

"Error, indeed, is never set forth in its naked deformity, lest, being thus exposed, it should at once be detected. But it is craftily decked out in an attractive dress, so as, by its outward form, to make it appear to the inexperienced (ridiculous as the expression may seem) more true than truth itself." *Irenaeus Against Heresies* 1.2

# The Christian History Timeline—Important Events in Church History

Year	Church History	World History
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## The Age of Jesus and the Apostles

30	Crucifixion of	
35	Stephen martyred; Paul converted	
46		
48	Council of Jerusalem	
57	Paul's <i>Letter to the Romans</i>	
64		Fire of Rome; Nero launches persecutions
65	Peter and Paul executed	

## The Age of Early Christianity

70		Destruction of Jerusalem by Titus
110	Ignatius of Antioch martyred	
150	Justin Martyr dedicates his <i>First Apology</i> Marcion's canon rejects Old Testament	
155	Polycarp martyred	
172	Montanist movement begins	
180	Irenaeus writes <i>Against Heresies</i>	
196	Tertullian begins writing	
215	Origen begins writing	
230	Earliest known public churches built	
248		
250		Decius orders
270		

303		“Great Persecution” begins under Diocletian
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### The Age of the Christian Empire

312	Donatist Schism begins	Conversion of Constantine
313		“Edict of Milan”
323	Eusebius completes <i>Ecclesiastical History</i>	
325		
338	Basil the Great founds monastic community	
342	Ulphilas’s mission to Goths	
343	Ulphilas’s Gothic Bible	
358	Basil the Great founds monastery.	
367	Athanasius’s letter defines New Testament canon	
381	First Council of Constantinople	Christianity made state religion of Roman Empire
386		
390		Ambrose defies emperor
398	Chrysostom consecrated bishop of Constantinople	
405	Jerome’s <i>Vulgate</i>	
410		Rome sacked by Visigoths
431	Council of Ephesus	
432		
440	Leo the Great becomes Pope.	
445		Valentinian’s Edict strengthens primacy of Rome
451	Council of Chalcedon	
500		

524	Boethius completes <i>Consolation of Philosophy</i>	
529		Justinian publishes his legal <i>Code</i>
540	Benedict writes his monastic <i>Rule</i>	
563	Columba establishes mission community on Iona	

### The Christian Middle Ages

590	Gregory the Great elected pope	
597	Mission to England; Ethelbert of Kent converted	
600		Gregory's chants
622		Muhammad's hegira: birth of Islam
650		Iconography flourishes
663		
698	<i>Lindisfarne Gospels</i>	
716	Boniface begins mission to the Germans	
726		
730		
731	Bede's <i>Ecclesiastical History</i> published	
732		
750		<i>Donation of Constantine</i> written about this time
754		Pepin III's donation helps found papal states
781	Alcuin becomes royal adviser to Charles	

787	2nd Council of Nicea settles icon controversy	
800		
843		Treaty of Verdun divides Carolingian Empire
861	East-West conflict over Photius begins	
862	Cyril and Methodius begin mission to Slavs	
909	Monastery at Cluny founded	
965		First English polyphony
988		
1054		
1077		Emperor submits to pope over investiture
1093		
1095		
1115	Bernard founds monastery at Clairvaux	
1122		Concordat of Worms ends investiture controversy
1141	Hildegard of Bingen begins writing Abelard's teaching condemned	
1150		Mystery plays flourish Universities of Paris and Oxford founded
1170		Thomas Becket murdered
1173	Waldensian movement begins	
1208	Francis of Assisi renounces wealth	
1215	Innocent III assembles Fourth Lateran Council	Magna Carta
1220	Dominican Order established	

