Chapter 11

The Rise of Christianity

Mount of the Beatitudes on the Sea of Galilee in Israel

Where & When?

\[ \begin{align*}
\text{A.D. 50} &: \text{Jesus preaches in Galilee and Judaea} \\
\text{A.D. 400} &: \text{Constantine accepts Christianity} \\
\text{A.D. 750} &: \text{Emperor Leo III removes icons from churches} \\
\text{A.D. 1100} &: \text{Orthodox and Catholic Churches separate}
\end{align*} \]
The First Christians

Studying the past helps us to understand the present. During the Roman Empire, Jesus of Nazareth began preaching a message of love and forgiveness. His life and teachings led to the rise of Christianity. This religion had a great influence on the Roman Empire and on people throughout the world.

The Christian Church

Religion shapes how culture develops, just as culture shapes how religion develops. Although the Romans at first persecuted the Christians, in time, Christianity became the official religion of Rome. Early Christians organized the church and collected the New Testament of the Bible.

The Spread of Christian Ideas

As different societies interact, they often bring about change in each other. The church and government worked closely together in the Byzantine Empire. Christians founded new communities and spread their faith throughout Europe.

View the Chapter 11 video in the Glencoe Video Program.

**Sequencing Information** Make this foldable to help you sequence information about the rise of Christianity.

**Reading and Writing**

As you read the chapter, write the important events that occurred in the rise of Christianity.

**Foldables Study Organizer**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step 1</th>
<th>Fold a piece of paper from top to bottom.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Step 2</td>
<td>Then fold back each half to make quarter folds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 3</td>
<td>Unfold and label the time line as shown.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 4</td>
<td>Fill in important dates as you read like those shown.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| A.D. 30 | Jesus begins to preach |
| A.D. 64 | Romans persecute Christians |
| A.D. 312 | Constantine’s conversion |
| A.D. 726 | Emperor Leo III removes icons |
A cause is the reason that something happens. The result of what happens is called an effect. Learning to identify causes and effects helps you understand why things happen in history. By using graphic organizers, you can sort and analyze causes and effects as you read. As shown below, a single cause can have several effects. A single effect can also be the result of several causes.

In A.D. 313 Constantine issued an order called the Edict of Milan. It gave religious freedom to all people and made Christianity legal. Constantine began giving government support to Christianity. With the help of his mother, Helena (HEHL • uh • nuh), he built churches in Rome and Jerusalem. He also let church officials serve in government and excused them from paying taxes.

— from page 512
Monks and nuns began to serve in many capacities in Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox life. They ran hospitals and schools and aided the poor. They also helped preserve Greek and Roman writings. One important duty was to serve as missionaries (MIH • shuh • NEHR • eez). Missionaries teach their religion to those who do not believe.

—from page 519
The First Christians

Looking Back, Looking Ahead
You learned that the Romans ruled many areas of the Mediterranean. In one of these areas, Judaea, a new religion, Christianity, began.

Focusing on the Main Ideas
- Roman rule of Judaea led some Jews to oppose Rome peacefully, while others rebelled. (page 501)
- Jesus of Nazareth preached of God’s love and forgiveness. According to Christian scriptures, Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead. (page 502)
- Jesus’ life and a belief in his resurrection led to a new religion called Christianity. (page 506)

Locating Places
Jerusalem (juh•ROO•suh•luhm)
Judaea (ju•DEE•uh)
Nazareth (NA•zuh•ruhth)
Galilee (GA•luh•LEE)

Meeting People
Jesus (JEE•zuhs)
Peter
Paul

Content Vocabulary
messiah (muh•SY•uh)
disciple (dih•SY•puhl)
parable (PAR•uh•buhl)
resurrection (REH•zuh•REHK•shuhn)
apostle (uh•PAH•suhl)
salvation (sal•VAY•shuhn)

Academic Vocabulary
decade (DEH•KAYD)
reside (rih•ZYD)

Reading Strategy
Summarizing Information
Complete a diagram like the one below showing the purposes of early Christian churches.

Purposes of Churches
The Jews and the Romans

Main Idea: Roman rule of Judaea led some Jews to oppose Rome peacefully, while others rebelled.

Reading Connection: Suppose you were separated from your home and could not easily return to it. What effect might this have on you? Read to learn how the Jews were forced to leave their capital city.

As you learned earlier, during the 900s B.C., two great kings, David and Solomon, united the Israelites and created the kingdom of Israel. Its capital was Jerusalem (juh•ROO•suh•luhm). This unity did not last long, however. Israel divided into two kingdoms: Israel and Judah. These small kingdoms were later taken over by more powerful neighbors. Israel was destroyed, and its people scattered. But the Jews, the people of Judah, survived.

Roman Rule: In 63 B.C., the Romans took over Judah. At first, they ruled through Jewish kings. Then, in A.D. 6, Emperor Augustus turned Judah into a Roman province called Judaea (ju•DEE•uh). Instead of a king, a Roman governor called a procurator (PRAH•kyuh•RAY•tuhr) ruled the new province on the emperor’s behalf.

The Jews argued among themselves over what to do about the Romans. Some favored working with the Romans. Others opposed Roman authority by closely following Jewish traditions. Still others turned their backs on the Romans. They settled in isolated areas and shared their belongings.

The Jews Rebel: Some Jews believed that they should fight the Romans and take back control of their kingdom. These people, called Zealots, convinced many Jews to take up arms against the Romans in A.D. 66. The rebellion was brutally crushed. The Romans destroyed the temple and killed thousands of Jews. A Jewish general named Josephus (joh•SEE•fuhs) fought in the war but later sided with the Romans. He wrote about the horrors of Jerusalem’s fall in his work History of the Jewish War.

