

More than 250 People and Events in Church History

# Basic Church History Time Line

**AD 300-700 From Nicene to the Rise of Islam**

**Legend:**  
■ Bible Development  
■ Key Person  
▲ Church Council  
★ Key Event

**AD 300-350: Persecution and Conversion**  
- Persecution under Septimius Severus c. 200  
- New Testament books as canonical literary text into late 4th century  
- Translated into various languages (e.g., Egyptian)  
- By this time recognized  
- Ink and papyrus, scrolls early from 5th c.  
- Other converted  
- Alexandria, theologian, 4th c.  
- Alexandria philosopher and theologian, founded school in Caesarea c. 200  
- Origen writes "Hexapla," the Old Testament in six Hebrew and Greek texts  
- Roman persecution under several emperors; Christianity grows rapidly  
- Manichaeism originates in Persia (see today)  
- Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyred after rejecting idolatry  
- First church buildings erected in rectangular-shaped basilicas  
- Missionization begins in Egypt by Pachomius  
- Roman Empire divided into East and West  
- Emperor Diocletian leads the hardest persecution of the church  
- Domestic schism in North Africa  
- Christianity seen vision of the Cross  
- Athanasius (Alexandria), Christianity is legalized in the Roman Empire  
- Basilides of Caesarea writes the first history of Christianity  
- Council of Nicea  
- Constantinian establishes capital at Byzantium and restores c. Constantinople  
- St. Peter's church in Rome erected  
- Constantine legislated a few days before death  
- Codex Vaticanus and Codex Sinaiticus

**AD 325-350: Councils and Canonization**  
- The Great Captivity ceases Asian teachings  
- Canon of the New Testament confirmed in the East  
- Council of Constantinople I  
- Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (North Africa)  
- Canon of the New Testament confirmed in the West  
- Jerome completes translation of Bible into Latin (Vulgate)  
- Council of Ephesus condemns Nestorianism and Pelagianism  
- Patrick evangelizes Ireland  
- Council of Chalcedon  
- End of the Western Roman Empire  
- First schism between Western and Eastern Churches after pope's re-examination of Patriarch Acacius of Constantinople  
- By end of century, Scripture translated into 11 languages  
- Syrian Orthodox Church establishes monophysite monastery in Edessa  
- Codex Bezae, the New Testament in Greek and Latin, produced  
- First phase of the Valentinian Palace in Rome is laid  
- Eastern and Western Churches reconcile  
- Irish monasteries flourish as centers of learning, spiritual life, and training for missionaries  
- Monk Benedict begins his monastery and writes the Rule, a guide for monastic life  
- Monotheism central to Christianity by St. Basil  
- The Golden Age of Byzantine art begins  
- Fifth Council of Constantinople  
- St. Cyril of Alexandria  
- Gregory VII extends list of the medieval popes  
- Pope Gregory the Great introduces the Bible in plain language  
- Monks multiply through Palestine and other areas  
- The Visigothic Code, English law is established  
- Bible of Constantine, the Roman emperor  
- English Old English (Anglo-Saxon) portions of the Bible by Constantine  
- Eastern and Western churches  
- Stone of the Book, a device of

