

# The Rise and Spread of Christianity

Christianity was born in the city of Jerusalem and was spread by missionaries. Persecuted at first, by the year 600 CE the religion would become the primary religion of Western Europe.

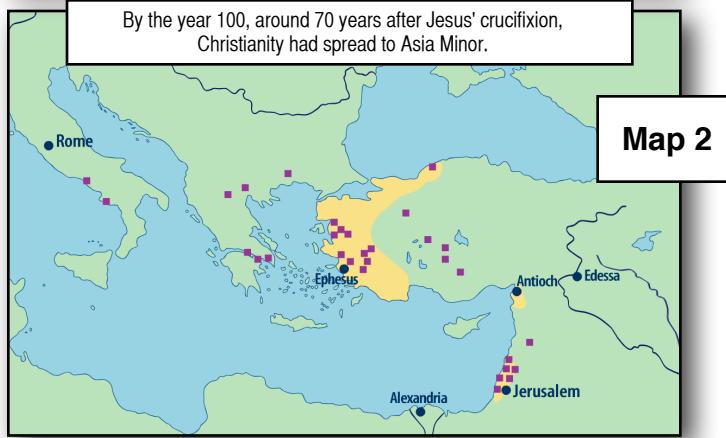


Map 1

Examine all three maps very closely and pay attention to the progression that happens between them.

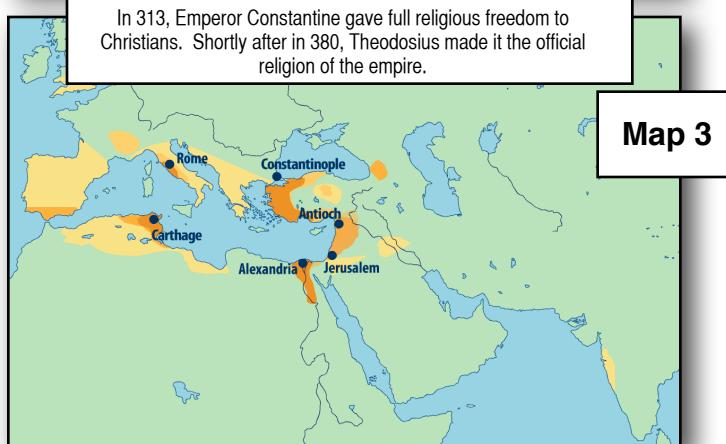
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By the year 100, around 70 years after Jesus' crucifixion, Christianity had spread to Asia Minor.



Map 2

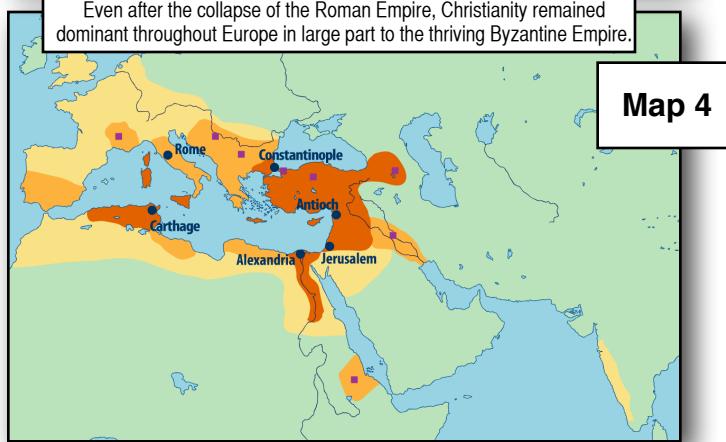
In 313, Emperor Constantine gave full religious freedom to Christians. Shortly after in 380, Theodosius made it the official religion of the empire.



Map 3

- 2.) According to these maps, what Roman emperor was essential in establishing Christianity in Rome?
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Even after the collapse of the Roman Empire, Christianity remained dominant throughout Europe in large part to the thriving Byzantine Empire.



