

Sermon on the Mount

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God”



**What message(s) is Jesus trying to
make?**

Terms, People, and Places

Messiah:

Apostle:

Paul:

Salvation:

Constantine:

Edict of Milan:

Council of Nicaea:

Patriarch:

Clergy:

Bishop:

Martyr:

Scapegoat:

Pope:

Heresy:

Lesson Objectives

- Understand the diverse religions included in the early Roman empire
- Summarize the teachings of Jesus and how they were spread
- Outline the development of the early Christian Church

CHAPTER
5
SECTION 4

Section Summary

THE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY

Within the Roman empire, there were various religious beliefs. Rome tolerated these different religions, as long as citizens honored Roman gods, too—including the emperor. Because most people were polytheistic, meaning they believed in more than one god, for a long time this was not a problem.

Later, the followers of Judaism became divided about living under Roman rule. Many began to follow a Jewish man named Jesus. They believed Jesus was the **messiah**, or anointed king sent by God. Jesus chose 12 **apostles**, meaning “persons sent forth,” to help him preach his message.

While Jesus’ teachings were rooted in Jewish tradition, he also preached new, Christian beliefs. Jesus taught the need for justice, morality, forgiveness, and service to others. After Jesus was put to death, the missionary **Paul** did much to spread Christianity. The message was helped by the *Pax Romana* and the ease of travel on Roman roads. Paul said that those who believed Jesus was the son of God and complied with his teachings would achieve salvation.

Because they did not obey certain Roman practices, many Christians were persecuted. They became known as **martyrs**, or people who suffer or die for their beliefs. Still, Christianity continued to spread. Many found comfort in Jesus’ message of love and promise of salvation. Finally, the emperor **Constantine** issued the Edict of Milan in A.D. 313. This granted freedom of worship to all Roman citizens. By the end of that century, Christianity was the official religion of the empire.

Each Christian community and its **clergy**—those who conduct religious services—were grouped together in a diocese. Every community had its own priest. All the priests in a diocese were supervised by a **bishop**, a high Church official. Eventually, bishops from five important cities gained more authority and held the honorary title of **patriarch**.

However, as the Church became more structured, differences arose from within. The bishops of Rome came to be called **popes**, and claimed authority over all other bishops. There was also an emergence of **heresies**, or beliefs said to be contrary to official Church teachings. Important teachers helped to define Christian theology. One of these was **Augustine**, from Hippo in North Africa.

Review Questions

1. Why is the missionary Paul an important figure in Christianity?

2. What did the Edict of Milan accomplish?

READING CHECK

What is a diocese?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *complied* mean in the underlined sentence? The word *disobeyed* is an antonym of *complied*. Use the information about this antonym to figure out the meaning of *complied*.

READING SKILL

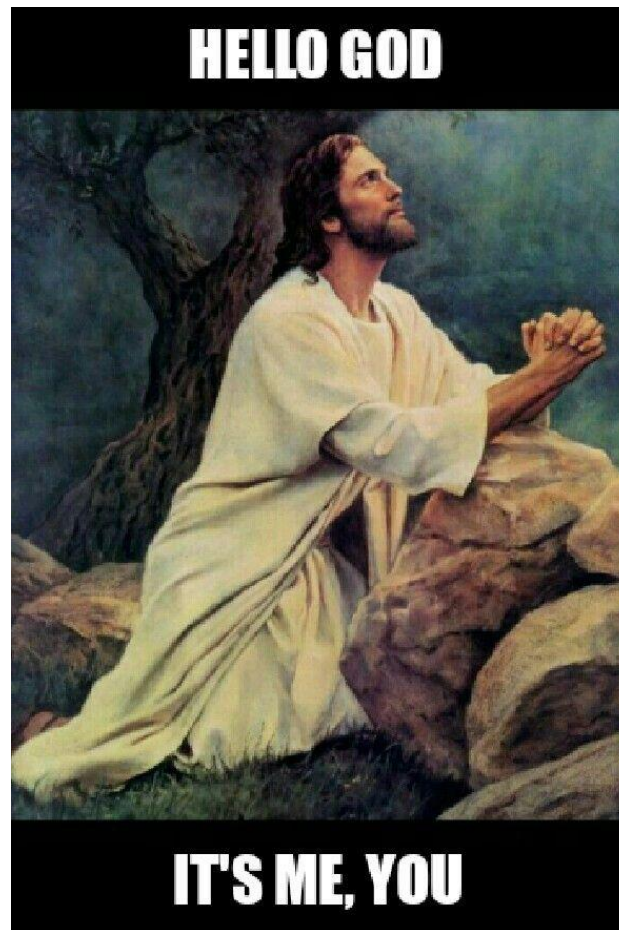
Understand Effects How did Christianity spread?

