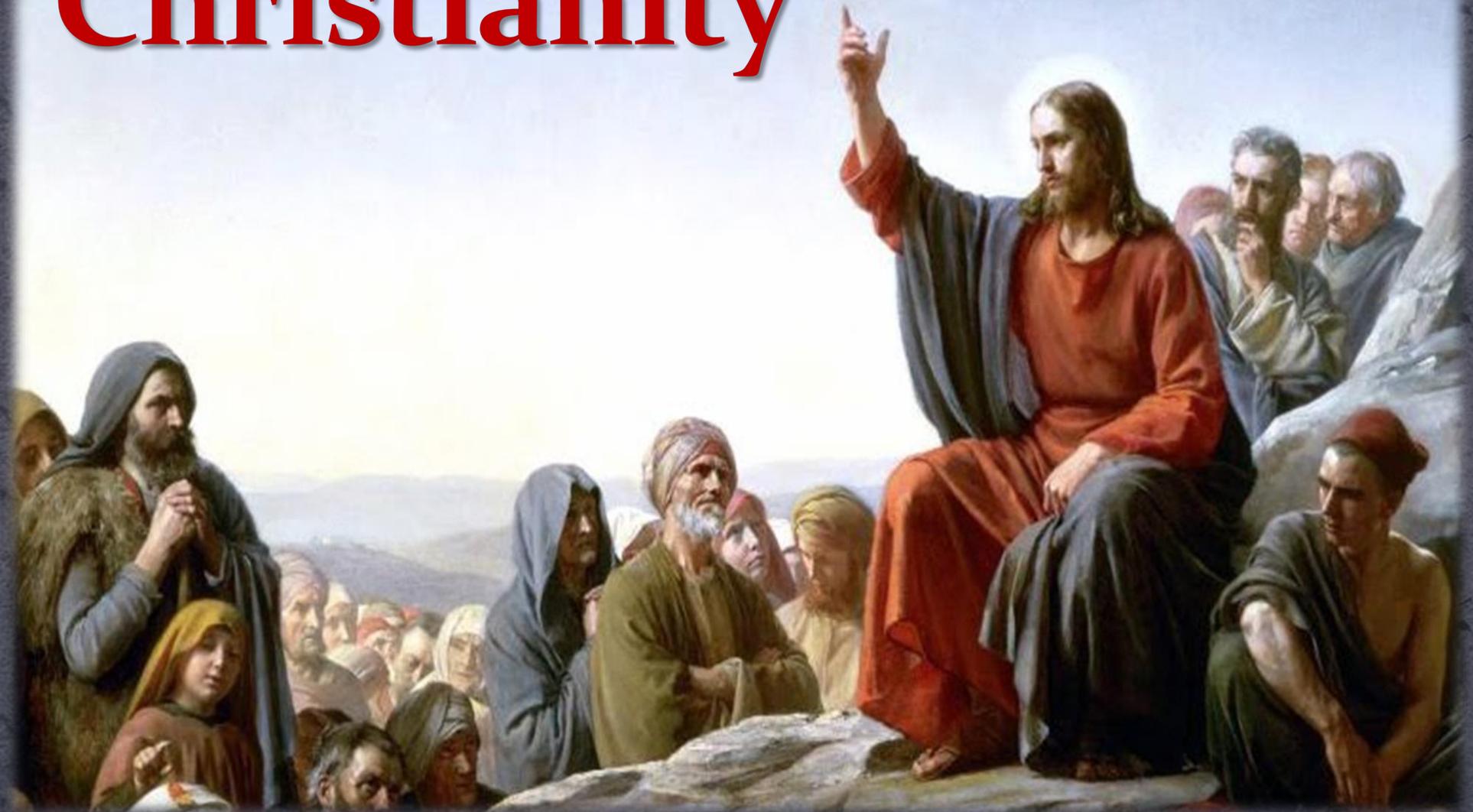


# Beginnings of Christianity



Essential Question:

# How did Christianity begin?



(1)

# What is the story of the birth of Jesus?

- For many centuries, the Roman religion had been the **DOMINANT** religion in Rome
- The **JEWISH** faith was also fairly common in the area
- The Jews believed that a **MESSIAH**, or chosen one would come to Earth to free them from Roman oppression
- Many believed that Jesus was this promised Messiah



