5.4 The Development of Christianity

Directions: This set of notes goes along with the Prezi: Ancient Rome. Complete the notes by filling in the blank spaces. A Section Summary will be used in place of assessment questions.

Vocabulary

1. Messiah
2. Apostle
3. Martyr
4. Heresy

Background: Roman Religion

* Augustus revived traditional Roman religious \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to bring back the Roman state religion.
  + It focused on the worship of a number of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_—including Jupiter, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Minerva, and Mars—based on the Greek Olympian deities.
  + Beginning with Augustus, emperors often were declared \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The Romans believed that observing the proper \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ brought them into a right relationship with the gods, which guaranteed peace and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + They also believed that their success at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ building meant the gods favored them.
* The Romans were tolerant of Local religions and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Many Romans were drawn to the religions of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ areas they had conquered.
  + These religions gave a more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ experience to them, promised entry into a higher reality, and taught of a life \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ death superior to the present one.

Jewish Background and the Rise of Christianity

* By A.D 6, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which covered the lands of the ancient kingdom of Judah, was a Roman province under the direction of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Unrest was common in Judaea, even among factions of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + Among the Jews, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ counseled cooperating with the Romans.
  + The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ promoted close observance of religious law to protect Jewish identity from Roman influences.
  + The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ awaited God to save Israel from oppression.
  + The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ advocated overthrowing Roman rule
  + A revolt begun in \_\_\_\_\_ was crushed by the Romans, who destroyed the temple in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a Jew, began to preach in the midst of this conflict.
  + Jesus taught that inner transformation was most important, not adhering to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + He commanded that we love God and love each other, treating all as our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + Jesus taught the virtues that would later shape the value system of Western civilization: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and love of others.
  + Jesus’ opponents turned Jesus over to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ authorities because they thought he might cause people to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ against Rome
* The procurator, Pontius \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, ordered his crucifixion.
* Followers of Jesus believed he overcame \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, however.
  + Many Jewish followers believed he was the Messiah who had come to save \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Peter was a prominent figure in early Christianity.
  + Another prominent leader was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + Paul took the message of Jesus to both Jews and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or Gentiles.
  + He founded many Christian communities in Asia Minor and along the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Sea.
  + Paul taught that Jesus was the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Son of God who had come to Earth to save all people.
    - Jesus’ death could make up for people’s sins and offer them \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Paul wrote letters (epistles) to Christian communities and other disciples may have written down Jesus’ sayings.
  + Between A.D. 40 and 100, these became the basis of the written \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (“the good news”).
* The Gospels tell of Jesus’ life and teachings, and they form the basis of the New \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the second part of the Christian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Christianity’s basic values differed from Greco-Roman values.
  + Even so, at first the Romans paid little attention to the spread of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + That attitude changed
  + Romans came to see Christianity as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to public order and morals because Christians would not worship the Roman \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + This was an act of treason, a capital crime.
  + Christians believed, however, in one God only and that worshipping \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gods would endanger their salvation.
* Roman persecution of Christians began under \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ reign (A.D. 54-68).
  + He blamed Christians for the fire that burned much of Rome.
  + He subjected them to cruel deaths
* In the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ century, persecution lessened, though it continued to a degree
* By the end of the five good emperors, Christians made up a small but strong minority

The Triumph of Christianity

* Roman persecution \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Christianity by forcing it to become more organized.
* The emerging control over Christian communities by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was important to the change.
* The Christian Church was creating a distinction between the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (church leaders) and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (everyday church members).
* For a number of reasons, Christianity grew steadily.
  + First, it was more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than the Roman religion and offered \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ life and salvation.
  + Second, it was familiar because it was like other religions that offered immortality through the sacrificial death of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + Third, it fulfilled the human need to belong.
* Christians formed communities based on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Christianity was especially attractive to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and powerless.
* Everyone, regardless of status, could gain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and all were equal in the eyes of God.
* Emperors in the third century began new waves of persecution, ending with the great persecution by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at the beginning of the fourth century.
  + Christianity was too strong of force to destroy it however.
* Christianity prospered in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ century.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ became the first Christian emperor.
  + In 313 his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ officially sanctioned tolerating Christianity.
  + Under \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Great, the Romans adopted Christianity as their official religion.