The Jews rebelled again in A.D. 132 and were again defeated. This time the Romans forced all Jews to leave Jerusalem and banned them from ever returning to the city. Saddened by the loss of Jerusalem, many Jews found new homes elsewhere.

By A.D. 700, the Jews had set up communities as far west as Spain and as far east as central Asia. In later centuries, they settled throughout Europe and the Americas. In their scattered communities, the Jews remained committed to their faith by studying and following their religious laws.

Reading Check: Explain Why did many Jews leave Judaea after the A.D. 132 revolt?
The Life of Jesus

Main Idea: Jesus of Nazareth preached of God’s love and forgiveness. According to Christian scriptures, Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead.

Reading Connection: If you could give people advice on how to behave, what would you tell them? Why? Read to learn how Jesus thought people should behave.

During Roman times, many Jews hoped that God would send a *messiah* (muh•SY•uh), or deliverer. This leader would help them win back their freedom. The Israelite prophets had long ago predicted that a messiah would come. Many Jews expected the messiah to be a great king, like David. They thought the messiah would restore the past glories of the Israelite kingdom.

A few decades before the first Jewish revolt against Rome, a Jew named Jesus (JEE•zuhs) left his home in Nazareth (NA•zuh•ruhth) and began preaching. From about A.D. 30 to A.D. 33, Jesus traveled throughout Judaea and Galilee (GA•luh•LEE), the region just north of Judaea, preaching his ideas. Crowds gathered to hear him teach and lecture. He soon assembled a small band of 12 close followers called *disciples* (dih•SY•puhlz).

What Did Jesus Teach? According to the Christian Bible, Jesus preached that God was coming soon to rule the world. He urged people to turn from their sins. He also told them that following Jewish religious laws was not as important as having a relationship with God, whom Jesus referred to as his Father.

The main points of Jesus’ message are given in a group of sayings known as the Sermon on the Mount. In them, Jesus made it clear that a person had to love and forgive...
from the heart and not just go through the motions of following religious laws. Among Jesus’ sayings were “Blessed are the merciful, for they will obtain mercy” and “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.”

Jesus told his listeners to love and forgive each other because God loves and forgives people. According to Jesus, God’s command was simple. He repeated the age-old Jewish teaching: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” Jesus also stressed the Jewish teaching: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” This message of love and forgiveness helped shape the values many people in Europe and America hold today.

To present his message, Jesus often used parables (PAR•uh•buhlz). These were stories that used events from everyday life to express spiritual ideas. In the story of the Prodigal (wasteful) Son, Jesus told how a father welcomed back his reckless son with open arms. He forgave his son’s mistakes. In another parable, he told of a shepherd who left his flock unguarded to go after one lost sheep. Both stories taught that God forgives mistakes and wants all people to turn away from bad deeds and be saved.

The parable of the Good Samaritan is one of the best known. In this story, a man is beaten by robbers. A priest and another religious leader passed by the injured man. However, a Samaritan, a member of a group of people who lived in what is now northern Israel, stops to help the victim. He treats the man’s wounds and pays for his stay at an inn. Jesus asked his followers, “Which man do you think truly showed love to his neighbor?”

Jesus used stories, called parables, to describe correct behaviors to his followers. The parables of the Prodigal Son (left) and the Good Samaritan (right) are shown here. What lesson was taught by the parable of the Prodigal Son?
JESUS OF
NAZARETH
c. 6 B.C.—A.D. 33

Much of what we know about Jesus, whose life and teachings established the Christian religion, is based on accounts found in the New Testament in the Christian Bible. According to the New Testament, Jesus’ birth was guided by God. An angel visited Mary, Jesus’ mother, to tell her she was going to have a baby. The angel told Mary her baby would be called the Son of God. An angel also visited Joseph, Mary’s fiancé, and instructed him to marry her.

Jesus was humbly born in a stable beside barn animals in the town of Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph had traveled there to take part in a census ordered by the Romans. Shepherds and wise men, possibly princes from neighboring kingdoms, followed a brightly shining star to find and honor Jesus in the stable. Christmas is a celebration of Jesus’ birth.

The Christian Bible tells very little about the middle years of Jesus’ life. He grew up in Nazareth, a small town in Galilee, where he learned the carpenter’s trade from Joseph. Later in life, Jesus set out to share his religious teachings. At this point, the Christian Bible provides many stories of Jesus’ travels and the miracles he performed. The accounts of Jesus’ miracles, such as giving a blind man sight, raising a man from the dead, and calming a storm at sea, brought many followers to his teachings. When Jesus entered Jerusalem the week before his death, he was greeted by cheering crowds. One of Jesus’ closest followers, however, betrayed him and turned him over to Roman authorities. Jesus was questioned by Roman officials and sentenced to death. Soon afterwards, reports that he had risen from the dead would lead to a new religion—Christianity.

“I am the light that has come into the world.”
—Jesus of Nazareth, John 12:46

What event does Christmas celebrate? What aspects of Christmas today are not related to its traditional meaning?
What Is the Crucifixion? Jesus and his message drew strong responses from people. His followers spoke of instances in which they believed he healed the sick and performed other miracles. They said he was the long-awaited messiah. Other Jews rejected him and said he was a deceiver. Above all, Judaea’s Roman rulers feared the effects of Jesus’ preaching. A person who could spark such strong reactions was capable of threatening law and order.

About A.D. 33, Jesus went to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, an important Jewish holiday. There he was greeted by large, cheering crowds. In an event known as the Last Supper, Jesus celebrated the holiday with his 12 disciples. Fearing trouble, leaders in Jerusalem arrested Jesus and charged him with treason, or disloyalty to the government. According to Christian scriptures, Jesus was crucified, or hung from a cross until dead. This was Rome’s way of punishing political rebels and lower-class criminals.

