Prepare to Read

Build Background Knowledge

Tell students that almost three centuries would pass before the birth of Christianity to its acceptance as the official religion of the Roman empire. Have students speculate about why Roman emperors might have resisted the new religion.

Set a Purpose

■ WITNESS HISTORY Read the selection aloud or play the audio.

Ask What did Emperor Constantine think his vision of a cross in the sky meant? (It was a sign that his troops who were about to go into battle would be successful if they marked their shields with a Christian symbol.)

■ Focus Point out the Section Focus Question and write it on the board. Tell students to refer to this question as they read. (Answer appears with Section 4 Assessment answers.)

■ Preview Have students preview the Section Objectives and the list of Terms, People, and Places.

■ Note Taking Have students read this section using the Structured Read Aloud strategy (TE, p. T21). As they read, have students fill in the chart showing the rise of Christianity.

Objectives

As you teach this section, keep students focused on the following objectives to help them answer the Section Focus Question and master core content.

■ Understand the diverse religions included in the early Roman empire.

■ Summarize the teachings of Jesus and how they were spread.

■ Outline the development of the early Christian Church.

The Rise of Christianity

Renaissance painter Raphael depicted the cross appearing above Constantine (right); the fish and the cross (far right) were early Christian symbols.

Early in the Pax Romana, a new religion, Christianity, arose in a distant corner of the Roman empire. At first, Christianity was one of many religions practiced in the empire. But the new faith grew rapidly, and throughout the A.D. 300s and 400s it gradually made the official religion of the Roman empire. As it gained strength and spread through the empire, Christianity reshaped Roman beliefs. When the Roman empire fell, the Christian Church took over much of its role, becoming the central institution of Western civilization for nearly 1,000 years.

Early Empire Includes Diverse Religions

Within the culturally diverse Roman empire, various religious beliefs coexisted. Jupiter, Mars, Juno, and other traditional Roman gods remained important. However, a growing number of people looked elsewhere for spiritual fulfillment.

Rome Tolerates Diversity

Rome tolerated the varied religious traditions of its subjects. As long as citizens showed loyalty by honoring Roman gods and acknowledging the divine spirit of the emperor, the government allowed them to worship other gods as they pleased. Because most people were polytheistic, they were content to worship the Roman gods along with their own.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Causes</th>
<th>Effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Rise of Christianity</td>
<td>- Establishment of Christianity as emperor’s official religion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vocabulary Builder

Use the information below and the following resources to teach the high-use word from this section.

High-Use Word: comply

Definition and Sample Sentence: To obey or conform to something. When the police officer asked her to show her driver’s license, she quickly complied.

Terms, People, and Places

- bishop
- pope
- heresy
- martyr
- Constantine
- Augustine

Teaching Resources, Skills Handbook, p. 3

Teaching Resources, Unit 1, p. 88; Teaching Resources, Skills Handbook, p. 3

Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 54
Divisions Arise in Judea. By 63 B.C., the Romans had conquered Judea, where most Jews of the time lived. To avoid violating the Jewish belief in one god, the Romans excused Jews from worshiping Roman gods. Among the Jewish people themselves, however, religious ferment was creating deep divisions. During the Hellenistic age, many Jews adopted Greek customs and ideas. Concerned about the weakening of their religion, Jewish conservatives rejected these influences and called for strict obedience to Jewish laws and traditions. While most Jews were reluctantly willing to live under Roman rule, others, called Zealots, were not. They called on Jews to revolt against Rome and reestablish an independent state. Some Jews believed that a messiah, or anointed king sent by God, would soon appear to lead their people to freedom. A Jewish Rebellion Is Defeated. In A.D. 66, discontent flared into rebellion. Four years later, Roman forces crushed the rebels, captured Jerusalem, and destroyed the Jewish temple. When revolts broke out again in the next century, Roman armies leveled Jerusalem. Thousands of Jews were killed in the fighting, and many others were enslaved and transported to various parts of the empire. Faced with the destruction that resulted from the rebellion, growing numbers of Jews decided to leave Judea. Although the Jewish people were defeated in their efforts to regain political independence, they survived in scattered communities around the Mediterranean. Over the centuries, Jewish religious teachers called rabbis extended and preserved the Jewish law, and Judaism survived.

History Background
Surviving in the Diaspora. Over the centuries, many Jews left or were forced to leave their homeland in Judea. They settled in lands around the Mediterranean and elsewhere. In time, many of those who migrated began to speak Greek. Two Greek words became an important part of Jewish history. The Greek word diaspora which means “scattering” refers to the fact that most Jews were forced to migrate and settle in various parts of the world. The Greek word synagogos, “a bringing together” became the name for the places where Jews gather to read their most sacred book, the Torah. Synagogues have helped Jewish culture survive and thrive in the diaspora.

