

**AIM: HOW DID CHRISTIANITY BECOME A  
MAJOR WORLD RELIGION?**

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# I. EARLY CHRISTIANITY

## A. JEWISH BACKGROUND

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1. Judaea was a Roman province
2. Unrest was common among all, even Jews
3. Sadducees cooperated with the Romans
4. Zealots advocated overthrowing Roman rule
5. Revolt begun in 66 was crushed by the Romans
6. Romans destroyed the temple in Jerusalem
7. Jesus(Jew) began to teach during the midst of the conflict

## B. RISE OF CHRISTIANITY

1. Jesus taught the Golden Rule, charity, and love for others.
2. Judaeans turned Jesus over to the Romans because they thought he might cause people to Revolt against Romans.
3. Pontius Pilate, Roman Governor ordered his crucifixion.
4. Followers of Jesus believed that he overcame death and was the Messiah.
5. The apostles, original followers of Jesus taught that Jesus was the savior and son of God.

# RISE OF CHRISTIANITY

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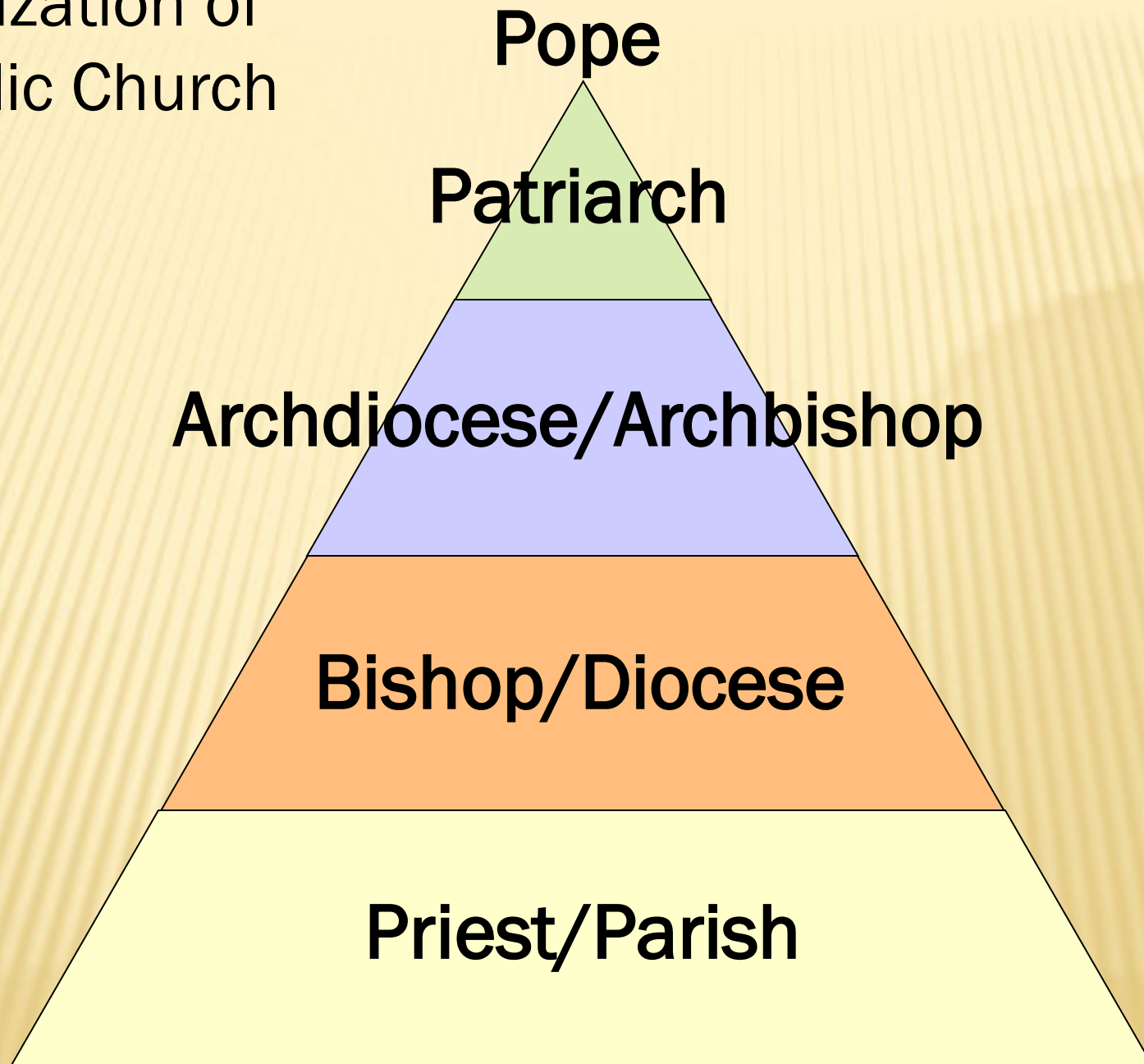
6. Paul of Tarsus traveled all over the Mediterranean Sea spreading the ideas of Jesus.
7. Disciples wrote down Jesus' sayings and stories about him = became known as New Testament of the Bible.
8. Romans paid little attention to Christianity at first then began to see it as a threat to society.
9. Christian blamed for starting a major fire in Rome and was persecuted by Emperor Nero.

# C. ORGANIZING THE CHURCH

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1. Persecution strengthened Christianity forcing it to become more organized
2. Christianity grew because it was more appealing to the poor because it viewed everyone as equal
3. Diocletian was the last major emperor to enforce persecution of Christians.
4. Constantine =first Christian Emperor/ issued Edict of Milan that tolerated Christianity in Rome.
5. Theodosius the Great = adopted Christianity as official religion.

# Organization of Catholic Church



## II. THE SPLIT OF THE CHURCH

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1. When the empire officially split in two the Eastern Half developed into the Greek Orthodox Christian Church.
2. No central figure like the pope.
3. Used Greek as its official Language instead of Latin.
4. Cyril spread the ideas to Russia.