

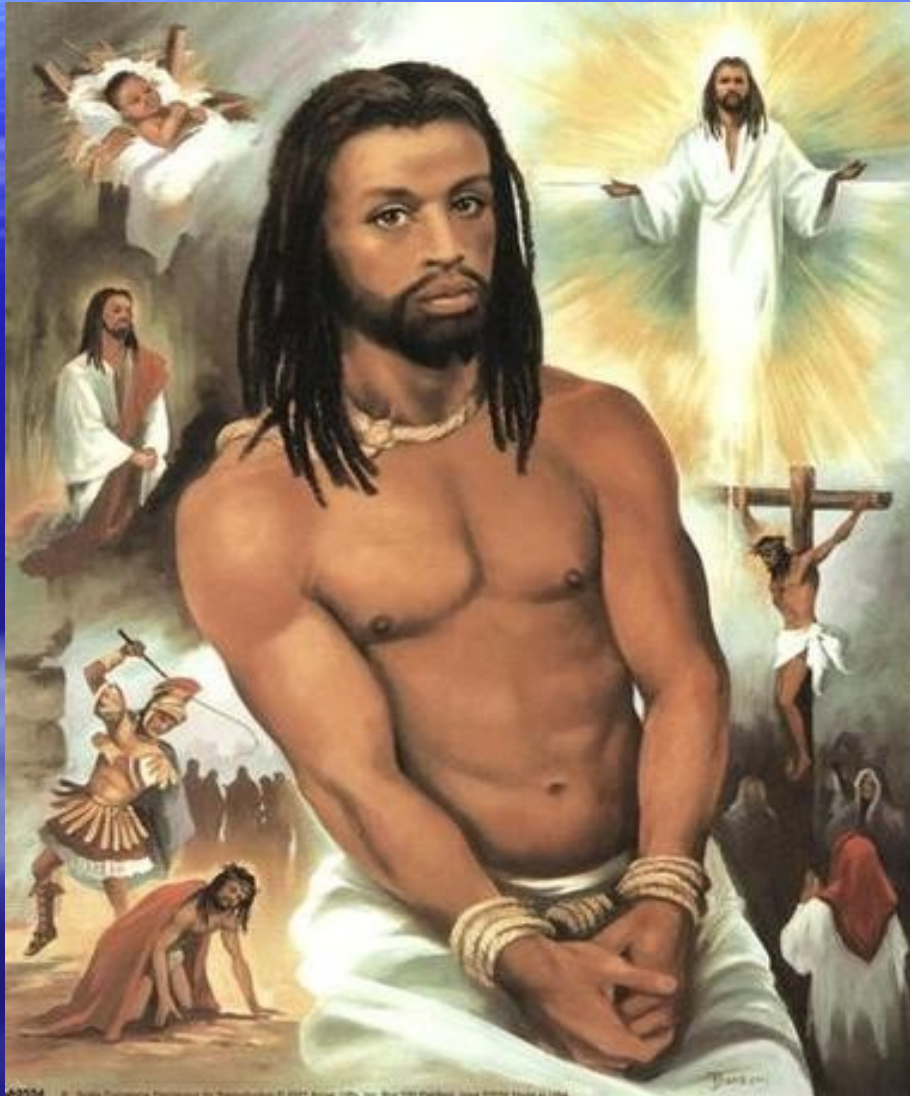
# The Rise of Christianity

Chapter 6, Section 3

# The Life and Teaching of Jesus

- Romans Conquer Judea
  - Rome conquers Judea, home of the Jews; makes it part of the empire in A.D. 6
  - Many Jews believe in a coming Messiah (meaning anointed one), or savior, who will eventually free them.

# The Life and Teaching of Jesus



- Jesus of Nazareth
  - Jesus was born in Bethlehem sometime around 6 to 4 B.C.
  - He was raised in Nazareth in the province of Galilee.
  - He is a carpenter until about the age 30 when he begins preaching.