Early Empire/Jesus Proclaims His Teachings
Instruct
- Introduce/Key Term: Have students find the key term messiah (in blue) in the text and explain its meaning. Have them suggest reasons the belief in a messiah might concern Roman officials (might lead to questioning of the emperors authority)
- Teach: Ask: What were citizens of different faiths expected to do in exchange for toleration of their religious beliefs and practices? (show loyalty to Rome by honoring Roman gods and acknowledging the divine spirit of the emperor) What was the outcome of the Zealot revolt? (Roman forces crushed the rebels, captured Jerusalem, and destroyed the Jewish temple. In the next century Roman armies leveled Jerusalem and Jews were dispersed.) What new beliefs attracted many followers to Jesus? (the belief that Jesus was the messiah and would bring spiritual salvation and eternal life to those who believed in him) Then read aloud the Primary Source selection on the next page or play the accompanying audio. Ask students to name the values that are reflected in the sermon.
- Audio: Witness History Audio CD, Sermon on the Mount

Independent Practice
- Viewpoints: To help students understand the treatment of Christians in the Roman Empire, have them read the selection What To Do About the Christians? and complete the worksheet.
- Teaching Resources, Unit 1, p. 93

Monitor Progress
As students fill in their charts, circulate to make sure they have identified the causes of the rise of Christianity. For a completed version of the chart see Note Taking Transparencies, 70

Answers
- tolerance of varied religious traditions and practices as long as citizens showed loyalty by honoring Roman gods and acknowledging the divine spirit of the emperor
- Too much tolerance could lead to instability if groups questioned the authority of the government.

Chapter 5 Section 4 167
The Message of Christianity Spreads

**Instruct**

- **Introduce:** Key Terms Have students find the term *martyr* (in blue) in the text. Ask them to define this term and suggest possible reasons why the Romans persecuted the Christians. Ask students whether they think the persecution of Christians and the creation of martyrs helped or hurt the growth of Christianity.

- **Teach Ask:** How did Paul spread Christianity? (He traveled around the Mediterranean and set up churches in Asia Minor and Greece; he wrote long letters to Christian communities explaining difficult doctrines, judging disputes, and expanding Christian teachings.) What was the effect of Paul's missionary work? (Christianity began to grow from a sect within Judaism to an emerging world religion.) Why did the Romans persecute Christians? (They suspected Christians of disloyalty to Rome.) How did the unity of the empire make missionary efforts easier? (The unity of the empire and common languages made communication of Christian beliefs easier; Roman roads facilitated missionary travel.)

**Answers**

Jesus called himself the son of God and proclaimed that his mission was to bring spiritual salvation and eternal life to those who believed in him. He emphasized God's love and taught the need for justice, morality, and service to others. Jesus also stressed the importance of forgiveness.

**PRIMARY SOURCE**

People who are merciful will be treated mercifully themselves.

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**Jesus Begins Preaching**

Jesus was born about 4 B.C. in Bethlehem, near Jerusalem. According to the Gospels, he was a descendant of King David of Israel. The Gospels say an angel told Jesus' mother, Mary, that she would give birth to the messiah. “He will be great,” said the angel, “and will be called the Son of the Most High God.”

Grew up in the small town of Nazareth. Jesus worshiped God and followed Jewish laws. As a young man, he may have worked as a carpenter. At the age of 30, the Gospels relate, he began preaching to villages near the Sea of Galilee. Large crowds gathered to hear his teachings, especially when word spread that he had performed miracles of healing. Jesus often used parables, or short stories with simple moral lessons, to communicate his ideas. He recruited 12 of his disciples, or close followers, to help him in his mission. He called these 12 the apostles, a name that in Greek means “a person sent forth.” After three years, Jesus and his disciples went to Jerusalem to spread his message there.

**Jesus Teaches New Beliefs**

Jesus’ teachings were firmly rooted in Jewish tradition. Jesus believed in one God and accepted the Ten Commandments. He preached obedience to the laws of Moses and defended the teachings of the Jewish prophets. However, Jesus also preached new beliefs. According to his followers, he called himself the Son of God. Many people believed he was the long-expected messiah. Jesus proclaimed that his mission was to bring spiritual salvation and eternal life to anyone who believed in him.

Echoing the teachings of Judaism, Jesus emphasized God’s love and taught the need for justice, morality, and service to others. According to Jesus, a person’s major duties were to observe the Jewish command to “love the Lord your God with all your heart” and to “love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus also emphasized the importance of forgiveness.

