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History of Christianity
Gonzalez Chapter 1 5-3-1

Questions:

1. What was the context surrounding Palestinian Judaism when Jesus arrived?
2. What was one of the most important jobs early Christianity had?
3. What was the main role of the apologists at the time of persecution?
4. What was Marcion's heresy?
5. What were common acts of worship for the early Christian church, and how were it practiced?

Answers:

1. Under Alexander the Great's reign, the area was conquered and influenced by Greek culture, and finally when Jesus arrived Palestine was in the Roman Empire.
2. To define the religion in a new context that wasn't the same as it's Jewish roots.
3. To dispel rumors and clarify Christian relationship and role in the surrounding culture.
4. To deny that God created the universe, and thus that the God of the Old Testament is inferior and not all powerful.
5. The early church often took communion together on Sundays, eating a full meal and celebrating together. Another was baptism, which happened on Easter after a season of preparation (early Lent).

Terms:

1. Hellenism: The influence of Greek culture on the surrounding conquered cultures.
2. Diaspora: Dispersion of a population of a people group.
3. Stoicism: A philosophical belief that elevated high moral values

Summary:

As the Gospel spread beyond occupied Palestine, Judaism became a mostly Gentile religion, defining itself through a complicated political and philosophical situation. To address persecution and heresy and to clear up doctrinal debates, the church responded by organizing and compiling agreed-upon texts. Martyrs and apologists made it their life's work to teach, shepherd, and defend the faith.