Summary

“The Rise of Christianity”

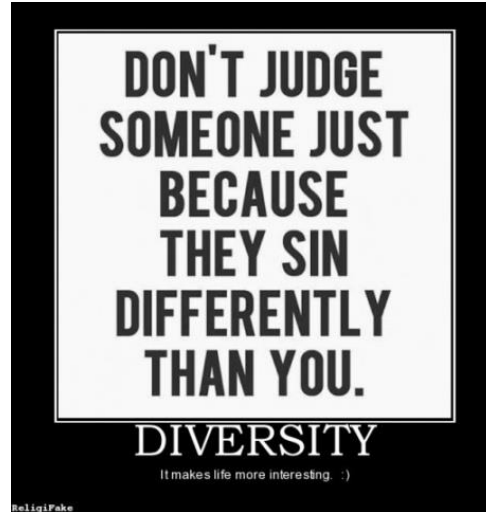
Christianity, which emerged in Roman-held lands in the Middle East, spread quickly throughout the Roman Empire. By 392, Christianity became the official religion of the empire. The new faith reshaped Roman beliefs.

Aim #21: How did Christianity develop and spread?



Diverse Religions in Roman Empire

- Tolerant
 - loyalty to Roman gods
 - acknowledge divine emperor
- 63 BCE, Rome conquered Judea
 - excused Jews from Roman gods
- Zealots called for rebellion
 - believed in messiah
- 70 CE, Rome crushed rebellion & destroyed Temple



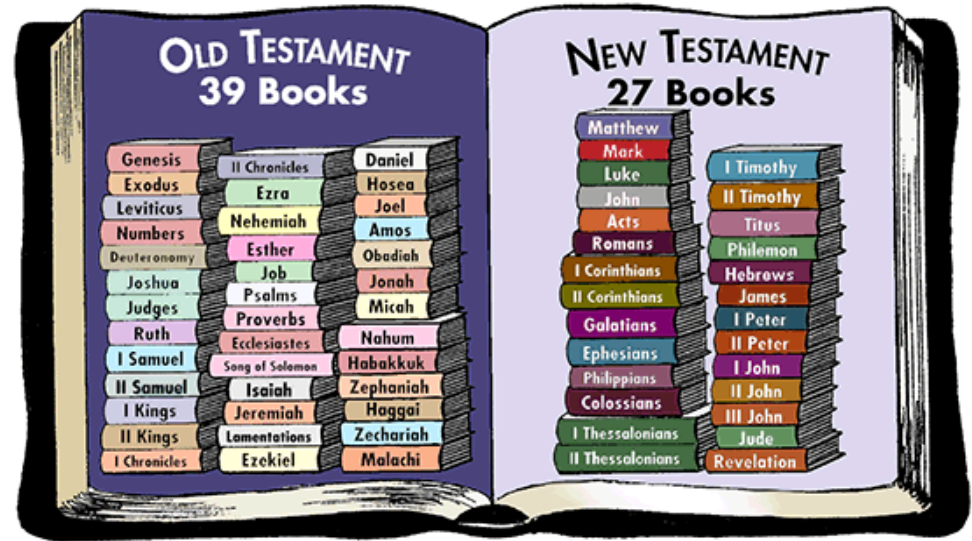


Checkpoint

What was Rome's policy toward most of the religions in the empire?

