

An Introduction to Christianity

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2004

Chronology

Date	Events	Key figures
27 BCE	Octavian named Caesar 'Augustus', emperor of Rome (died 14 CE)	Philo (c. 20 BCE–c. 50 CE)
c. 33 CE	Death and resurrection of Jesus	
c. 37	Conversion of Paul: Paul's letters written c. 40–c. 60	Josephus (c. 37–c. 95)
c. 60–c. 120	Writing of gospels	
64	Nero's persecution	
66–70	First Jewish revolt; destruction of Jerusalem	Ignatius (c. 35–c. 107)
c. 67	Paul executed in Rome	
c. 112	Persecution of Bithynia; Pliny's letter to Trajan	Clement of Rome (c. 67–c. 132)
c. 120	Gnosticism flourishes	Justin Martyr (c. 79–c. 163)
132–5	Second Jewish revolt	
144	Marcion establishes his own church	Marcion (died c. 160)
c. 157	Beginnings of Montanism	
179	Conversion of Abgar, king of Edessa	Origen (c. 184–254)
226	Beginning of the Sasanid dynasty in Persia	Mani (216–76)
270	Antony in the desert; the beginnings of monasticism	

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280	Conversion of Tiridates, king of Armenia	
284	Diocletian emperor; beginning of the later empire	Arius (c. 250–c. 336)
305	Abdication of Diocletian; new tetrarchy	Eusebius (c. 260–c. 399)
306	Constantine emperor in Gaul; anarchy and civil war	
311	Donatist schism begins in north Africa	
312	Constantine's victory at the Milvian Bridge; adopts Christian symbol for his standards	Athanasius (c. 300–73)
313	Edict of Milan (official toleration of Christianity)	
314	Council of Arles (Donatist affair)	
323	Eusebius' <i>Ecclesiastical History</i> (final edition)	
325	Council of Nicea	
330	Foundation of Constantinople (formerly Byzantium)	Basil of Caesarea (c. 330–c. 374) Gregory of Nazianzus (c. 330–c. 389)
361–3	Julian, last non-Christian emperor	Gregory of Nyssa (c. 330–c. 395)
379–95	Theodosius emperor	
381	First Council of Constantinople	Ambrose (c. 340–97) Cyril of Alexandria (365–407) Jerome (c. 340–20) Augustine (354–430)
396	Augustine bishop of Hippo	
398	John Chrysostom bishop of Constantinople	
400	Augustine's <i>Confessions</i>	
401–7	Pope Innocent I asserts primacy of Rome	
410	Rome attacked by Alaric and the Goths	Nestorius (c. 386–c. 451)
427	Augustine finishes <i>The City of God</i>	

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431	Council of Ephesus condemns Nestorianism	
432	Beginning of St Patrick's ministry	
451	Council of Chalcedon	Leo I (died 461)
455	The Vandals take Rome	
476	End of Roman empire in the west	Boethius (c. 480–524)
486	Persian church opts for Nestorianism	Caesarius of Arles (486–529)
496	Clovis king of the Franks converted to Christianity	Gregory of Tours (491–544)
491	Armenian church opts for monophysitism	Benedict of Nursia (c. 480–c. 550) Cassiodorus (died 583)
527–65	Justinian emperor	Pope Gregory I (540–604)
537	Dedication of St Sophia in Constantinople	
c. 540	Benedict's <i>Rule</i>	
553	Second Council of Constantinople	Isidore of Seville (c. 560–636)
c. 563	Columba leaves Ireland and makes Iona his centre (died 597)	Maximus the Confessor (c. 580–662)
590–604	Gregory I ('the Great') pope	
597	Augustine, sent by Gregory, arrives in Kent	
622	The hegirah, year 0 of the Muslim calendar (birth of Islam)	
638–56	Arabs conquer Palestine, Iraq, Syria and Egypt; first recension of the Koran	John of Damascus (c. 655–c. 750)
681	Third Council of Constantinople re-emphasises Chalcedonian Christology	Bede (c. 673–735)
711–16	Iberian peninsula (Spain) conquered by Arabs	
716	Boniface's first missionary journey to Frisia	Boniface (c. 680–754)
726	Outbreak of Iconoclast controversy	
732	Charles Martel halts Arabs at Poitiers	

