

TIMELINE OF EARLY CHRISTIAN HISTORY: 100 AD TO 800 AD

c 100	St. John dies. End of Apostolic age
107	Ignatius of Antioch martyred
156	Polycarp martyred
161-180	Persecution of Christians increases under Marcus Aurelius
c 165	Justin Martyr martyred
c 180	Irenaeus of Lyon writes <i>Against Heresies</i>
184	Birth of Origen
250	Persecution of Christians under Decius
253	Death of Origen, shortly after suffering two years of imprisonment and torture
303-312	The Diocletian persecution – the Roman empire's last, largest and bloodiest persecution of Christians
310	Armenia becomes the first country to adopt Christianity as its official religion.
312	Constantine, at the Battle of Milvian Bridge, experiences vision of the cross carrying the message, <i>In Hoc Signo Vinces</i> ("with this sign, you shall win")
313	Constantine issues the Edict of Milan, providing for the toleration of Christianity and Christians
c 323	Eusebius of Caesarea completes <i>Ecclesiastical History</i>
325	First Council of Nicaea (the first ecumenical council) is convened by Constantine. Debate rages over whether Christ is of the "same substance" or "similar substance" to God. The position of Arius, that Christ was of "similar substance" (i.e., that he is a created being), is refuted. Nicene Creed is drawn up, declaring Christ to be "Begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father."
324	Constantinople becomes capital of the Roman Empire
349	Birth of John Chrysostom
354	Birth of Augustine of Hippo

- 367 Athanasius, in his annual festal letter to the churches of Alexandria, lists the 27 books he believed should constitute the New Testament
- 380 Theodosius issues the Edict of Thessalonica, declaring Nicene Christianity the official religion of the Roman empire
- 381 First Council of Constantinople is convened by Theodosius. The Nicene Creed substantially in its current form is adopted. Arianism is again condemned.
- 382 Jerome begins his translation of the Bible into Latin (the "Vulgate"), which is completed by 405
- 397 The Synod of Carthage refers to the 27 books of the New Testament, as well as 46 books of the Old Testament, as canonical sacred scripture (possibly an affirmation of the biblical canon previously adopted by the Council of Hippo in 393 under Athanasius).
- 407 Death of John Chrysostom
- 410 Rome is sacked by the Visigoths
- 430 Death of Augustine of Hippo
- 431 The Council of Ephesus is convened by Theodosius. It condemns Nestorianism. Mary is declared *Theotokos*, i.e. 'Birth Giver of God', as advocated by Cyril, and not *Christotokis*, i.e., 'Birth Giver of Christ', as advocated by Nestorius.
- 451 The Council of Chalcedon is convened by Marcian. It issues the Chalcedonian Definition, stating that Jesus is "perfect both in deity and in humanness; this selfsame one is also actually God and actually man" (i.e., that Christ has two distinct natures, human and divine, united in one person).
- 496 King Clovis of Franks baptized
- c 500 Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite writes *Corpus Areopagiticum*
- 535 Benedict of Nursia writes the *Rule of Saint Benedict*
- 540 Birth of Gregory the Great

- 553 The Second Council of Constantinople is convened by Justinian I. The teachings from Chalcedon and previous councils were refined and affirmed.
- 563 Columba establishes a monastery at Iona
- 597 Following a mission authorized by Gregory the Great, St. Augustine of Canterbury becomes the first Archbishop of Canterbury
- 604 Death of Gregory the Great
- 610 Muhammad begins receiving revelations and Islam originates
- 637 Muslims capture Jerusalem
- 680 The Third Council of Constantinople is convened by Constantine IV. Monothelism, the position that although Christ had two natures, he had one will (i.e., there was no opposition in Christ between his human and divine volition), was rejected.
- c 731 Bede writes his *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*
- 732 The Battle of Tours halts the Muslim advance in Europe
- C 735 John of Damascus writes *The Fount of Knowledge*
- 787 The Second Council of Nicaea (the seventh and final ecumenical council) is convened by Constantine VI and Empress Irene. The council ends the controversy over the use of icons in worship (i.e., allowing the veneration but not worship of icons).
- 800 Charlemagne crowned Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire by Pope Leo III