(2)

- The four main sources we have on the life of Jesus come from four books included in the **NEW TESTAMENT**, part of the Christian Bible
- These books are Mathew, Mark, Luke, and **JOHN**



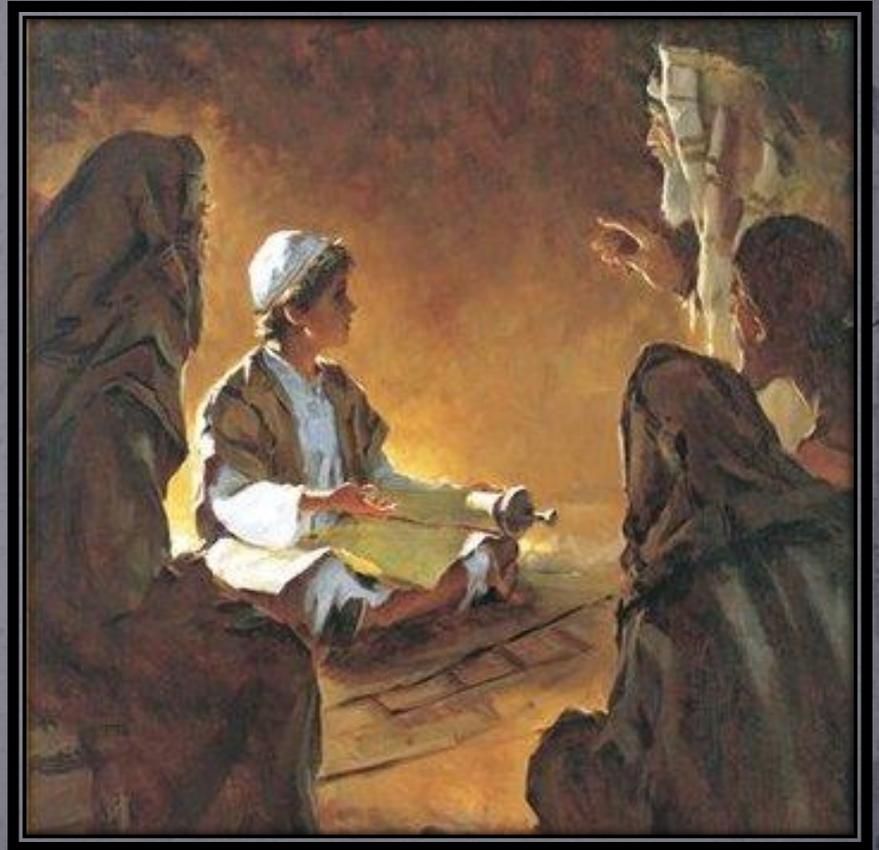
(3)

- Jesus was born in a town called **BETHLEHEM** when Herod the Great was ruler of Judea
- Some people thought that Jesus would grow up to become the new **KING**, Herod did not want this to happen, he tried to **KILL** the newborn baby and his parents, Mary and Joseph



(4)

