

I. Introduction to Christianity

A. What is a Christian?

1. Jesus: _____ (the messiah)

B. The Life & Teachings of Jesus

1. Birth - Bethlehem (Gospels Luke & Matthew both support virgin birth)

2. Early Life - Gospel of Mark

3. Ministry - all Gospels precede ministry with story of John the Baptist; the _____

_____ (Matthew, Mark, & Luke convey temptation in desert by Satan; appointing of 12 apostles)

4. The Sermon on the Mount (Christian principles, values, & ethics)

a. "turning the other cheek" compared to "eye for an eye"

b. "good works (alms prayer, fasting) must be from heart not for recognition"

c. "seek God's kingdom instead of material items"

d. "condemns those who judge others before first judging themselves"

e. "warns against false prophets"

f. "treat people as you wish to be treated by them"

5. Condemnation & Crucifixion (all 4 Gospels) - fulfillment of _____

(book of Zechariah; cleansing of the Temple of money changers; the Last Supper & prediction of

_____ by Peter; the garden of Gethsemane; carrying the cross up the Via Dolorosa; piercing with the lance

6. Resurrection & Ascension - Tomb is empty after 3 days; Jesus makes several appearances to apostles &

the Doubting Thomas episode; Jesus directs apostles to _____

_____ ; ascends into heaven to be right hand of God.

C. The History of Christianity

1. Ancient Times (~4 A.D. - 500 A.D.)

a. the spread of Christianity

(1) The _____ Church - the period of the 12 apostles (~33 A.D. ~ 100 A.D.) - considered to be the purest form of Christianity

(2) Leadership of Peter - Jewish sect of the late 2nd Temple Age of the 1st century;

(3) Christian Jews - theological conflict between C. J. & C. G.; daily Temple attendance; home prayer; reverence for Torah; observance of Jewish holy days (should Gentiles convert to Judaism?????)

(4) Leadership of Paul - began by persecuting Christian Jews then converted & adopted the title "Apostle of the Gentiles"; advocated _____

(5) Christian Gentiles by 2nd century A.D., Christianity predominantly Gentiles

b. The Council of Jerusalem (A.D. 50)

(1) At the time, most followers of Jesus _____

(2) Called to debate whether Christian Gentiles should follow Jewish law and be circumcised an act considered repulsive at the time outside of Jewish community

(3) Should the church observe the Torah and other traditional rules of Judaism (Paul believing it was not necessary)?

(4) James, the leader of the Jerusalem church proposed writing a letter to the Gentiles "and whatever things ye would not have done to yourselves, do not do to another (_____)

c. Persecution of Christians (a major theme in Christianity)

- (1) Under Roman law nothing “other than a prosecutor, a charge of Christianity, & a governor willing to punish” was required.
- (2) Why? Local governors wanting to cooperate with local animosity against Christians - persecuted to “_____”; political leaders of Rome were public cult leaders of Roman religion & saw Christians spreading the word as anathema, a superstition
- (3) _____ of Christianity as well as _____
- (4) At their height under emperors Diocletian & Galerius at the end of the 3rd ct (200's)

d. Constantine I - The _____ (313 A.D.) ended persecution of Christians after vision; mother Helena was Christian; built Constantinople (Christian architecture); baptized on deathbed

e. The Council of Nicaea, the first “_____ Council” (325 A.D.) means “_____”

- (1) Resulted in first _____ called the Creed of Nicaea
- (2) Attempted to settle debate w/in early Christian communities regarding the _____ - affirmed teachings of Apostles: Christ is the one true God in deity with the Father
- (3) St. Alexander of the Alexandria church took the position that “the Son had been ‘begotten’ by the Father from his own being; upheld at council
- (4) Arias the Presbyter took the position that “the Son was created out of nothing, a more human characteristic; Arianism; was decided against, considered heresy

C. The History of Christianity

1. Medieval Times (~500 A.D. 1500 A.D.)

- a. The _____ (732 A.D.) - Franks (Charles Martel) vs. Moors (Umayyad Caliphate) - stopped the spread of Islam into Europe; considered one of the most important battles in history, _____
- b. The Schism of 1054 A.D.: The Orthodox Church & the Roman Catholic Church
 - (1) Political, cultural, & _____ differences over many centuries
 - (2) The church in Rome claimed _____; Church of Constantinople believed free of authority of Rome due to Constantine; bishops of Rome & Constantinople were equals
 - (3) Mutual _____ of church leaders in 1054
 - (4) Iconoclast policy disputed in the West
 - (5) Disputed changing of Nicene Creed
 - (6) Disputes of _____, the use of unleavened bread for the Eucharist in the West; celibacy of priests (Eastern Orthodox can marry)
- c. The Crusades (1095 A.D. - 1285 A.D.)
 - (1) Cause - _____ defeated the Eastern Roman/Byzantines and after A.D. 636 _____. Various different Muslim dynasties fought, won, & lost control over Palestine (Umayyad, Abbasid, & Fatimids)

