

# The Spread of Christianity





Essential Question:

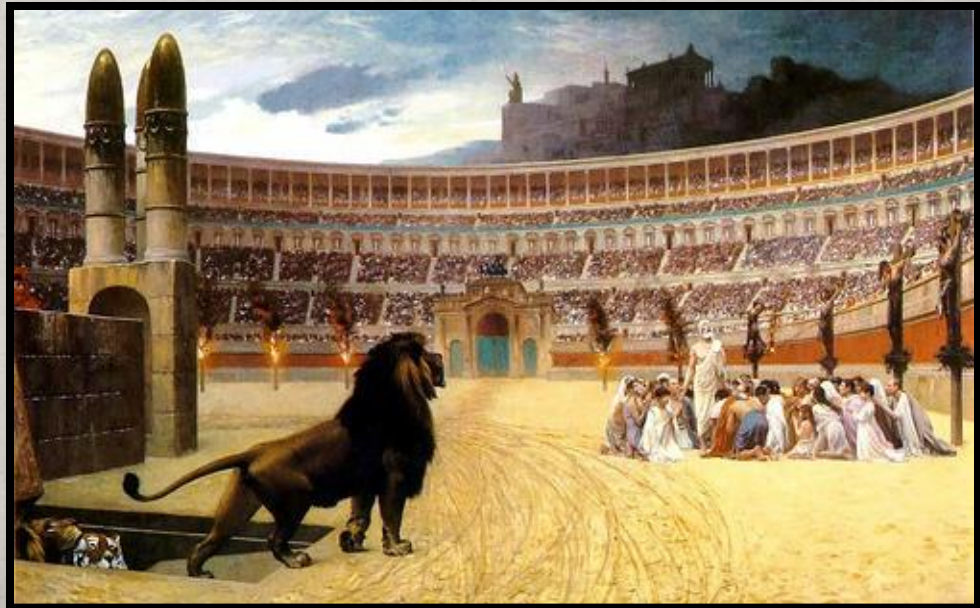
**How did  
Christianity  
spread?**





# (1) What made Christianity so appealing?

- Until about 300 A.D. **CHRISTIANITY** was very small and spread **SLOWLY**
- Most Christians had to meet in secret for fear of their lives
- Some Roman emperors **IGNORED** the new religion, other had the Christians hunted down and murdered
- The new religion spread faster in the Eastern part of the Empire, where it had begun
- By A.D. 50, Paul had started a church in **ROME** itself



ICHTHYS = Greek word for fish  
Iesous Christos Theou Yidos Soter



Ι

Ἰησοῦς

**Jesus**

Χ

Χριστός

**Christ**

Θ

Θεοῦ

**God's**

Υ

Υἱός

**Son**

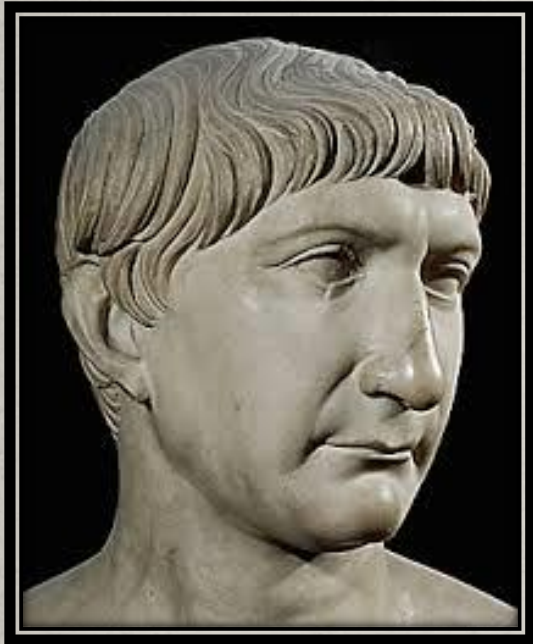
Σ

Σωτήρ

**Savior**



One emperor, Trajan, replied to a letter with his solution to the problem:



“They are not to be sought out; if they are denounced and proved to be guilty, they are to be punished, with this reservation, that whoever denies that he is a Christian and quite clearly proves it—that is, by worshiping our gods—he shall gain pardon.”

