

Christianity

1 B.C.–1054 A.D.



◀ Early Christian symbol



Jesus on his throne ▶

30 A.D.

Jesus is crucified
by Romans

64 A.D.

Romans ban
Christianity

312 A.D.

Constantine I
accepts
Christianity

392 A.D.

Christianity becomes
official religion of
Roman Empire

1054 A.D.

Latin and Greek
churches
separate

Chapter Focus



Read to Discover

- How Jesus' life and teachings formed the basis of Christianity.
- How Christianity spread throughout the Roman Empire.
- How the early Christian church was organized.
- What relationship existed between Christianity and Roman society before and after the time of Constantine I.
- What life was like for the early monks and nuns.



Terms to Learn

scriptures
messiah
gentiles
missionary
churches
apostles
priest
bishop
heresy
monks
nuns



People to Know

Jesus
Paul
Constantine I
Theodosius
Jerome
Augustine



Places to Locate

Bethlehem
Nazareth
Jerusalem

Chapter Overview

Visit the *Human Heritage* Web site at humanheritage.glencoe.com and click on **Chapter 16—Chapter Overviews** to preview this chapter.



CLICK HERE

Why It's Important Christians brought new ideas and important changes to the Roman Empire. Their religion, Christianity, started in Palestine among the Jews and later spread throughout the empire and the world. Despite cruel treatment, the early Christians clung to their faith, and by 400 A.D. most Romans had come to accept the religion as their own.

SECTION 1 The Beginnings

Christianity is based on the life and teachings of Jesus (jē' zuhs), who lived in Palestine during the reign of Augustus. After Jesus died, his teachings were spread by his followers. Christianity survived the fall of Rome and grew to be one of the major influences on western civilization.

The Life of Jesus Jesus, born a Jew in the town of Bethlehem (beth' luh hem), grew up in Nazareth (naz' uhr uhth). There, he received a Jewish education. He studied the **scriptures**



Reading Check

What are the **scriptures**?



Mosaic of Christian Symbol

(skrip' churz), or sacred writings, and learned prayers in the Hebrew language. Later, he went to work as a carpenter.

When he was about 30 years old, Jesus began to travel around Palestine preaching to people. Men and women came in large numbers from all over the country to see and hear him. Jesus taught that God created all people and loves them the way a father loves his children. Therefore, people should behave like God's children and love God and one another. Jesus said that God loves even people who have sinned. Jesus told people that if they were truly sorry and placed their trust in God, they would be forgiven.

Jesus spoke in the everyday language of the people. He presented his teachings in *parables* (par' uh buhlz), or stories, about persons and things that were familiar to his listeners. In this way, they could better understand the religious principles he was trying to teach. For example, in the parable of the Good Samaritan (suh mar' uh tuhn), Jesus told about a man from Jerusalem who was attacked by robbers. They beat the man severely and left him lying in the road. Two passers-by from Jerusalem saw him there but did nothing. Then came a man from the city of Samaria (suh mar' ē uh). He stopped, washed the man's wounds, and carried him to a nearby inn. The parable taught that people should not ignore wrong but should do something about it. The parable also taught that people should help everyone, not just those from their own community.

In 30 A.D., after about three years of preaching, Jesus and 12 of his disciples went to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, the holiday that marks the exodus of the Jews from Egypt. At the time, there was much unrest in the city. Many Romans were angry because the Jews refused to worship statues of the Roman emperor. The Jews were tired of the high taxes they had to pay and of the pressure put on them by the Romans. They hoped and waited for a **messiah** (muh sī' uh), or someone who would save them.

When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, many Jews greeted him as the messiah. This worried other Jews and Romans alike. Jesus was convicted of treason under Roman law and was *crucified* (krū' suh fīd), or executed on a cross, outside Jerusalem. Usually, only lower-class criminals were killed in this way.

