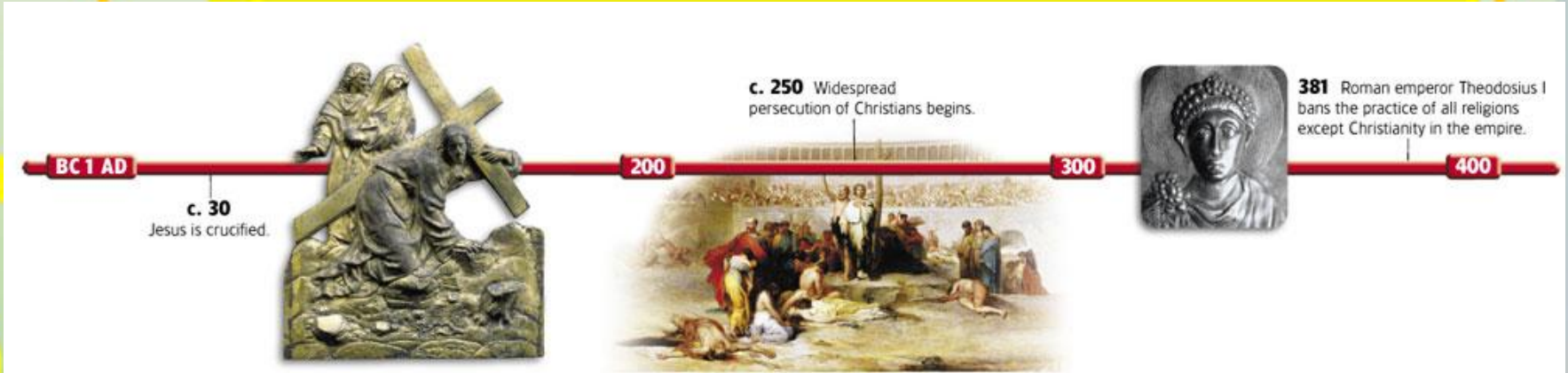


The background features a large, bright yellow sun with a blue outline, set against a light green sky. Below the sun are green hills and a blue horizon line. The scene is decorated with various yellow and orange geometric shapes, including circles, lines, and rectangles, creating a dynamic and colorful environment.

The Early Christian World

Early Christianity



Time Line: Early Christianity. This time line begins at AD 1 and ends at AD 400. The events on the time line include, c. 30 Jesus is crucified; c. 250 Widespread persecution of Christians begins; 382 Roman emperor Theodosius I bans the practice of all religions except Christianity in the empire. Credits: (bc) © Elio Ciol/Corbis; (b) © Phillips, The International Fine Art Auctioneers/Bridgeman Art Library; (br) © (Detail) Werner Forman/Corbis

Christianity Spreads Quickly in Rome

- Apostles and teachers like Paul quickly spread the message of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire.
- As Christianity became more popular, Roman leaders began to worry.
- At first Jesus's followers had focused on converting only Jews. But soon, Christians began preaching to non-Jews. They offered copies of the gospels to everyone.

The Spread of Christianity 300-400

Map: The Spread of Christianity, 300–400. This map shows the spread of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire. It is indicated by light and darker pink areas. It is spread all around the areas around the Mediterranean Sea. The big areas on the map that had some areas of Christianity in them are Gaul, Spain, Asia Minor, Africa and Egypt. Inset is a world map with the area of the main map highlighted.



Persecution for Christians

Some local leaders arrested and killed Christians. These Christians then became famous as martyrs, people who are killed for their religious beliefs. Saint Peter, an Apostle and the first bishop of Rome, and Saint Paul were killed for teaching Christianity. Some Roman emperors outlawed Christianity and persecuted Christians for their beliefs. Christians wore secret symbols, such as a fish, to identify each other.

The Church Grows

Because there was no central church, Christian teaching was left up to the **bishops**, or local Christian leaders. They would lead people in the **Eucharist**, the central ceremony of the Christian church. People would drink wine and eat bread to recall Jesus's last meal. By 200 AD, the bishops became more important, especially in the big cities. The most important bishop was the bishop of Rome, called the **pope**.

Eucharist



Christianity Blends into Roman Society

Slowly, Christianity became part of Roman society. Educated Christians began to see some similarities between Christianity and Greek and Roman philosophy. During the 300s AD, an influential Christian philosopher, Saint Augustine of Hippo, applied the ideas of Plato to Christianity. He stressed that Christians should focus on spiritual concerns instead of material things. His ideas helped shape Christian beliefs for hundreds of years.

Saint Augustine of Hippo



Constantine



- The Roman Emperor Constantine, who came to power in 306, removed many restrictions on Christians.
- He created a Christian council to clarify the religion's teachings.
- Constantine himself soon became a Christian. As a result, the Christian religion became legitimate throughout the Roman Empire.
- Sixty years after Constantine's death, Christianity was declared the official religion of Rome.

Chapter 13 Summary



In the Roman Empire, people practiced many religions and worshipped many gods.



The teachings of Jesus of Nazareth inspired a new religion called Christianity.



After Jesus died, his followers spread Christianity throughout the Roman Empire.