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751	Pippin anointed Frankish king	
756	Rise of the Papal States	
787	Second Council of Nicea upholds veneration of icons (Seventh Ecumenical Council)	
800	Charlemagne crowned emperor of the west by Pope Leo III; the <i>Book of Kells</i> (Ireland)	
848	Evangelisation of Sweden and Denmark	
910	Foundation of abbey of Cluny, a centre of monastic reform	
963	Monastic foundation of Mount Athos	
988	'The conversion of Russia'; baptism of Vladimir, prince of Kiev	
993–1002	Emperor Otto III works together with Pope Sylvester II	Simeon the New Theologian (949–1022)
1049–54	Leo IX pope: beginnings of papal reform	
1054	Fracture of relations between Greek and Roman churches (mutual excommunications)	Anselm (1033–1109)
1073–85	Pope Gregory VII (Hildebrand)	
1095	Urban II preaches to the First Crusade at Council of Clermont	Abelard (1079–1142)
1098	Foundation of abbey of Cîteaux (Cistercian order)	
1099	First Crusade takes Jerusalem	Gratian (died c. 1160)
1122	Concordat of Worms (end of investiture dispute)	
1123	First Lateran Council	Bernard of Clairvaux (1090–1153)
1139	Second Lateran Council	
1146	Bernard of Clairvaux preaches to the Second Crusade	Joachim of Fiore (c. 1135–1202)
?1150	Gratian's <i>Decretum</i>	
c. 1157	Peter Lombard's <i>Sentences</i>	

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1174	Peter Valdes preaches poverty in Lyons; beginning of 'Waldensians'	Peter Valdes (died c. 1218)
1187	Loss of Jerusalem by the crusaders	
1189	Beginning of the Third Crusade	Dominic (1170-1221)
1198-1216	Pope Innocent III	Francis of Assisi (c. 1181-1226)
1204-61	The Latins take Constantinople (Fourth Crusade)	
1209	Beginning of the Franciscans	
1209-29	Crusade against the Albigensians (Cathars)	
1215	Fourth Lateran Council (annual confession made obligatory)	
1216	Approval of Friars Preachers (Dominicans)	
1232	Papal Inquisition established by Gregory IX	Bonaventure (1221-74)
1244	Jerusalem finally lost to Muslims	Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225-74)
1245	First Council of Lyons	
1273	Aquinas' <i>Summa Theologiae</i> completed	Meister Eckhart (1260-1328)
1281	Ottoman empire founded (lasts until 1924)	Marguerite Porete (died 1310)
1291	Loss of Acre and the Holy Land	Duns Scotus (c. 1265-1308)
1295	Conversion of Mongol dynasty to Islam	
1302	Boniface VIII issues <i>Unam Sanctam</i>	Marsilius of Padua (c. 1275-c. 1342)
1309-77	Avignonese captivity: popes at Avignon	William of Ockham (c. 1285-1347)
1323	Franciscan doctrine of absolute poverty declared heretical	
1337	Hesychast controversy in the east	
1348-9	Black Death	Gregory of Palamas (died 1359)

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1378–1414	The Great Schism; two popes, Urban VI and Clement VII	Catherine of Siena (1347–80) John Wyclif (c. 1330–84)
1414	Beginning of Council of Constance (conciliar principle affirmed)	
1415	Jan Hus burned at Constance	Jan Hus (c. 1372–1415)
1431–49	Council of Basle	
1439	Council of Florence	Julian of Norwich (c. 1342–after 1416)
1448	Russian church becomes autocephalous	Nicholas of Cusa (1401–64)
1453	Constantinople taken by Ottoman Turks	Nil Sorsky (1433–1508)
1455	The Bible printed by Gutenberg at Mainz	
1472	Grand Prince Ivan III of Moscow proclaims himself tsar	
1479	The establishment of the Spanish Inquisition	
1491	The baptism of the king of the Congo by the Portuguese	Erasmus (c. 1469–1536) Michelangelo (1475–1564)
1492	Muslims expelled from Spain; discovery of America by Christopher Columbus	Thomas More (1478–1535)
1493	Pope Alexander VI divides newly discovered lands between Spain and Portugal	
1498	The Portuguese reach the Indies (Vasco da Gama)	Martin Luther (1483–1546) Ulrich Zwingli (1484–1531)
1500	Discovery of Brazil by the Portuguese	
1503	Conflict in Russia between 'Non-Possessors' and 'Possessors'	

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