**Condemned to Death**

According to the Gospels, Jesus traveled to Jerusalem near the time of the Jewish festival of Passover, a celebration of the exodus from Egypt. To the Roman authorities, Jesus was a threat because his speeches could inflame those eager to end Roman rule. The Gospels state that Jesus was betrayed by one of his disciples. He was then arrested by the Romans, tried, and condemned to death by crucifixion. In this method of execution, which the Romans often used, a person was nailed or bound to a cross and left to die. Jesus’ crucifixion threw the Roman city into confusion. But then rumors spread through Jerusalem that Jesus was not dead at all. The Gospels report that his disciples saw and talked with Jesus, who had risen from death. The Gospels go on to say that Jesus, after commanding his disciples to spread his teachings to all people, ascended into heaven.

**Checkpoint**

What aspects of Jesus’ message were unique?

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**The Message of Christianity Spreads**

After Jesus’ death, the apostles and other disciples did spread his message. At first, they preached only among the Jews of Judea. Some Jews accepted the teaching that Jesus was the messiah, or the Christ, from the Greek word for “anointed one.” Soon, they were called Christians.
Gradually, these disciples went to preach in Jewish communities throughout the Roman world. According to tradition, the apostle Peter established Christianity in the city of Rome itself. But Paul, a Jew from Asia Minor, played the most influential role in spreading Christianity.

Paul Spreads Christianity

Paul had never met Jesus. In fact, he had been among those who persecuted Jesus’ followers. But one day Paul had a vision of Jesus speaking to him. He immediately joined the Christians and decided to spread Jesus’ teachings to gentiles, or non-Jews.

Until this time, Christianity had remained a sect within Judaism. The work of missionaries like Paul set Christianity on the road to becoming a world religion. A tireless traveler, Paul journeyed around the Mediterranean and set up churches in Asia Minor and Greece. In letters to the Christian communities, he explained difficult doctrines, judged disputes, and expanded Christian teachings, emphasizing that Jesus had sacrificed his life out of love for humankind. Paul asserted that those who believed Jesus was the son of God and conformed to something he said would achieve salvation, or eternal life. His letters became part of the New Testament.

Christians Are Oppressed

Rome’s tolerant attitude toward religion was not extended to Christianity. Roman officials found the Christians disloyal to Rome because they refused to honor the emperor with sacrifices or ask the traditional gods to protect the Roman state. When Christians met in secret to avoid persecution, rumors spread that they were engaged in evil practices.
The Early Christian Church Develops

Instruct

- Introduce: Key Terms Have students find the key term thecity of guide entries for student understanding.
- Teach Ask Why did Church leaders seek a hierarchy or structure for the Church? To ensure uniformity in beliefs, practices, and rituals so that local priests or bishops did not act independently, and to provide an orderly way to make decisions and settle conflicts over doctrines or practices. What issue led to disagreement between the Church in the Latin-speaking west and the Greek-speaking east? Rivalry among patriarchs over whether greater power should be given to the bishop of Rome—who came to be called the pope—or should be divided among five patriarchs who shared spiritual authority equally?
- Quick Activity Display Color Transparency 29: Communion Chalice and Paten, 32: Roman Expansion, and 32c: Spread of Christianity. Use the lessons suggested in the transparency book to guide a discussion on the rise and spread of Christianity.

Independent Practice

Link to Literature Have students read the excerpt from The City of God by Augustine, Bishop of Hippo. Point out that in his book, Augustine defined the City of God as the community of those who loved God and would one day live with him.

Monitor Progress Check Reading and Note Taking Study Guide entries for student understanding.

Answers

- The unity of the Roman empire, the Roman-protected Mediterranean as well as the Roman roads made it easy for missionaries to travel. Also, the Greek and Latin languages, which were common through the empire, assisted in spreading Christianity.

BIOGRAPHY

His faith was more important to him than his life.
teachers and administrators. Later, women were barred from any official role in the Church. Like men, however, they continued to work as missionaries sent out by the Church to convert people to Christianity both in the Roman empire and beyond.

Structuring the Clergy. Only men were eligible to become members of the Christian clergy, or the group of people who conduct Christian services. Each Christian community and its clergy were grouped together as a diocese. Every diocese had its own priest. Over the priest presided a bishop, a high Church official responsible for everyone in his diocese. Bishops traced their spiritual authority to the apostles, and through the apostles, to Jesus himself. In the early Christian Church, all bishops were considered equal successors of the apostles.

