Rome & the Rise of Christianity

I. Religion in the Roman Empire
A. Roman Beliefs
1. Religion in Rome was __________________ & based upon the __________ gods
2. Romans worshiped the gods but people were not very ______________________ about their religion
B. Views towards other religions
1. Emperors were mostly __________________ of other religions, but expected everyone who lived in the empire to ______________________ the Roman gods as a sign of ______________________
2. Hebrews in the Roman Empire
   a. In 63 B.C., the Romans conquered the Hebrew kingdom of __________ & allowed “Romanized Jews” (who showed respect & __________ Roman laws) to govern Judea
   b. But, the Hebrews were ______________________ & many ______________________ to pay respect to the Roman gods
   c. Many Hebrews began to ______________________ Roman rule & believed that God would send the ______________________ to restore the kingdom to the Jews

II. The Rise of Christianity
A. The Birth of Jesus & Beginning of Christianity
1. Sometime between 6 & 4 B.C. in Judea, a __________ named __________ was born; Many considered Jesus to be the Messiah
2. At the age of 30, Jesus began preaching a unique version of __________ that became known as ______________________
B. The Teaching of Jesus
1. Jesus did good works, performed __________, & delivered his religious teachings
   a. Jesus preached a religion based on the Jewish belief in __________ (monotheism)
   b. Jesus taught that he was God’s __________ & that God would rid the world of __________
   c. He taught of God’s __________, mercy and forgiveness towards others, & eternal life in __________ for those who repent their sins
   d. He based much of his __________ on the Ten Commandments
2. Jesus’ message of eternal __________ in heaven appealed to many people, especially the __________
3. Jesus’ followers were known as ______________________
C. The Crucifixion of Jesus
1. Many __________ in Judea did not accept the idea that Jesus was a Messiah & accused him of __________ (contempt for God)
2. Roman leaders ______________________ Jesus’ growing popularity
3. In 29 A.D., Jesus was arrested for defying Roman __________ & was ______________________

III. The Spread of Christianity
A. The Apostles
1. The __________, especially __________, molded Jesus’ teachings into a new religion called Christianity based upon the idea that Jesus was God’s son & that he ______________________ for man’s sins
2. The Apostles taught that Jews & non-Jews were ______________________ as Christians
3. After Jesus’ death, Paul helped __________ Jesus teachings throughout the Roman __________
B. Christianity spread quickly due to __________, numerous trade routes, & common __________ throughout the Roman Empire
C. Spread of Judaism & Christianity were seen as __________ for the Roman emperors:
   1. Jews & Christians refused to worship the ______________________ or recognize the emperor as more important than __________
   2. Many Christians & Jews were ______________________ by Romans; Many were crucified, exiled, or __________ during gladiator events
   3. Christians who died became ______________________ (people who sacrifice their lives for their beliefs) which helped spread the faith
D. The Recognition & Organization of Christianity
1. Christianity spread throughout Roman Empire & gained ______________________
   a. In 312 A.D., Emperor __________ converted to Christianity & issued the Edict of Milan which gave ______________________ & equality to Christians
   b. In 395 A.D., Emperor Theodosius made Christianity the ______________________ of the Roman Empire
2. Christians organized the faith:
   a. A hierarchy of leadership was created in which local __________ were supervised by regional __________;
      The head of the church was the ______________________ who operated from Rome
   b. Teachings were collected into the __________, the official source of religious truth for Christianity
Comparing Christianity to Other Religions of the Ancient World

Two similarities between Judaism & Christianity

1 similarity & 1 difference between Hinduism & Christianity

Four Basic Beliefs about Christianity

1 similarity & 1 difference between Buddhism & Christianity

Two differences between Greek/Roman Religion & Christianity