

THE FALL OF ROME



By the year 400, the Roman Empire encompassed most of modern Europe, North Africa, and Asia Minor. Roman civilization had grown more prosperous and comfortable.

And as often happens in times of material comfort and security, the citizens became more selfish, lazy, and demoralized. The army weakened along with the national morale.

From the neighboring lands, the poorer barbarians looked on with envy at the wealth of the Roman Empire. Although they were poorly organized, they knew how to fight.

Wave after wave of invasions overwhelmed the weakened Roman Empire.



The final blow came in 476 when the barbarian general Odoacer deposed the Western Emperor, Romulus Augustus. The vast Roman Empire which had held most of Europe together in one identity for over three centuries had fallen under the accumulated weight of sordid greed and decadence.

Thus began the period known as the Dark Ages. Historians grope in the darkness of the next four centuries, for no one was writing. No one, that is, except the Church.



The
**BLACK
BOX**
speaks again

Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. (Ezekiel 16:49)