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Review Questions

•Why did Rome choose to expand from city-state to empire? What stages marked that expansion?

•What was the policy of the “New Wisdom” in Rome’s military strategy? Give examples of its implementation. Do you think it was an appropriate and effective policy? What other strategies did Rome employ to win over its enemies?

•Social hierarchy was fundamental to Roman political and social life at all levels throughout its history. Give examples from domestic life to civic life to imperial life.

•What was the policy of “bread and circuses”? How did it evolve? What do you think were its effects?

•What were the accomplishments in which Roman emperors took the most pride? In our text, the example of Augustus is most fully discussed, but other emperors are also mentioned.

•What changes took place in the Roman Empire and in Christianity that enabled Christianity to become the dominant religion? Please note the stages in this evolution.

•Why might historians say that the Roman Empire was “dismembered,” rather than say that it “fell”?

•What factors enabled the eastern, Byzantine Empire to survive for one thousand years after the end of the Roman Empire?