The Origins of Christianity

Christianity developed in Jewish communities and was based on the teachings of Jesus.

# Jewish Roots

* As the empire expanded, the Romans were usually tolerant of different religions.
  + That is, if they worshiped the emperor as a god.
  + This was a problem for Jewish people
* The Romans captured the Jewish city of Jerusalem in 63 BC. This brought the Jewish people under Roman control.
  + Rome stopped monotheism and Judaism in that area. Instead, Rome forced emperor worship upon the people of Jerusalem.

# Jesus of Nazareth

* Christianity is based on the teachings of **Jesus**, a man born into a poor family in Judea around 6 BCE.
  + Jesus’s teachings were preserved through Gospels, written by his 4 closest friends.
  + Gospels are part of the **New Testament**
* Around age 30, he started to preach Christianity around Judea.
  + His twelve best followers were known as the 12 Apostles
  + Titled “The anointed one”, Jews believed that Jesus was the Messiah.
* When visiting Jerusalem, he criticized Jewish teachings and was arrested.
  + Roman authorities executed him on the cross.