

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BIBLE

Chart of the early Church Fathers

Church Fathers, unknown authors and heretics

Note that this is not a complete list but those church leaders, unknown writers and heretics who are referred to in this book. The dates in most cases are approximate and may differ by a few years in various authorities.

Name	City of leadership	Dates (m=martyred)	Chief work	Contribution to the idea of a canon
Clement	Rome (Italy)	c.95	<i>Letter to the Corinthians.</i>	Quoted from or referred to more than half NT books and believed Paul wrote 'in the Spirit' and were 'Scriptures'.
Ignatius	Antioch (Syria)	50–115m	Seven letters on his way to martyrdom.	Widely alluded to most of NT and used only these for his authority. They were 'the ordinances of the Lord and of the Apostles.'
Polycarp	Smyrna (Asia)	70–155m	<i>Letter to the Philipppians.</i>	Quoted from 16 NT books, and no others, to challenge the church. Referred to them as 'Sacred Scriptures.'
Papias	Hierapolis (Phrygia)	69–135m	Testimony to the authorship of Mark and Matthew.	Clearly familiar with John's Gospel, 1 Peter, 1 John and Revelation. Also had access to oral teachings.
<i>The Didache</i>		c.50–80	Author unknown. Practical Christian teaching.	The author knew and quoted from Matthew but of little value in determining what was accepted.
<i>Epistle of Barnabas</i>		c.130	Author unknown. Against Judaisers in the church.	He quotes from the NT but is of little value in determining what was accepted.
<i>The Shepherd of Hermas</i>	Rome	c.150	The author Hermas is unknown. Visions, commandments and parables.	Of little value in determining what was accepted.
<i>The Muratorian Canon</i>	Rome?	150–200	Author unknown. The oldest known list of NT books.	The complete NT with the exception of 1 and 2 Peter, James and Hebrews.

Justin	Rome	100–165m	Two <i>Apologia</i> and a <i>Dialogue with Trypho the Jew</i> .	Defended the apostolic authority of the Four Gospels. Introduced quotations by ‘it is written’.
Dionysius	Corinth (Greece)	?? – 170	Many pastoral letters to the churches. Only small fragments remain.	He contrasts his own letters with ‘the Scriptures (writings) of the Lord.’
Tatian	Rome	110–180	Harmony of the Four Gospels (<i>Diatessaron</i>). <i>An Address to the Greeks</i> .	Only the Four Gospels accepted by the churches.
Aristides	Athens (Greece)	Writing c.126	An <i>Apology</i> to Emperor Hadrian	No reference from Scripture but to the Gospel and Christian ‘books’.
Athenagoras	Athens	Writing c.175	<i>A Plea for the Christians</i> and <i>On the Resurrection of the Dead</i>	A few quotations from the Gospels and the epistles, but more would not be appropriate since his work is addressed to the emperor.
Irenaeus	Lugdunum (Lyons)	130–202	<i>Against Heresies</i> and defended the four Gospels.	Quoted over 1,000 passages from all but four or five NT books. They are ‘the Scriptures’ given by the Holy Spirit.
The Scilitan Martyrs	Carthage (N. Africa)	180m	On trial before proconsul Saturninus.	The epistles of Paul circulating in Latin in North Africa by AD 180. Almost certainly also the Four Gospels.
Tertullian	Carthage	155–220	<i>Apologeticus</i> : defence of the Christian faith <i>Spectaculis</i> : theology and against heretics.	The first serious expositor and used almost all the NT books. They were equated with OT and he referred to ‘the majesty of our Scriptures.’ He clearly possessed a canon almost, if not wholly, identical to ours,
Cyprian	Carthage	210–258m	<i>The Unity of the Church</i> and many letters.	Quoted from almost ten percent of NT and as ‘Scripture’.
Hippolytus	Rome	170–235m	Forty works including commentaries and Christian doctrine.	Used much of the NT and as ‘Scripture’. Quoted from other books but not with the same authority.
Clement	Alexandria (Egypt)	153–216	<i>Exhortation to the Heathen</i> . <i>The Instructor</i> . <i>The Miscellanies</i> .	Quoted from all but five NT books more than 3,000 time and believed them to be ‘Scripture’. No other books given the same authority.

Origen	Alexandria	180–253	Great biblical scholar. Expounded almost all books of the Bible. Referred to the ‘New Testament’.	By AD 240 he listed the 27 books of our canon as ‘Scripture’.
Eusebius	Caesarea (Judaea)	260–340	<i>Ecclesiastical History</i> —the ‘Father of Church History’.	Listed 22 books as unquestioned by any church. The other five (James, Jude, 2 Peter and 2 and 3 John) were widely used among the churches.
Athanasius	Alexandria	296–373	A strong defender of the truth against Arius who denied the deity of Christ. He also distinguished between heretical book and useful (though not canonical) books.	Athanasius provides the oldest list of NT books identical with our 27: ‘Let no one add to them, nor take anything from them’ (AD 367).
Augustine	Hippo (N Africa)	354–430	<i>Confessions</i> ; <i>Letters</i> and <i>The City of God</i> .	The Council of Hippo AD 393. For the NT only the 27 books.
Jerome	Rome & Antioch etc	347–420	Commentaries and the complete Bible in Latin: the <i>Vulgate</i> .	His NT canon only the 27, though accepted the selected books of the <i>Apocrypha</i> .

Some heretics

Name	City of leadership	Dates	Chief work	Chief heresy
Marcion	Rome and elsewhere	85–160	Only one book <i>Antisthenes</i> (Contradictions). But one of the earliest exponents of Gnostic views.	Gnosticism. Rejection of entire Old Testament and selection of a few New Testament books.
Montanus	Asia	?		Montanism. a form of extreme pentecostalism.
Valentinus	Egypt and Rome	100–160	Opened an influential school in Rome.	Gnosticism.
Marcus	Disciple of Valentinus	?	Leader of the Morcosians.	Gnosticism.
Basilides	Alexandria	117–138	Twenty-four books of <i>Exegetica</i> . Only fragments remain.	Gnosticism.
Carpocrates	Alexandria	?	Founded a Gnostic sect.	Practised magic and spiritism.