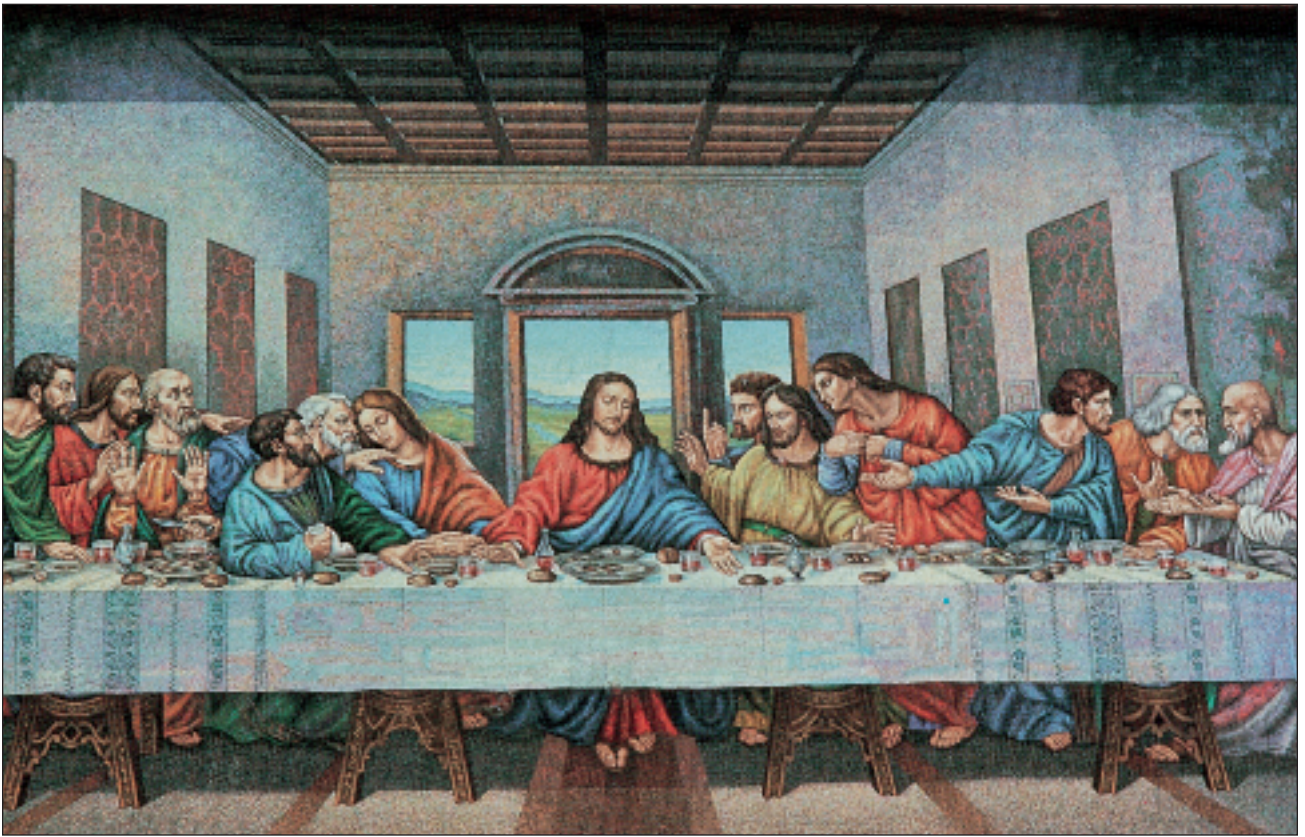
The loss of their leader greatly saddened Jesus' disciples. Then, according to Christian tradition, Jesus rose from the dead. He remained on Earth for 40 days before going directly to heaven. His *resurrection* (rez uh rek' shuhn), or rising from the dead, convinced his disciples that Jesus was the Son of God who had become man. They believed that because Jesus had suffered death and had risen to life, he could forgive the sins of all people. They thought that anyone who believed in Jesus and lived by his teachings would know eternal life after death. From then on, the disciples called him Christ, after the Greek word *Christos* (khrēs tōs'), meaning "messiah."

Reading Check

Why did Jews await the arrival of a **messiah**?

Painting of Some of Jesus' Disciples





THE LAST SUPPER The night before he was crucified, Jesus met with his closest disciples for the meal that marks the start of Passover. At this meal, known as the Last Supper, Jesus set the guidelines for later Christian ceremonies. **Why did Jesus and his disciples go to Jerusalem?**


Paul The disciples were among the first people to become Christians. After Jesus died, they tried to spread his *gospel*, or teachings, among the Jews in Palestine. They had little success, however. Most Palestinian Jews wanted a political messiah. They were not interested in a religious one. The disciples then began to spread their message to Jews who lived outside Palestine. Soon, small groups of people who believed in Christ were meeting in Antioch (ant' ē ahk), Corinth, Rome, and other trading cities of the Mediterranean area.