1232	Gregory IX appoints first “inquisitors”	
1260		Chartres Cathedral
1272	Thomas Aquinas’s <i>Summa Theologiae</i>	
1302		<i>Unam Sanctam</i> proclaims papal supremacy
1309	Papacy begins “Babylonian” exile in Avignon	
1321		Dante completes <i>Divine Comedy</i>
1348		
1370	Catherine of Siena begins her <i>Letters</i>	
1373	Julian of Norwich receives her revelations	
1378	Great Papal Schism begins	
1380	Wyclif supervises English Bible translation	
1414	Council of Constance begins	
1415		
1418	Thomas à Kempis writes <i>The Imitation of Christ</i>	
1431	Joan of Arc burned at stake	
1453		Constantinople falls; end of Eastern Roman Empire
1456	Gutenberg produces first printed Bible	
1476		Chaucer’s <i>Canterbury Tales</i>
1479	Establishment of Spanish Inquisition	
1488	First complete Hebrew Old Testament	
1492		Columbus lands in Western hemisphere
1497	Savonarola excommunicated	

1506	Work begins on new St. Peter's in Rome	
1512	Michelangelo completes Sistine Chapel frescoes	
1516	Erasmus publishes Greek New Testament	

### The Age of the Reformation

1517	<i>Ninety-Five Theses</i>	
1518	Ulrich Zwingli comes to Zurich	
1521	Diet of Worms	
1522	Luther's German New Testament published	
1524		The Peasants' Revolt erupts in Germany
1525	Anabaptist movement begins Tyndale's New Testament published	
1527	Schleitheim Confession of Faith	
1529	Colloquy of Marburg	
1530	Augsburg Confession	
1534	Act of Supremacy; Henry VIII heads English church	
1535	Coverdale Bible	
1536	Calvin publishes first edition of <i>Institutes</i>  Menno Simons baptized as Anabaptist	
1540	Ignatius Loyola gains approval for Society of Jesus	
1545	Council of Trent begins	
1549	<i>Book of Common Prayer</i> released Xavier begins mission to Japan	

1555	Latimer and Ridley burned at stake	Peace of Augsburg
1559	John Knox makes final return to Scotland	
1560	Geneva Bible	
1562	Heidelberg Catechism Genevan Psalter	
1563	First text of Thirty-Nine Articles issued Foxe's <i>Book of Martyrs</i> published	
1565	Teresa of Avila writes <i>The Way of Perfection</i>	
1572	St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre	
1577	Formula of Concord	
1582	Ricci and Ruggieri begin mission to China	
1588		English defeat Spanish Armada
1589		Moscow becomes independent patriarchate
1598	Edict of Nantes (revoked 1685)	
1603	Arminius appointed professor at Leyden	
1605		Shakespeare's <i>MacBeth</i>
1609	Smyth baptizes self and first Baptists	
1611	King James Version of Bible published	
1618	Synod of Dort begins	Thirty Years' War begins
1620		Mayflower Compact drafted
1628	Jan Comenius flees	
1633		
1636		Harvard College founded Roger Williams founds Providence, R.I.



1642		English Civil War
1647	George Fox begins to preach	
1646	<i>Westminster Confession</i> drafted	
1648		Peace of Westphalia ends Thirty Years' War

### The Age of Reason and Revival

1649		Cambridge Platform
1652	George Fox founds "Friends"	
1653		Cromwell named Lord Protector
1654	Pascal has definitive conversion experience	
1667	Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i>	
1668		Rembrandt paints <i>Return of the Prodigal Son</i>
1675	Spencer's <i>Pia Desideria</i> advances Pietism	
1678	<i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i>	
1682		Penn founds Pennsylvania
1687		Newton publishes <i>Principia Mathematica</i>
1689		Toleration Act in England
1707	Watts publishes <i>Hymns and Spiritual Songs</i>	Bach publishes first work
1729	Jonathan Edwards becomes pastor at Northampton	
1732	First Moravian missionaries	
1735	George Whitefield converted	
1738	John and Charles Wesley's evangelical conversions Bach's <i>Mass in B Minor</i>	

1739	George Whitefield starts open-air preaching	
1740		Great Awakening peaks
1742	First production of Handel's <i>Messiah</i>	
1759		Voltaire's <i>Candide</i>
1771	Francis Asbury sent to America	
1773	Jesuits suppressed (until 1814)	
1776		American Revolution
1779	Newton and Cowper publish <i>Olney Hymns</i>	
1780	Robert Raikes begins his Sunday school	
1781		Kant publishes <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>

