

# Christianity

# Chapter One

- Christianity sprang from the teachings and beliefs of Judaism.
- Major difference between Christianity and Judaism is the coming of a Messiah (Savior)
  - Most Jews believe that Messiah has not come yet.
  - Christians believe the Messiah came in the person of Jesus.

# From Abraham to Moses

- Abraham - “Father of Judaism”
  - Christianity came from Judaism 2000 years later.
  - Smashed his father’s idols
  - Covenant with God
    - Canaan (Promised Land)

# Moses and the Exodus

- Abraham - “Father” of the Hebrews
- Moses - “Liberator” of the Hebrews
  - Egypt
  - Ten Plagues
  - Exodus (40 years)
  - Ten Commandments

# From the Exodus to the Roman Conquest

- 1200 BC - Israelites reached the Land of Canaan
- For 200 Years - ruled by Judges
- 1020 BC - Saul becomes first king
  - David
  - Solomon
- Split into two kingdoms (north - Israel and south - Judah)
- 722 BC - northern kingdom fell to the Assyrians
- 586 BC - southern kingdom fell to the Chaldeans
- 539 BC - Chaldeans were overthrown by the Persians
- 70 BC - Romans
- Romans drove the Jews out of their homeland and they were scattered throughout the world
- Diaspora

# Chapter Two: Jesus of Nazareth

- Nazareth in the province of Galilee in northern Judea
- Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary (Jewish woman)
- Jesus was born of a virgin mother
- His birth signals the beginning of Christianity



# The Birth of Jesus

- Mary was engaged to marry a carpenter named Joseph
- Angel appeared to him and explained the situation
- Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem to register for the census
- Bethlehem was located in the southern part of Judea
- Sought Shelter in a stable
- Mary gave birth in the stable
- Named the baby Jesus (“to save”)
- Christ comes from the Greek word Christos “anointed one”
- No one knows for certain what month he was born in
- 4th Century AD - Began celebrating his birth on the 25th of December

# Jesus' Childhood

- Four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in the New Testament relate the story of Jesus' life.
- Joseph was warned by an angel that King Herod the Great (ruled Judea) planned to kill all male babies who lived around Bethlehem
- Joseph took Mary and the baby Jesus to Egypt and they lived there until Herod died.
- Returned to Nazareth
- While visiting Jerusalem at the age of 12 (Feast of the Passover)
- Jesus disappeared for three days and was found at the Temple. He was discussing religion with the priest.
- No mention of his life after the age of 12.

# The Ministry of Jesus

- At the age of 30 he started traveling through Galilee teaching and preaching
- Three-year ministry
- Ministry - “office, duties, and time of service of a minister”
- Ministry began after he was baptized by a man called John the Baptist
- John the Baptist - lived in the wilderness of the Galilee area
- He was a prophet and he foretold the coming of the Messiah in the person of Jesus.
- Called “the Baptist” because he had started baptizing people in the River Jordan.
- Baptism - ceremony in which Christians believe that dipping a person in water or sprinkling water on his or her head washes away sin.
- Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist

- Jesus went to the desert to prepare himself for his mission on earth
- Fasted for 40 days
- Tempted by Satan while in the desert
- Satan - “devil”
- Jesus began to spread the word about the kingdom of God
- Selected 12 men to be his disciples
- Disciple - “follower” or “pupil” of any teacher or school of thought
- 12 of the disciples became the Apostles
- Apostle - Greek word meaning “messenger”
- Chose 12 men to help spread his message
- Matthew, (tax collector),
- Fishermen (Andrew, James, John and Peter)

- Eleven remained loyal to till the end.
- Judas Iscariot - betrayed Jesus to the Jewish authorities
- Jesus went on a three-year ministry
- Preached mostly in Galilee
- Traveled to Jerusalem and other regions
- Talked about love and helped those in need
- Healed the sick and forgave people of their sins
- Taught parables
- Made use of miracles
- Performed 36 miracles
  - turned water into wine
  - fed 5,000 people from only 5 loaves of bread
  - brought a friend back to life after he had been dead for four days

- walked on water
- Famous sermon: Sermon on the Mount
  - Beatitudes “blessedness” or “happiness”
  - Righteous, meek, merciful, and pure of heart
  - Golden Rule
- Preached that he was the Messiah and the Son of God.
- Told People that if they believed in him and followed his word, they would go to the kingdom of heaven when they died.

# Jesus's Arrest and Death

- People of Judea loved him
- Jewish leaders were jealous of his popularity and were threatened by him.
- Jewish high council were determined to get rid of him
- Jesus visited Jerusalem during the Feast of Passover
- Jesus went into the Temple and drove out the moneychangers (Roman money was changed for Jewish coins)
- Moneychangers earned a nice profit
- Jesus preached and helped people in need
- Ate Passover meal with his disciples (Last Supper)

- Sacrament of Communion came from the Last Super
- At the super announced that one of his disciples would betray him
- Judas Iscariot identified him for Roman soldiers.
- Jesus was arrested and was found guilty by the Jewish chief priests of Blasphemy “a contempt for God”
- Jesus had blasphemed God by claiming to be his equal according to the Jewish chiefs
- He was condemned to death
- Jesus was turned over to Pontius Pilate (Roman governor of Judea)
- Was going to set Jesus free but the Jewish authorities and common people demanded his execution.
- Pilate condemned Jesus to death
- He was crucified on a cross. His hands and feet were nailed and he was left to die.

# The Resurrection

- Christians believe that Jesus arose from the dead after three days and spent another 40 days on earth.
- Resurrection - “a coming to life again”
- Supposed saw a number of people
  - Mary Magdalene (faithful follower)
  - All eleven of the remaining apostles
- 500 people were supposed to have seen him on a mountain in Galilee
- Jesus left these instructions for his disciples
- “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever. I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you, even unto the end of the world.