After Jesus’ death, his followers made a startling claim. They announced that Jesus had risen from the dead. Christian tradition states that Mary Magdalene, one of Jesus’ followers, was the first to see Jesus alive again. Others, including Jesus’ disciples, reported seeing him as well. The disciples also pointed to his empty tomb as proof that Jesus was the messiah. These reports of Jesus’ resurrection (reh•zuh•rehk•shuhn), or rising from the dead, led to a new religion called Christianity.

Reading Check Describing What were the main ideas Jesus taught during his life?

▲ According to the Bible, just before his death, Jesus gathered his disciples together for a meal known as the Last Supper. Why did the Romans fear Jesus?
The First Christians

Main Idea Jesus’ life and a belief in his resurrection led to a new religion called Christianity.

Reading Connection Have you ever read news stories about people sacrificing their lives to help others? Read to learn about the sacrifice Christians believe Jesus made for everyone.

Jesus’ disciples began to spread the message of Jesus and his resurrection. Small groups in the Greek-speaking cities of the eastern Mediterranean accepted this message. Some were Jews, but others were not.

Those who accepted Jesus and his teachings became known as Christians and referred to him as Jesus Christ. The word Christ comes from Christos, a Greek word for “messiah.”

The early Christians formed churches, or communities for worship and instruction. They met in people’s houses, many of which were owned by women. At these gatherings, Christians prayed and studied the Hebrew Bible. They also shared in a ritual meal like the Last Supper to remember Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Who Were Peter and Paul? Apostles (uh PAH suhlz), or early Christian leaders who had been chosen by Jesus to spread his message, played an important role in the growth of Christianity. Perhaps the two most important were Peter and Paul.

Peter was a Jewish fisher. He had known Jesus while he was alive and had been one of the original 12 people Jesus had called to preach his message. Christian tradition states that he went to Rome after the death of Jesus and helped establish a church there. Today, the leader of Catholic Christians resides in Rome.

Paul of Tarsus was another important Christian leader. He was a well-educated Jew and a Roman citizen. Paul at first worked to stop Christian ideas from spreading in Jerusalem. The chief Jewish priest in Jerusalem then sent him to Damascus (duh MAS kuhs), a city in Syria, to stop Christians in the city from spreading their ideas.

While on the road to Damascus, Paul had an unusual experience. According to Christian belief, he had a vision of a great light and heard Jesus’ voice. Paul became a Christian and spent the rest of his life spreading Jesus’ message. Paul traveled widely, founding churches throughout the eastern Mediterranean.

Primary Source

Sermon on the Mount

Jesus encouraged his disciples with the Sermon on the Mount.

“Happy are you when men insult you and persecute you and tell all kinds of evil lies against you because you are my followers. Be happy and glad, for a great reward is kept for you in heaven. This is how the prophets who lived before you were persecuted.”

—Matthew 5:11–12

Jesus and his followers

**Document-Based Question**

Why does Jesus tell his followers to ignore—even rejoice in—persecution?
PAUL OF TARSUS

C. A.D. 10–65

Without the apostle Paul, Christianity might not have become one of the world’s most widely accepted religions. It was Paul who spread the word about Jesus to the Gentiles, or non-Jews, and helped Jesus gain acceptance as the messiah.

Paul was a Jew from Tarsus, a major city in Asia Minor. His father was a Roman citizen, and his family followed the laws and rules of the Pharisees—a Jewish group that stressed the need to follow Jewish laws. His parents named their son Saul after the first king of the Jews. The first trade Saul learned was tent making. Around age 10, he was sent to Jerusalem to attend a school under the direction of the famed Pharisee teacher Gamaliel. Saul received a well-rounded education. He learned the language and history of the Romans, Jews, and Greeks.

When Saul was in his twenties, he opposed Christians and their newly formed church in Jerusalem. He was on his way to Damascus in Syria to try and stop the spread of Christian ideas there when a vision of Jesus led him to accept Christianity.

Saul began using the Latin name Paul after his conversion to Christianity. He traveled extensively, preaching and writing to Gentiles. He also wrote many important letters, known as epistles, to churches in Rome, Greece, and Asia Minor. These letters are included in the Christian Bible. Paul convinced many people that if they died as Christians, they would have eternal life. Even though Paul’s only meeting with Jesus was supposedly in his vision, Paul visited more places and preached to more people than most of the apostles who had known Jesus in person.

Paul worked as a missionary for around 35 years. His writings helped different Christian communities understand the basic doctrines and principles of Christianity, and are studied by Christians today.

“I showed how you should work to help everyone.”

—Paul, Acts 20:35

Can you think of any groups of people in today’s world who are persecuted for their beliefs?
What Do Christians Believe? From the beginning, Christians taught that Jesus was the Son of God and had come to save people. By accepting Jesus and his teachings, people could gain salvation (sal-VAY-shuhn), or be saved from sin and allowed to enter heaven. Like Jesus, after death they would be resurrected and join God in everlasting life.

Because of their faith in Jesus, Christians began to understand God in a new way. Like the Jews, Christians believed in the God of Israel and studied the Hebrew Bible. However, most Christians came to believe that the one God existed in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This idea became known as the Trinity, which comes from a word meaning “three.”

Reading Check Identify Who were Peter and Paul, and why were they important?

This painting shows the apostle Peter preaching to followers. What was the role of apostles in the spread of Christianity?