Gradually, the bishops of the most important cities in the Roman empire—Rome, Antioch, Alexandria, Jerusalem, and Constantinople—gained greater authority. Those bishops took on the honorary title of patriarch and exercised authority over other bishops in their area. The Christian Church thus developed into a hierarchy, or organization in which officials are arranged according to rank.

Differences Arise Within the Church. As the rituals and structure of the Church became more defined, rivalry among the patriarchs developed. In the Latin-speaking west, bishops of Rome, who came to be called popes, began to claim authority over all other bishops. In the Greek-speaking east, where the other four patriarchs lived, the patriarchs felt that the five should share spiritual authority as equals.

The emergence of heresies, or beliefs held to be contrary to official Church teachings, also caused division. To end disputes over questions of faith, councils of Church leaders met to decide official Christian teachings.

Scholars Further Define Christianity. Early Christians produced an abundance of works defining Christian theology. The word theology is Greek and means “talk or discourse about God.” Two leading scholars of Greek and Roman learning, especially the philosophy of Plato.

The Christian Clergy

Pope/Patriarch

Bishop

Main Level of Community

Diocese

Main Level of Community

Diocese

Chart Skills: Over time the structure of the Christian church developed into a hierarchy. What are some possible negative elements that may arise from this type of organizational structure?

The Christian Clergy

Pope/Patriarch

Bishop

Main Level of Community

Diocese

Main Level of Community

Diocese

Progress Monitoring Online

Web Code: nna-0541

For additional assessment, have students access Progress Monitoring Online at Web Code: nna-0541.

Assess and Reteach

Assess Progress

■ Have students complete the Section Assessment.

■ Administer the Section Quiz.

Teaching Resources, Unit 1, p. 86
■ To further assess student understanding, use

Progress Monitoring Transparencies, 22

Reteach

If students need more instruction, have them read the section summary.

Reading and Note Taking
Study Guide, p. 55
Adopted Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 55
Spanish Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 55

Extend

Have students explain the following quote “The blood of the martyr is the seed of the [Christian] Church.”

Answers

Chart Skills: positive elements: a more comprehensive structure to the clergy, a ranking of spiritual authority; negative elements: an authoritarian church, a distancing of the Christian community from the clergy.

At the local level, each Christian community had its own priest. Over each priest was a bishop responsible for all Christians within an area called a diocese. In time, the bishops of the most important cities in the Roman empire gained greater authority over all other bishops in their area and assumed the honorary title of patriarch.
First Letter to the Corinthians

Objectives
- Understand how Paul helped spread Christianity through his correspondence with Christian communities.
- Describe Paul’s views on the importance of love in Christian theology.

Build Background Knowledge
Ask students to recall what they know about Paul and his efforts to expand Christianity. Remind students that corresponding with newly formed Christian communities all over the empire was a key part of his missionary work.

Instruct
- Discuss with students Paul’s purpose in writing to the Corinthians. Make sure students understand that the Corinthians were new converts to a relatively new religion. Ask Why might Paul feel that Christian communities like the Corinthians needed mentoring? (beliefs of the new faith and of the rituals associated with this religion were still being created and clarified and the religion was still spreading and changing)

Monitor Progress
Have students write a two- or three-sentence summary of Paul’s message to the Corinthians.

Thinking Critically
1. The repetition emphasizes and reinforces Paul’s main point that love is an all-important quality for a Christian.
2. A truly loving person remains steadfast in this behavior regardless of the suffering, misfortunes or problems he or she may encounter.

First Letter to the Corinthians

Around A.D. 51, Paul founded a Christian community in the thriving commercial city of Corinth. After his departure, he wrote two letters to the newly converted Christians to encourage and guide them in their faith. In this excerpt from Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians, Paul declares that, for a Christian, love is more important than any other quality.

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have no love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood. So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Thinking Critically
1. What purpose does this serve? What does Paul mean when he says that love “endures all things”?

Paul’s Letters to the Corinthians
Paul wrote two letters, or epistles, to the Christian community he founded at Corinth in Greece. This passage is part of a longer letter that Paul sent to the Corinthians to discuss problems within the community that arose after Paul’s first missionary visit to Corinth. At that time there were conflicts among the converts who followed the teachings of various apostles. Paul uses this letter to answer questions the Corinthian Christians have asked him about such issues as marriage and celibacy, the conduct of women, and the Eucharist service. Paul later wrote another letter to the Corinthians, known as Corinthians II. Paul’s writings are found in the New Testament.

First Letter to the Corinthians

I speak in the tongue of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have no love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood. So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Thinking Critically
1. Analyze Literature. Paul uses repetition of words and phrases throughout this letter. What pur- pose does this serve? What does Paul mean when he says that love “endures all things”?