Map 4

- 3.) By what year had Christianity became the primary religion in Western Europe?
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- 4.) Was Christianity accepted in the Roman Empire? How do you know?
- 
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# *The Rise and Spread of Christianity*

## Vocabulary:

Gospel:

Pacifist:

Census:

Baptism:

Disciple:

Parable:

Persecute:

Crucify:

Resurrect:

Blasphemy:

Messiah:

Missionary:

# The Beginning of Christianity

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## Section 1: Verses in Action!

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In Matthew 22:37-40, it says...

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

In Luke 2:1-20, it says...

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How was the Roman province of Judaea different from the rest of Rome? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Why do you think Mary traveled with Joseph to his homeland? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Section 3: Making a Test!

Question #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer #1: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
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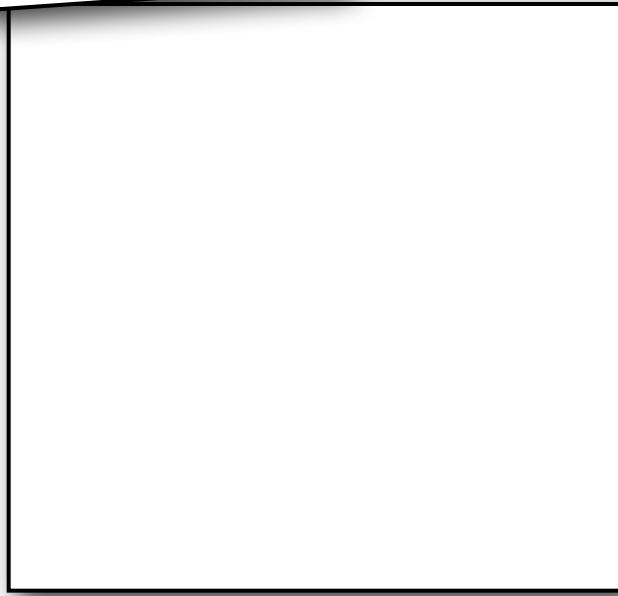
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# Stirring Up Trouble

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"So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which is called Golgotha). There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle."

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"The people were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel."

## Section 2: Close Reading!

What about Jesus' teachings worried the Romans?

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Why were people attracted to Jesus' teachings and sermons?

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# Arrest, Crucifixion, and Resurrection

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"And Jesus Christ was shown to be the Son of God when God powerfully raised him from the dead. God has given us the privilege and authority to tell Gentiles everywhere, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name."

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What caused Jesus to call the Jewish Temple a "den of thieves"? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
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How do you think Jesus felt at the Last Supper? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Missions & Persecution

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### In John 3:16, it says...

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

### In Psalm 96:3, it says...

"Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!"

### In Psalm 23:4, it says...

"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

## Section 2: Close Reading!

Why (and how) were Christians persecuted in ancient Rome?

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What events gave Christians more freedom in ancient Rome?

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## Section 3: Making a Test!

**Question #1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer #1:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# **Christianity**

# **Exploration**

# **Key!**

# The Rise and Spread of Christianity

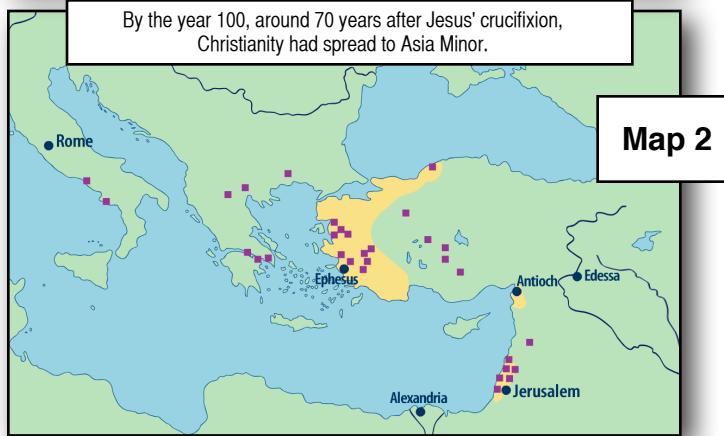
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Map 1



