

Rise of Christianity

EXERCISE

A. Fill in the blanks :

1. In the middle of the 1st century, the **Romans** conquered Palestine, the homeland of the Jews.
2. Jesus was believed to be the son of **God**. He was born to **Mary**.
3. For **three** years, Jesus travelled throughout Galilee, **preaching, teaching** and **healing** the sick.
4. Jesus taught that there was one God who was **compassionate, loving** and **forgiving**.
5. Towards the end of the 4th century, Christianity became the **official** religion of the Roman empire.

B. Match the following :

A	B
1. Jesus	(a) spread Christianity outside Palestine
2. Mark	(b) first Christian Roman Emperor
3. Peter	(c) founder of Christianity
4. Paul	(d) one of the authors of the Gospels
5. Constantine	(e) spread Christianity in Palestine

Answer:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. Jesus | (c) founder of Christianity |
| 2. Mark | (d) one of the authors of the Gospels |
| 3. Peter | (e) spread Christianity in Palestine |
| 4. Paul | (a) spread Christianity outside Palestine |
| 5. Constantine | (b) first Christian Roman emperor |

C. Choose the correct answer :

1. Jesus grew up in Bethlehem/Jerusalem/Nazareth, where he studied Jewish scriptures.

Ans. Jesus grew up in **Nazareth**, where he studied Jewish scriptures.

2. Jesus taught that God loved and forgave/hated / Ignored sinners.

Ans. Jesus taught that God loved and **forgave** sinners.

3. Jesus was sentenced to death by Maxentius/Pontius Pilate/Constantine.

Ans. Jesus was sentenced to death by **Pontius Pilate**.

4. The teachings of Jesus were spread most actively in Palestine by John/Mark/Peter.

Ans. The teachings of Jesus were spread most actively in **Palestine** by Peter.

5. For almost 300 years after the death of Jesus, Christians were treated well/given special rights/oppressed and persecuted in the Roman empire.

Ans. For almost 300 years after the death of Jesus, Christians were **oppressed and persecuted in the Roman empire**. State

D. whether the following are true or false :

1. Jesus had the power to heal the sick.

Ans. True.

2. Jesus taught that we should harm only those who harm us.

Ans. False.

Correct : We should help the needy and do good even to those who harm us.

3. Jesus's interpretation of Jewish law was the same as that of other Jewish religious leaders.

Ans. False.

Correct : Jesus's interpretation of Jewish law clashed with the ideas of the Jewish religious leaders.

4. In the 2nd century, Christianity became the official religion of the Roman empire.

Ans. True.

5. The Pope became the spiritual head of Christians all over the world.

Ans. True

E. Answer the following questions in one or two words/ sentences :

Question 1.

Explain the Latin origin of the term 'medieval'.

Answer:

Medieval comes from a Latin word which means 'time in the middle'. The Medieval Period is the period between the Ancient and the Modern periods.

Question 2.

Who conquered Palestine in the middle of the 1st century?

Answer:

In the middle of the 1st century BCE, the Romans conquered Palestine, the homeland of the Jews.

Question 3.

Where was Jesus born?

Answer:

Jesus was born around 6-4 BCE, in a small village of Bethlehem in Judea. He was believed to be the son of God, was born to Mary.

Question 4.

Who was King David?

Answer:

King David was Israel's most famous king who had liberated Israel from foreign rule 1,000 years ago.

Question 5.

How many disciples did Jesus have?

Answer:

Jesus gathered around him a band of 12 disciples.

Question 6.

Mention two fundamental principles of Christianity.

Answer:

The two fundamental principles of Christianity are :

1. Unconditional love for God.
2. True love for one's neighbor.

Question 7.

Why were the Jewish religious leaders angry with Jesus?

Answer:

Due to Jesus intelligence, wisdom, compassion and simplicity large crowds were attracted towards him. This greatly enraged the Jewish religious leaders who felt threatened by his growing popularity.

Question 8.

Where are the life and teachings of Jesus Christ recorded?

Answer:

The life and teachings of Jesus Christ were recorded in the Gospels by four of his disciples – John, Mathew, Mark and Luke.

Question 9.

Who is described as the 'foundation rock' of Christianity?

Answer:

Peter is described as the 'foundation rock' of Christianity.

Question 10.

Who prepared the grounds for transforming Christianity into a world religion?

Answer:

Paul, a convert to Christianity became one of the most powerful and enthusiastic exponents of Christianity. He travelled extensively throughout the Roman empire, preparing the grounds that would transform Christianity into the world religion in the future.

Question 11.

What is the importance of St Peter's Church in Rome?

