



Church History Timeline

FROM JESUS TO CONSTANTINE: 30--313

Lose Frames

Beginnings of the Church	
30s	Ministry, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus
c. 30-100	Clement of Rome
c. 36-69	Oral transmission of message and story of Jesus Christianity centered in Jerusalem
c. 47-57	Missionary travels of Paul
48	Council of Jerusalem
62	James the Just, "the Lord's Brother," martyred
64	Emperor Nero of Rome persecutes Christians as cause of the Great Fire
c. 60s	Peter and Paul martyred during Nero's reign
68-70	<i>Dead Sea Scrolls</i> hidden in caves
69-155	Polycarp, who became Bishop of Smyrna
c. 70	<i>Mark</i>
70	Jewish revolt against Rome fails; Jerusalem sacked, Temple destroyed
c. 70-140	Papias, bishop and author of <i>Expositions of the Sayings of the Lord</i>
70+	Center of Christianity shifts from Jerusalem to Antioch, Alexandria, & Rome
c. 80	<i>Matthew</i>
80-90	Deutero-Pauline Epistles: <i>Colossians</i> , <i>Ephesians</i> , and <i>II Thessalonians</i>
81-96	Emperor Domitian styles self as "Master and God"
c. 90	<i>Luke</i> and <i>John</i> , Council of Jamnia
Apostolic Fathers, Persecutions, Gnosticism	
90s	Christians persecuted, Church's early structure established-- bishops, presbyters, and deacons; rabbinic movement develops from Pharisees

c. 95-6	<i>1st Epistle of Clement</i> , earliest Christian writing that is <i>not</i> in canon
98-117	Persecutions (sporadic) of Christians by Emperor Trajan
100-110	Pastoral Epistles: I & II <i>Timothy</i> and <i>Titus</i>
c. 110	Martyrdom of Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, who wrote <i>Epistles</i> en route to his death: <i>The Epistles of Ignatius to the Ephesians, the Philadelphians, the Magnesians, the Romans, the Smyrnaeans, the Trallians, and to Polycarp</i> . The <i>Didache</i> or <i>Teaching of the Lord to the Gentiles through the 12 Apostles</i> (author unknown)
c. 112	Pliny, the younger, asks to Emperor Trajan about how to deal with Christians
117-138	Hadrian is emperor of Rome
c. 120	Papias is bishop of Hierapolis in Phrygia
c. 125	<i>The Shepherd of Hermas</i> , a very popular religious allegory
125-225	Gnostic writings such as <i>Nag Hammadi</i> manuscripts
c. 130	<i>The Epistle of Barnabas</i>
c. 130-200	Irenaeus
133	Aristides' <i>Apology</i> (no longer extant) addressed to Hadrian
135	Second destruction of Jerusalem by Hadrian
140s	Marcion and Valentius, Gnostic teachers, <i>Marcion's New Testament</i>
c.150	Gnostic <i>Gospel of Thomas</i>
c. 156	Martyrdom of Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna
150	Justin Martyr writes <i>First Apology</i> <i>Second Clement</i> (author unknown)
Early Church Fathers, Persecutions, and Heresies	
160	Marcion dies
160-190	Acts of Paul and Thecla, written by an orthodox Christian in Asia Minor
160-223	Tertullian, author of <i>Apology</i> , father of Latin theology
160s	Tatian's <i>Diatesseron</i>
161-180	Marcus Aurelius is emperor of Rome, Stoic philosopher
161-180	Widespread persecutions of Christians

168	Martyrdom of Justin Martyr in Rome
c. 170-235	Hippolytus, who became first antipope, but later reconciled to the church
177	Irenaeus becomes Bishop of Lyons, Massacre of Christians in Lyon, Gaul
c. 178	Growth of Sabellianism
180	Irenaeus, <i>Against Heresies</i>
185-253	Origen of Alexandria, author of <i>Hexapla</i> , many biblical commentaries
190-203	Clement in Alexandria
193-211	Septimus Severus, emperor of Rome, persecutes Christians
196	Victor of Rome condemns Montanism
197	Quartodeciman Easter controversy
200	Bishop Irenaeus of Lyons is martyred
c. 200-258	Thascius Caecilius Cyprianus (Cyprian)
202	Martyrdom of Perpetua, Felicitas, and their companions
215	Emperor Caracalla attacks Alexandrians, Origen flees to Caesarea, Palestine
c. 215	Tertullian becomes a Montanist
c. 216	Mani, founder of Manichaeism
218	Origen is teacher in catechetical school, Alexandria
217-222	Callistus is Bishop of Rome
232	Origen flees to Caesarea, Israel. Heraclas is consecrated bishop of Alexandria.
235	Bishop Hippolytus of Rome, prolific writer, is martyred
248	Origen writes <i>Against Celsus</i> in Palestine
249-251	Emperor Decius persecutes Christians.
249-251	Growing controversy between Carthage and Rome about treatment of returning apostate Christians
251	Council of Carthage, Cyprian has leading role
253-260	Emperor Valerian, who ordered everyone to sacrifice to Roman gods, and Emperor Gallienus
254	Origen dies in Tyre from wounds suffered from torture

258	Cyprian of Carthage martyred
c. 260-340	Eusebius, author of <i>History of the Church, Life of Constantine, The Martyrs of Palestine</i>
269	Gallenius is sole emperor, Paul of Samosata condemned at Antioch
284-305	Emperor Diocletian and most extensive persecutions of Christians
303-313	The Great Persecution
306-337	Emperor Constantine ends persecutions
310	Armenia becomes first Christian state
312	Constantine wins Battle of Milvian Bridge
313	Edict of Milan legalizes Christianity, makes it official religion of the Empire