Section Review

Reading Summary

What Did You Learn?
1. What are parables, and why did Jesus use them?
2. What do Christians believe they will gain by accepting Jesus and his teachings?
3. What are the beliefs taught by Jesus?
4. Analyze Why were the Jews looking for a messiah? Did Jesus fulfill most Jews’ expectations for a messiah?
5. The Big Ideas How does the study of Jesus’ life and death help people understand Christianity?
6. Expository Writing Write an essay explaining why Paul is important to the history of Christianity.
7. Reading Identifying Cause and Effect Write a brief essay describing the results of the crucifixion of Jesus by the Romans.

Critical Thinking

3. Summarize Information
   Draw a diagram like the one below. Add details to identify some of the Christian beliefs taught by Jesus.

A new religion, Christianity, based on the teachings of Jesus and a belief in his resurrection, spread in the Mediterranean region.

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A new religion, Christianity, based on the teachings of Jesus and a belief in his resurrection, spread in the Mediterranean region.
Looking Back, Looking Ahead
In the last section, you read about the origins of Christianity. In this section, you will discover how Christianity grew and was organized.

Focusing on the Main Ideas
• Christianity won many followers and eventually became the official religion of the Roman Empire. (page 510)
• Early Christians set up a church organization and explained their beliefs. (page 513)

Locating Places
Rome

Meeting People
Constantine (KAHN•stuhn•TEEN)
Helena (HEHL•uh•nuh)
Theodosius I (THEE•uh•DOH•shuhs)

Content Vocabulary
persevere (PURH•suh•KYOOTE)
martyr (MAHR•tuhr)
hierarchy (HY•uhr•AHR•kee)
clergy (KLUIHR•jee)
laity (LAY•uh•tee)
doctrine (DAHK•truhn)
gospel (GAHS•puhl)
pope

Academic Vocabulary
establish (ihs•TAH•blisht)
issue (IH•shoo)
unify (YOO•nuh•FY)

Reading Strategy
Organizing Information Complete a diagram like the one below showing reasons for the growth of Christianity.

Reasons for Growth of Christianity

History
Social Science Standards
WH6.7.7 Describe the circumstances that led to the spread of Christianity in Europe and other Roman territories.
WH7.1.3 Describe the establishment by Constantine of the new capital in Constantinople and the development of the Byzantine Empire, with an emphasis on the consequences of the development of two distinct European civilizations, Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic, and their two distinct views on church-state relations.
A Growing Faith

Main Idea Christianity won many followers and eventually became the official religion of the Roman Empire.

Reading Connection Why do you think people like to belong to a community? Read to learn about early Christian communities.

During the 100 years after Jesus’ death, Christianity won followers throughout the Roman world. The empire itself helped spread Christian ideas. The peace and order established by Rome allowed people to travel in safety. Christians used well-paved Roman roads to carry their message from place to place. Since most of the empire’s people spoke either Latin or Greek, Christians could talk with them directly.

Why did Christianity attract followers? First, the Christian message gave meaning to people’s lives. Rome’s official religion urged people to honor the state and the emperor. Christianity instead reached out to the poor and the powerless who led very hard lives. It offered hope and comfort.

Second, some ideas of Christianity were familiar to many Romans. They were already aware of many other eastern Mediterranean religions. Like these faiths, Christianity

**Spread of Christianity A.D. 325**

**Using Geography Skills**

1. **Location** To what areas did Paul’s journeys take him?
2. **Movement** Why do you think Christianity spread as it did by A.D. 325?

Find NGS online map resources @ www.nationalgeographic.com/maps

**KEY**

- Main areas of Christian growth to A.D. 325
- Green Paul’s first journey
- Red Paul’s second journey
appealed to the emotions and promised happiness after death.

Finally, Christianity gave people the chance to be part of a caring group. Within their churches, Christians not only worshiped together but helped each other. They took care of the sick, the elderly, widows, and orphans. Many women found that Christianity offered them new roles. They ran churches from their homes, spread Jesus’ message, and helped care for those in need.

**How Did the Romans Treat Christians?**

Over time, Roman officials began to see the Christians as a threat to the government. All people in the empire were usually allowed to worship freely, but the Romans expected everyone to honor the emperor as a god. Christians, like the Jews, refused to do this. They claimed that only God could be worshiped. Christians also refused to serve in the army or hold public office. They criticized Roman festivals and games. As a result, the Romans saw the Christians as traitors who should be punished.

In A.D. 64 the Roman government began to **persecute** (PURH•sih•KYOOT), or mistreat, Christians. At this time, the emperor Nero accused Christians of starting a terrible fire that burned much of Rome. Christianity was made illegal, and many Christians were killed.

Other persecutions followed. During these difficult times, many Christians became **martyrs** (MAHR•tuhrz), people willing to die rather than give up their beliefs. At that time, Romans required dead people to be cremated, or burned to ashes. Christians wanted to bury their dead. They were forced to bury their dead outside Rome in catacombs, or underground burial places. Catacombs were also used for religious services during times of persecution.

**Focus on Everyday Life**

**Christian Catacombs** Christians believed in resurrection, the idea that the body would one day reunite with the soul. For this reason, they would not allow their dead bodies to be burned, which was the Roman custom. Also, Roman law did not allow bodies to be buried aboveground. Therefore, starting in the A.D. 100s, Christians buried their dead beneath the city of Rome in a series of dark, cold, stench-filled tunnels called catacombs.

Each tunnel was about 8 feet (2.4 m) high and less than 3 feet (1 m) wide. Bodies were stacked in slots along the sides of the tunnels. The catacomb walls were painted with images from the Bible or from Greek or Roman mythology.

More than five million bodies were buried under Roman streets and buildings. Many of the Christians buried there were martyrs who had been killed for their beliefs.