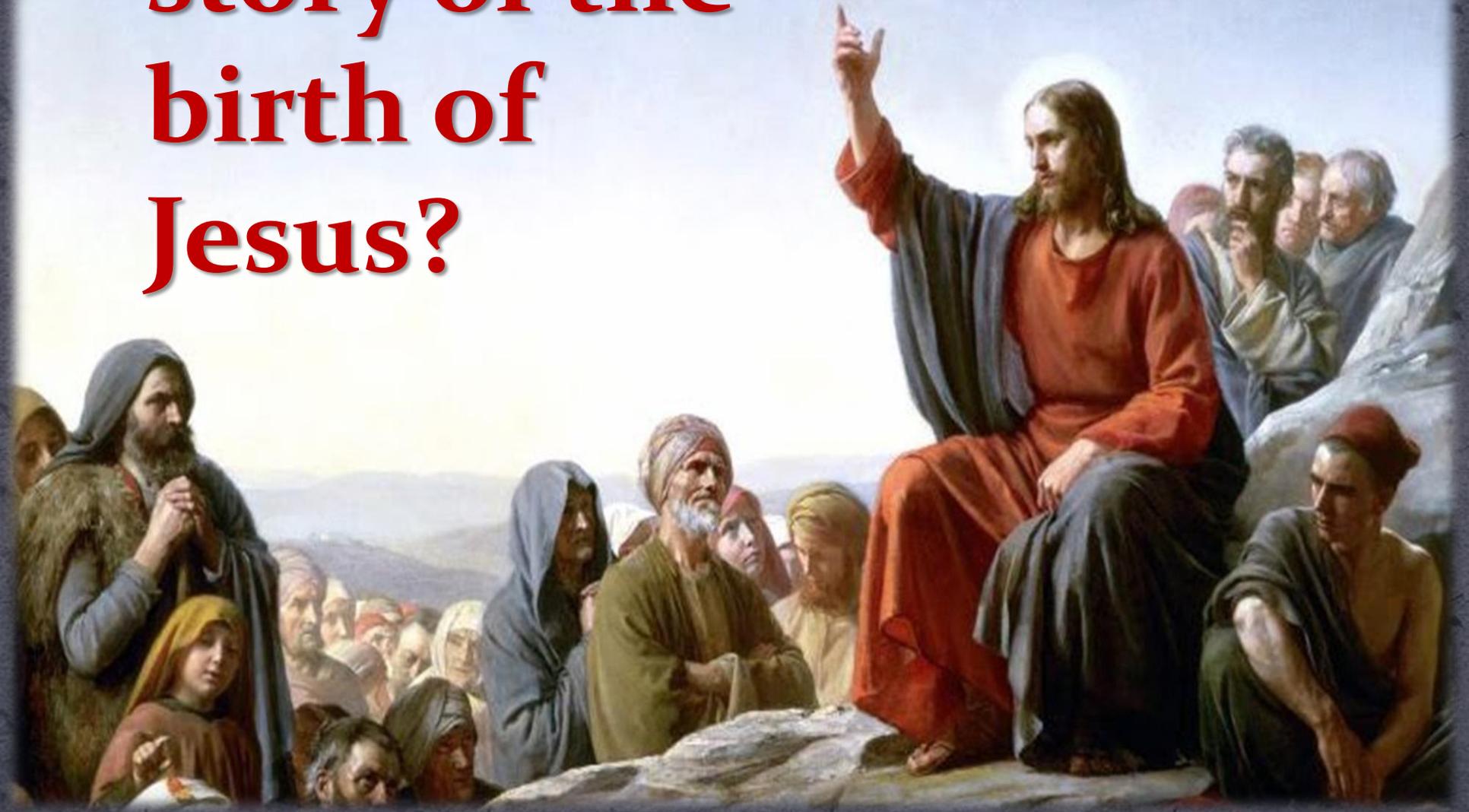
- To save themselves from being killed, the family moved to **EGYPT** until Herod died, then they returned to live in a town called **NAZARETH**
- Jesus was raised in the Jewish religion, he learned fast and amazed everyone with his **KNOWLEDGE**





Jesus is born 2 min

# What was the story of the birth of Jesus?



## (5) **What basic beliefs did Jesus teach?**

- When Jesus was grown, he began to teach people in the Jewish **SYNAGOGUES**
- He reminded people about the ten **COMMANDMENTS** and living a good life
- He taught there was only one **GOD**.
- Many people came to hear Jesus teach, both Jew and non-Jew
- Jesus gathered a group of twelve followers, they traveled and taught with him



## The Beatitudes

**Blessed** are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Blessed** are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

**Blessed** are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

**Blessed** are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness:  
for they shall be filled.

**Blessed** are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

**Blessed** are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

**Blessed** are the peacemakers:  
for they shall be called the children of God.

**Blessed** are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake:  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Blessed** are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and  
shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