**AD 300 AD 400 AD 500 AD 600 AD 700**

See more than 2,000 years of history at a glance



AD 1

AD 100

## Life of Jesus and Early Church

## Age of the Apostles

- Birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem c. 6–4 BC
- ✦ Beginning of Jesus' public ministry: age 30, c. 26
- + Jesus crucified, resurrected, ascends into heaven 30
- Pentecost: the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus' disciples 30
- Stephen, the first Christian martyr, is stoned to death in Jerusalem 32
- Conversion of the apostle Paul 37
- Conversion of Roman centurion, Cornelius 41
- Christians persecuted under King Herod Agrippa. James executed, Peter imprisoned 44
- Followers of Christ first called Christians at Antioch 46
- ▲ Council of Jerusalem agrees with Paul that Gentile converts are not required to follow Jewish law 49
- ▢ All New Testament books written 49–96
- One of the earliest Christian churches erected at Corinth 50
- ▢ Paul's Letters to the Corinthians written c. 56
- ▢ Gospel according to Mark written c. 58
- ▢ Gospels according to Matthew and Luke written c. 60–62
- Peter and Paul taken to Rome; executed under Nero 64–68
- Great fire in Rome blamed on Christians; Emperor Nero tortures and kills thousands of Christians 64
- Jewish revolt against Romans; Jerusalem captured and destroyed 70
- Antioch becomes the center for Christianity 70
- Colosseum in Rome built; Christians thrown to beasts 71–81
- Domitian becomes emperor; persecution of Christians 81–96
- ▢ Gospel according to John written 85
- Writings of early church leaders Barnabas, Clement 90–100
- Death of John, the only disciple to die a natural death c. 100
- Division between church and synagogue 100–150
- Gnostic heresies gain popularity and are refuted by Church leaders 100–250
- ▢ The Didache and Apostles' Creed written 100–150
- Martyrdom of Ignatius, bishop of Antioch 107
- ▢ Church leader Papias mentioned 130
- ▢ Rylands Fragment: oldest New Testament existence today c. 110
- Second Jewish Temple destroyed 70
- M...



Pentecost

- ▢ Bible Development
- Key Person
- ▲ Church Council
- ✦ Key Event

AD 1

AD 100

# AD 200

## Scriptures and Church Fathers

## Heresies and Persecution

a natural death 100

ue is complete c. 100

e vigorously

ten during this century 100–200

f Antioch c. 107

as the four Gospels c. 110

w Testament fragment still in

vish rebellion; Jerusalem destroyed 132–135

arcion excommunicated for heresy by Church of Rome c. 144

Justin Martyr, theologian, writes his first Apology c. 155



Justin Martyr

Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna and disciple of the apostle John, is burned at the stake 155

d 70

Hippolytus records the Apostolike Paradosis (Apostolic Tradition), which includes an early form of the Apostles' Creed 170–236

Irenaeus of Lyons writes *Against Heresies*; lists 20 New Testament books officially accepted and recognized as authoritative c. 180

intensifies; 81

Easter controversy concerning the day to celebrate Christ's resurrection 196

t of Rome, Ignatius, Polycarp 85–150

Christianity spreads in the Roman Empire despite persecution 197

# AD 200

Roman persecution of Christians under Septimius Severus c. 200

The church recognizes 23 New Testament books as canonical, but it is unlikely these are collected yet into one volume 200

The Scriptures have been translated into seven languages, including Syriac and Coptic (Egyptian) 200

The bishopric of Rome is by this time recognized as having the highest honor 200

Perpetua, young mother and martyr, records early Christian experience in prison diary 203

Tertullian, church father, converted 208

Clement of Alexandria, theologian, dies 215

Origen, Alexandrian philosopher and theologian, founds a school 213

Origen writes "Hexapla," the Old Testament in six Hebrew versions 226

Roman persecution under several emperors; Christians martyred 202–211

Manichaeism originates in Persia (Iran today) 224

Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyred 258

First church buildings erected 250

Monasticism begins in Egypt 300

Roman persecution 202–211

# AD 300–700

## From Nicaea to the Rise of Islam

- The Great Cappadocians oppose Arian teachings 364
- Canon of the New Testament confirmed in the East 367
- ▲ Council of Constantinople I 381
  - Augustine, bishop of Hippo (North Africa) 395–430
- Canon of the New Testament confirmed in the West 397
- Jerome completes translation of Bible into Latin (Vulgate) 405
- ▲ Council of Ephesus condemns Nestorianism and Pelagianism 431
- Patrick evangelizes Ireland 432
- ▲ Council of Chalcedon 451
- Fall of the Western Roman Empire 476



Emperor Constantine legalized Christianity in AD 313, ending the persecution of Christians in the West.

ol in Caesarea c. 220  
 brew and Greek texts 230  
 ianity grows rapidly 235–270  
 y) 242  
 martyred after rejecting idolatry 258  
 d as rectangular-shaped basilicas 261  
 in Egypt by Pachomius c. 270  
 oman Empire divided into East and West 292  
 ● Emperor Diocletian leads the harshest persecution of the church 303–305  
 ● Donatist schism in North Africa 311–411  
 ● Constantine sees vision of the cross 312  
 ✪ Edict of Milan (Toleration); Christianity is legalized in the Roman Empire 313  
 ● Arius claims that Jesus Christ is a created being 320  
 ● Eusebius of Caesarea writes the first history of Christianity 324  
 ▲ Council of Nicaea 325  
 ● Constantine establishes capital at Byzantium and renames it Constantinople 330  
 ● St. Peter's church in Rome erected 330  
 ● Constantine baptized a few days before death 337  
 ■ Codex Vaticanus and Codex Sinaiticus c. 350

