

# The Eternal Kingdom

Lesson #26

September 11, 2019

Intro: We've been studying the history of the Lord's church. A book in particular we've been using as a credible resource is "The Eternal Kingdom".

Tonight we are going to look at persecution in the Lord's church, and in that, we'll begin to understand why the apologists wrote what they did.

## Through Persecution to Victory

### 54-325 AD

- Foreign religions were looked on by the Roman authorities with suspicion. What did the Jews do to arouse that suspicion? How does this jive with what we see in Acts 5:33-39?
- What view did the Roman government have of Christians and how did the Christians beliefs impact the Romans views?
- Christianity was considered “illegal” and they were accused of hideous crimes. What were those crimes?
- What were to two chief reasons accusations were made against Christians?
- Explain who the Druids and the Bacchants were and how they behaved.
- What two extreme views did the Gnostics hold to?
- What were the Christians called because they would not worship false gods?

## Chronology of Persecution

- Gaius, Caligula (37-41), deified himself and his sister, Drusilla. What evidence do we have that he did such a thing?
- In spite of Caligula's behavior, the church experienced peace. Give your thoughts as to how the church experienced peace.
- Caligula was murdered in 41 A.D.

## Claudius (41-54)

- Claudius became emperor (41-54)
- Deification of emperors was not a high priority
- However, persecution came to the Christians in another form, what was it?
- According to Acts 12:2, which apostle was murdered?
- What measures did Claudius take when the Jews became violent in Rome?
- What husband and wife were expelled from Rome and labored with the Apostle Paul?

## Nero (54-68)

- Under his reign, Jesus' brother, James, was interrogated, arrested, and murdered.
- What happened on July 18, 64 A.D.?
- Who was to blame for Rome catching on fire?
- According to tradition, what two prominent apostles were murdered during Nero's reign?