**Rejoice**, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven.

Matthew 5:3-12, The Holy Bible

**I**  
**THOU SHALT HAVE**  
**NO OTHER GODS**  
**BEFORE ME**

**II**  
**THOU SHALT NOT**  
**MAKE UNTO THEE**  
**ANY GRAVEN IMAGE**

**III**  
**THOU SHALT NOT**  
**TAKE THE NAME OF**  
**THE LORD THY GOD**  
**IN VAIN**

**IV**  
**REMEMBER THE**  
**SABBATH DAY TO**  
**KEEP IT HOLY**

**V**  
**HONOR THY FATHER**  
**AND THY MOTHER**

**VI**  
**THOU SHALT**  
**NOT KILL**

**VII**  
**THOU SHALT NOT**  
**COMMIT ADULTERY**

**VIII**  
**THOU SHALT**  
**NOT STEAL**

**IX**  
**THOU SHALT NOT**  
**BEAR FALSE**  
**WITNESS AGAINST**  
**THY NEIGHBOR**

**X**  
**THOU SHALT**  
**NOT COVET**

(6)

- Many people believed that this Jesus was the **MESSIAH** that they had been waiting for, but many others did not
- The Romans were worried that Jesus and his followers might **OVERTHROW** their government
- Jesus taught his followers not to **REBEL**, but to pay their taxes and honor the law
- The Romans still saw him as a **THREAT**