(2)

- **CHRISTIANITY** appealed to **EVERYONE**, including the poor, enslaved, and women
- Christianity gave people a better **HOPE** for life after death
- Christianity offered **SALVATION**, a promise of happiness after death
- Life was hard for many people, and the promise of something better to come was very appealing



**Why was  
Christianity so  
appealing?**





### (3) What effect did Constantine have on Christianity?

- In A.D. 312 Emperor **CONSTANTINE** wanted to **UNITE** the empire by conquering the Italian Peninsula
- Before the battle for the city of Rome, Constantine claimed to have seen a **VISION** in the sky
- He claimed to have seen the Greek sign for Christ, “Chi Rho”, with the words: ‘In this sign, conquer.’
- Believing the sign to be from God, he had his soldiers paint the Christian symbol on their **SHIELDS**
- They won the battle and the Emperor of Rome became a converted **CHRISTIAN**





(4)

- Constantine created the **EDICT OF MILAN**, which gave Christians and other religions the freedom to worship how they chose
- By A.D. 324, Constantine controlled all the Roman lands
- Christianity was **LEGAL** across the Empire
- By A.D. 325, people were confused as to what Jesus' role actually was
- Constantine called for the **COUNCIL OF NICAEA** to settle the dispute
- The council determined that Christ was part of a Trinity, meaning he was one God made up of a Father, a Son, and a Holy Spirit.
- Christianity began to **THRIVE**.





- We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten of the Father, that is, of the substance of the Father, God of God, light of light, true God of true God, begotten not made, of the same substance with the Father, through whom all things were made both in heaven and on earth; who for us men and our salvation descended, was incarnate, and was made man, suffered and rose again the third day, ascended into heaven and cometh to judge the living and the dead. And in the Holy Ghost. Those who say: There was a time when He was not, and He was not before He was begotten; and that He was made out of nothing; or who maintain that He is of another hypostasis or another substance [than the Father], or that the Son of God is created, or mutable, or subject to change, [them] the Catholic Church anathematizes.

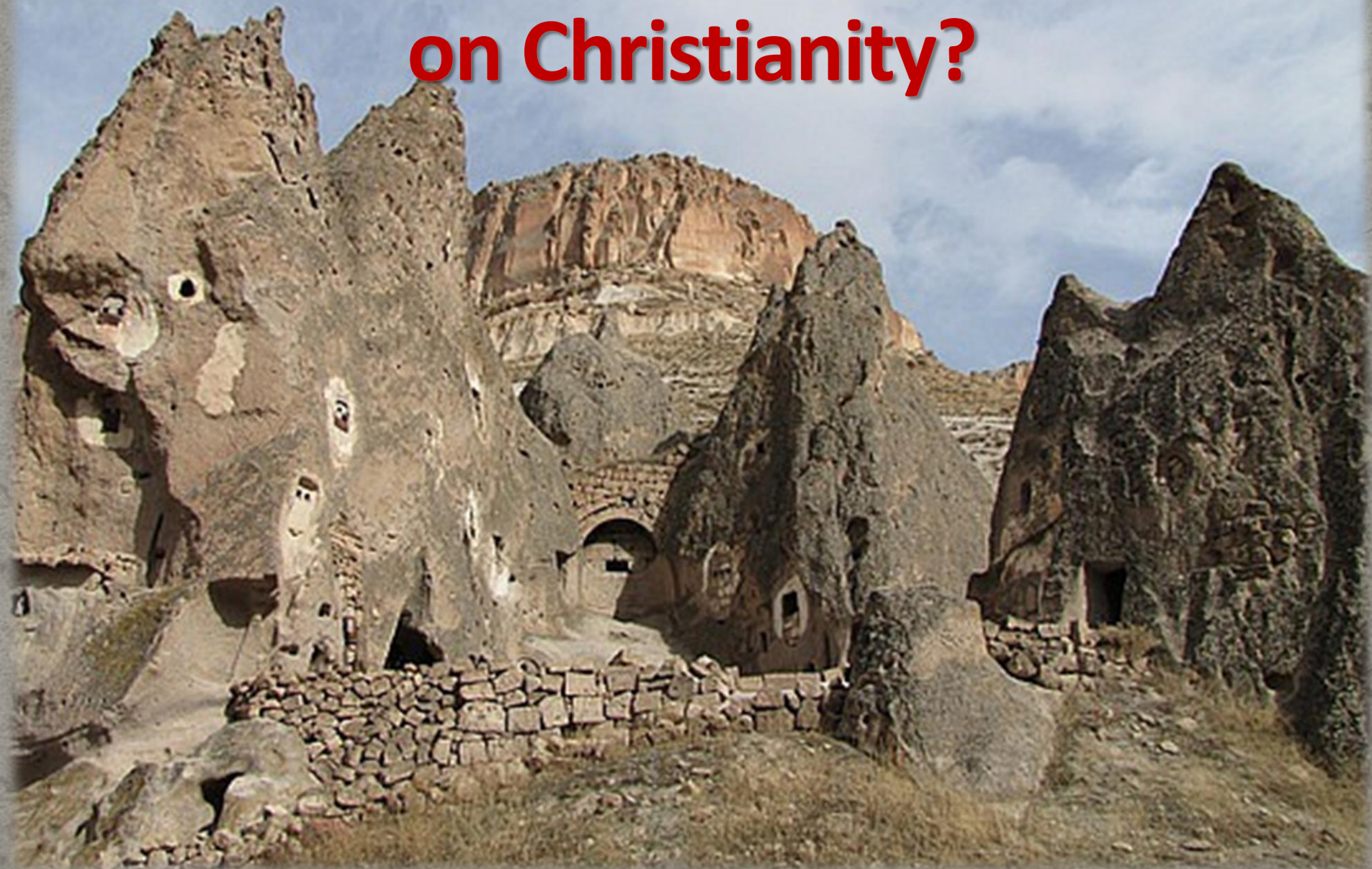




Constantine and Christianity 3 min



# What effect did Constantine have on Christianity?





(5)