**Connecting to the Past**

1. Why did Christians bury their dead in catacombs?
2. What skills do you think would be necessary to dig and plan catacombs?
Rome Adopts Christianity Despite the enormous challenges, Christianity spread. Over time it even began to draw people from all classes. In the A.D. 200s as invaders attacked the empire, many Romans became worried. They admired the faith and courage of the Christians. At the same time, many Christians started to accept the empire.

In the early A.D. 300s the emperor Diocletian carried out the last great persecution of Christians. Diocletian failed, and Roman officials began to realize that Christianity had grown too strong to be destroyed by force.

Then, in A.D. 312, the Roman emperor Constantine (Kahn • stuhn • teen) accepted Christianity. According to tradition, Constantine saw a flaming cross in the sky as he was about to go into battle. Written beneath the cross were the words “In this sign you will conquer.” Constantine won the battle and believed that the Christian God had helped him.

In A.D. 313 Constantine issued an order called the Edict of Milan. It gave religious freedom to all people and made Christianity legal. Constantine began giving government support to Christianity. With the help of his mother, Helena (Hehl • uh • nuh), he built churches in Rome and Jerusalem. He also let church officials serve in government and excused them from paying taxes.

Constantine’s successor, the emperor Theodosius I (thee • uh • doh • shuhs), made Christianity Rome’s official religion in A.D. 392. At the same time, he outlawed other religions.

Reading Check Explain Why did the Romans see the Christians as traitors?
The Early Church

Main Idea Early Christians set up a church organization and explained their beliefs.

Reading Connection How can good organization make the difference between whether a plan or project fails or succeeds? Read how early Christians organized their churches and chose what to include in the Bible.

In its early years, Christianity was loosely organized. Leaders like Paul traveled from one Christian community to another. They tried to unify the isolated groups. In their teaching, they emphasized that all the individual groups of Christians were part of one body called the church. Early Christians, however, faced a challenge. How were they to unite?

Organizing the Church The early Christians turned to a surprising model to organize the church—the Roman Empire itself. Like the Roman Empire, the church came to be ruled by a hierarchy (HY•uh•AR•kee). A hierarchy is an organization with different levels of authority.

The clergy (KLUHR•jee) were the leaders of the church. They had different roles from the laity (LAY•uh•tee), or regular church members. As the church’s organization grew, women were not permitted to serve in the clergy. However, as members of the laity, they were relied upon to care for the sick and needy.

By around A.D. 300, local churches were led by clergy called priests. Several churches formed a diocese (DY•uh•suh), led by a bishop. A bishop in charge of a city diocese was sometimes also put in charge of an entire region. This made him an archbishop. The five leading archbishops became known as patriarchs (PAY•tree•ARHKS). They led churches in large cities and were in charge of large areas of territory.

The bishops explained Christian beliefs. They also took care of church business on behalf of the laity and met to discuss questions about Christian faith. Decisions they reached at these meetings came to be accepted as doctrine (DAHK•truhn), or official church teaching.

What Is the New Testament? Along with explaining Christian ideas, church leaders preserved a written record of the life of Jesus and put together a group of writings to help guide Christians. Jesus himself left no writings. His followers, however, passed on what they knew about him. By A.D. 300, four accounts of Jesus’ life, teachings, and resurrection had become well-known. Christians believed these accounts were written by early followers of Jesus named Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Each work was called a gospel (GAH•puhl), which means “good news.” Christians later combined the four gospels with the writings of Paul and other early Christian leaders. Together, these works form the New Testament of the Christian Bible.
Matthew wrote one of the four gospels in the New Testament of the Christian Bible. **What is the subject of the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John?**

Other important writings also influenced early Christians. Scholars known as the Church Fathers wrote books to explain church teachings. One leading Church Father was a bishop in North Africa named Augustine. In his writings, Augustine defended Christianity against its opponents. He wrote *The City of God*—one of the first history books written from a Christian viewpoint. He also wrote a work called *Confessions*. It was an account of his personal journey to the Christian faith.

**Who Is the Pope?** As the church grew, the bishop of Rome, who was also the patriarch of the West, claimed power over the other bishops. He believed that he had the authority of Peter, Jesus’ disciple. Also, his diocese was in Rome, the empire’s capital.

By A.D. 600, the bishop of Rome had gained a special title—pope. The title comes from a Latin word meaning “father.” Latin-speaking Christians accepted the pope as head of the church. Their churches became known as the Roman Catholic Church. Greek-speaking Christians rejected the pope’s authority over them. As you will learn, they formed their own church in the Eastern Roman Empire.

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**Reading Check Identify What are the gospels, and why are they significant?**

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The Spread of Christian Ideas

Looking Back, Looking Ahead
In the last section, you read about the growth of the Christian church. In this section, you will learn how the church underwent a great division and how Christians spread their faith to new lands.

Focusing on the Main Ideas
• Church and government worked closely together in the Byzantine Empire. (page 516)
• Christians founded new communities and spread their faith to various parts of Europe. (page 518)

Locating Places
Byzantine Empire (BIH•zuhn•TEEN EHM•PYR)
Britain (BRIH•tuhn)
Ireland (EYER•luhn)

Meeting People
Charlemagne (SHAHR•luh•MAYN)
Basil (BAY•zuhl)
Benedict (BEH•nuh•DIHKT)
Cyril (SIHR•uhl)
Patrick

Content Vocabulary
icon (EYE•KAHN)
iciconoclast (eye•KAH•nuh•KLAST)
excommunicate (EHK•skuh•MYOO•nuh•KAYT)
schism (SKIH•zuhm)
omastery (MAH•nuh•STEH•EE)
missionary (MIH•shuh•NEHR•EE)

Academic Vocabulary
survive (suhr•VYY)

Reading Strategy
Organizing Information Create a diagram to show the reach of Christian missionaries.

