Fire of Rome; Nero launches persecutions

64 AD

Peter and Paul Executed in Rome

65

Seige and Destruction of Jerusalem

67 – 70

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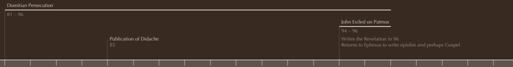
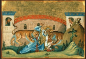


Domitian Persecution
81 – 96

Publication of Didache
85

John Exiled on Patmos
94 – 96
Writes the Revelation in 96
Returns to Ephesus to write epistles and perhaps Gospel

Ignatius of Antioch Martyred
112



Trajan Persecution
112 – 117

Hadrian Persecution
117 – 138

101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120

Justin Martyr Writes First Apology
150

Marcion Demotes NT Books
155

Polycarp Martyred
156

141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160

Marcus Aurelius Persecution

161 – 181

Marcus Aurelius, the philosopher on the throne, was a well-educated, just, kind, and amiable emperor, and reached the old Roman ideal of self-reliant Stoic virtue, but for this very reason he had no sympathy with Christianity, and probably regarded it as an absurd and fanatical superstition. He had no room in his cosmopolitan philanthropy for the purest and most innocent of his subjects, many of whom served in his own army. He was flooded with apologies of Melito, Miltiades, Athenagoras in behalf of the persecuted Christians, but turned a deaf ear to them. Only once, in his Meditations, does he allude to them, and then with scorn, tracing their noble enthusiasm for martyrdom to "sheer obstinacy" and love for theatrical display. His excuse is ignorance. He probably never read a line of the New Testament, nor of the apologies addressed to him. Belonging to the later Stoical school, which believed in an immediate absorption after death into the Divine essence, he considered the Christian doctrine of the immortality of the soul, with its moral consequences, as vicious and dangerous to the welfare of the state. A law was passed under his reign, punishing every one with exile who should endeavor to influence people's mind by fear of the Divinity, and this law was, no doubt, aimed at the Christians. Later, there is record of "new decrees" making it easier for Christians to be accused and have their property confiscated. In 177, 48 Christians were martyred in the amphitheater in Lyons (modern France).

Muratorian Canon

170

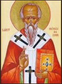
Montanist Movement Begins

172

Radical personal ethic
Spontaneity of the Spirit
Priscilla and Maximilla prophetesses

161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176

Ireneaus becomes bishop of Lyons and combats developing heresies within the church
177


SAINT
IRÉNÉE DE LYON

Against Heresies 180 AD
Fought Gnosticism - best evidence of Gnosticism until the discovery of the Nag Hammadi library in 1945

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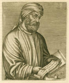
Tertullian begins writing colorful and cantakerous treatises
196



Perpetua and Felicitas Martyred
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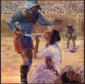


Septimus Aurelius Persecution
202 – 210

The emperor Severus may not have been personally ill-disposed towards Christians, but the church was gaining power and making many converts and this led to popular anti-Christian feeling and persecution in Cathage, Alexandria, Rome and Corinth between about 202 and 210. The famed Perpetua was martyred during this time, as were many students of Origen of Alexandria.

Origen begins writing
205

Jerome asked, only half-joking, "Has anyone read everything that Origen wrote?"

196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214

Tertullian Converts to Montanism
215

Callistus Bishop of Rome
217 – 222

215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231

Maximus Thracian Persecution
235 – 251

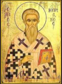
Earliest known church building
232

Converted home in Dura-Europos

Origen Teaches in Alexandria
232

232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 24

Cyprian elected bishop of Carthage
248



Decius orders empire-wide persecution
249 – 251

Christians are actively sought out by requiring public sacrifice. Could buy certificates (libelli) instead of sacrificing. Martyrdoms of bishops of Rome, Jerusalem and Antioch. LIbellus controversy with the lapsed results.

Valerian Persecution
257 – 260

Martyrdoms of Cyprian of Carthage and Sixtus II of Rome.