Jesus's Early Life

- In turmoil of Judea, Jesus is born (4BCE)
- Gospels tells Jesus' life
- Grew up Jewish
- Began preaching at 30
 - used parables
 - performed miracles
- Recruited 12 disciples/apostles to spread his mission in Jerusalem



Jesus's Teachings



- taught & followed Jewish laws/traditions
- New teachings:
 - he's son of god
 - he will bring **salvation** & eternal life to whoever believed in him
- god's love, justice, & morality
- forgiveness & helping others
- threat to Romans for enticing rebellion
 - jailed, tried, & condemned to crucifixion (30 or 36 CE)
- Gospels:
 - Jesus arose from dead
 - told disciples to spread his teachings
 - arose into heaven

Christianity

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graph TD; C[Christianity] --> S[Salvation & eternal life goes to those who follow Jesus]; C --> F[Faith in one god]; C --> J[Jesus was the son of god & the Messiah]; C --> T[Jesus' teachings: Mercy & sympathy for poor & helpless brotherhood & equality of people]; C --> M[god gave the Hebrews the Ten Commandments through Moses]; C --> B[Bible includes Old Testament from Judaism & New Testament];
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Salvation & eternal life goes to those who follow Jesus

Faith in one god

Jesus was the son of god & the Messiah

Jesus' teachings: Mercy & sympathy for poor & helpless brotherhood & equality of people

god gave the Hebrews the Ten Commandments through Moses

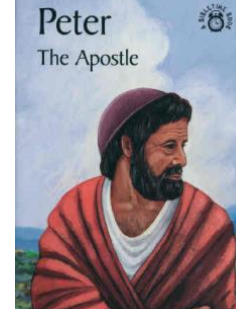
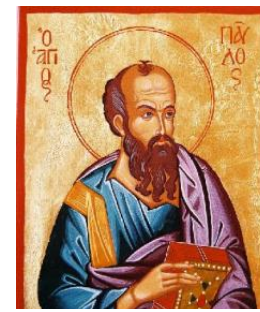
Bible includes Old Testament from Judaism & New Testament



Checkpoint

What were the main teachings of Jesus?

Christianity Spreads



Peter
The Apostle

- Disciples spread Jesus's message to Jews in Judea

- he's messiah/Christ
- followers became **Christians**
- **Peter** spread it in Rome

