

Rome and Christianity

Section 2



MAIN IDEAS

1. Despite its general religious tolerance, Rome came into conflict with the Jews.
2. A new religion, Christianity, grew out of Judaism.
3. Many considered Jesus of Nazareth to be the Messiah.
4. Christianity grew in popularity and eventually became the official religion of Rome.

Key Terms and People

Christianity religion based on the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth

Jesus of Nazareth founder of Christianity

Messiah leader Jews believed would return and restore the greatness of Israel

Bible the holy book of Christianity

crucifixion a type of execution that involved being nailed to a cross

Resurrection Christian belief that Jesus rose from the dead after his death

disciples followers

Apostles the 12 disciples whom Jesus chose to receive special teaching

Paul of Tarsus disciple whose letters defined Christianity as separate from Judaism

martyrs people who die for their religious beliefs

persecution punishing people for their beliefs

Constantine Roman emperor who became a Christian

Section Summary

RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE AND CONFLICT

Rome conquered Judea, the territory in which most Jews lived, in 63 BC. The Romans allowed conquered people to keep their own religions. Some Jews wanted to be free and rebelled several times. After the last revolt, the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and forced all Jews out of the city. Jews moved throughout the Roman world.

Why do you think the Romans usually chose to tolerate the religions of conquered peoples?

Section 2, *continued***A NEW RELIGION**

At the start of the first century AD, a new religion appeared. **Christianity** had roots in Judaism, but it was based on the teachings of **Jesus of Nazareth**. The followers of Jesus—the first Christians—believed that he was the **Messiah** (muh-SY-uh), a savior that had been foretold by Jewish prophets.

In Jewish teaching, who was the Messiah?

JESUS OF NAZARETH

Jesus of Nazareth was born at the end of the first century BC. Much of what we know about Jesus is from the **Bible**, the holy book of Christianity. Roman leaders thought his teachings challenged their authority. Jesus was arrested and executed by **crucifixion**. Christians believe Jesus rose from the dead in an event called the **Resurrection**. Many of Jesus's **disciples** claimed to see him again.

Jesus taught that people should love God and each other. Jesus also taught about salvation. Jesus chose 12 of his disciples, the **Apostles**, to spread his teachings. However another man, **Paul of Tarsus**, was most important in spreading Christianity. Paul traveled and wrote letters explaining Christianity. He helped Christianity break away from Judaism.

THE GROWTH OF CHRISTIANITY

As Christianity became more popular, Roman leaders began to worry. Some local leaders arrested and killed Christians. These **martyrs** died for their religious beliefs. Some Roman emperors outlawed Christianity and **persecuted** Christians.

In the early 300s, emperor **Constantine** became a Christian and removed the bans on Christians. Later Christianity became the official religion of Rome.

What risks did early Christians face in spreading their religion?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Drawing Conclusions Paul of Tarsus has been called the most influential man in the history of Christianity besides Jesus. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

Section 2, *continued*

DIRECTIONS Read each sentence and fill in the blank with the word in the word pair that best completes the sentence.

1. Twelve of Jesus' closest followers called the _____ received special training and were sent to spread his teachings.
(Apostles/martyrs)
2. The holy book of Christianity is called the _____.
(Messiah/Bible)
3. Christianity was based on the teachings of a man named _____.
(Constantine/Jesus of Nazareth)
4. People who die for their religious beliefs are called _____.
(Apostles/martyrs)
5. _____ traveled and wrote letters to spread Christian teachings. **(Constantine/Paul of Tarsus)**
6. Christians believe Jesus rose from the dead in the _____.
(crucifixion/Resurrection)
7. In the first century BC, many Jews were awaiting the arrival of a promised savior called the _____. **(disciple/Messiah)**
8. _____ is punishment because of one's beliefs.
(Resurrection/Persecution)
9. The emperor _____ removed all bans against Christianity in Rome. **(Constantine/Paul of Tarsus)**

(Second Page) Students should underline the phrase *to forbid*; Law of the Twelve Tables; meetings, speeches, shopping, entertainment

Challenge Activity

Answers will vary. Student responses should be reasonable and supported.

Fill in the Blank

1. forum
2. veto
3. magistrates
4. checks and balances
5. consuls
6. Latin
7. Senate

SECTION 3

Summary

(First Page) flexibility to fight a variety of opponents under different circumstances; need for food

(Second Page) Punic Wars; he allowed them to serve in the army; leading a revolt against Rome

Challenge Activity

Answers will vary. Student essays should thoughtfully address the idea that one person can change history.

Fill in the Blank

1. Spartacus
2. Gaius Marius
3. legions
4. Hannibal
5. Lucius Cornelius Sulla
6. Punic Wars

Vocabulary Terms

7. c
8. b

Rome and Christianity

SECTION 1

Summary

(First Page) return power to the Senate and bring order back to Rome

(Second Page) to avoid being captured; the Romans used cement and arches to make structures last a long time; the Romans copied Greek designs in art and architecture

Challenge Activity

Answers will vary. Student summaries should include all key events in the rise of Augustus, including: Caesar's return to Rome; Caesar's becoming dictator; Caesar's assassination; the war between Octavian, Brutus, and Cassius; the war between Octavian and Antony; and Augustus's coronation.

Letter

Answers will vary. Sample answer: Dear Julia. I have arrived in Rome, and the city is amazing! So far, I have visited the spot in the forum where Cicero liked to make his speeches and the place where Julius Caesar was assassinated. I hear that Emperor Augustus will be dedicating a new temple tomorrow before sending several legions out to keep order in the provinces. I hope to be able to see that!

SECTION 2

Summary

(First Page) Possible answer—to prevent groups from becoming unhappy and rebelling
(Second Page) the foretold savior of the Jews; persecution and martyrdom

Challenge Activity

Answers will vary. Student responses should be reasonable and supported.

Fill in the Blank

1. Apostles
2. Bible
3. Jesus of Nazareth
4. martyrs
5. Paul of Tarsus
6. Resurrection
7. Messiah
8. Persecution
9. Constantine