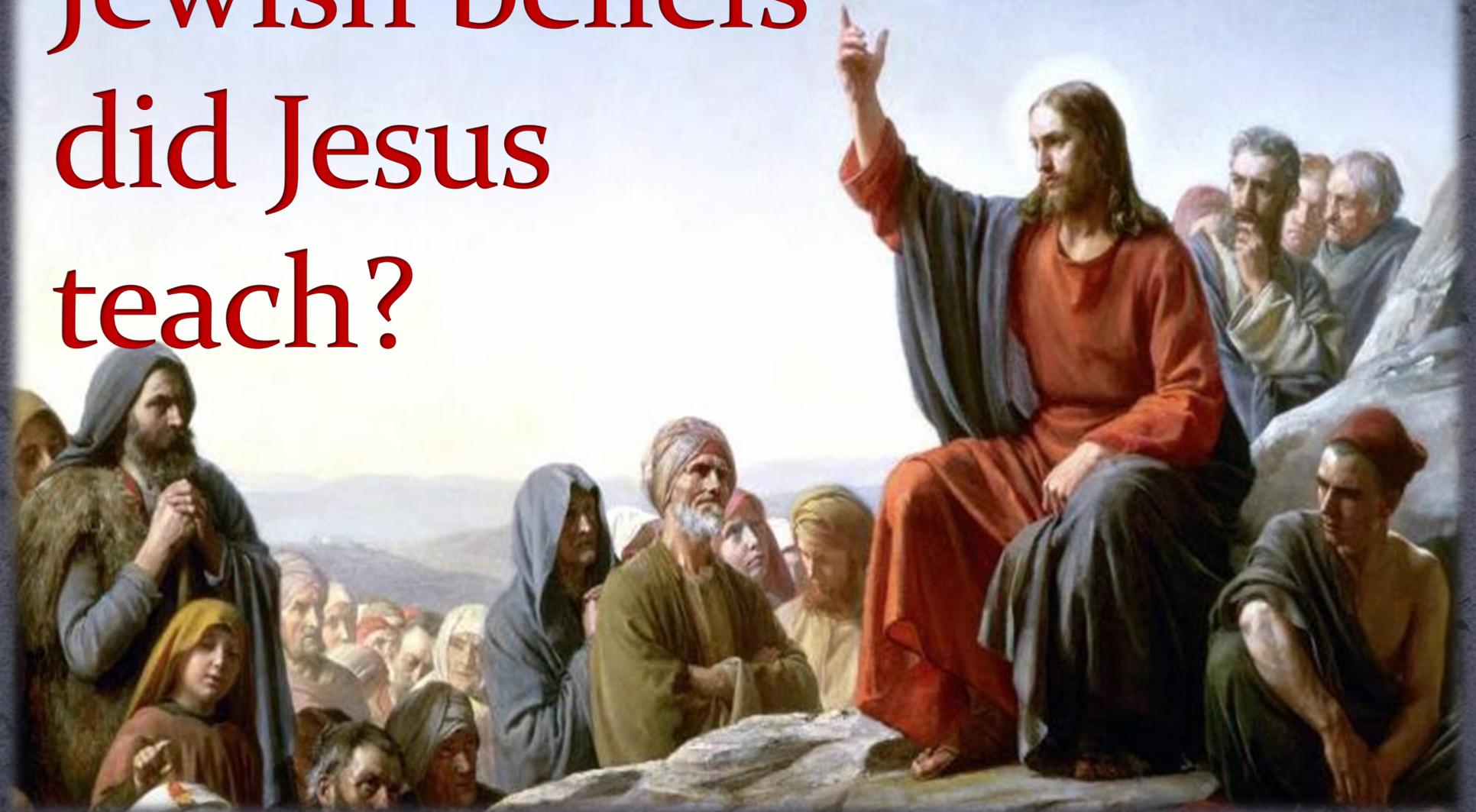


(7)



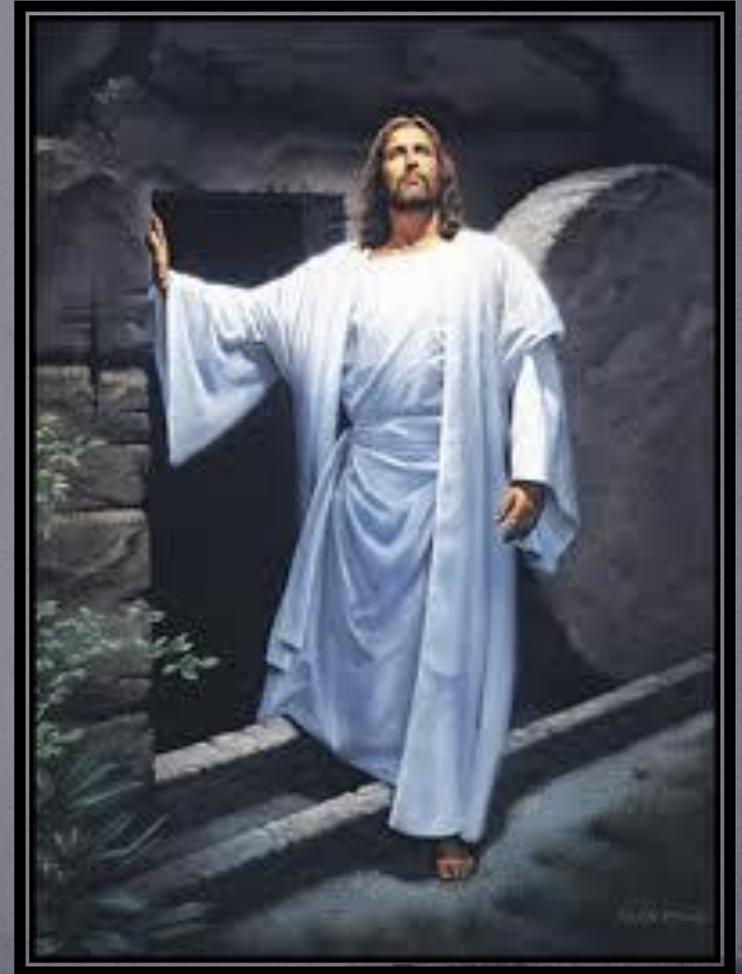
- In A.D. 30, the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, ordered that Jesus be put to death by **CRUCIFIXION**
- When someone was crucified, they were nailed or tied to a large cross suspended over the ground, they would eventually die of suffocation or **STARVATION**
- With Jesus dead, the Roman government thought the **CONFLICT** was over, but then something amazing happened....

What basic  
Jewish beliefs  
did Jesus  
teach?



