

The Rise of Christianity

Christianity and the Roman Empire

Christianity Spreads

Rome Reacts to Christianity

Jesus born-story and teaching in New Testament of Bible- Gospels- disciples shared stories and it grew

Jesus- born in Bethlehem, grew up in Nazareth, at 30 (ish) taught and travelled about 3 years

Originally allowed the Jews to continue, but many Jews felt they were mistreated

Jews believed a messiah would come to set the, free Started to push back

Rome struck back -new local leader- Herod -punished them to get them back under control

follow your own religion, but show loyalty to Roman gods and the Emperor

One of many religions in the empire

Rome conquered Judea in 63 BC

Taught basic Jewish tradition and One God, Golden Rule, John 3:16, said he was the Messiah

Teachings worried Romans- thought he was saying that there would be a conqueror that was stronger than the emperor- thought he was an army leader

Jesus was brought to trial for crimes against the Empire- found guilty- condemned to death- crucified

Christians believe that he rose from the dead and ascended into heaven

Spread all over the Roman Empire

Early followers- mostly poor and slaves- WHY?

Founder- Jesus

Spread Christianity all over the Empire

After he died, his followers were called Christians

Jesus was Called- Jesus Christ: Jesus the Messiah

Educated people spoke Greek in Rome

Christos- Greek for messiah

The letters became part of the New Testament

Wrote encouraging letters to the members of the churches- epistles

Started new churches all over the Eastern Empire

Converted

Had a vision on his way to Damascus

Believed Jesus was a liar and rejected Christianity

Jewish man named Saul- Pharisee (most conservative group of Jews)

The conversion of Paul

Christianity spread all over the Eastern Empire

by 100 AD churches had started in Alexandria, Ephesus, Thesalonica, Corinth, Antioch, Rome

Poor loved it- an escape from poverty and oppression

Non believers were called pagans- country dweller

organized as a single church

adopted many Jewish ways of worship (no sacrifices) like prayer and singing

Read Paul's letters, Gospels, Torah. Someone might interpret them.

Met on Sunday (when they thought Jesus rose)

baptism to become church member

Communion- Lord's Supper- represented the Last Supper

Romans alleged that they were cannibals

Christians refuse to worship Roman gods

"No gods before me"

Many refused other Roman responsibilities like serving in the army

Nero- blames the Christians for everything that is going wrong (not that he is crazy and isn't doing his job)

Fire in Rome- blame the Christians

sentenced them to death- many crucified sent to fight wild animals in the colosseum Paul= imprisoned, killed after 2 years

Christians were persecuted for the next 250 years

The Appeal of Christianity

message of love, peace, forgiveness, and eternal life

Jesus was a real guy

they knew the places in the stories

Many emperors persecuted the Christians to try to keep people from accepting it- the opposite happened

Supported widows, orphans and the sick

Written in ordinary language of the day

Parables and Gospels were easy to understand