

### **3.1.5. The Byzantine Epic. Epic struggles and expansion of the Empire**

1. Who were the main enemies of Byzantium in the 10th century?

- Arabs and Bulgarians

2. Who were the generals - emperors of Byzantium during the period of conflict with the Arabs?

- Nikephoros Phokas, Ioannes Tzimiskes and Basil II

3. What did the Byzantines regain in these campaigns against the Arabs and for what purpose?

- Crete, Cyprus, the cities of Cilicia, parts of Syria and Palestine. The goal was to regain all of the old Roman lands in the Near East.

4. Who ascended to the throne of the Bulgarians and made relations with Byzantium hostile?

- Simeon
- He was a Greek-speaking and ambitious man.
- He aimed to establish a Bulgarian-Byzantine empire in place of the Byzantine one.

5. What did Simeon do to achieve his goals?

- Simeon besieged the capital of Byzantium.
- He gave himself the title "King of the Bulgarians and Romans".
- His death thwarted his ambitions.

6. Who was the successor of Simeon?

- Peter, who signed a peace treaty with Byzantium.
- He married Maria, niece of Romanos Lakapenos.

7. What happened when Tsar Samuil founded a new Bulgarian state?

- A new war broke out between Byzantium and Bulgaria.
- This struggle was long and difficult for Emperor Basil II.
- It was finally ended with the defeat of the Bulgarians in the battles of Spercheios and Kleidion.
- Bulgaria was fully subdued (1018) and organized into two themes.
- The borders of Byzantium reached the Danube again.

8. What were the economic consequences of the wars of the 10th century for Byzantium?

- The conquests favored the flourishing of the economy, as new lands and incomes were added to the state.
- The cessation of Arab raids allowed the peaceful cultivation of the land.
- The production and monetary reserves of the Byzantine state multiplied.
- Wealth brought luxury.
- The possibilities and international prestige of the empire were strengthened.
- Feelings of self-confidence and pride were born in the subjects of Byzantium.

## Tasks

### A. True or False questions

1. The main enemy of Byzantium in the 10th century was only Bulgaria.
2. Emperor Basil II defeated the Arabs in the Battle of Manzikert.
3. Simeon spoke Greek.
4. Peter continued Simeon's policy towards Byzantium.
5. Bulgaria was fully subdued by Byzantium in 1018.
6. After the wars, the Byzantines felt confident and proud.

### B. Multiple choice questions

1. What did Simeon proclaim himself to be?
  - King of the Bulgarians and Romans
  - King of the Romans
  - Emperor of Byzantium
  - All of the above
2. What lands did Byzantium regain in its campaigns against the Arabs?
  - Crete
  - Cyprus
  - The cities of Cilicia
  - Parts of Syria and Palestine
  - All of the above
3. What goals did Simeon pursue?
  - To conquer Athens

- To become wealthy
- To establish a Bulgarian-Byzantine empire
- All of the above

4. After the wars

- The power of Byzantium increased
- The power of Byzantium decreased
- The Bulgarians were strengthened
- All of the above

C. Fill in the blanks

1. The main enemies of Byzantium in the 10th century were the ..... and the Bulgarians.
2. Simeon was a ..... king.
3. The emperor who faced Samuil was .....
4. The war with the Bulgarians ended with the battles of ..... and .....
5. Bulgaria was fully subdued by Byzantium in .....