At about the same time, a Jew named Paul decided to teach Christianity to **gentiles** (jen' tīls), or non-Jews, as well as to Jews. Paul had once been a close follower of Judaism. Then, according to Christian tradition, while he was traveling on the road to Damascus (duh mas' kuhs), Paul was blinded by a bright light and heard Christ's voice. After he was able to see again, Paul became a Christian. He spent the rest of his life spreading the Christian message throughout the Roman world.

 **Reading Check**
Who were the gentiles?

In each city where Paul preached, new Christian communities formed. Paul wrote letters to these groups to help guide the members. In his letters, he stated that gentiles who became Christians did not have to follow Jewish rituals and laws. All they needed was to have faith in Jesus. This appealed to many people.

Paul was very important to the growth of Christianity. He was its first **missionary** (mish' uh ner ē), or person who spreads religious beliefs to those who do not believe. After Paul's death, other Christian missionaries continued his work.

 **Reading Check**
Why is Paul considered the first Christian **missionary**?

Section 1 Assessment

1. **Define:** scriptures, messiah, gentiles, missionary.
2. Why did the Romans charge Jesus with treason?
3. What changes did Paul make in the Christian religion?

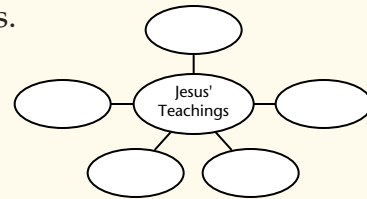
Critical Thinking

4. **Demonstrating Reasoned Judgment**
Of the people you know about today,

who could be called a Good Samaritan? Give examples.

Graphic Organizer Activity

5. Draw this diagram, and use it to show some of the Christian beliefs taught by Jesus.



SECTION 2 Christianity and Rome

The Roman Empire helped Christianity spread. The *Pax Romana* allowed missionaries to move across Roman lands in safety. The Roman system of roads helped them go from one place to another quickly. Since most people spoke either Latin or Greek, the missionaries could talk with them directly.

Political Conditions Political conditions did not favor the spread of Christianity, however. Although all people in the Roman Empire were generally allowed to worship freely, the Romans expected everyone to honor the emperor as a god. The Christians, like the Jews, refused to do this. They claimed that only God could be worshiped. This made the Romans angry.

The Romans also did not like other Christian ideas. For example, Christians did not want to serve in the army or hold public office. They often criticized Roman festivals and games. They taught that all people would be equal in heaven if they followed Jesus' teachings.

Because of these differences, the Romans blamed and punished Christians for all kinds of disasters, such as plagues and famines (fam' uhnz). In 64 A.D., the Romans accused the Chris-

CLICK HERE



Student Web Activity

Visit the *Human Heritage* Web site at humanheritage.glencoe.com and click on **Chapter 16—Student Web Activities** to find out more about early Christianity.

tians of starting a fire that burned much of Rome. Christianity was then made illegal, and many Christians were killed.

Some officials paid no attention to the law that made Christianity illegal. However, Christians still had a hard time in most areas. In Rome, they were not allowed to use Roman burial places. They had to bury their dead in crowded catacombs.

The Spread of Christianity Even with all of the hardships, Christianity spread. It was of more interest to the poor workers and enslaved people in the cities. They led very hard lives. They liked a religion that promised a happier life after death.

Over time, however, Christianity began to draw people from all classes. After 250 A.D., many Romans grew tired of war and