# The Life and Teaching of Jesus

- Jesus of Nazareth (continued)
  - According to the four Gospels (of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) Jesus is said to perform miracles.
  - He stresses a personal relationship with God, love for friends and enemies.



# The Life and Teaching of Jesus



- A Growing Movement
  - Apostles-from the Greek word “apostolos” means literally “someone sent out.” These are twelve men who are close disciples of Jesus.
  - Jesus ignores wealth and status; his message appeals to the poor.

# The Life and Teaching of Jesus

## ■ Jesus Death

- Many Jews view Jesus as the Messiah; others see him as a false teacher.
- Roman governor Pontius Pilate sentences Jesus to be crucified.
- Apostles believe Jesus resurrected from the dead and ascended into heaven.
- Jesus comes to be called “Christos,” the Greek word for “savior.” The word Christian and Christianity is derived from that word.

# Christianity Spreads Through the Empire

- Growth of Christianity

- Followers spread Christianity—new religion based on the teachings of Jesus.
- The term “Christian” to designate followers of Christianity was first used in Antioch (see Acts 11: 26).

# Christianity Spreads Through the Empire

- Paul's Mission
  - Was originally named Saul, and was a member of the strict Jewish sect of Pharisees.
  - He persecutes Christians at first, but on his way to Damascus to arrest some Christians he has an experience where he claimed Jesus appeared to him calling him to be an Apostle to the Gentiles.



***Saint Paul*, by El Greco, circa 1608-1614**



# Christianity Spreads Through the Empire

- Paul spends his life preaching and interpreting Christianity.
- Paul stresses Jesus is the Son of God who died for people's sins.
- Paul declared that Christianity was open to all, Gentile as well as Jew.
- The common languages of Latin and Greek, spoken throughout the empire, helps the spread of the Christian message. The New Testament is written entirely in common (Koine) Greek spoken by most people who live in the eastern Mediterranean region.

# Christianity Spreads Through the Empire

- Paul is the author of *epistles* or letters to the churches. All of these letters existing were included in the New Testament.
  - *Romans*
  - *1 and 2 Corinthians*
  - *Galatians*
  - *Ephesians*
  - *Philippians*
  - *Colossians*
  - *1 and 2 Thessalonians*
  - *The Pastoral Epistles to Timothy and Titus*
  - *Philemon*



# Christianity Spreads Through the Empire

- Jewish Rebellion

- Jews rebel against Rome in 66 A.D.
- Romans storm Jerusalem and destroy the Temple in 70 A.D.
- Another Jewish rebellion occurs in 132 A.D., which the Romans crush. Jews and ethnically Jewish Christians are barred from Jerusalem.
- Diaspora—centuries of Jewish exile—from the Greek word for “dispersal”.



# Christianity Spreads Through the Empire

- Persecution of the Christians
  - Christians won't worship the Roman gods or the emperor. They are considered enemies of the State.
  - Roman rulers use Christians as scapegoats for hard times.
  - As Pax Romana crumbles, Christians are crucified, burned, and killed in the arena.

# A World Religion

- Christianity's Expansion

- Christianity becomes a powerful force and appeals to people because of these reasons:
  - embraces all people
  - gives hope to the powerless
  - appeals to those repelled by extravagance of Roman life
  - offers a personal relationship with God
  - promises eternal life after death