Missionaries
Eastern Europe

Britain/Ireland

History Social Science Standards
WH6.7.7 Describe the circumstances that led to the spread of Christianity in Europe and other Roman territories.
WH7.1.3 Describe the establishment by Constantine of the new capital in Constantinople and the development of the Byzantine Empire, with an emphasis on the consequences of the development of two distinct European civilizations, Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic, and their two distinct views on church-state relations.

Where & When?

IRELAND
BRITAIN
GAUL
SPAIN
ITALY
Constantinople
ASIA
MINOR
GREECE
Jerusalem
AFRICA

A.D. 400
C. A.D. 450
Patrick preaches Christianity in Ireland

A.D. 800
A.D. 726
Emperor Leo III removes icons from churches

A.D. 1200
A.D. 1054
Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches separate

CHAPTER 11 • The Rise of Christianity 515
The Byzantine Church

Main Idea  Church and government worked closely together in the Byzantine Empire.

Reading Connection  In our country, religion and government are separated. Read to learn about the relationship between religion and government in the Byzantine Empire.

As you learned earlier, the church of Rome survived the fall of the Western Roman Empire. Its head, the pope, became the strongest leader in Western Europe. Under the pope, the Latin churches of the region became known as the Roman Catholic Church. In the East, however, the Roman Empire continued. It developed into the Byzantine Empire (BIH•zuhn•TEEN EHM•PYR). Like Roman Catholics in the West, the Byzantines developed their own version of Christianity that accommodated their Greek heritage. It was known as the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Church and State  Church and government worked closely together in the Byzantine Empire. The Byzantines believed their emperor represented Jesus Christ on Earth. The emperor was crowned in a religious ceremony.

The emperor also chose the patriarch of Constantinople, the leading Church official in the Byzantine Empire. In this way, the emperor controlled the Church as well as the government. Byzantines believed that God wanted them to preserve and spread Christianity. All Church and government officials were united in this goal.

Religious Arguments  Byzantines, from the emperor down to the poorest farmer, were very interested in religious matters. In homes and shops, they argued about religious questions. For example, Byzantines loved to discuss the exact relationship between Jesus and God.

In the A.D. 700s, a major dispute divided the Church in the Byzantine Empire. The argument was over the use of icons (EYE•KAH•NIZ). Icons are pictures or images of Jesus, Mary (the mother of Jesus), and the saints, or Christian holy people. Many Byzantines honored icons. They covered the walls of their churches with them. A few important icons were even believed to work miracles.

Some Byzantines, however, wanted an end to the use of icons. They thought that honoring them was a form of idol worship forbidden by God. Supporters of icons,

This gold Byzantine incense burner is in the shape of a church. What was the Christian church that developed in the Byzantine Empire called?
however, claimed that icons were symbols of God’s presence in daily life. These images, they also said, helped explain Christianity to people.

Emperor Leo III did not approve of icons. In A.D. 726 he ordered all icons removed from the churches. Government officials who carried out his orders were known as iconoclasts (eye·KAH·nuh·KLASTS), or image breakers. We use this word today to mean someone who attacks traditional beliefs or institutions.

Most Byzantines, many church leaders, and even the pope in Rome opposed the emperor’s order. In fact, the dispute over icons damaged ties between the churches of Rome and Constantinople. Over the next 100 years, the argument cooled, and the use of icons became accepted once again. They are still an important part of Eastern Orthodox religious practice.

Conflicts Between Churches Icons were not the only issue that caused bitterness between the churches of Constantinople and Rome. The most serious argument was about how churches were to be run. The pope claimed that he was the sole head of all Christian churches. The Byzantines did not accept the pope’s claim. They believed the patriarch of Constantinople and other bishops were equal to the pope.

Making matters worse was the fact that each church sometimes refused to help the other when outsiders attacked. In the late A.D. 700s, the Byzantine emperor refused to help the pope when Italy was invaded. The pope turned instead to a Germanic people called the Franks for help. The Franks were Roman Catholics and loyal to the pope.

The pope was grateful to the Franks for stopping the invasion. In A.D. 800 he gave the Frankish king, Charlemagne (SHAHR·luh·MAYN), the title of emperor. This angered the Byzantines. They believed the leader of the Byzantines was the only true Roman emperor.

This conflict pointed out the differences in how each church felt about relations with the government. In the Byzantine Empire, the emperor was in control, with church leaders accommodating his wishes. In the West, however, the pope claimed both spiritual and political power. He often quarreled with kings over church and government affairs.
Finally, after centuries of tension, the pope and the patriarch of Constantinople took a drastic step in their constant feud. In A.D. 1054 they excommunicated each other. Excommunication means to declare that a person or group no longer belongs to the church. This began a formal schism, or separation, of the two most important branches of Christianity. The split between the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches has lasted to this day.

Reading Check Describe How did church and government work together in the Byzantine Empire?

Christian Ideas Spread

Main Idea Christians founded new communities and spread their faith to various parts of Europe.

Reading Connection Have you ever tried to get someone to believe something you believe? Read to learn how Christians spread their faith across Europe.

After the fall of Rome, the people of Western Europe faced confusion and conflict. As a result, people were looking for order and unity. Christianity helped to meet this need. It spread rapidly into lands that had once been part of the Roman Empire.
What Are Monasteries? As Christianity spread, it also brought new ways of thinking and living. During the A.D. 300s, a new kind of religious group was born in the Eastern Roman Empire. Men called monks banded together in religious communities called monasteries (MAH•nuh•STEH•ree•ez). Some monasteries were built near cities, while others arose in isolated areas.