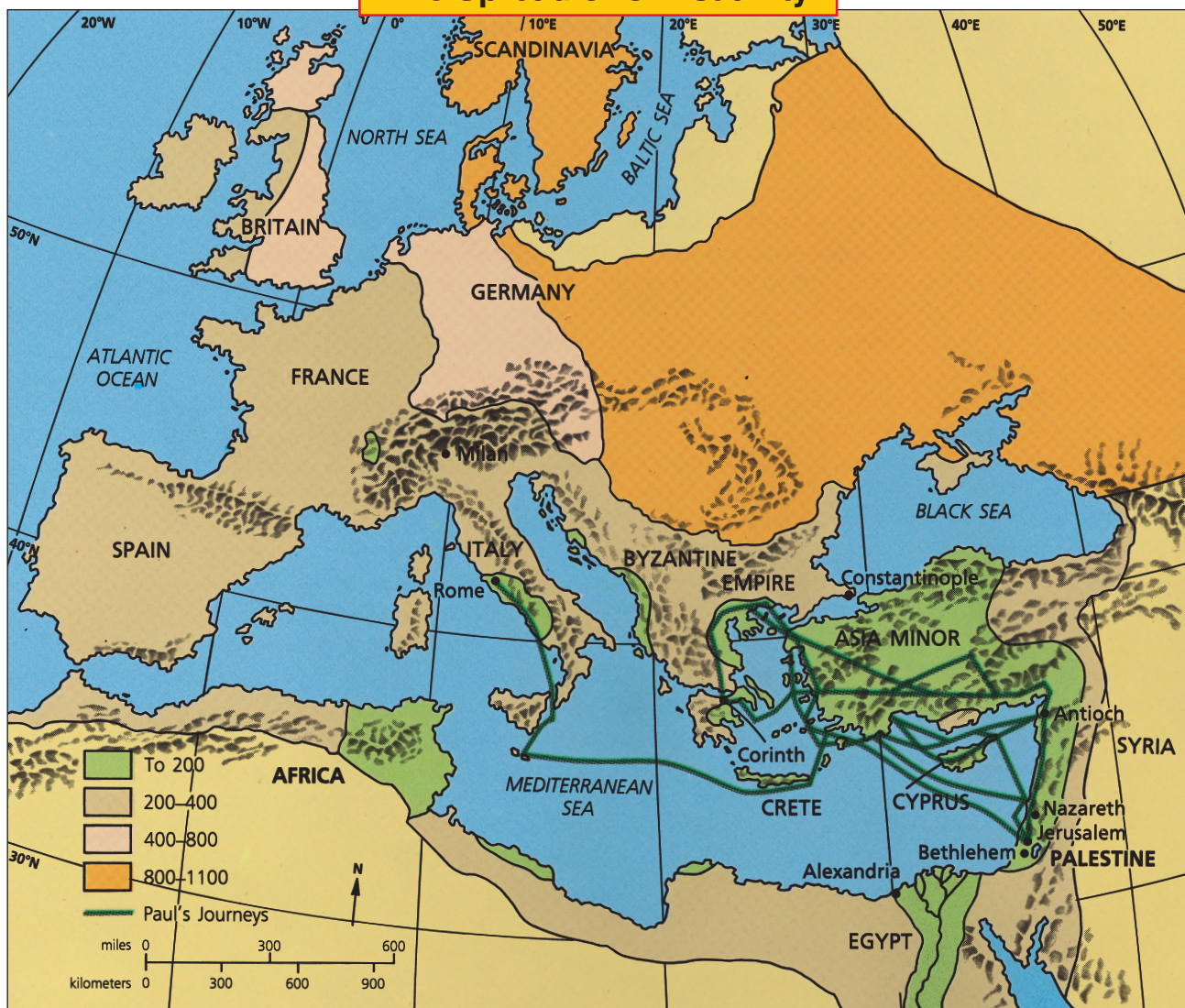
MAP STUDY

HUMAN SYSTEMS

By 1100 Christianity had spread throughout most of Europe and parts of Asia and North Africa.

How did Paul's journeys help the spread of Christianity?

The Spread of Christianity



feared the end of the empire. They began to admire the certainty and courage of the Christian missionaries. They wanted the love, kindness, and feeling of safety that Christianity offered. At the same time, many Christians started to accept the empire.

Constantine I and Theodosius In 312 A.D., Constantine I, who was a general at the time, accepted Christianity. Legend says that as he was about to go into battle, Constantine saw a flaming cross in the sky. Written beneath the cross were the Latin words *in hoc signo vinces* (in hok sig' nō win' kās). This means, "In this sign thou shalt conquer." Constantine won the battle and with it the throne of the Roman Empire. Constantine believed God had helped him gain his victory. Because of this, he ordered his soldiers to paint crosses on their shields.

The following year, the Edict (ē' dikt) of Milan (mi lan') was issued. It gave religious freedom to all people. It also made Christianity legal. Constantine I did many other things to help Christianity grow. He had churches built in Rome and Jerusalem. He used government money to pay for Christian schools. He let church leaders enter government service and excused them from paying taxes.

The emperor who followed Constantine I continued pro-Christian policies. In 392 A.D., Emperor Theodosius (thē uh dō' shē uhs) made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire. At the same time, he outlawed all other religions.

Section 2 Assessment

1. What factors brought about a change in attitude between Romans and Christians?
2. What did Christians believe would happen to people in heaven?