# (8) Why did Rome see Christianity as a form of rebellion?

- According to some of Jesus' followers, he had risen from the **DEAD**
- The story of his resurrection spread and his twelve followers, now called the **APOSTLES**, began to spread the word all over the country that Jesus was the Messiah



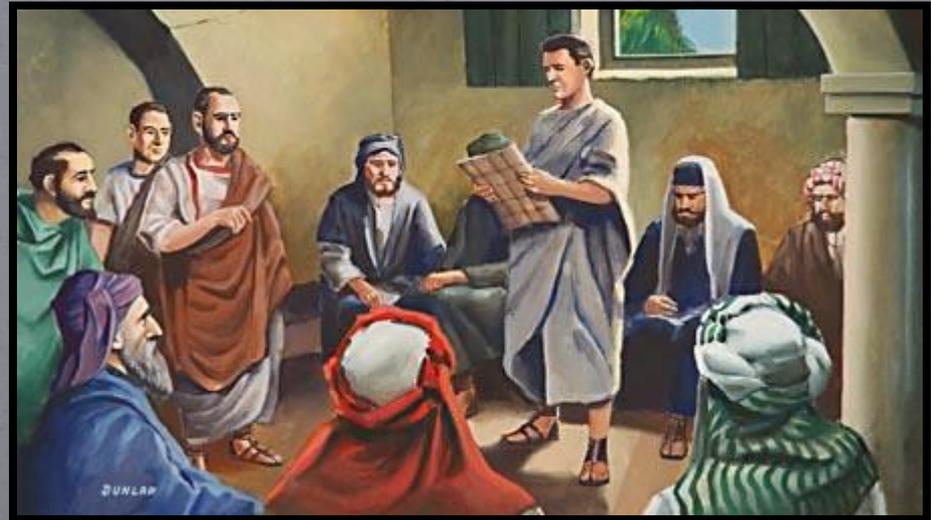
(9)

- One man who had **NOT** been a follower of Jesus, but tried to stop him, said he had seen a vision in which Jesus came to him, afterwards he changed his mind about the new faith
- This man was named **SAUL**, he changed his name to **PAUL** and started spreading the new religion



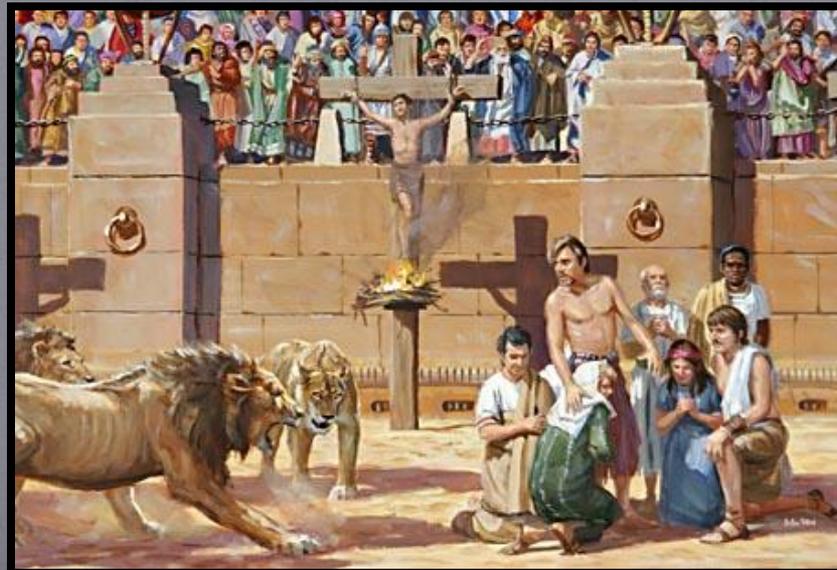
(10)

- The followers of Jesus were called **CHRISTIANS**, *Christos* is the Greek word for Messiah, so Jesus was known as Jesus Christ, and the new religion was called Christianity
- As the religion grew, so did the **PERSECUTION** from the Romans
- One reason was that the Christians refused to worship the roman gods



(11)

- They also urged others to give up the Roman religion and **CONVERT** to theirs
- Over the years, thousands of Christians would be put to death because of their beliefs
- People who would choose to die rather than give up their religion are known as **MARTYRS**
- Many of the early Christians were killed in **TERRIBLE** ways.





Christianity in the Roman Empire 3 min

# Why did the Romans see Christianity as a form of rebellion against Rome?



Essential Question:

# How did Christianity begin?



# The End



• Power Point created by James Reese, 2013

• Primary source Harcourt Social Studies Ancient Civilizations, Volume Two

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