Romans conquer Judaea in 63 B.C. Resentment against Rome builds.

Herod begins to govern Judaea in 37 B.C.

Jesus is born in Judaean town of Bethlehem. He grows up in Nazareth, becomes a carpenter, and begins teaching at the age of 30.

Jesus teaches that there is only one true God who is loving and forgiving and promises that people who believe in him and his teachings will have everlasting life.

Some fear Jesus' teachings and complain to the Romans that Jesus is teaching that God is greater than the emperor.

Fearing he will lead an armed revolt against the government, the Roman governor condemns Jesus to death.

Jesus is crucified. According to the Gospels, Jesus rises from the dead and speaks to his disciples, telling them to spread his teachings.

Paul has a vision that Jesus speaks to him. He decides to travel to spread the word of Jesus. His epistles, or letters, help turn the Christian faith into an organized religion

Nero begins an official campaign against the Christians in A.D. 64. A fire leaves much of the city in ruins. Nero blames the Christians and arrests and executes them, including Paul.

Christianity continues to spread despite the efforts of Diocletian, the Roman emperor, to stop it. Christians are viewed as martyrs by the Romans.