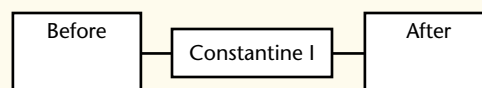
Critical Thinking

3. **Making Inferences** Why do you think the hardships put on Christians

by the Romans could not stop the spread of Christianity?

Graphic Organizer Activity

4. Draw this diagram, and use it to show what life was like for Christians before and after the rule of Constantine I.



SECTION 3 The Church

 **Reading Check**
Why did early Christians form churches?

Early Christians thought the end of the world was near. At the time, they believed Jesus would return to set up God's kingdom on Earth. While they were waiting for this to happen, they lived together in small groups called **churches**. They shared their possessions and took turns leading worship services in

homes and outdoors. Each group was in charge of its own affairs. **Apostles** (uh pos' uhls), or those people Jesus chose to teach his gospel, visited the different groups. The apostles taught and gave advice. They also provided a sense of unity.

Church Structure After the apostles died, Christians realized that Jesus was not going to return to Earth as quickly as they had expected. They looked for ways to hold their churches together. One way was by organizing the churches. They used the Roman Empire's structure of government as a model for this organization.

By 300 A.D., each church was called a **parish** (par' ish). Each had a leader known as a **priest**. Several parishes were put together into larger groups. Each group was called a **diocese** (dī' uh sis), a word that originally meant a Roman military district. A **bishop** headed each diocese. The most important bishops were called **archbishops**. They governed churches in larger cities. The five leading archbishops were called **patriarchs** (pā' trē arks).

As time went on, the archbishop of Rome began to claim power over the other archbishops. By 600 A.D., he was called Pope. This comes from a Latin word meaning "father." Christians who spoke Latin saw him as the head of all the churches. Christians who spoke Greek, however, would not accept him as the leader of their churches. They turned instead to the archbishop of Constantinople. In 1054 A.D., the two church groups separated. The Latin churches as a group became known as the Roman Catholic Church. The Greek churches became known as the Eastern Orthodox Church.


The New Testament At the same time Christians were developing a church organization, they were deciding what writings to put into the New Testament, or Christian scriptures. Jesus had left no written records. However, after his death, others wrote about Jesus' life and teachings.


Toward the end of the 300s A.D., four accounts were accepted as part of the New Testament. The accounts were believed to have been written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These men were four of Jesus' early followers. A number of letters written by Paul and other disciples were also accepted as part of the New Testament.


At about the same time, bishops met to discuss questions about Christian thinking. Decisions they reached at these meetings came to be accepted as official *doctrine* (dok' truhn), or statements of faith. The points of view the bishops did not accept were declared to be **heresy** (her' uh sē), or false doctrines.

Fathers of the Church Between 100 and 500 A.D., different scholars wrote works that greatly influenced later Christians. These scholars became known as the "Fathers of the Church."

 **Reading Check**
Who were the apostles?

 **Reading Check**
What is a **parish**?
What was the role of an early **priest**?
What was the original meaning of **diocese**?

 **Reading Check**
What was the role of the **bishop**?
Who were the **archbishops** and **patriarchs**?

 **Reading Check**
What did bishops consider as **heresy**?

Linking Across Time

Religious Orders The religious order that lived at the monastery at Monte Cassino (left) followed the teachings of Benedict and were known as Benedictines. In 1950, Mother Teresa, an eastern European nun, continued this tradition by founding the Missionaries of Charity, an order dedicated to helping the poor of India (right). **What rules did early members of the Benedictine order follow?**



People in History

Saint Augustine
354 A.D.–430 A.D.

Christian Scholar

Augustine was born in present-day Algeria. In 387 A.D., he embraced Christianity. As invaders poured into Rome, Augustine became one of the leading defenders of Christianity. After his death, church leaders declared him a saint.

One such scholar was Jerome (juh rōm'). He translated the Old and New Testaments into Latin. His translation was called the *Vulgate* (vul' gāt). It became the official Bible used by the Roman Catholic Church.

Augustine (o' guh stēn) was an important leader of Christian thought. His best-known work was *City of God*. In it, he defended Christianity against those who said that Rome would not have fallen if it had not accepted Christianity. Augustine said that Rome fell because it became rich and corrupt and persecuted Christians.