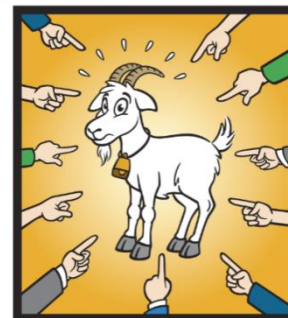
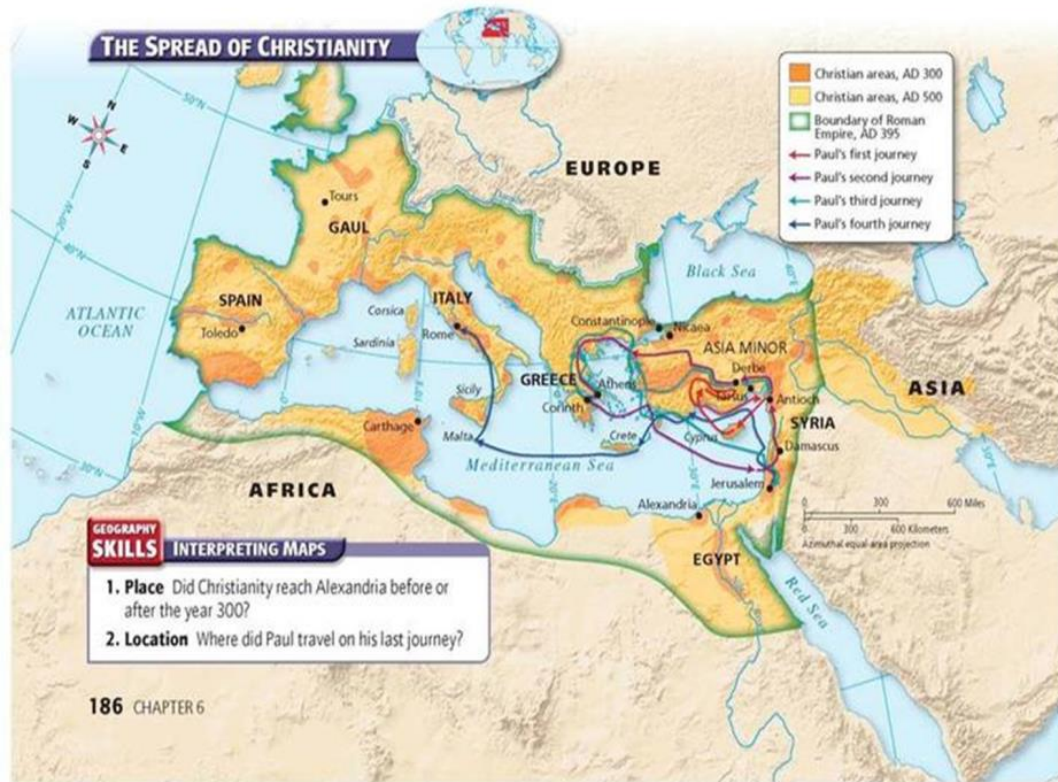
- **Paul** set up churches across Mediterranean

- most responsible for spreading Christianity

- Rome persecuted & killed Christians

- seen as **scapegoats**
- became **martyrs** → More converts

- Paul & Peter killed by Nero





Checkpoint

How did Christianity spread?

Appeal of Christianity

Estimates of population

(Roman empire = 60 million people)

Year	# of Christians	Percent of population
40	1,000	0.0017%
100	7,500	0.07%
200	218,000	0.36%
300	6,300,000	10.5%
350	34,000,000	56.5%

From Stark, *The Rise of Christianity*, p. 7

- Jesus welcomed all as equals
- Comfort in Christian teaching of love & better life after death
- Paul used Greek philosophy to explain Christianity
 - appealed to educated Romans
- Roman unity & peace allowed easy access for missionaries to spread
- Christian writings was in Greek & Latin
 - languages of the people
- Persecution & martyrdom



- Constantine Accepts Christianity
The Edict of Milan 313



- Theodosius made Christianity official religion of Rome 380-393

Spread of Christianity

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graph TD; A[Spread of Christianity] --> B[Emperor Constantine passes Edict of Milan 313 (tolerates Christianity)]; A --> C[Roman empire roads safe for missionaries]; A --> D[Latin was language of the people]; A --> E[Emperor Theodosius makes Christianity official religion of Rome 392]; A --> F[People were comforted by Jesus & his message of love & equality]; A --> G[Missionaries (Peter & Paul) spread it];
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Emperor Constantine passes Edict of Milan 313 (tolerates Christianity)

Roman empire roads safe for missionaries

Latin was language of the people

Missionaries (Peter & Paul) spread it

Emperor Theodosius makes Christianity official religion of Rome 392

People were comforted by Jesus & his message of love & equality



Checkpoint

Why did Christianity appeal to many?

Early Christian Church Develops

- Christians set up **structured Church** as 1 community
- To join, one must be baptized
- Women served as teachers
- A hierarchy of clergy developed

What Was the Organization of the Church?





