

ARMISTRONG ECONOMICS™

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I have received a few letters regarding religion & economics. One question was if the Romans were benevolent toward religion why were their Christians persecuted? The line between the benevolent Rome and the persecutions came with Nero 54-68AD. Rome was benevolent insofar as they allowed the countries they conquered to retain their gods & culture. The story goes with Nero burning Rome he blamed the Christians to escape the wrath of the people. The persecutions were supported by the notion that because they worshiped one God, they brought the punishment of the gods. The persecutions followed a cyclical pattern with the economy but became most intense AFTER the 3rd Century collapse during the Reign of Diocletian. Defection to the Christians became massive and that is when we see the greatest persecutions. Even the spark that lit the Jewish revolt that led to the destruction of the Temple & Masada, was also Nero who had order his own image to be erected in the temple. Nero was a nutcase. He is also the first person to start the debasement of the silver denarius reducing the purity.

Post-fall of Rome in 476AD, the Catholic Church retained some sense of civilization. But knowledge and books vanished. Public health vanished and bathing just did not exist. It was Queen Elizabeth I who tried to set an example taking a royal bath once a month. Her successor James I, refused to ~~ever~~ take a bath. Much of the knowledge, culture and foundation of society vanished during the Dark Ages, which must have been the stinking Dark Ages.

None of this reflects upon religion. Just as there are clergy who have sexually abused children, that is man not God. Man has interpreted the Bible often for his personal gain. That does not diminish the Bible, only the people who abused it.

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