

The Rise of Christianity & Islam in the Middle East

Section 1: According to Christian Teachings ...

- 1) Christianity is a religion that sprang from the Jewish faith.
- 2) Hebrews (Jews) had a prophecy that a messiah would be sent when they needed one most. What is a messiah? _____
- 3) The person who will come to be known as the messiah and the founder of the Christian religion is:
- 4) According to the Christian tradition, Jesus' heritage can be traced back to Abraham through his son _____.
- 5) At the time of his birth (probably 4 BCE), the Jewish people are living in the west side of the Fertile Crescent. The area at that time was controlled by the _____ Empire.
- 6) According to their story, Jesus was born under very unusual circumstances. Explain:
- 7) When Jesus grew up he began teaching Jewish stories and traditions. Over time, he made reference to his connection to God. People started to follow him. His 12 closest followers were known as _____. Note that some Jewish people believed in Jesus' teachings and began to follow him, while others did not, and continue to this day to wait for the arrival of a messiah.
- 8) After the death of Jesus, his followers continued to spread the word, but the movement stayed largely "under ground." Christianity did not become permanently accepted by the Roman Empire until 313 CE when the Emperor _____ legalized Christianity. Then the numbers really started to grow. Christians and Jews agree on much of the "back story" of Mesopotamian history, including the story of Noah's Ark, Abraham's leading his people to the Promised Land, and Moses

leading the people out of Egypt. A primary point of difference, however, is: _____

Section 2: According to Muslim Teachings ...

- 1) According to the Muslim tradition, their heritage can be traced back to Abraham through his son _____.
- 2) Abraham has reservations about sending Hagar and her son off, but God reassured him by telling him that: _____
- 3) The story says that when Hagar and her son run out of water, the mother is devastated, knowing they would die, but God stepped in to save them by creating a _____, and they survived.
- 4) Later, Abraham and Ishmael visited that same spot, and built a cube-shaped structure called the _____.
- 5) When Muslims pray throughout the day, they face their bodies in the direction of that structure. It is located in the city of _____.
- 6) According to tradition, at the age of 40, Muhammad received a message from God's angel, named _____.
- 7) The angel told him that there was only one God, and that God's teachings had been misinterpreted over time, and that Muhammad needed to record God's actual words down. These writings are known as the Muslim holy book called the _____.
- 8) The Muslim holy book is never to be _____.