- (a) Muslims considered Christians “people of the book” & allowed Christians pilgrimages to their holy sites. The Seljuk Turks _____ and thus prompted support for a “crusade” to free the Holy Land.
- (b) Papacy advocating taking back Palestine and _____ for anyone who went
- (2) Effect - The 1st Crusade was successful and Christian “Crusader States” called Outremer were formed. Territory was gained and lost and there were more Crusades. Also introduced the West to exotic goods from the Far East
- (3) The _____ never reached the Holy Land instead the Crusaders sacked Constantinople. This made the schism of A.D. 1054 more permanent.
- (4) Legacy - The Crusades affected the Christian church by initially bringing the 2 branches together against 1 enemy only to make the schism worse. They _____ in the West and the church’s influence over secular governments, led to the eventual Renaissance, and the Age of Exploration where the Americas were discovered.
- d. The power & influence of medieval Christianity - the Christian church became the _____ of medieval Europe; the church initially wanted a _____ (_____) but instead was intertwined by many new European kingdoms (England, France, Germany...etc)
- (1) Investiture controversy - powerful struggle between Holy Roman Empire & Pope when secular (_____) rulers began appointing church officials, a power the church felt was their alone (example: Henry II appointing his friend Thomas Becket as Archbishop of Canterbury)
- (2) Magna Carta - the Church of England would be free from interference from the crown as signed by King Henry II’s son, King John
- (3) Philip the Fair of France - excommunicated by Pope Boniface VIII, and in retaliation seized and held captive by Philip
- (4) _____ (the Avignon Papacy or Babylonian Captivity aka Great Schism) - 2 Popes one in Rome and one in France under the influence of Philip the Fair
- (5) The breaking of the Knights Templar and killing of the knights under Philip the Fair
3. Modern Christianity
- a. The Renaissance worldview - Science vs. the Church
- b. The Protestant Reformation
- (1) _____: justification of faith & 95 Theses - 10/31/1517 - 1648 - _____ of many denominations
- (a) _____ in the _____ not Latin
- (b) priest should be able to marry
- (c) eliminating the idea of Purgatory
- (d) end the selling of “_____” the commutation of sins
- (2) Bibles began being printed in the vernacular (_____) languages - more people could read Bible for themselves and saw discrepancies between what Bible said and what the RC church was doing

c. The nature & spread of Protestantism

- (1) initially an attempt to _____ RC church and became separate
- (2) Many splinters of beliefs into many denominations: Lutherans in Germany, Anabaptists in Switzerland, Presbyterians in Scotland, Anglicans in England, Methodists, Adventists, Pentecostals, Puritans

d. The Catholic Counter-Reformation

- (1) Structural reconfiguration of RC church - The Council of Trent (1545 - 63)
- (2) _____ - Jesuits & others to set good examples
- (3) Spiritual movements to add more spirituality
- (4) Political dimensions - new calendar

D. Sacred Literature of Christianity: The Bible

1. _____ - Jewish holy books (Bibles are different)
2. New Testament - all Bibles have in common
 - a. Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John)
 - b. Acts of the Apostles
 - c. Epistles
 - d. Revelation
3. Reasons for the existence of differing versions/editions of the Christian Bible: schisms

E. Christianity's Sacred Calendar - Liturgical Year

1. Advent ("arrival") - preparation leading up to Christmas - starts 4 Sundays before Christmas
2. _____ - celebrates birth of Jesus beginning Christmas Eve and lasting 12 days
3. Epiphany - Feast of the Baptism of Christ
4. Lent - Easter pre-season; begins Ash Wednesday and lasts ~40 days
5. Holy Triduum
 - a. Good Friday - reading of the account of the Passion
 - b. Holy Saturday - commemorates Jesus being laid in the tomb
 - c. _____ - celebrates resurrection of Jesus
6. Pentecost - 50th day of Easter season - celebrates sending of Holy Spirit to the Apostles

F. Christian Sacraments & Rites of Passage

1. _____ - Jesus was baptized
2. _____ - aka Holy Eucharist; from Last Supper - bread the body of Christ; wine the blood of Christ