### The Age of Progress

1784	Wesley provides for "Conference of Methodists"	
1789		French Revolution begins Bill of Rights
1793		
		Festival of Reason (de-Christianization of France)
1799	Schleiermacher publishes <i>Lectures on Religion</i>	
1801		Concordat between Napoleon and Pius VII
1804	British and Foreign Bible Society formed	Napoleon emperor
1806		Samuel Mills leads Haystack Prayer Meeting

1807	Wilberforce leads abolition of slave trade	
1810	American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions	
1811	Campbells begin Restoration Movement	
1816	Richard Allen elected bishop of new AME church Adoniram Judson begins mission trip; Judsons sail for Asia	
1817	Elizabeth Fry organizes relief in Newgate Prison	
1819	Channing issues <i>Unitarian Christianity</i>	
1825	American Tract Society	
1827	J. N. Darby founds the Plymouth Brethren	
1833	John Keble's sermon launches Oxford Movement	
1834	Mueller opens Scriptural Knowledge Institute	
1835	Finney's <i>Lectures on Revivals</i>	
1836	Müller opens orphanage	
1840	Livingstone sails for Africa	
1844	First Adventist churches formed	Kierkegaard writes <i>Philosophical Fragments</i>
1845	Phoebe Palmer writes <i>The Way of Holiness</i>	
1848		Marx publishes <i>Communist Manifesto</i>
1851		Harriet Beecher Stowe releases <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>

1854	Immaculate Conception made dogma Spurgeon becomes pastor of New Park Street Church	
1855	D. L. Moody converted	
1857	Prayer Meeting Revival begins in New York	
1859		Darwin publishes <i>On the Origin of Species</i> Japan reopens to foreign missionaries
1861		U.S. Civil War begins
1864	Newman's <i>Apologia Pro Vita Sua</i> <i>Syllabus of Errors</i> issued by Pope Pius IX J. Hudson Taylor founds China Inland Mission	
1865	Taylor's China Inland Mission	
1870		
1873		<i>Sacred Songs and Solos</i>
1878	Booths found Salvation Army	
1879		Frances Willard becomes president of WCTU
1880		Dostoyevsky's <i>Brothers Karamazov</i> Abraham Kuyper starts Free University
1885		Wellhausen's documentary hypothesis Berlin Congress spurs African independent churches
1886	Student Volunteer Movement begins	
1895		Freud publishes first work on psychoanalysis
1896	Billy Sunday begins leading revivals	

1901	Speaking in tongues at Parham's Bible School	
1906	Azusa Street revival sparks Pentecostalism Schweitzer's <i>Quest of the Historical Jesus</i>	
1908	Federal Council of Churches forms	
1910	<i>The Fundamentals</i> begin to be published Edinburgh Missionary Conference begins	
1912	Social Creed of the Churches adopted	

### The Age of Ideologies

1914		World War I begins
1917		Bolshevik Revolution
1919	<i>Commentary on Romans</i>	
1920		U.S. women's suffrage
1924	First Christian radio broadcasts	
1929		Great Depression
1931	C. S. Lewis comes to faith in Christ	
1934	Barmen Declaration Wycliffe Bible Translators founded	
1935		Eliot's <i>Murder in the Cathedral</i>
1938		<i>Kristallnacht</i> accelerates Holocaust
1939		World War II begins
1940	First Christian TV broadcasts	
1941	Niebuhr's <i>Nature and Destiny of Man</i> Bultmann calls for demythologization	
1942	National Association of Evangelicals forms	

1945	Bonhoeffer executed	Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima
1946	Revised Standard Version New Testament	
1947	Dead Sea Scrolls discovered	
1948	World Council of Churches organized	
1949	Los Angeles Crusade catapults	
1950	Mother Teresa founds Missionaries of Charity Assumption of Mary made dogma Missionaries forced to leave China	
1951	Bonhoeffer's <i>Letters and Papers from Prison</i>	
1954	Methodists ordain women	
1960	Bennett resigns; charismatic renewal advances	
1962	Vatican II opens	
1963		King leads March on Washington
1966		Chinese Cultural Revolution
1968	Medellin Conference advances liberation theology	
1971	<i>The Living Bible</i> published	
1974	Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization	
1979		John Paul II's first visit to Poland
1985		Gorbachev General Secretary of Soviet Communist Party