One of the earliest monks was Anthony, who founded a monastery in the deserts of Egypt. Monks tried to live a spiritual life apart from the temptations of the world. Many also tried to do good deeds and be examples of Christian living.

Women soon followed the monks’ example and formed communities of their own. These women were called nuns, and they lived in convents.

In the early A.D. 400s, Paula, a Roman widow, gave up her wealth and went to Palestine. There she built churches, a hospital, and a convent. Being well-educated, Paula helped a scholar named Jerome translate the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into Latin.

A bishop called Basil (BAY•zuhl) drew up a list of rules for monks and nuns to follow. This list, called the Basilian (buh•ZIH•lee•uhn) Rule, became the model for Eastern Orthodox religious life.

In the West, another set of rules was followed. It was written by an Italian monk named Benedict (BEH•nuh•DIHKT). Monks who followed the Benedictine Rule gave up their belongings, lived simply, and occupied their time with work and prayer. Like Basil’s rule in the East, Benedict’s rule became the model for monasteries and convents in the West. Basilian and Benedictine communities still exist today.

Monks and nuns began to serve in many capacities in Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox life. They ran hospitals and schools and aided the poor. They also helped preserve Greek and Roman writings. One important duty was to serve as missionaries (MIH•shuh•NEHR•eez). Missionaries teach their religion to those who do not believe.

Christianity Spreads North Among the most successful Byzantine missionaries were two brothers, Cyril (SIHR•uhl) and Methodius (mih•THOH•dee•uhs). They carried the Christian message to the Slavs, a people of Eastern Europe.

About A.D. 863, Cyril invented a new alphabet. He wanted to present the Christian message in the Slavic languages. He believed that people would be more interested in Christianity if they could worship and read the Bible in their own languages. The Cyrillic (suh•RIH•lihk) alphabet was based on Greek letters. It is still used today by Russians, Ukrainians, Serbs, and Bulgarians.

Eastern Orthodox missionaries traveled in northern lands that bordered the Byzantine Empire. At the same time, other missionaries from Rome were also busy.
**Christianity Spreads West**  In the West, Christian missionaries looked to the islands of **Britain** (BRIH•tuhn) and **Ireland** (EYER•luhnd). In the A.D. 300s, Roman soldiers in Britain were called home to defend the empire against Germanic invaders. When the Romans left, Britain was opened to attack by others.

Starting in the A.D. 400s, tribes from what are today Germany and Denmark invaded Britain. These people were the Angles and the Saxons. These groups united to become the Anglo-Saxons. They built settlements and set up several small kingdoms. The southern part of Britain soon became known as Angleland, or England.

While invading Britain, the Angles and Saxons pushed aside the people already living there. These people were called the Celts (KEHLTS). Some Celts fled to the mountainous regions of Britain. Others went to Ireland.

In the A.D. 400s, a priest named **Patrick** brought Christianity to Ireland. He set up a number of monasteries and churches. Over
the next centuries, Irish monks played an important role in preserving Christian and Roman learning.

The Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Britain were slower than Ireland to accept the new religion. In A.D. 597 Pope Gregory I sent about 40 monks from Rome to take Christianity to England.

The missionaries converted Ethelbert, the ruler of the English kingdom of Kent. Ethelbert allowed the missionaries to build a church in his capital city of Canterbury. In about 100 years, most of England was Christian. Today, Canterbury is still an important center of Christianity in England.

**Reading Check** Analyze Why were Basil and Benedict important?

Gregory was a monk before he became Pope Gregory I in the late 500s. **How did Gregory impact Christianity in England?**

**Critical Thinking**

3. **Cause and Effect** Draw a diagram to show the causes of the schism between the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches.

4. **The Big Ideas** How did Cyril change Slavic society?

5. **Explain** What role did Charlemagne play in the schism between the Catholic and Orthodox Churches?

6. **Analyze** Why do you think the Basilian and Benedictine Rules were put in place for monks?

7. **Creating Time Lines** Create a time line that traces the spread of Christianity. Use your time line to write a report on this topic.
The Message of Jesus

As you have learned, Jesus often spread his message by speaking in parables. These stories conveyed spiritual messages. Through them, Jesus taught people the importance of being good, of having compassion, and of loving one another instead of fighting or hurting each other.

Read the following passages on pages 522 and 523, and answer the questions that follow.

Reader’s Dictionary

**repents**: feels sorry for one’s sins and changes one’s ways

**prodigal** (PRAH•dih•guhl): wasteful person

**entreat**: to encourage

The Lost Sheep

Jesus gave this parable to explain to the Pharisees why he spent time with sinners.

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable:

“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

The Prodigal Son

Jesus gave this parable shortly after the parable of the Lost Sheep.

“There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father; ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ . . . Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. . . .

“But when he came to himself, he said . . . I will arise and go to my father. . . . But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and . . . ran and embraced him and kissed him. . . . [T]he father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and . . . bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. . . .

“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he . . . refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, . . . yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. . . . And [his father] said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.”’

—Luke 15:11–32

DBQ Document-Based Questions

The Lost Sheep

1. To whom are the ninety-nine sheep compared? The one lost sheep?

2. The Pharisees and scribes grumbled because Jesus was talking to sinners. How does Jesus’ parable explain his actions to them?

The Prodigal Son

3. Why was the older brother not happy about his brother’s return?

4. What was the father’s reply to his older son?

Read to Write

5. What ideas do these two parables have in common? What do these parables reveal about Jesus’ teachings?
Review Content Vocabulary

1. Write a paragraph about the basic beliefs of Christianity using the following words.
   messiah salvation resurrection gospel
   Write the vocabulary word that completes each sentence. Then write a sentence for each word not chosen.
   a. laity e. parables
   b. missionaries f. schism
   c. martyrs g. apostle
   d. iconoclasts h. pope

2. Jesus told symbolic stories called ___.
3. The bishop of Rome was called the ___.
4. The ___ in the Christian churches happened in A.D. 1054.
5. Christians who died for their faith were ___.

