

Greek Influence:

- Greek Philosophy prepared for the Gospel, glorified human spirit and valued Moral and spiritual truths
- Greek Language common tongue in all Mediterranean world
Many Jews spoke Greek, increasing evangelism
Acts 21:37 As he was about to be brought into the barracks, Paul said to the commander, "Am I allowed to say something to you?"
He replied, "Do you know Greek?"
- Greek Spirit daring initiative, seeping vision, love for truth

Roman Influence:

- Government brought peace
- Roads and highways and safe travel
- Latin language of the church within a few hundred years
- Persecution drove church out and underground

Jewish Influence:

- Monotheism
- Personal God
- Dispersion in Greek times expanded Gospel in 1st Century through Synagogues

Jewish Sections:

- Essenes 150 BC
- Pharisees 500 BC, originally separatists
- Sadducees 150 BC, religious and political liberals
- Samaritans 587 BC, intermarried with Gentiles
- Herodians, Jewish patriots who supported Herod's family against Rome
- Zealots, Jewish nationalists with a fervent zeal to overthrow Rome