Monasteries In the early years of Christianity, thousands of Christians left the cities to live and pray alone in isolated areas. Such people were known as *hermits*. In Egypt and Syria especially, thousands of hermits lived in the desert. They believed that this would help them grow closer to Christ.


A hermit was protected from the temptations of daily life. At the same time, however, such a person was not doing anything to improve the world. Near the end of the 300s A.D., a bishop named Basil (baz' uhl) suggested a different way of life. He said that Christians should form religious settlements near cities. In this way, they would be protected from the evils of the world. At the same time, they could help other people by doing good deeds and

by setting an example of Christian living. Many Christians took Basil's advice.

Christian men who did as Basil suggested were called **monks**. Their settlements, or communities, were known as **monasteries** (mon' uh ster ēz). Christian women who did the same were called **nuns**. They lived in quarters of their own called **convents** (kon' vents). Basil drew up a list of rules for these religious communities. This list, which is known as the Basilian (buh zil' ē uhñ) Rule, became the model for Eastern Orthodox religious life.

In the West, another set of rules called the Benedictine (ben uh dik' tuhn) Rule was followed. It was drawn up about 529 A.D. by an Italian named Benedict (ben' uh dikt). The monks who followed Benedict's rule promised to give up all their possessions before entering a monastery. They agreed to wear simple clothes and eat only certain foods. They could not marry. They had to obey without question the orders of the **abbot** (ab' uht), or leader of the monastery. They had to attend religious services seven times during the day and once at midnight. They also were expected to work six or seven hours a day in the fields around the monastery. When they grew older, they did clerical work or worked as carpenters and weavers. They spent their whole lives serving Christ.

 **Reading Check**
Why did **monks** build the first **monasteries**?
Why did Christian women become **nuns** and live at **convents**?

 **Reading Check**
What was the role of an **abbot**?

EARLY CHRISTIANS Church leaders often dictated their thoughts as Pope Gregory is shown (left) doing. Those thoughts were studied by a church monk shown here (right) in order to improve his knowledge of Christianity. **Where did monks at this time live?**



By 800 A.D., monks were playing an important role in spreading Christianity throughout Europe. By preserving old Roman and Greek writings, they helped western civilization survive and progress.

Section 3 Assessment

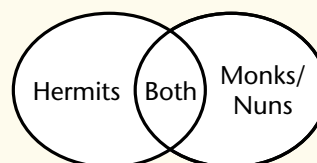
1. **Define:** churches, apostles, parish, priest, diocese, bishop, archbishops, patriarchs, heresy, monks, monasteries, nuns, convents, abbot.
2. How was the early Christian church organized?
3. How did monks help western civilization survive?

Critical Thinking

4. **Making Generalizations** What general statement can you make about the main purpose of monastic life?

Graphic Organizer Activity

5. Draw this diagram, and use it to compare the lives of hermits with the lives of monks and nuns.



Chapter Summary & Study Guide

1. Jesus' teachings angered Roman officials, who arrested and executed him around 30 A.D.
2. Paul preached Christianity to Jews and non-Jews alike, helping to make Christianity a world religion.
3. Some Romans, particularly the emperors, tried unsuccessfully to stop the spread of Christianity.
4. In 313 A.D., Christianity became legal in Rome. In 392 A.D., it became the empire's official religion.
5. By the end of the 500s A.D., early Christians had organized a church and decided which writings should appear in the New Testament.
6. By 600 A.D., most Latin-speaking Christians looked on the Pope in Rome as the head of the Church.
7. In 1054 A.D., most Greek-speaking Christians split from the Latin Church to form the Eastern Orthodox Church.
8. Religious scholars and monks helped preserve Greek and Roman writings and wrote works that greatly influenced later Christian thinkers.

HISTORY
Online

CLICK HERE

Self-Check Quiz

Visit the *Human Heritage* Web site at humanheritage.glencoe.com and click on **Chapter 16—Self-Check Quiz** to assess your understanding of this chapter.

CHAPTER 16 Assessment

Using Key Terms

Sort the following words into these categories: *people*, *places*, and *other*, as they apply to the beginning of Christianity. Then write one sentence explaining each term you classified as *other*.

scriptures	messiah	gentiles
missionary	churches	apostles
parish	priest	diocese
bishop	archbishops	patriarchs
heresy	monks	monasteries
nuns	convents	abbot

Understanding Main Ideas

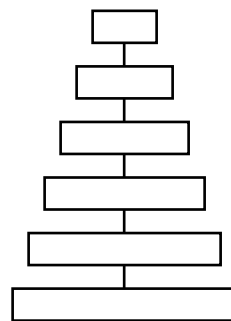
1. Where did Christianity start?
2. Why did Jesus teach in parables?
3. Why did the Romans blame and punish the Christians for many disasters?
4. What groups of people were first attracted to Christianity?
5. What legend is told about Constantine I?
6. Why did Christians develop a church organization?
7. Why did the Latin and Greek churches split into two groups?
8. What kinds of work did the monks do?