## Why were bishops so powerful?

- In A.D. 391, Emperor Theodosius made **CHRISTIANITY** the official **RELIGION** in Rome
- The old Roman religion was banned and the temples to the ancient gods and goddesses were shut down
- The Empire built huge **CHURCHES** to replace the small Christian ones
- The Empire gave money to govern these churches, and the church leaders, the **BISHOPS**, grew powerful

- (6)
- Every city had a large church as part of it, the **BISHOPS** ran the church and were given money by the government
  - The bishops began to grow **WEALTHY** and have great power
  - The bishops spoke for the church and governed what was right and wrong
  - The bishops had **POLITICAL** power, they could turn the people against the rulers if the rulers displeased the bishops
  - Each bishop was the supreme church **LEADER** in his city





**Why were bishops so powerful?**





# (7) What was the leader of the Christian church called?

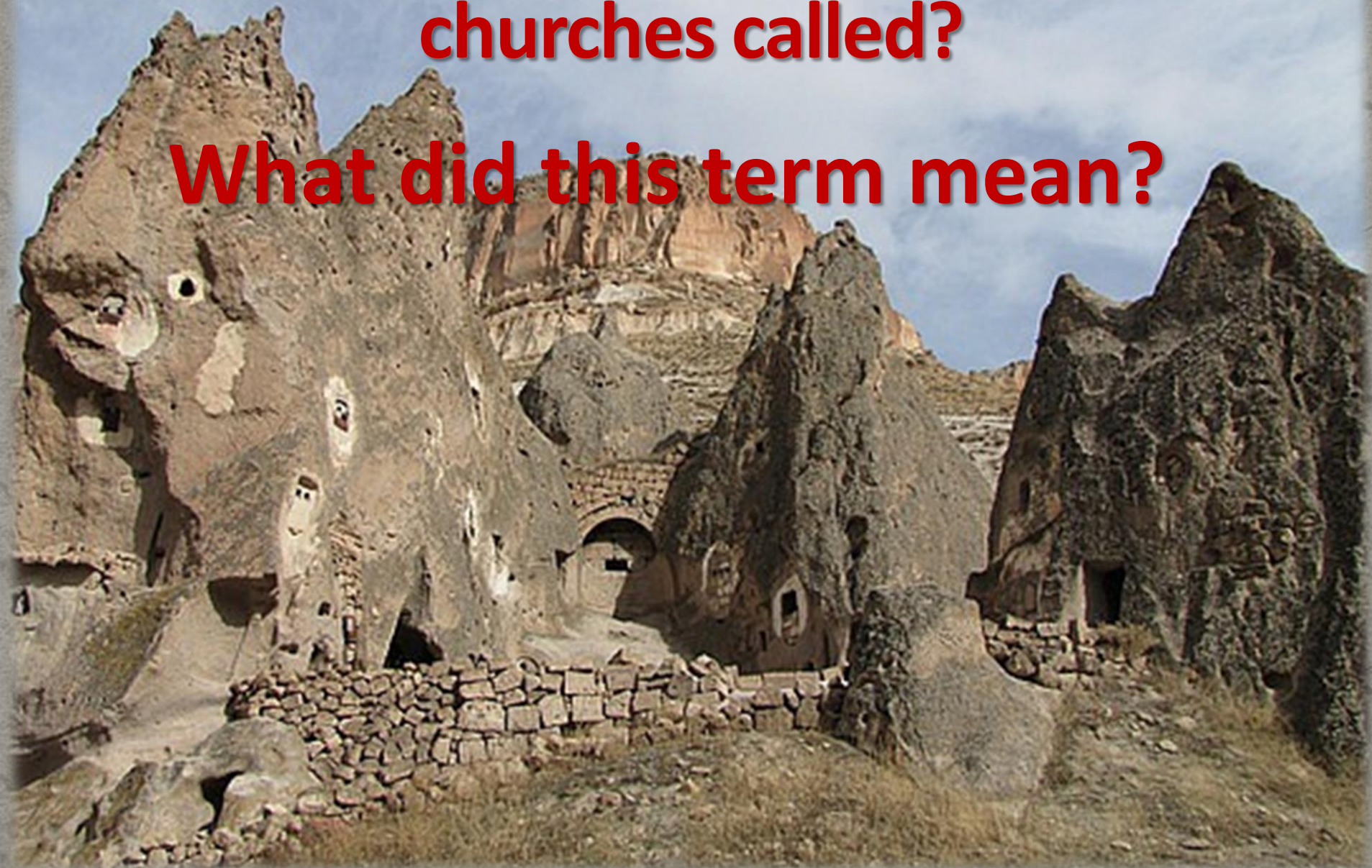
- The bishop of Rome was called the **POPE**, which is the Latin word for *father*
- The pope became the **LEADER** of all the Christian churches
- By A.D. 395 the Empire had been split in two
- Christianity began to spread **OUTSIDE** the empire