Answer:

St Peter's Church in Rome is the religious headquarters of the Christian world.

Question 12.

Who became the spiritual head of the Christians?

Answer:

The Bishop of St Peter's Church, the Pope, became the spiritual head of Christians all over the world, and was acknowledged as the representative of Christ on earth.

F. Answer the following questions briefly :

Question 1.

Give an account of the early life on Jesus in Nazareth. What happened after his baptism?

Answer:

Jesus grew up in Nazareth, in northern Palestine, where he studied the Jewish scriptures. He realized that traditions and practices which violated the Law of Moses were being followed by certain Jewish religious groups, such as the Pharisees. After baptism a divine revelation convinced Jesus that the time had come for him to fulfil his mission of freeing men from the bondage of evil and guiding them on the path that would lead to the victory of good over evil.

Question 2.

The teachings of Jesus were simple, yet revolutionary. Explain.

Answer:

The teachings of Jesus were simple, yet revolutionary. He established a code of conduct for men and women based on:

1. Unconditional love for God
2. True love for one's neighbour

Jesus taught that there was one God who was compassionate, loving and forgiving. As children of God, we should mould ourselves in the image of God. We should love our neighbours, including the poor, the sinners and even our enemies; we should help the needy and do good even to those who harm us; we should forgive our enemies and win them over with our love. Since God loved sinners and forgave them, we should do the same. Jesus completely rejected the 'eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth' principle.

Question 3.

Discuss the reasons and events leading to the crucifixion of Jesus.

Answer:

Jesus attracted large crowds wherever, he went through his intelligence, wisdom, compassion and simplicity. This greatly enraged the Jewish religious leaders who felt threatened by his growing popularity. They convinced the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, that Jesus was also a threat to the political authority of the Romans. Due to which Jesus was put on trial and was later on crucified.

Question 4.

The enemies of Jesus had crucified him but Jesus would live on. Explain.

Answer:

This statement is true that enemies of Jesus had crucified him but Jesus would live in the hearts and minds of his followers throughout the world. His teachings will be followed by the people they will walk on the path shown by him.

After baptism a divine revelation convinced Jesus that the time had come for him to fulfil his mission of freeing men from the bondage of evil and guiding them on the path that would lead to the victory of good over evil.

Question 5.

Give a brief account of the spread of Christianity by its followers.

Answer:

The spread of Christianity in Palestine was actively done by Peter the follower of Jesus. Another follower Paul travelled extensively throughout the Roman Empire and spread Christianity which later on in future turned into a world religion.

Question 6.

What role did Emperor Constantine play in the establishment of Christianity in Europe?

Answer:

Constantine the Roman Emperor, defeated all his rivals who came in way of spreading Christianity and declared himself as the undisputed emperor. He made Christianity a legal religion and in this way persecution of Christians came to an end. Later on Christianity become the official religion of the Roman empire.

G. Picture study :

The picture depicts the crucifixion of the founder of a religion.



Question 1.

Name (a) the founder and (b) the religion.

Answer:

(a) the founder — Jesus Christ

(b) the religion — Christianity

Question 2.

Mention the circumstances and the reasons that led to the crucifixion.

Answer:

Jesus attracted large crowds wherever, he went through his intelligence, wisdom, compassion and simplicity. This greatly enraged the Jewish religious leaders who felt threatened by his growing popularity. They convinced the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, that Jesus was also a threat to the political authority of the Romans. Due to which Jesus was put on trial and was later on crucified.

Question 3.

Mention four important principles of the religion.

Answer:

Four important principles of the religion are :

1. We should love our neighbour, the poor, the sinners and even our enemies.
2. We should forgive our enemies and win them over with our love.
3. Unconditional love for God.
4. Not to follow the principle of 'eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth'.

Question 4.

Name the two best-known followers of the founder. What part did they play in spreading his teachings.

Answer:

Peter and Paul are two best known disciples of Jesus. They did a great work in spreading the teachings of Jesus in Palestine and throughout the Roman Empire. Due to them Christianity is accepted as a world religion.

OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

Question 1.

Describe what is Baptism?

Answer:

Baptism is the Christian rite of sprinkling water on a person's forehead or immersing them in water, symbolizing purification and admission to the Christian Church.

Question 2.

Why was Byzantium named Constantinople?

Answer:

Byzantium was named Constantinople in honour of Emperor Constantine.

Question 3.

What advice did Jesus give to his followers?

Answer:

Jesus advised his followers to mould themselves in the image of God. He told to love our neighbors, including the poor, the sinners and even our enemies. To help the needy and do good even to those who harm us. To forgive our enemies and win them over with our love.