Origen Writes Against Celsus
248

Cyprian publishes Unity of the Church
251

Cyprian Martyred
258

48 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267

Anthony gives up his possessions and takes up life of solitude

270

268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287

Great Persecution begins under Diocletian

303 – 313

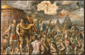
The last and
Roman emp

288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307

d most sever persecution of Christians under
perors

Armenia First Christian State
310

Constantine Conquers at Milvian Bridge
312



"In hoc signo vinces"
"ἐν τούτῳ νίκα"
Chi Rho in Sky with wreath and sword

Conversion of Constantine
312

Donatist Schism begins
312

Edict of Milan
313

Arius Begins Arianism
319

Athanasius Fights Arianism
320 – 376

Eusebi
323

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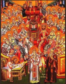
us completes Ecclesiastical History

First Council of Nicea
325



First Christmas
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Eusebius Dies
340

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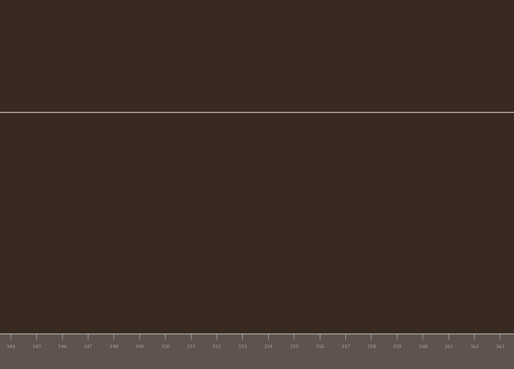


Athanasius' Easter Letter (Canon)
367

Ambrose Becomes Bishop of Milan
374

Jerome's Latin Vulgate Bible
378

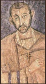
2nd Council of
381

364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382

Constantinople

Ambrose defies Imperial Request

385

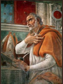


to establish a precedent of Church confrontation of state

Upon his appointment, Ambrose fled to a colleague's home seeking to hide. Upon receiving a letter from the Emperor Gratian praising the appropriateness of Rome appointing individuals evidently worthy of holy positions, Ambrose's host gave him up. Within a week, he was baptized, ordained and duly consecrated bishop of Milan.

Augustine of Hippo is converted

387



From Manichaeism
City of God
Confessions
Original Sin
Just War Theory
vs. Pelagius
vs. Donatists

John Chrysostom

398

383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399

n consecrated bishop of Constantinople

Jerome's Latin Vulgate

400 – 405

Decline and Fall of Roman Empire

410 – 476

The second war with the Visigoths, led by king Alaric, in which they raided Greece, and then invaded Italy, culminating in the sack of Rome (410). The Visigoths eventually left Italy and founded the Visigothic Kingdom in southern Gaul and Hispania.
The rise of the Hunnic Empire under Attila and Bleda (434-453), who raided the Balkans, Gaul, and Italy, threatening both Constantinople and Rome.
The second sack of Rome, this time by the Vandals (455).
Failed counterstrikes against the Vandals (461 - 468). The Western Emperor Majorian planned a naval campaign against the Vandals to reconquer northern Africa in 461, but word of the preparations got out to the Vandals, who took the Roman fleet by surprise and destroyed it. A second naval expedition against the Vandals, sent by Emperors Leo I and Anthemius, was defeated at Cape Bon in 468.

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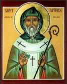
Council of Ephesus
431

Theotokos Controversy

Patrick goes as a missionary to Ireland
432


SAINT
PATRICK

After being taken there as a slave as a teenager, and leads multitudes of Irish to faith in Christ

420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438

he returns

Leo the Great becomes Pope
440

Only second pope (after Gregory) to receive designation of "Great" plus given title of "Doctor" of the church due to his theological prowess

Valentinian's Edict strengthens the primacy of Rome
445

Council of Chalcedon
451

confirms orthodox teaching that Jesus was truly God and truly man in one person

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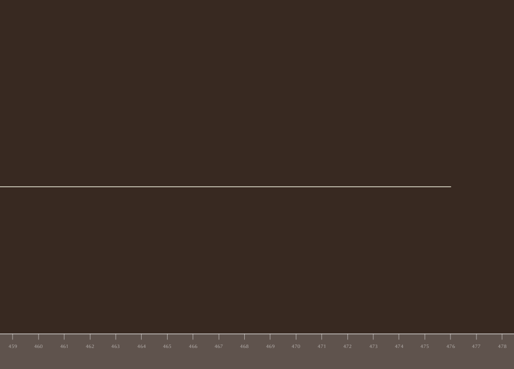

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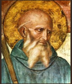
Benedict writes his monastic Rule of Life

540



His "rule" becomes the most influential for centuries of monasticism in the West.

