

Christianity



Cultural background

- * Christianity began in **Judea** (modern day Israel)
- * This area was controlled by the **Romans**. There religion at the time was Pagan, a polytheistic religion.
- * The Jewish people felt strong dislike towards the Romans that they lived under.



Origins / Jesus Christ

To understand Christianity, one must understand **Jesus Christ**. (“Christ” is a Greek word meaning savior).

Jesus was born around 4 BC into a Jewish family, but began to teach a new type of Judaism that emphasized God’s love for mankind.

He had twelve students or disciples who were called the **Apostles** of Jesus Christ.

Popular
Western
Names

12 Disciples

Mark, Luke,
John,
Matthew



Simon Peter



Andrew



James



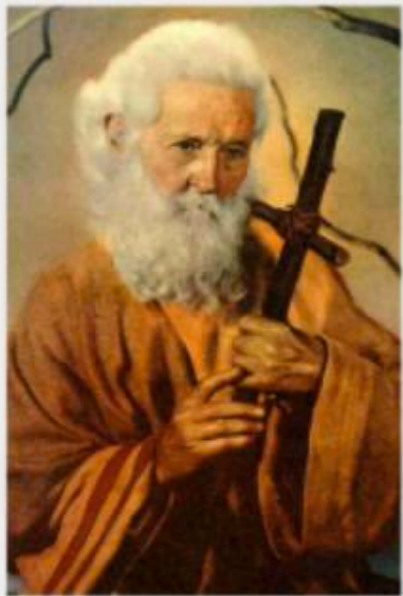
John



Philip



Thomas



Matthew



James the son of Alphaeus



Thaddeus



Simon



Judas



Bartholomew

James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddeus, Simon, Judas,

Messiah?

Some Jews believed that Jesus was the messiah (a person described in the Torah who would be the savior of the Jewish people). Because of this, people called him “King” and his following grew.

The Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, saw Jesus as a threat to authority, and sentenced him to crucifixion (which was a common punishment at the time).



Betrayal of Jesus

At the **Last Supper**, Jesus says,

“Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.”

Judas



Analysis of Final Supper

1. Jesus in the center.
2. Judas has no halo.
3. Judas is holding a small bag indicating the 30 pieces of silver he was paid.
4. Key number 3 (Trinity), 3 windows, groups of 3, Jesus's body shape.



Jesus's Crucifixion

Crucifixion was a Roman method of execution in which people were nailed to a wooden cross and left to die.



Historians think that most likely Jesus Christ existed, and that most likely a crucifixion took place. Muslims believe they accidentally crucified someone else, which is why Jesus appears in their holy book, the Quran.



Resurrection



The bible says that **three days** after Jesus Christ's death, he was resurrected from the dead.

His disciples would go on to tell about Jesus's story, and those who followed him would become to known as Christians.

Resurrection



Christians believe that when Jesus died, he gave mankind the ability to be forgiven of **sins** (wrongdoings), and to live in heaven after death.

Spread of Christianity

His **disciples would go on to spread his beliefs**, but would also meet massive resistance.

For the following three centuries, Christians were **persecuted** (harassed or even killed because of their religious beliefs) - especially by the Romans.

It was not until **Constantine I** made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire that Christians were no longer persecuted.



Disagreements about Jesus

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Jesus was born of a virgin	1:18-25	-	1:27, 34	-
He was born in Bethlehem	2:1	-	2:4	-
He lived in Nazareth	2:23	1:9, 24	2:51, 4:16	1:45, 46
Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist	3:1-15	1:4-9	3:1-22	-
He performed miracles of healing	4:24, etc.	1:34, etc.	4:40, etc.	9:7
He walked on water	14:25	6:48	-	6:19

4 Major Gospels

The Ten Commandments

- 1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.**
- 2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven images.**
- 3. Thou shalt not take the Lord's name in vain.**
- 4. Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.**
- 5. Honor thy Father and thy Mother**
- 6. Thou shalt not kill.**
- 7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.**
- 8. Thou shalt not steal.**
- 9. Thou shalt not bear false witness.**
- 10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, wife or possessions.**

Christianity's Evolution

Christianity would split up into major sects and into even smaller denominations throughout the years.

In **1054**, there is the East-West Schism, which splits Christianity into Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic.

In the **1500's**, there is the protestant movement, which splits the church into Catholics and Protestants.

