**III. Rise of Christianity**

1. Teachings of Jesus

* 3.1 billon followers of Christianity today
* Rome took control of the Jewish empire in 6 A.D.

* **Jesus –**
* Founder of Christianity – Wanted to reform the Jewish faith

1. Death of Jesus

* **Gospels –**
* Popularity of Jesus concerned both Roman and Jewish leaders
* **29 A.D.** –
* Once in Jerusalem the Jewish high priest accused Jesus of blasphemy, or contempt for God
* **Pontius Pilate –**
* According to the Gospels, Jesus rose from the dead after three days – Continued to teach his message for 40 days

1. Spread of Christianity

* **Paul –**
* Converted Jew who never met Jesus but spent most of his life teaching his message and spreading his word
* Pax Romana made travel easy and safe and helped Christianity spread

1. Jewish Rebellion

* **66 –**
* **70 –**
* **132** –
* **Diaspora –**

1. Persecution of Christians

* Christians posed a problem to Roman rule because they refused to worship Roman gods
* Seen as opposition to Roman rule
* Thousands of Christians were crucified, burned, or killed by wild animals in circus arenas
* **Nero –**
* Gives the Christian God credit for his victory
* **Edict of Milan (313) –**
* **380 –**
* **391 –**