**STANDARD WHI.6h describing the origin, beliefs, traditions, customs, and spread of Christianity.**

The followers of Jesus spread Christianity throughout the Roman Empire, bringing it into conflict with Roman polytheism and eventually changing Western civilization.

Origins of Christianity

• Had its roots in Judaism

• Was led by Jesus of Nazareth, who was proclaimed the Messiah

• Conflicted with polytheistic beliefs of Roman Empire

Beliefs, traditions, and customs of Christianity

• Monotheism

• Jesus as both Son and incarnation of God

• Life after death

• New Testament, containing accounts of the life & teachings of Jesus, as well as writings of early Christians

• Christian doctrines established by early church councils

Spread of Christianity

• Popularity of the message

• Early martyrs inspired others

• Carried by the Apostles, including Paul, throughout the Roman Empire

**STANDARD WHI.6i explaining the development and significance of the Church in the late Roman Empire.**

As the Roman Empire declined in the West, the Church of Rome grew in importance, followers, and influence.

Impact of the Church of Rome in the late Roman Empire

• The Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity and made it legal.

• Christianity later became the official state religion.

• The Church became a source of moral authority.

• Loyalty to the Church became more important than loyalty to the Emperor.

• The Church became the main unifying force of Western Europe.