

Reading & Discussion Questions – Bauer pp. 143-49, 255-60; “Gregory the Great”; “The Rule of St. Benedict”

Directions: Please answer the following questions in a typed document following MLA formatting. On time submission = printed document submitted in class on the due date AND submission to Turnitin.com by class time.

From Bauer & “The Rule of St. Benedict”

1. Why did the monks at a monastery near Subiaco ask Benedict to come and live with them, and then try to poison him?
2. What were the circumstances of the founding of Monte Cassino?
3. What sort of life do the monks lead and what was Benedict’s intention in choosing this lifestyle? What was the “the Rule of St. Benedict,” by which the monks in Monte Cassino lived? If a monk broke one of Benedict’s rules, what was the punishment?
4. Why does Benedict think his way of life is the best way?
5. As the Roman empire crumbled, the myth of Roman superiority hung on tight. While the idea of Roman sophistication still lingered, there was no doubt that real power lay in the hands of cunning strategists and successful warriors. How does Theoderic’s actions after becoming king of Italy weaken the idea of Roman greatness.

From “Gregory the Great”

1. How did Gregory "overstep his bounds" by providing for the defense of Rome out of the treasury of the Church? What was Gregory's defense?
2. How did Gregory advance the cause of the Kingdom of God in Britain?
3. In the epistles of Gregory, what practice did he establish for the living arrangements of missionaries?
4. What does this reading tell us about the powers of Gregory and the early church?