Critical Thinking

1. Why do you think people seemed to remember Jesus' teachings more when he used parables?
2. Do you think citizens should have religious freedom or be required to follow one official religion? Explain.
3. What do you think could have been done to prevent the split between the Latin and Greek churches?

Graphic Organizer Activity

Culture Create a chart like the one shown, and use it to show the organization of the early Church. From the top, arrange these religious offices in order of authority: monks and nuns, patriarchs, bishops, pope, archbishops, priests.



Geography in History

Places and Regions Refer to the map on page 251, noting Paul's journeys. Describe what geographic features and landscapes Paul would have seen as he traveled from Antioch to Corinth.

Using Your Journal

Review any details you may have noted about Roman contributions to world civilization. Write a short explanation of how Roman ideas about religion have affected present-day thoughts, beliefs, and practices.

THE MOCHE

As the Roman Empire reached its height, a people named the Moche rose to power in the coastal deserts of present-day Peru. The Moche civilization lasted from roughly 100 A.D. to 800 A.D.

Although the Moche did not develop a written language, the story of their culture is told through the buildings and artwork that they left behind.



▲ A series of rivers runs out of the Andes Mountains and cuts through the dry deserts of Peru's northern coast. The Moche dug irrigation ditches and used water from these rivers to turn the deserts into farmland. They produced so much food that the population boomed. One river valley may have supported more than 10,000 people.



▲ One of the most powerful groups in Moche society was that of the warrior-priests—nobles who served as both military and religious leaders. A curved, gold headdress symbolized their power.

the World



◀ When a warrior-priest died, the Moche filled his grave with a wealth of treasures to accompany him to the next life. Talented metal workers, Moche artists produced complicated designs. This gold-and-turquoise ear ornament shows what a Moche warrior-priest looked like.

The Moche built hundreds of flat-topped ▶ pyramids. Temples and platforms on the top of the pyramids made them religious and administrative centers. The biggest Moche pyramid—the Pyramid of the Sun—covered over 12.5 acres. It was the largest structure built in the ancient Americas.



Pottery often took the form of animals important ▶ to the Moche, such as the llama. The llama served as a pack animal for long-distance trips. It also provided meat for food and wool for weaving.



◀ The Moche crafted some of the most realistic pottery in the ancient world. They decorated jars and bottles with faces that bring the Moche back to life.



Taking Another Look

1. Where and when did the Moche build their civilization?
2. Why did the Moche experience a population boom?

Hands-On Activity

Designing a Historical Marker Design a historical marker that might be placed at the Pyramid of the Sun. Include this fact: The Spanish word for pyramids made of mud bricks is *huacas*. Thus the Spanish name for this pyramid is *Huaca del Sol*.

Standardized Test Practice

Directions: Choose the *best* answer to each of the following multiple choice questions. If you have trouble answering a question, use the process of elimination to narrow your choices. Write your answers on a separate piece of paper.

1. Plebeians made up a majority of ancient Rome's total population. However, early Roman laws did not treat the plebeians fairly. Which of the following is an example of a law that was unfair to the plebeians?
- A Senators in Rome held their positions for their whole lives.
 - B Plebeians had to pay taxes but could not serve in the government.
 - C There were only two consuls chosen to lead the Roman Republic each year.
 - D Tribunes were set up to represent plebeians in Roman government.

Test-Taking Tip: The important phrase in this question is *unfair to the plebeians*. Answer A may seem unfair, but was it specifically *unfair to the plebeians*?

2. Early Romans believed that certain people, called *soothsayers*, could predict the future. Roman soothsayers were most similar to
- F Greek oracles
 - G modern-day priests
 - H philosophers like Socrates
 - J Egyptian pharaohs

Test-Taking Tip: This question asks you to make a *comparison*. Although oracles, priests, philosophers, and pharaohs may have all been consulted for *advice*, they did not all *predict the future*.