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Gregory the Great elected pope
590

His leadership significantly advances the development of the papacy and has enormous influence on Europe.

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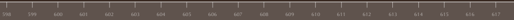
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Muhannad's hegira - birth of Islam
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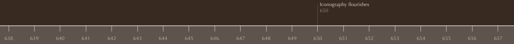
Iconography flourishes
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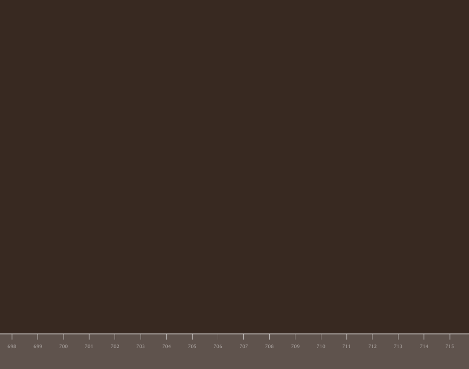

Boniface begins mission to Germans
716

Bede's Ecclesiastical History published
731

The "Venerable" Bede completes his careful
Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation.

716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734

l and influential

Donation of Constantine
750

735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753

Pepin III's donation helps found papal states
754

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2nd Council of Nicea settles icon controversy

787

The seventh and last Ecumenical Council uphel iconodules' postion in AD 787. They proclaime are to be kept in churches and honored with the relative veneration as is shown to other material such as the 'precious and life-giving Cross' and the Gospels.

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Charlemagne's coronation
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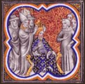

Charlemagne crowned emperor by the pope on Christmas.
He advances the church, education, and culture.

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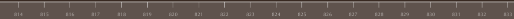
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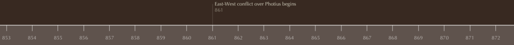

East-West conflict over Photius begins
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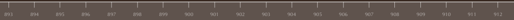

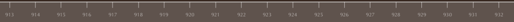
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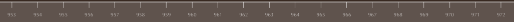
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Conversion of Vladimir in Kiev
988

Conversion of Vladimir, Prince of Kiev
several religions, chooses Orthodoxy
Russian people.

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, who, after examining
to unify and guide the

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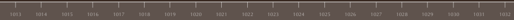
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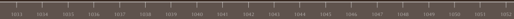
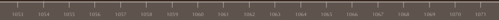


East-West Schism

1054

The East-West Schism. Brewing for centuries, rupture finally comes to a head with the fissure that has lasted to this day.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Anselm advances a new atonement doctrine

1093

Anselm becomes Archbishop of Canterbury. A devoted monk and outstanding theologian, his Cur Deus Homo? (Why Did God Become Man?), explored the atonement.

The Crusades Begin

1095

Pope Urban II launches the First Crusade. The crowd wildly shouts "God wills it!" There would be several crusades over the next centuries with many tragic results.

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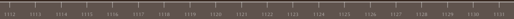
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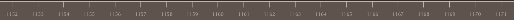
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Peter Waldo begins preaching in the streets
1173

Convicted by a minstrel
Sells fortune
Commissions French translation of Bible
Barbas disciple and head out two by two

Peter Waldo founds the Waldensians, a reform movement emphasizing poverty, preaching and the Bible. He and his followers are eventually condemned as heretics and the Waldensians suffer great persecution for centuries

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Francis of Asissi sells all
1206

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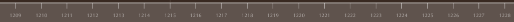
Francis of Assisi renounces wealth and goes on to lead a band of poor friars preaching the simple life.

Fourth Lateran Council
1215

The Fourth Lateran Council deals with heresy, reaffirms Roman Catholic doctrines and strengthens the authority of the popes.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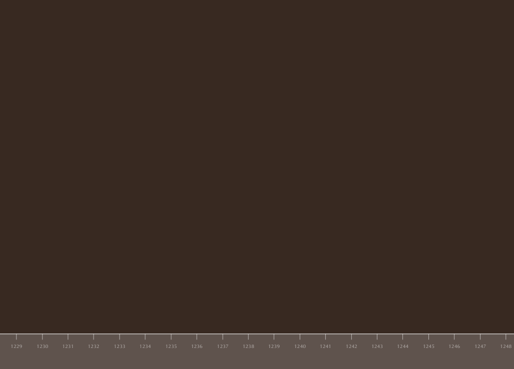
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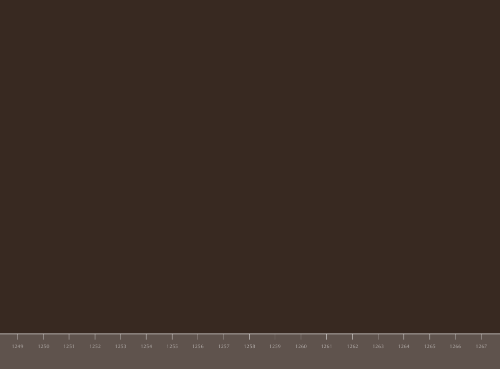
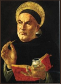


