

Roman Religion and Philosophy

I. Roman Gods

- A. Composed of numerous tribes
- B. City takes over the religions
- C. New gods added
- D. No sacred text
- E. Act of patriotism
- F. Toleration of conquered religions
- G. Roman religion failed to meet the spiritual needs of the people

II. Emperor Worship

- A. Started with Augustus
- B. Direct relationship between gods and heroes
- C. Why is he the Emperor?
- D. Emperor served as a god
- E. Emperor's birthday
- F. Christians and Jews refused to worship the Emperor

III. Epicureanism

- A. Founded by Epicurus, a Greek philosopher (341-270 BC)
- B. No large following
- C. "The correct goal and principle of human actions is pleasure."
- D. World is composed of two items: small particles (atoms) and space
- E. The arrangement determines the object
- F. Atoms are indestructible
- G. Gods do not matter
- H. At death the atoms separate

IV. Stoicism

- A. Founded by Zeno, Greek philosophy (350-260 BC)
- B. Living according to nature or reason or duty (Gods)
- C. A life controlled by reason
- D. Based on the example of the "wise man" or "sage."
- E. Cicero used the term "duty"
- F. Marcus Aurelius, Meditations
- G. Stoicism failed
 - 1. Too intellectual
 - 2. No clearly defined rules of moral conduct
 - 3. It did not relate to religious or spiritual needs of the people