- First schism between Western and Eastern Churches  
excommunication of Patriarch Acacius of Constantinople
- By end of century, Scriptures translated into Syriac
- Syrian Orthodox Church establishes monophysitism
- Codex Bezae, the New Testament in Greek
- First plans of the Vatican Palace in Rome are drawn
- Eastern and Western Churches reconvene at Council of Ephesus 449
- Irish monasteries flourish as centers of learning
- Monk Benedict begins his monastic order
- Wales converted to Christianity
- The Golden Era of Byzantium begins
- ▲ Fifth Council of Constantinople 553
- St. Sophia Basilica in Constantinople
- Gregory the Great becomes Pope
- Pope Gregory the Great reforms the Roman Church



AD 300

AD 400

AD 500

AD

# AD 700–1000

## Islam, Early Scholasticism, and Church Schisms



Augustine, bishop of Hippo

es after pope's  
ople 484

o 13 languages 499

hysite monastery in Ethiopia 500

k and Latin, produced 500

re laid 500

ncile 519

s of learning, spiritual life, and training for missionaries 520

astery and writes the Rule, a guide for monastic life 529

istianity by St. David 550

antine art begins 550

stantinople 553

a in Constantinople consecrated 563

y I elected first of the medieval popes 590

Gregory the Great introduces the Bible in picture books for illiterate people 600

Muhammad declares himself to be Prophet of God; founds the religion of Islam 610

- Muslims sweep through Palestine and conquer Jerusalem 632

The Dome of the Rock, built in 688. The exposed bedrock in the center of this Muslim shrine in Jerusalem is believed by archaeologist Leen Ritmeyer to be the location of the Holy of Holies.

- The Venerable Bede, English monk and historian, born 672
- John of Damascus, theologian opposing iconoclasm (image-breaking) 675–753
- Earliest Old English (Anglo-Saxon) translations and paraphrases of portions of the Bible by Caedmon and Aldhelm 676–709
- Eastern and Western churches drift further apart 680–692
- Dome of the Rock, a shrine of Islam, built on Temple Mount in Jerusalem 688–691

- Greek, instead of Latin, becomes the official language of the Eastern Roman Empire c. 700
- Muslim Moors invade Spain and Portugal, their first foothold in Europe 711
- Boniface, “Apostle to the Germans,” establishes Benedictine monasticism 716
- Bede translates Gospel of John into English; writes *Ecclesiastical History* 720
- First official acts of iconoclasm (destruction of sacred images) by Emperor Leo III
- Pope Gregory II excommunicates the Byzantine emperor; supports the veneration of images
- Pope Gregory III asks Charles Martel for help against Lombards, Greeks, and Muslims

• Seventh Council of Nicaea 787

• Charlemagne crowned first Holy Roman emperor in Rome 800

• Sweden is evangelized by Anskar, “Apostle of the North” 829

• Persecution of image worshipers in the East 843

• Christians in Egypt are persecuted and forced to flee 848

• Veneration of images reestablished 842

• Vivian Bible, one of earliest illustrated Bibles 846

• Cyril and Methodius, “Apostles of the Slavs” 868

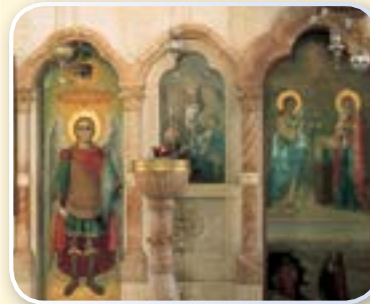
• Photian Schism over issues with papal primacy 863

• The pope and the patriarch of Constantinople excommunicate each other 878

• Bulgarian Church established 893

• Oldest complete Bible 909

• Christ the Pantocrator 900



The iconostasis of an Orthodox church separates the nave (the central area of the church) and the altar.

600

AD 700

AD 800

AD 900