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## The Christ Epidemic: How the Gospel of Jesus Spread

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Oral Presentation O9.1

**THE CHRIST EPIDEMIC: HOW THE GOSPEL OF JESUS SPREAD**

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The gospel message of a resurrected Savior is a tough one to swallow. How is it that salvation, if there is such a thing, is to come through the raising of one man from the dead? The earliest Jewish texts seem to be absent of any resurrection theology. It is my belief that the first century Roman world was primed for belief in a resurrected Messiah. The Jewish tradition had grown to accept the afterlife, regional cultic religions had examples of resurrection theology, the Hellenizing Greek empire had changed man's way of looking at the world, and the imperial cult of the Roman Empire had unified people of all different cultures under one power. The first century was the only time in history a resurrected Savior could be accepted. Maybe this is why the apostle Paul claimed in Romans 5: 6 that "at just the right time, while we were still powerless, Christ died for us" (NIV).