

## Chapter 12

### Rome in the East – The Art of Byzantium

1. What city functioned as the center for the Byzantine Empire?
2. Who in the Byzantine world was considered to be Christ's vicar on earth? How did this belief affect the political and religious structure of the Eastern Empire?

#### Early Byzantine Art (527-726 ce)

1. List 4 features that Justinian adopted from the Roman past as seen in the Barberini Ivory (#12-1) What feature makes this image Christian and not pagan?
2. In what ways does the ivory carving St. Michael the Archangel (12-2) reflect Classical prototypes? What new compositional devices are used? What is the meaning of the lobe surmounted by the cross?
3. Give the following information about the Church of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople: meaning of its name; patron; architects; brief description of plan and structure. How did the dome differ from earlier domed buildings (Pantheon?), what was the principal light source and what was the primary decoration in the dome?
4. How does a squinch differ from pendentives?
5. Briefly describe the plan and structure of San Vitale at Ravenna (12-6 to 12-9)
6. Who were Justinian and Theodora and what is the subject of the mosaics in which they are represented in the apse of San Vitale (12-10 and 12-11) What does Justinian's halo signify? What explanation is given for the curious overlapping of Justinian and Maximianus?

7. Explain the meaning of the following symbols from the apse mosaic of Sant'Apollinare in Classe (12-12); jeweled cross; 3 sheep below the cross; 12 sheep. Compare the mosaic from Sant'Apollinare with that from the mausoleum of Galla Placidia (11-15) and describe the stylistic changes that have occurred.
8. What is the subject of the apse mosaic from the monastery of St. Catherine on Mt. Sinai (12-13)? List 3 stylistic features of the mosaic.
9. In what significant way does the representation of the Ascension in Rabbula gospels (12-15) differ from biblical accounts of the event? What might this difference say about attitudes toward Mary?
10. What was the significance of icons in Byzantine worship? What effect did the Iconoclast controversy have on the visual arts?

### Middle Byzantine Art (843-1204 ce)

Define: Pantocrator; Theotokos; triptych

11. What is significant about including of the image of the Virgin and Child in Hagia in the 9<sup>th</sup> c. (12-17)? List 2 contradictory stylistic features contained in the mosaic.
12. List 3 characteristics typical Middle Byzantine churches.
13. Describe two features that identify St. Mark's in Venice as a Byzantine building.
14. What earlier style was revived in the so-called Paris Psalter (12-28)? List 3 features that illustrate this derivation and 1 that does not.
15. What Byzantine characteristics are apparent in the icon called The Vladimir Madonna (12-29)?

## **Late Byzantine Art (1204-1453 ce)**

**Define: anastasis; iconostasis**

**16. List 3 characteristics that differentiate last Byzantine churches from Middle Byzantine examples.**

**17. List 3 hallmarks of the Byzantine style of Andrei Rublyev.**

### **Discussion Questions**

**18. Discuss the development of pictorial form from Roman illusionism to Byzantine pattern (\*noting the changes that you see in the treatment of the spatial setting and the solidity of the human body). Use an example (contrast 10-15, 11-15, 11-17 and 12-12....)**

**19. The apse mosaics of San Vitale have been said to embody the Byzantine ideal of “sacred kingship”. What iconographic features of the mosaics illustrate this concept?**