

Section 2

1. Judea was a small territory on the eastern edge of the Mediterranean. It was important to Jews because it was their homeland, which had been part of the ancient kingdom of Israel.
2. *In 63 B.C.E.*, Romans had Jewish leaders that supported Roman rule, but Jews rebelled against Roman control. *In 37 B.C.E.*, Herod ruled Rome and practiced the Jewish religion, but Jews did not trust him. *In 4 B.C.E.*, Herod's three sons ruled Rome, but Jews rebelled again.

Section 3

1. The Gospels are accounts of Jesus's life and teachings written by four of his followers, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
2. According to the Gospels, Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem because his parents had to go to Bethlehem to be counted for a Roman census, and there was no room left for them inside the inn.

Section 4

1. Jesus said that the two most important Jewish laws were, "You shall love your God with all your heart and all your soul" and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
2. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, an injured man is rescued and cared for by a Samaritan, after two people passed him by at the side of the road. Jesus was teaching us that we should be good neighbors by having mercy on others, even those who are not like us.
3. According to the Gospels, Jesus was condemned to die on a cross because his teachings upset many people and because some feared that he might lead a revolt against Rome.
4. Belief in the Resurrection was important to Jesus's followers because it convinced them that he was the Son of God.

Section 5

1. Paul stopped persecuting Christians and became a missionary because he believed he had heard the voice of the Jesus in a vision.
2. Paul helped spread Christianity by preaching throughout much of the empire. While in jail, he wrote letters to other Christians.

Section 6

1. Christians were considered a threat to Rome because they refused to worship other Roman gods, would not admit that the emperor was a god, preferred a life of simplicity, and refused to serve in the army.
2. Roman persecution of Christians included making their religion illegal and sentencing them to death. Rome's persecution helped to spread Christianity because people admired the bravery of the Christians. Christianity also offered hope to the poor and to slaves.
3. In 313 C.E., Constantine gave Christians the right to practice their religion. The emperors who succeeded Constantine accepted the new faith, and it eventually became the official religion of the empire.