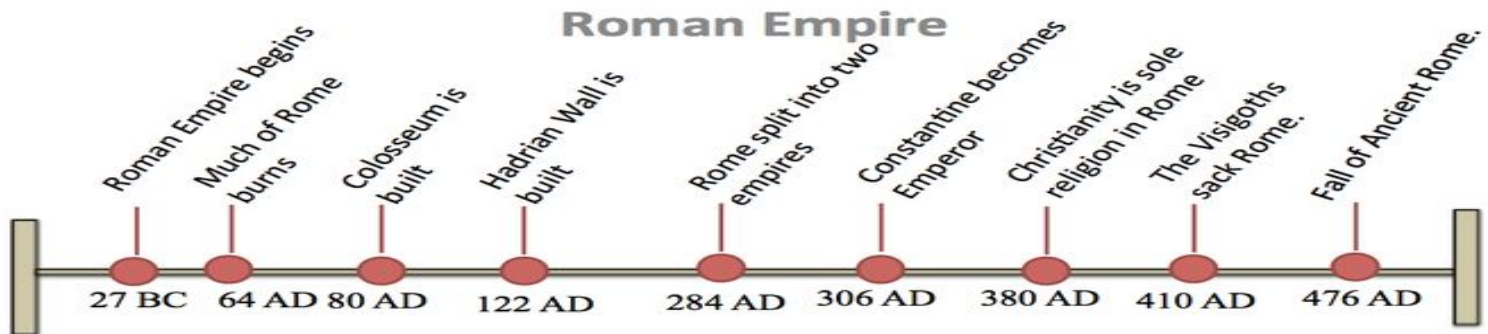
Runnymede St. Edwards School – Knowledge Organiser

Subject: History

Unit: Christianity
in Three Empires

Year: 4

Term: Spring 2



Emperor Constantine 310 AD created:

- a 'new Rome' in the east
- Byzantium
- Constantinople
- Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea
- weather, soil, harbour
- Byzantine Empire
- blending cultures
- mosaic

Emperor Justinian: Introduced
Byzantine Laws

Persecution: Ill-treatment, on the
basis of religion.

Amphitheatre: Where the Romans would
go to be entertained.

Martyr: A person killed for their
religious beliefs.

Reason 1

Christians refused to make sacrifices to Roman gods and goddesses. Romans worried that bad things would happen if their gods and goddesses became angry.

This Roman carving shows two Romans preparing to sacrifice an animal to a Roman god. Find the flames on the altar. They were burning **incense** (a perfumed oil, like frankincense).



Why did the Romans persecute the Christians?

Reason 2

Christians also refused to burn **incense** as a religious offering to the Roman emperor. This made them seem **disloyal** to the emperor.

Reason 3

Christians often gathered together to pray in each other's homes.

This made the Romans **suspicious**. They thought that the Christians must be secretly plotting a rebellion.



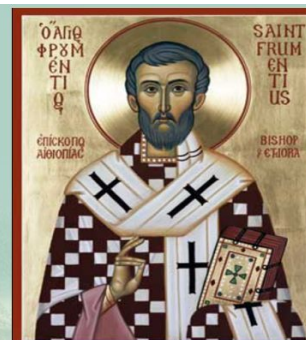
King Ezana wanted a bishop for Aksum.

He sent Frumentius to Alexandria, in Egypt, to ask the Christian patriarch there for a bishop.

The patriarch was so impressed by Frumentius that he made him the bishop!

Frumentius returned to Aksum as bishop.

King Ezana and Bishop Frumentius began to turn Aksum into a Christian state.



In Ethiopian churches today, there are many pictures, like this one, of Frumentius. For Ethiopian Christians, Frumentius is a **saint**.

These two coins were minted in about 300 CE. Each one shows a king of Aksum. On one side of each coin, the language of the writing is Greek. On the other side, the language of the writing is Ge'ez. This was the language of the Aksumites.

