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### Research and Writing Assignment- Constantine and Christianity

Christians constituted about 10 percent of the population of the Roman Empire before it grew to be one of the empire's official and most followed religions. Thanks to Constantine, the Christian religion developed in the kingdom's East and the West.

The first thing to consider is what if Constantine hadn't seen the cross sign in the sky before his battle for the throne. The words on the cross read, "under this sign, you will conquer," which I could imagine gave him confidence that he would win. Of course, he did win the battle and became emperor. Returning to the initial questions, what if he had never seen the sign or chosen to ignore it to focus on his battle? Christianity would have never come to his mind, and the overall spread of it throughout the Roman Empire would have never happened. The chapter states that "The conversion of a king led to the conversion of the people..." or it at least gave encouragement and introduced people to the new religion. Without Constantine turning around the history of Christianity in the empire and promoting it, the imperial government would never have been strengthened, leaving the whole empire and world with little to no knowledge of the truths of Christianity.

Without Christianity in the picture, Constantine would have most likely followed the religion of Mithraism, a mystery religion prevalent in the Roman empire at the time. According to World History Encyclopedia, Mithraism was a mystery cult in the Roman world “where followers worshipped the Indo-Iranian deity Mithras as the god of friendship, contract, and order tolerated by authorities and emperors because of its favor in imperial power.” Following the Mithraism religion and influencing the whole empire to follow would probably have led to chaos, as it did not mind the customs of the Roman empire. This religion did not withhold the popularity and power of Christianity at the time because of issues connected to the history and politics of the religion. There was obviously some problem with the policies of Mithraism that Constantine did not believe in which led him to follow Christianity, creating and strengthening the secular imperial bureaucracy.

I think the world would have been led through a totally different path if Christianity was not presented and followed during this time. If not in the Roman Empire, then when would be the best time to introduce the truths of Christianity to the world? Today, Christianity holds the spot of being the most popular religion in the world, but I believe those numbers would not be where they are without Constantine's influence on his people and his empire.

Work Cited:

Thomé, Pierre A. "Mithraism." *World History Encyclopedia*,

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