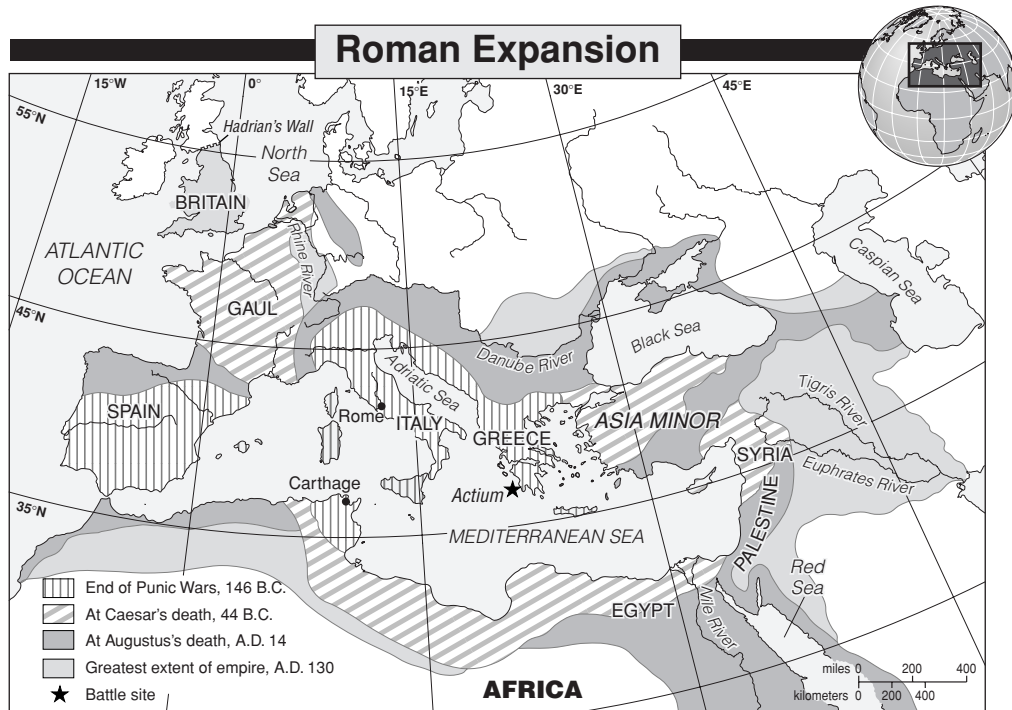
Use the map on the top of the next page to answer questions 3 and 4.

3. In 130 A.D., the Roman Empire surrounded which body of water?
- A The Mediterranean Sea
 - B The Atlantic Ocean
 - C The North Sea
 - D The Red Sea

Test-Taking Tip: Make sure that your answer is supported by information *on the map*. Use the *map key*, or *legend*, to help you understand how the map is organized. Remember that all the different patterns and shades of gray in the key refer to the Roman Empire. They just help to differentiate it at different points during its expansion.

4. In 146 B.C., which part of the Roman territory was west of the Prime Meridian?
- F Great Britain
 - G Syria
 - H Italy
 - J Spain

Test-Taking Tip: This question requires you to remember the term *Prime Meridian*. The Prime Meridian is the line of longitude that divides *east* and *west*. What degree represents it?



5. During the *Pax Romana*, when Rome was at peace for 200 years, Augustus

- A established the principle that laws must be fair to everyone
- B focused on conquering other lands to increase trade opportunities
- C paid pirates to patrol the trade routes that Roman merchants used
- D failed to maintain a strong army, leaving Rome open to foreign attacks

Test-Taking Tip: Eliminate answers that do not make sense. For example, if Rome was *at peace*, then Romans were probably not *conquering other lands* (answer B) or *open to foreign attacks* (answer D).

6. Which of the following was NOT a factor that facilitated the spread of Christianity through the Roman Empire?

- F Missionaries spread the religion along the trade routes established by the Romans.
- G Many people in the Empire understood the same languages, so Christians could spread their ideas.
- H Christianity appealed to poor people by saying that there was a better life after death.
- J People who became Christians were still allowed to worship Roman gods.

Test-Taking Tip: Be careful when a question says NOT or EXCEPT. Look for the answer choice that does NOT fit. For instance, answer G, that people spoke the same languages, would be very helpful in communicating any ideas. Therefore, it was probably helpful in spreading Christianity, and you can eliminate it as a possible correct answer.