Review the Main Ideas

Section 1 • The First Christians
6. How did Jews react to Roman rule?
7. When did Jesus begin preaching?
8. On what is Christianity based?

Section 2 • The Christian Church
9. How did the Roman Empire eventually recognize Christianity?
10. What did early Christians do to organize their religion?

Section 3 • The Spread of Christian Ideas
11. What was the relationship between the church and the government in the Byzantine Empire?
12. How and where did Christianity spread?

Critical Thinking
13. Explain What message did Jesus teach in the Sermon on the Mount? How was his message received? 

Geography Skills

Study the map below and answer the following questions.
14. Contrast How did Jews and Christians differ in their belief about Jesus and his message? 
15. Predict How would the growth of Christianity have been affected if the emperor Constantine had not become a Christian? 

Spread of Christianity

16. Human/Environment Interaction What geographical feature do you think most helped the spread of Christianity? 

17. Location By A.D. 325, Christianity had spread to which continents? 

18. Region Why do you think the cities of Judaea were all important centers of Christianity?
Read to Write

19. **The Big Ideas** **Narrative Writing** Rewrite the parable of the Good Samaritan as if the events took place in the present day. Explain how the story helps you understand today’s society. Read your parable to your classmates, and explain any changes in the meaning that occurred as you modernized it. **CA 6WA2.1**

20. **Using Your** **Foldables** Use your foldable to write three sentences that summarize the main ideas of this chapter. Share your sentences with the class, and listen to their sentences. Then vote for the one you think best summarizes the chapter. **CA 6RC2.0**

Using Academic Vocabulary

Fill in the blank spaces in the following sentences. Keep in mind that the word might need to be changed slightly in order to fit properly in the sentence.

- a. decade
- b. reside
- c. establish
- d. issue
- e. unify
- f. survive


22. Roman leaders ____ a death sentence for Jesus.

23. The Twelve Apostles helped ____ the Christian church.

24. Christians set up a hierarchy of leaders to ____ the church.

25. Ten years are known as a ____.

Linking Past and Present

26. **Recognizing Patterns** Conduct research to find out the number of people worldwide who are Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, and Muslim. Also record the countries where people of each religion live. Write an essay describing the patterns you noticed about religions in different regions of the world. **CA 6WA2.3**

Reviewing Skills

27. **Identifying Cause and Effect** Review Section 3, The Spread of Christian Ideas. Use a graphic organizer to show the causes and effects of the spread of Christianity. **CA HR3.**

28. **Understanding Narratives** Search your local library for a book on Christian parables. What are the stories trying to teach? What information from the parables is useful to learning what they teach? What information is not needed? Write an essay that answers these questions. **CA HR2.**

Select the best answer for each of the following questions.

29. **Why was Paul important to the spread of Christianity?**

   A. He wrote one of the gospels.
   B. He wrote epistles and preached to Gentiles.
   C. He formed the Catholic Church in Rome.
   D. He convinced Constantine to become Christian.

30. **What two important actions led to the acceptance of Christianity in Rome?**

   A. Jesus’ crucifixion and Paul’s preaching throughout Asia
   B. Christian persecutions and the conversion of Saul
   C. Constantine’s conversion and Theodosius outlawing other religions
   D. fires in Rome and the Battle of the Milvian Bridge
Compare ancient Greece, ancient Rome, and early Christianity by reviewing the information below. Can you see how the people during this time had lives that were very much like yours?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where did these groups develop?</th>
<th>Who were some important people?</th>
<th>Where did most of the people live?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On Mediterranean islands and the Balkan Peninsula</td>
<td>Homer, c. 750 B.C.</td>
<td>Early Greeks lived on estates near walled palaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Began on Italian peninsula</td>
<td>Pericles, c. 495–429 B.C.</td>
<td>• Later Greeks lived in a polis and in nearby farms and villages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Won control of Mediterranean world</td>
<td>Socrates, c. 470–399 B.C.</td>
<td>Farming villages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Alexander the Great, c. 356–323 B.C.</td>
<td>Cincinnatus c. 519–438 B.C.</td>
<td>• Major cities included Rome and Alexandria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Jesus c. 6 B.C.–A.D. 33</td>
<td>Augustus, ruled 27 B.C.–A.D. 14</td>
<td>Ports and cities of Mediterranean area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Helena c. A.D. 248–328</td>
<td>Theodora c. A.D. 500–548</td>
<td>• Augustine A.D. 354–430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What were these people’s beliefs?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greeks worshiped many gods and goddesses and believed in fate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What was their government like?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Greeks were ruled by kings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Later, some Greeks developed governments run by citizens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rome developed from a republic into an empire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An emperor was the chief leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army played role in government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranked order of priests, bishops, and archbishops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishop of Rome became head of the Roman Catholic Church</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What was their language and writing like?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greek: used characters to form letters and words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin was official language; Greek spoken in empire’s eastern part</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many local languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduced democracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture was copied by others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developed the idea of theater and drama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduced ideas about law and government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developed new styles of building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christianity became a world religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaped beliefs and values of Western civilization</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What contributions did they make?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We have a democratic government in the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern plays, movies, and television shows have their roots in Greek theater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin contributed many words to English language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rome’s idea of a republic followed by governments today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christianity is major religion of the West today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth date of Jesus is starting date for Western calendar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How do these contributions affect me? Can you add any?