**What was the leader of the Christian churches called?**

**What did this term mean?**





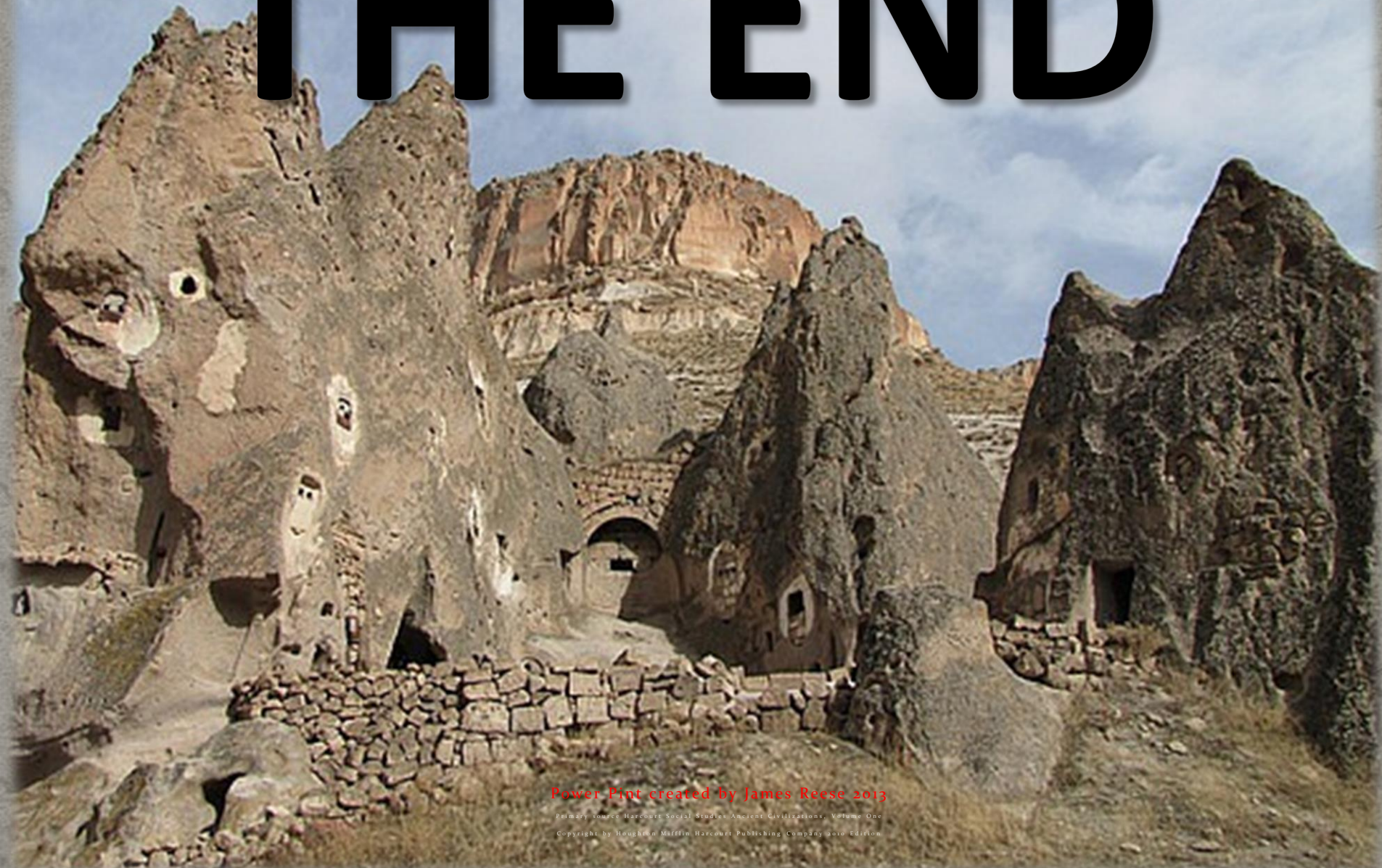
Essential Question:

**How did  
Christianity  
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# THE END



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