CHAPTER 8: A FLOWERING OF FAITH: CHRISTIANITY AND BUDDHISM, C. 400 B.C.E. - 300 C.E.

STUDY SHEET

Vocabulary Building: diaspora, the Diaspora, commensality (in the sociological, not the biological sense), asceticism, messiah, sutra

1. The Hebrew (Jewish) name of Jesus is _______________________.

2. The three different cultural traditions from which Christianity emerged were: ________________________, ________________________, and _______________________.

3. Throughout Greece, Egypt, and Southwest Asia, religious practices and beliefs that involved secret initiation rituals and often symbolic performances of birth, death, and rebirth, or baptisms and communal meals have been referred to as ____________________ cults.

4. The Roman writer Lucius Apuleius writes about initiation into such a cult in his Latin novel entitled ___________________________.

5. Mithraism had its roots in the ancient religion ____________________ of Persia and went on to become a favorite religion of ____________________ soldiers.

6. The great dispersion of the Jews after the Babylonian Captivity is referred to as the ____________________ .

7. The Septuagint (“Seventy”) is the _______________ translation of the Hebrew scriptures.

8. The Roman destruction of the Second Temple (of the Jews) in Jerusalem was a pivotal event in the history of Judea (Palestine) and for the fate of the Jewish people. This event occurred in ______C.E.

9. During the lifetime of Jesus, there were three groups in Judea (Palestine) with competing interpretations about the nature and mission of a messiah figure and the fate of the soul after death. These three groups were the_________________, the_________________, and the_________________.

10. The Gospels, the first four books of the New Testament were written in the _____________ and the_________________________ languages.

11. Rather than depicting the crucifixion or resurrection, the earliest images of Jesus portray him as ___________________________.

12. The virtues of _____________________ and _____________________ were given new emphasis in the message of Jesus.
13. The section of Jesus’ “Sermon on the Mount” that begins with the phrase “How blessed are . . .” and continues each couplet with the word “blessed” is known as The [B]_____________________.

Now, be sure to think about how such a message would have resonated among the people of Palestine during that time. Also keep this emphasis in mind as you read through the pages on Buddhism.

14. What made Christianity attractive to people, according to the textbook, and what kinds of external threats was the Roman Empire facing at the time Christianity was taking root?__________________________________________

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15. The Edict of Milan, issued by ____________________________ in ______________ C.E. was a proclamation of __________________________, and allowed Christianity to flourish and spread.

16. The word Buddha literally means “awakened,” and it is used as a title. The Buddha’s own personal name was ____________________________

17. The Buddha lived in either the 6th to the 5th centuries or the ______________to the ______________ centuries.

18. Though he was a well-educated prince and lived a comfortable life, when the Buddha first encountered ____________________________, ____________________________, and ____________________________, he renounced his wealth and family and began his search for enlightenment.

19. Through meditation, the Buddha realized that ____________________________is the cause of human suffering.

20. The Buddha’s message was one of ____________________________and ____________________________.

21. These following four assertions of the Buddha: 1) Pain is universal; 2) desire causes pain; 3) ceasing to desire relieves pain; 4) right conduct leads to release from pain are known as the ________ ______________ _________________. [I will try to give you a translation of these statements that is closer to the actual Pali language in which Buddha taught.]

22. The means to achieving right conduct is the Middle Way or the Eightfold Path. The Eightfold Path involves practicing right views, right ____________, right speech, right _________, right livelihood, right__________, right mindfulness, and right______________________________.