6.4

The Origins of Christianity



As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- Understand the diverse religions included in the early Roman empire.
- Describe the development and central ideas of Christianity.
- Summarize the spread of Christianity.
- Outline the development of the early Christian Church.

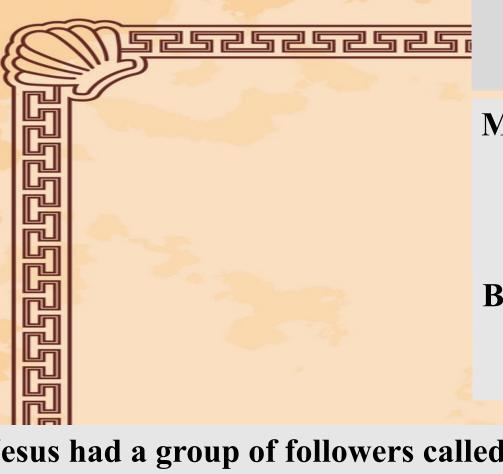
Rome & Tolerance

Numerous religions were in Rome & Rome tolerated these belief structures. Citizens just had to show loyalty to Roman gods

Cult of Isis- Egyptian region where women were equal to men. Cult of Mithras- Good over evil & life after death.

The Jewish faith was a monotheistic faith that absorbed many Greek customs & ideas

Some believed that a messiah, anointed king sent by God, would lead them to freedom



The Rise of Christianity

Many followers of the Jewish faith followed a man named Jesus which is chronicled in the first 4 books of the Christian Bible- Book of the Christian Faith

Born in Bethlehem, he was a prophet who would speak to large crowds about his teachings & word spread of his "miracles."

Jesus had a group of followers called the apostles (person sent forth) to spread his message

Jesus spread the idea of service to others & would die by crucifixion.



Analyze Maps How did the extent of Christianity in A.D. 325 compare to that in A.D. 476?

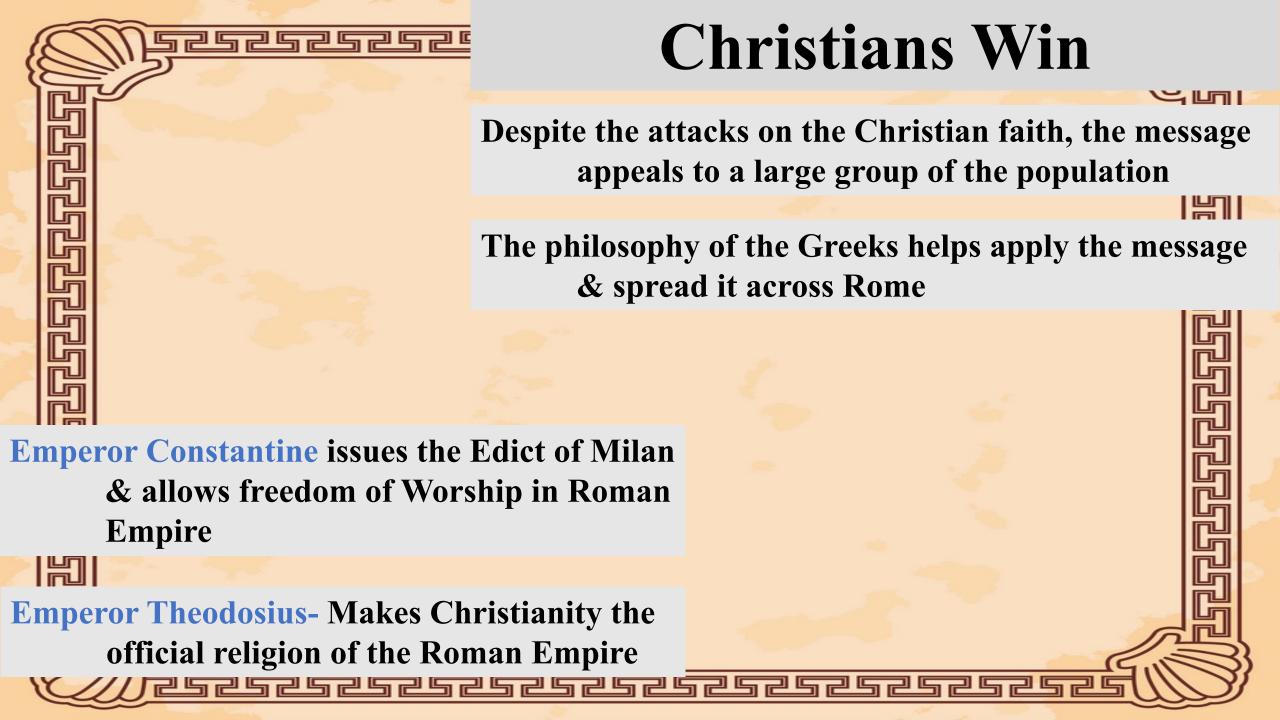
Christianity Spreads

Apostles & disciples spread Jesus' message after his death

Paul has a vision of Jesus & converts to the new faith & spreads Christianity beyond Jewish communities.

Rome did not tolerate Christians & would often persecute them

Thousands of Christians will become martyrs, people who suffer & die for their beliefs.



Growth of the Christian Church

To join the faith, one had to be baptized, or blessed with holy water

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Women were originally welcome to teach & administer faith until later.

The church would form a clergy, people who conduct worship services, & appoint priests & bishops, high ranking Church officials

Bishops in major cities became known as Patriarchs

The bishop of Rome eventually takes control & becomes **Pope**, father of the Church.

