The End of Antiquity

• The Ostrogoths fell in 553 after being invaded by the eastern Roman Empire

*The Vandals*

• Established a kingdom at Carthage between 429 and 439 CE under Geiseric
  ○ Rebuked several Roman attempts to retake Africa
  ○ Became the most oppressive of the barbarian rulers of the western empire
    ▪ Took to weakening the senatorial class
      • Large tracts of Roman land were confiscated
      • Romans who held office were expected to convert to Arianism
    ▪ Most senators abandoned their property and fled to Constantinople
  ○ Many Christian bishops were exiled to break the powerful hold of the clergy
• No Vandal could convert to Nicene Christianity, although practitioners were tolerated
• Under Huneric, the persecution of Nicenes intensified
  ○ Executed those who refused to convert
  ○ Bishops were banished to Corsica
  ○ Influential Romans were exiled to the Sahara Desert
• Vandals issued coins and laws in the same was as the Roman emperors
• In 523 Hilderic succeeded the Vandal throne
  ○ Supported the Nicene views, so was supported by the Byzantine empire and its nobles, but not his Vandal citizens
  ○ A conspiracy was started against Hilderic, and Byzantine emperor Justinian took his chance to attack the Vandals in 533
    ▪ Destroyed the kingdom of the Vandals and integrated North Africa into the Byzantine Empire

*The Anglo-Saxons and the Irish*

• "On the Destruction and Conquest of Britain" is the only contemporary account of the barbarian occupation, written by Gildas the Wise
  ○ Around 500, Britons faced a major defeat at the Battle of Mount Badon
• In 597, Augustine, a Roman monk, arrived to convert the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity
  ○ Appointed bishop of Canterbury, and at the Council of Whitby in 664 Roman Catholic traditions were imposed on the surviving Celtic bishops
• Even though Ireland had never been occupied by the Romans, it became an important center of classical culture
  ○ Patrick and other missionaries converted much of the Celts to Christianity
    ▪ Became a national saint of Ireland
    ▪ Irish monks took leading roles in preservation of classical culture