

Lecture 11: *The Spread of Christianity: Constantine and the Bishops*

1. Diocletian and a New Roman Order

- A. Diocletian's Military Revolution
- B. The Tetrarchy – An Empire Divided, but Retained
- C. The Tyranny of Reform

2. The Conversion of Constantine and its Consequences

- A. The Rise of Constantine
- B. Conversion to Christianity and Victory at the Milvian Bridge, 312
- B. The Making of a Christian Empire

3. Creating The Christian Church: Texts and the Making of Orthodoxy

- A. Church Hierarchy and the Authority of the Bishop
- B. The Council of Nicaea, 325 and the principles of faith
- C. Making “Correct” Christian Texts

The Tetrarchy (293-305 A.D.)

The Western Empire

The Eastern Empire

Maximian (Augustus)

Diocletian (Augustus)

Constantius (Caesar)

Galerius (Caesar)

Four new capitals: Trier, Milan, Sirmium, and Nicomedia, (on the frontiers)

The Conversion of Constantine and its Consequences

Constantine (b. 272, r. 306-337)

Conversion and the Battle of Milvian Bridge, 28 October 312

-- Victory over Maxentius

Consequences of Christian Conversion

- Edit of Toleration, 313
- Christians in positions of power
- Christian Building and Basilicas
- Founding of Constantinople = “New Rome”

- Council of Nicaea, 325 = making Orthodoxy Christianity