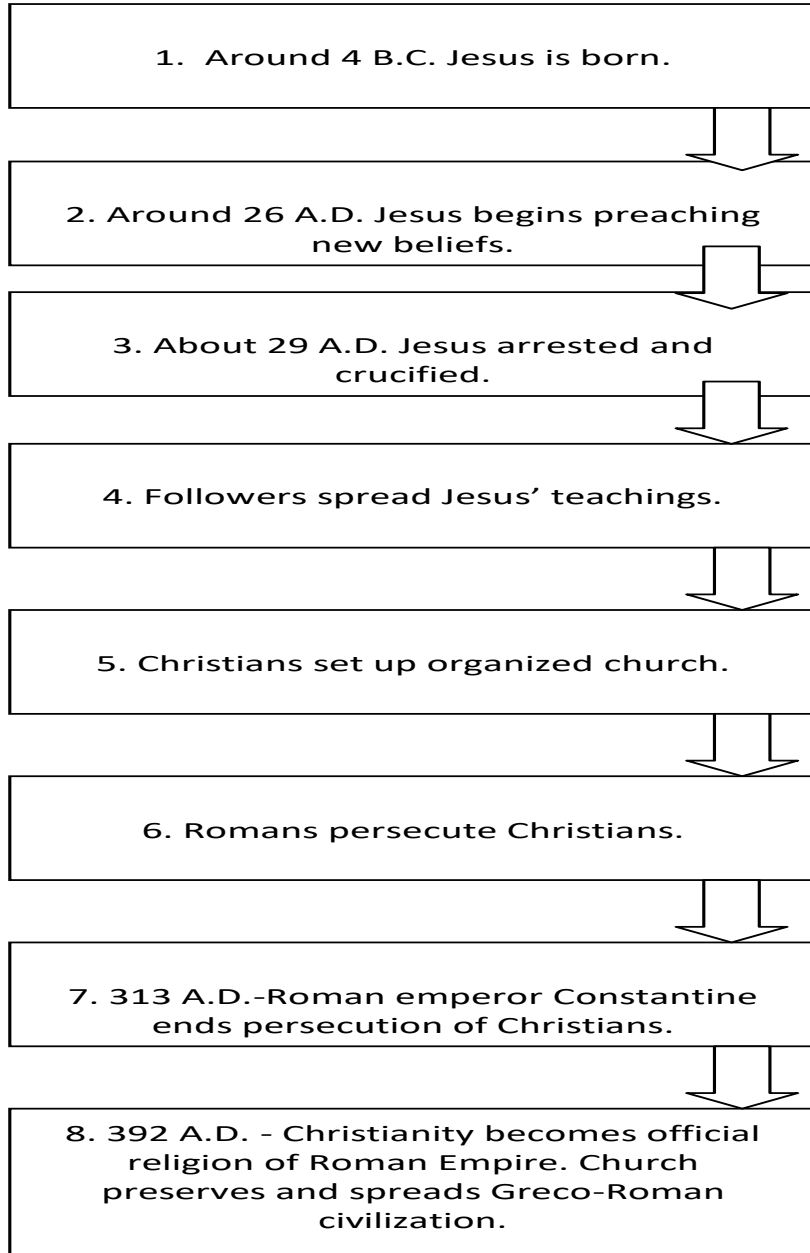
Checkpoint

How did the Christian Church develop & how was it organized?

■ Key Roles in Early Christianity

Individual/Function	Role
Jesus	Jesus taught a new faith, which came to be called Christianity. He recruited followers and spread his message widely.
Apostles	These 12 men were close followers of Jesus. They spread Christianity after his death.
Paul	Through his teachings and writings, Paul spread Christianity throughout the Roman empire.
Missionaries	These religious teachers traveled with the sole purpose of spreading Christianity.
Priests	These leaders of Christian communities formed the majority of the church clergy.
Bishops	These church officials ranked over the priests. Each served an area called a diocese. They were considered the successors of the apostles.
Patriarchs	These men were bishops of major cities and exercised authority over other bishops in their area.

ic Summary: ***Growth of Christianity***



*Christianity gradually spread throughout the Roman Empire. Apostles carried the teachings of Jesus across the region.



I don't get it...



I get it!

EXIT CARD
Please jot down what you
have gotten from today's
lesson and what you still
have questions on.