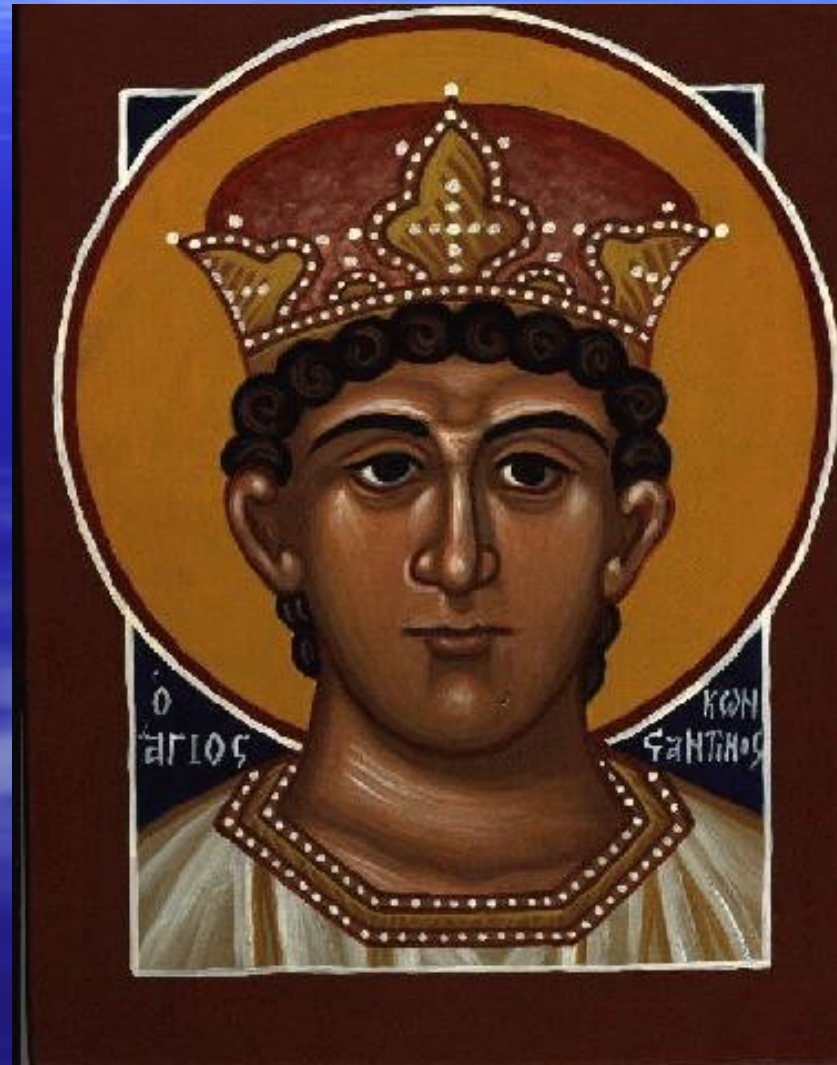
# A World Religion

- Constantine  
Accepts Christianity
  - Constantine—  
Roman emperor  
battles for control of  
Rome in A.D. 312.
  - He has a vision of a  
cross—the Christian  
symbol—and places  
it on soldiers'  
shields.



# Constantine

- Constantine believes Christian God helped him win the battle and legalizes Christianity.
- In A.D. 380 the Emperor Theodosius makes Christianity the religion of the empire.





# A World Religion

- Early Christian Church
  - Priests direct a single church (parish).
  - Bishops supervise numerous churches (diocese)
  - Apostle Peter is considered the first bishop of Rome, therefore, the clergy trace their authority to him.
  - Pope—means father or head of the Christian Church. Rome becomes the center of the Church.

# A World Religion

- A Single Voice
  - Church leaders compile standard Christian beliefs in the New Testament
  - The New Testament is added to the Hebrew Bible (renamed the Old Testament)
- The Fathers of the Church
  - Early writers and scholars of Christianity are called Fathers of the Church
  - Augustine, bishop in North Africa, is one of the most important Fathers
    - He stressed the importance of receiving the sacraments to obtain God's grace
    - He wrote his most famous book, *The City of God*.

# Complete the Chart below

**Person(s)**

**Role in the Rise and Spread of  
Christianity**

1. Jesus of  
Nazareth

2. apostles

3. Paul

4. Pontius Pilate

5. Constantine

6. Peter

7. Augustine

# Acts 11:26

“and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.” (ESV)

