

Religion; Christianity

Christianity is based upon the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, whose life is written about in the **New Testament**. Jesus, who was a Jew, was born in about 7 B.C. and assumed his public life, probably sometime after he turned 30 in Galilee. The **Gospels** tell of many extraordinary deeds that accompanied his ministry.

When Christianity was new, Christians were hunted as criminals. Unlike the Romans, Christians worshipped one god and refused to recognize or make sacrifices to either the Roman gods or the Emperor. Christians who refused to make a sacrifice to the gods were put into an arena with lions for entertainment.

Although the Romans **persecuted** the Christians for 400 years, in 313 AD, the Emperor Constantine made Christianity legal and for the first time, then Christianity became the main religion in Rome around 380 **AD**, and still continues to be the most popular religion in Rome and all over the world.

KEYWORDS

New Testament: the second part of the Christian Bible, records the life and teachings of Jesus and his earliest followers

AD: anno domini, which means "in the year of our Lord"

DID YOU KNOW?

Romans hated Christians because Christians worshipped one god and refused to recognize or make sacrifice to either Roman Gods or the emperors..

Religion towards the Gods and Goddesses

Romans believed in many different gods and goddesses. These gods were like normal people, but with magical powers. The Roman gods were part of a family. People told many stories or myths about them. Each god(dess) looked after different things or people. The Romans believed that there were spirits and guardian gods for almost everything such as trees, rocks, streams, bridges, everything had its own guardian spirit or god.

They made sacrifices of precious items and animals to the gods. The Romans believed that a person's spirit went to the underworld after the person died. In the other Roman religion, only the gods could live in heaven. To get there, the dead needed to cross the **River Styx**.

Some of the gods and goddesses they worshipped or believed in were....

Saturn: once king of the gods, his place was taken by his son (Jupiter). Saturn was the god of agriculture. A merry Roman holiday or festival, the Saturnalia, was named after him.

Jupiter: god of the sky, he was the most important god.

Juno: Jupiter's wife, she looked after women.

Neptune: Jupiter's brother, he was the god of the sea.

Minerva: goddess of wisdom and women's work, such as weaving cloth.

Mars: god of war, though originally god of farming.

Venus: goddess of love, she was the lover of Mars.

CHECK YOUR LEARNING

Without looking, do you remember what the Romans sacrificed to the gods or goddess? What about if you remember the names of them? Don't remember.

Questions:

1. Q: What region is Rome, Italy in?

A: Lazio

2. Q: Who founded Rome?

A: Two brothers, Romulus & Remus

3. Q: Why did the Romans hate Christians

A: Since Christians refused to worship other gods than their own

Come up with the answer yourself. Explain..

Q: What are the gods/goddesses names? And why were they called these names?



An Introduction to Rome

Rome is the capitol of Italy and in the region of Lazio.

To this day there is an average of 2.9 million residents, it stretches across 1,285 km of land however, Metropolitan City of Rome has a population of 4.3 million residents. This is located in the western area of the Italian Peninsula along the Tiber River; The Vatican City is an independent country within the borders of Rome.

Rome was founded by two young brothers, Romulus and Remus, in April 21st 753 **BC**, who were raised by a wolf named Lupa. Legend says that the two twins were the sons of the **demi-god** Hercules.



The boys were direct descendants of Aeneas. Their fate was driven towards their discovery of Italy.

The legend claims that in an argument over who would rule the city, Romulus killed Remus and named it after him.

Key Words

BC: Before Christ (Jesus);
before birth of Jesus

Demi-god: basically, a half
God. Has more powers than