Thomas Aquinas completes Summa Theologica
1273



Thomas Aquinas completes work on Summa Theologica, the theological masterpiece of the Middle Ages.

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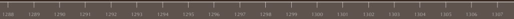
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Dante's Divine Comedy
1321

The Divine Comedy

Dante completes The Divine Comedy,
Christian literature to emerge from the

1308 1309 1310 1311 1312 1313 1314 1315 1316 1317 1318 1319 1320 1321 1322 1323 1324 1325 1326 1327

the greatest work of
Middle Ages.

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Great Papal Schism
1378

Catherine of Siena goes to Rome to help heal the "Great Papal Schism" which had resulted in multiple popes. Partly through her influence, the papacy moves back to Rome from Avignon.

John Wycliffe's English Bible
1380

Wycliffe is exiled from Oxford but oversees a t
the Bible into English. He is later hailed as the
of the Reformation."
Wycliffe is exiled from Oxford but oversees a t
the Bible into English. He is later hailed as the
of the Reformation."Wycliffe is exiled from Oxf
oversees a translation of the Bible into English.
hailed as the "Morning star of the Reformation.

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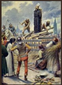
Jon Hus burned at stake
1415



John Hus, who teaches Wycliffe's ideas in Bohemia, is condemned and burned at the stake by the Council of Constance.

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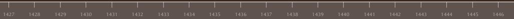
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Gutenberg's first printed Bible

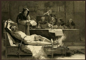
1456

Johann Gutenberg produces the first printed Bible, and his press becomes a means for dissemination new ideas, catalyzing changes in politics and theology.

1447 1448 1449 1450 1451 1452 1453 1454 1455 1456 1457 1458 1459 1460 1461 1462 1463 1464 1465 1466

The Spanish Inquisition

1478



The Spanish Inquisition is established under King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella to oppose "heresy."

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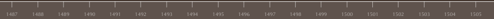


Leo X begins St. Peter's Basilca reconstruction
1506

Michaelangelo completes Sistine Chapel frescos
1512

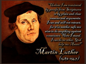
Martin Luther posts 95 theses
1517

Martin Luther posts his ninety-five theses, a simple invitation for scholarly debate that inadvertently becomes a "hinge of history."

Ulrich Zwingli in Zurich
1518

1523 Zwingli leads the Swiss reformation lead pastor in Zurich.

Diet of Worms
1521

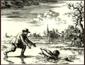

"Unless I am convinced by proofs from Scriptures or by plain and clear reasons and arguments, I can and will not retract, for it is neither safe nor wise to do anything against conscience. Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen!"
Martin Luther
(1483-1547)

1506 1507 1508 1509 1510 1511 1512 1513 1514 1515 1516 1517 1518 1519 1520 1521 1522 1523 1524

from his base as

Anabaptist Movement begins

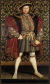
1525



This "radical reformation" insists on baptism of adult believers and the almost unheard of notion of separation of church and state.

Henry VIII's Act of Supremacy

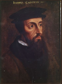
1534



Henry VIII's Act of Supremacy makes the king, not the pope, head of the Church of England.

John Calvin publishes Institutes

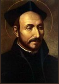
1534



John Calvin publishes The Institutes of the Christian Religion, the most substantial theological work of the Reformation.

Society of Jesus approved by Vatican

1540



Ignatius Loyola gains approv
the Vatican. The Jesuit order
disposal of the pope.

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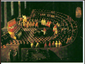
val for The Society of Jesus by
places its services entirely at the

Council of Trent
1545



The Council of Trent opens. Called by the Roman Catholic Church, it addresses abuses and serves the Catholic Counter-Reformation.

1545 1546 1547 1548 1549 1550