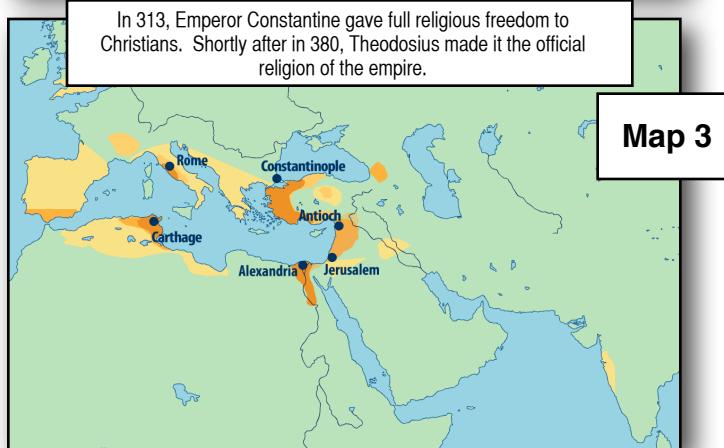
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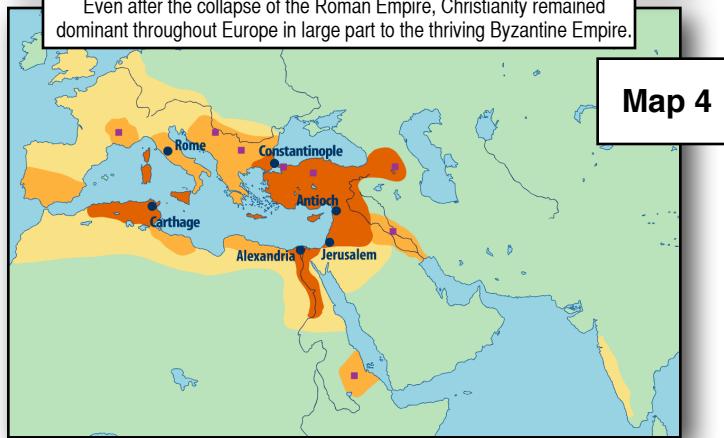
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Map 3



Even after the collapse of the Roman Empire, Christianity remained dominant throughout Europe in large part to the thriving Byzantine Empire.

Map 4



Examine all three maps very closely and pay attention to the progression that happens between them.

1.) Step-by-Step, describe what is happening in the maps to the left. For example, "Map 1 is showing... In Map 2, ...".

**In Map 1, Christianity does not**

**even exist but things quickly**

**change. In Map 2, small**

**pockets are seen throughout**

**the Roman Empire and by Map**

**3 Christianity is everywhere**

2.) According to these maps, what Roman emperor was essential in establishing Christianity in Rome?

**Constantine**

3.) By what year had Christianity became the primary religion in Western Europe?

**600 CE (AD)**

4.) Was Christianity accepted in the Roman Empire? How do you know?

**There was a lot of hostility**

**toward Christians as Romans**

**felt their way of life threatened.**

# *The Rise and Spread of Christianity*

## Vocabulary:

### Gospel:

**gospel** - the record of Jesus' life and teachings in the first four books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

### Pacifist:

**pacifist** - one who refuses to fight or serve in an armed force

### Census:

**census** - an official count of all people in an area. In the United States, a census is done every 10 years.

**baptism** - the religious tradition of sprinkling water on one's forehead, or of immersion in water.

### Disciple:

**disciple** - a personal follower or student of a teacher

### Parable:

**parable** - a simple story used to illustrate a moral or religious lesson

### Persecute:

**persecute** - to be treated poorly because of one's race or religious beliefs

### Crucify:

**crucify** - to put someone to death by nailing or binding them to a cross

### Resurrect:

**resurrect** - to restore something (a dead person) to life

### Blasphemy:

**blasphemy** - speaking very offensive toward God or something sacred.

### Messiah:

**Messiah** - a leader or savior of a particular group (in this case, the Jews).

### Missionary:

**missionary** - one who tries to promote their beliefs, typically in a far-away land.

# The Beginning of Christianity

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"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars: and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity: the sea and the waves roaring."