Today
33000
sects

Major Christian Holidays

* EASTER (APRIL)



* CHRISTMAS (DECEMBER)

* LENT (FEB-MARCH)

A Journey through Lent



MERRY CHRISTMAS

- * A date celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.
- * Although, it had been celebrated as early as the 4th century, December 25th, has been the day for Christmas since the 11th century.
- * The economic impact Christmas has had is one of the reasons it **continues to grow, even in some places that are not Christian.**

China, Japan



SOUTH KOREA DECEMBER

How many of you celebrate
Christmas? What do you do on
Christmas?



Christianity Today

2.4 billion followers (about 32%)

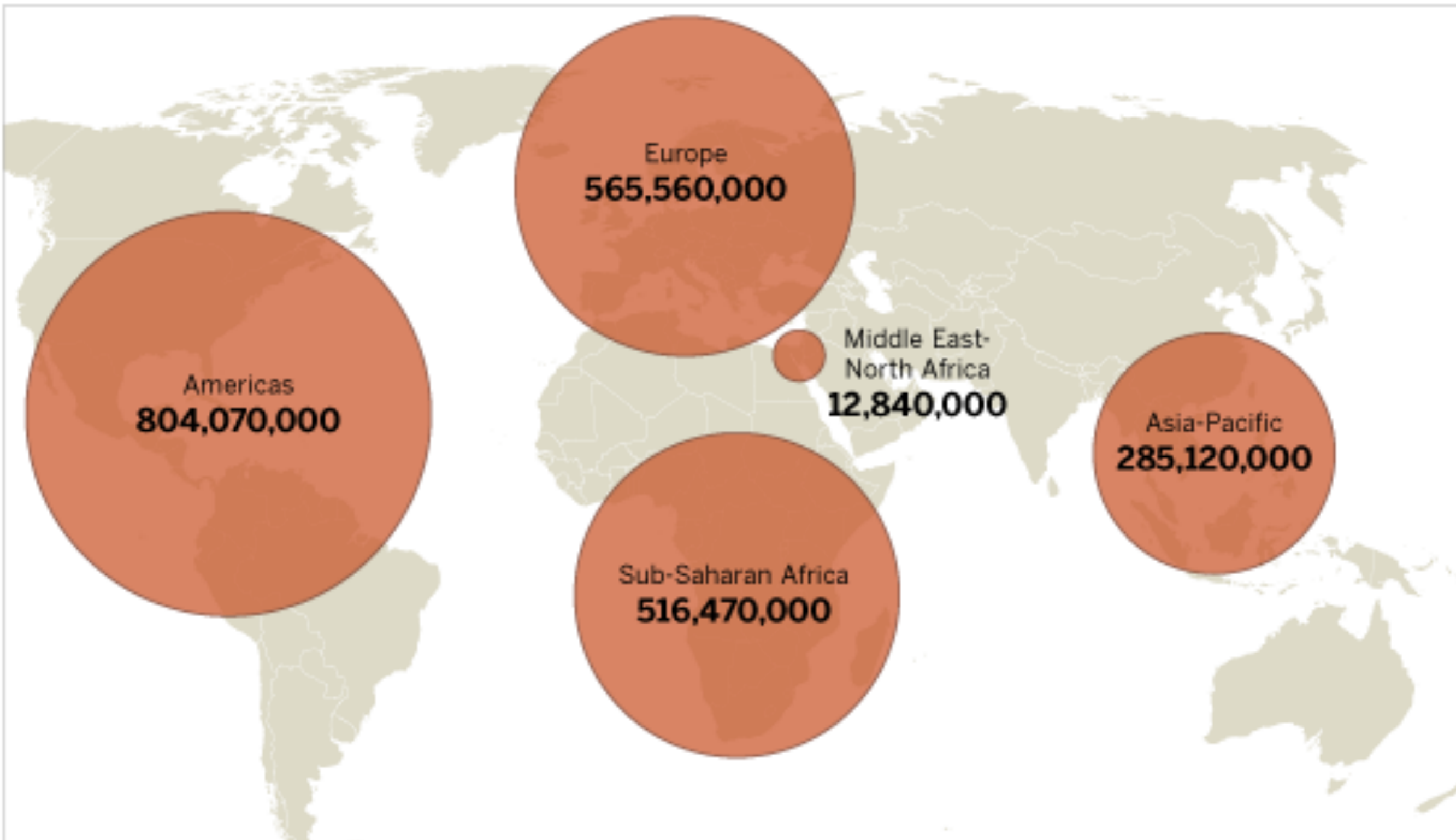
3 main branches, Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox.

The main city for Catholic Christians is **Vatican City**, located in Italy. This is the smallest independent state in the world.

Vatican



Distribution of Christian Population by Region



Judaism vs. Christianity

ACTIVITY

What are the similarities and differences between the two religions? Complete the chart using your prior knowledge, textbook, class website, and internet.