##### **Document A- God**

**Instructions for the government of the Indians**

*From the Spanish King and Queen’s 1501 “Instructions for the government of the Indians.” This*

*is one of a series of royal decrees to governors and other royal officials in the first decade or so*

*of Spain’s claim over new territories in the Americas.*

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| For the salvation of the souls of the Indians… it is necessary for them to be divided into towns where they may live together and not live separated one from another in the forests… and in each of the towns… There is to be a church and a priest who should teach them Our Holy Faith. Therefore… We order that Our Governor in the area arrange immediately… for towns to be established where the Indians can live together in the same way as we do in Spain… Christians are not allowed to take the wives or sons or daughters of the Indians… or to make Indians work for them as they have done until now, unless the Indians agree to do this on their own, being paid fairly for their work... …Do not allow the Indians to sell or exchange their possessions… with the Christians for beads or other things of little value, as has happened before… and in everything the Indians are to be treated well and looked after**,** so that they can… build their houses, cultivate their fields… Also… order the Indians to stop doing the things they have customarily done, such as bathing themselves and painting their bodies. Also, We order Our Governor… to make some Christians marry Indian women, and Christian women with Indian men, so that… the Indians will be instructed in the things of Our Holy Faith … so that they become civilized men and women.*Source: Qtd. in John H. Parry and Robert G. Keith, New Iberian World: A Documentary History of the Discovery and Settlement of Latin America to the Early 17th Century, Vol. 2: The Caribbean (New York: Times Books, 1984), 260-2.* |

1. (*Sourcing*) Where is this document from? Who is it to?

2. (*Contextualization*) What authority did this document have at the time? Explain.

3. (*Close Reading*) According to this document, what was the goal of the King and Queen of

Spain?

4. Underline 3 examples from the text to show how the Spanish were going to accomplish this

goal.