

Rome & the Rise of Christianity

I. Religion in the Roman Empire

A. Roman Beliefs

1. Religion in Rome was _____ & based upon the _____ gods
2. Romans worshiped the gods but people were not very _____ about their religion

B. Views towards other religions

1. Emperors were mostly _____ of other religions, but expected everyone who lived in the empire to _____ the Roman gods as a sign of _____
2. Hebrews in the Roman Empire
 - a. In 63 B.C., the Romans conquered the Hebrew kingdom of _____ & allowed "Romanized Jews" (who showed respect & _____ Roman laws) to govern Judea
 - b. But, the Hebrews were _____ & many _____ to pay respect to the Roman gods
 - c. Many Hebrews began to _____ Roman rule & believed that God would send the _____ to restore the kingdom to the Jews

II. The Rise of Christianity

A. The Birth of Jesus & Beginning of Christianity

1. Sometime between 6 & 4 B.C. in Judea, a _____ named _____ was born; Many considered Jesus to be the Messiah
2. At the age of 30, Jesus began preaching a unique version of _____ that became known as _____

B. The Teaching of Jesus

1. Jesus did good works, performed _____, & delivered his religious teachings
 - a. Jesus preached a religion based on the Jewish belief in _____ (monotheism)
 - b. Jesus taught that he was God's _____ & that God would rid the world of _____
 - c. He taught of God's _____, mercy and forgiveness towards others, & eternal life in _____ for those who repent their sins
 - d. He based much of his _____ on the Ten Commandments
2. Jesus' message of eternal _____ in heaven appealed to many people, especially the _____
3. Jesus' followers were known as _____

C. The Crucifixion of Jesus

1. Many _____ in Judea did not accept the idea that Jesus was a Messiah & accused him of _____ (contempt for God)
2. Roman leaders _____ Jesus' growing popularity

3. In 29 A.D., Jesus was arrested for defying Roman _____ & was _____

III. The Spread of Christianity

A. The Apostles

1. The _____, especially _____, molded Jesus' teachings into a new religion called Christianity based upon the idea that Jesus was God's son & that he _____ for man's sins

2. The Apostles taught that Jews & non-Jews were _____ as Christians

3. After Jesus' death, Paul helped _____ Jesus teachings throughout the Roman _____

B. Christianity spread quickly due to _____, numerous trade routes, & common _____ throughout the Roman Empire

C. Spread of Judaism & Christianity were seen as _____ for the Roman emperors:

1. Jews & Christians refused to worship the _____ or recognize the emperor as more important than _____

2. Many Christians & Jews were _____ by Romans; Many were crucified, exiled, or _____ during gladiator events

3. Christians who died became _____ (people who sacrifice their lives for their beliefs) which helped spread the faith

D. The Recognition & Organization of Christianity

1. Christianity spread throughout Roman Empire & gained _____

a. In 312 A.D., Emperor _____ converted to Christianity & issued the Edict of Milan which gave _____ & equality to Christians

b. In 395 A.D., Emperor Theodosius made Christianity the _____ of the Roman Empire

2. Christians organized the faith:

a. A hierarchy of leadership was created in which local _____ were supervised by regional _____; The head of the church was the _____ who operated from Rome

b. Teachings were collected into the _____, the official source of religious truth for Christianity