In Peter 3:15, it says...

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear"

**In Luke 2:1-20, it says...**

"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to his own town to register. "

## Section 2: Close Reading!

How was the Roman province of Judaea different from the rest of Rome? \_\_\_\_\_

**Judaea was on the eastern fringe of the empire. It was mostly Jewish and had different traditions and practices than the rest of Rome.**

Why do you think Mary traveled with Joseph to his homeland? \_\_\_\_\_

**She did not have to, but she was 8 months pregnant. It is likely she wanted to be with him since she was giving birth soon. Maybe did not want to be alone?**

## Section 3: Making a Test!

Question #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer #1: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Section 2: Close Reading!

What was the purpose of Jesus' forty days in the wilderness? \_\_\_\_\_

**He went there to speak with God alone, but it was a test from God. He was tempted by the devil 3 times and passed God's test by resisting.**

How did Jesus reach his followers? \_\_\_\_\_

**He did this teaching simple stories, using parables, speaking on hillsides**

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"The people were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel."

## Section 2: Close Reading!

What about Jesus' teachings worried the Romans?

The Romans were worried the Jews in the area might rise up against Roman rule; Jesus spoke of one God whereas the Romans believed in many; the emperor claimed divine connection to God, who was more important, Jesus or the emperor?

Why were people attracted to Jesus' teachings and sermons?

His teachings were spreading quickly, rumors spread that he was performing miracles; his message was of equality and acceptance.

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## Section 2: Close Reading!

What caused Jesus to call the Jewish Temple a "den of thieves"? \_\_\_\_\_

As travelers came to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration, the Temple was being used for business where many were getting ripped off.

How do you think Jesus felt at the Last Supper? \_\_\_\_\_

He likely felt disrespected that he knew someone was going to turn him in; he also likely felt he could do nothing to stop it as it was all God's plan.

## Section 3: Making a Test!

**Question #1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer #1:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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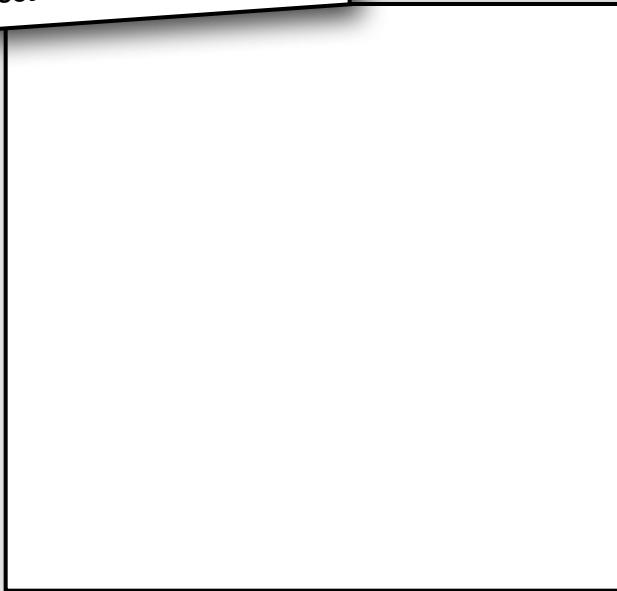
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## Section 2: Close Reading!

Why (and how) were Christians persecuted in ancient Rome? \_\_\_\_\_

**Christians were often rounded up and fed to lions in the Circus Maximus. They were persecuted due to their belief in Jesus/God and a lack of respect to the emperor.**

What events gave Christians more freedom in ancient Rome? \_\_\_\_\_

**Constantine became first Christian emperor and ended persecution, then Emperor Theodosius made it the official religion.**

## Section 3: Matching

Question #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Question #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer #2: \_\_\_\_\_