

Section 1a: The Dawning of Christianity
The First Century *anno Domini*
The Beginnings

During the Reign of Peter
(Cephas - Simon Bar Jonah of Bethsaida)
Circa 36 - circa 64

Peter resided at Antioch, and then became the Bishop of Rome.

The other Apostles included:

Andrew, Peter's brother; **James (the greater)**, son of Zebedee and John's brother who was surnamed *Boanerges* (sons of thunder). James is mentioned in all four Gospels.

John (the Evangelist), **Thomas**, **Philip**, **Jude Thaddeus**, **Matthew (Levi)**, **Simon Zelotos (the Zealot)**, **James (the less)**, son of Alphaeus. James the Less was witness to Christ's resurrection.

Bartholomew, and **Matthias**, who replaced Judas.

Joseph Barsabbas (not Judas Barsabbas, another disciple) had been the other candidate. [Editor's note: Spelling "Barnabas" often replaces both people.]

33

Stephen, the first Christian martyr, stoned while preaching in Jerusalem about the Jews' traditional resistance to God's wishes.

c. 35

Tradition holds that, on their journey to Edessa, Jude Thaddeus and Thomas carried a cloth with the image of Jesus' face. The cloth, now called the Shroud of Turin, disappeared and was found again in 544. (refer: 1578 A.D.). Another representation of Christ called The Mandylion of Edessa was discovered in a wall about 525.

36

Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judea dies.

37

Saul's (Latinized to Paulus - Paul) conversion. Moved back to Tarsus (in isolation and prayer).

Paul had been born c. 5 (or c.10) in Tarsus (Cilicia), Turkey. A Roman citizen and tent-maker by trade, he studied at the school of the Rabbi Gamaliel of Jerusalem, becoming a Pharisee.

Tiberius, Emperor of Rome, dies.

(r. - 41) Caligula, Emperor of Rome.

c. 40s

Home churches were the center of the Eucharist celebration.

Philo of Alexandria applied philosophy commentary to the Jewish Bible and questioned the wisdom of some Jewish laws.

As Messianic Jews, early Christians had not forsaken the synagogue rituals.

41

(r. - 54) Emperor Claudius.

c. 42

Apostle James the Greater (John the Evangelist's brother) was the first Apostle to be martyred. The execution was petitioned by Jerusalem Temple High Priest Annas II; authorized by Herod Agrippa.

42

Chinese troops put down Vietnam revolt.

43

(-409) Romans invade and occupy Britain.

c. 44

Mark, while traveling with Peter, gathered early facts and incidents from which he composed his Gospel.

44

Herod Agrippa imprisons Peter in Jerusalem (released).

45

Judas Barsabbas (Barnabas), as Paul's mentor preached with him in Antioch, Cyprus and Lycaonia. (refer: Elaboration)

c. 49

Council of Jerusalem participants included Joseph Barsabbas (Barnabas), Paul, Peter, and James (Jacob). James was the Administrator of the Christian Community. Possibly authored *Epistle of James* (or anonymously c. 90). (refer: 62 and 93)

At Paul's insistence, gentile converts to Christianity were exempted from Mosaic laws (observed by *Christian Jews*).

In Rome, Emperor Claudius expels Jews who have a certain connection with *Chrestus* (*Christus*). (refer: 120)

c. 50

Paul and Luke establish a Christian community at Philippi. Letters were written in 53, 58, and 62.

Paul's writings (c. 50-68) are considered the earliest of the New Testament. His *First Letter to the Thessalonians*, which still survives, is deemed to be the initial piece of Christian literature.

Paul develops Christian community at Corinth.

The South Galatian Theory contends that Paul's Epistle to these communities in Asia Minor was one of his earliest writings. *Galatians* reflects his on-going disagreements with Peter, "... then did I oppose him to his face since he was manifestly in the wrong." (refer: c. 49)

50

(-52) Timothy accompanies Paul to Ephesus, Jerusalem, and Rome. (refer: c. 64)

52

(r. - 60) Antonius Felix, Roman Procurator of Judea

53

Paul uses the story of Eve as evidence of women's inherent weakness.

54

(r. - 68) Emperor Nero reigns.

c. 56 - c.57

Paul's *First and Second Letters to the Corinthians*

c. 57

Paul's *Letter to the Romans*

57

Paul arrested in Jerusalem (released).

58

(-60) Paul imprisoned in Caesarea, sent to Rome, freed in 63.

c. 60

Susanna funds disciples' activities; operates home churches.

60

(-62) Festus is Roman Procurator of Judea.

c. 61 - c. 63

Paul's authors the *Epistle to the Colossians* (the community founded by Epaphras). He also writes to his friend Philemon. (Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon are called prison

epistles.)

c. 62

Martha of Bethany, sister of Lazarus and Mary dies. Tradition holds that she officiated at home churches. A few of the women who celebrated the Eucharist were Chloe of Ephesus, Nympha of Laodicea, Mary (Mark's mother and Joseph Barsabbas' (Barnabas) aunt) of Jerusalem and Prisca of Corinth. (refer: Elaboration-Women in the early church)

62

James is executed. (refer: 93-Flavius Josephus' *Jewish Antiquities*)

c. 63

Tradition holds that Joseph of Arimathea traveled to Glastonbury County, Somerset, England, founding the first Christian church. He allegedly carried the Holy Grail or Sangreal (aka Cup of the Last Supper) and/or two cruets filled with the crucified Christ's blood and sweat.

c. 64

Martyrdom of Peter; crucified and buried in a Roman cemetery on Vatican Hill. It is also suggested the death was after Nero's suicide in 68. (refer: year 330)
Some believe that Paul's letters to Timothy, Bishop of Ephesus (the First, c. 64 and the Second, c. 66) and to Titus, Bishop of Crete, were written about this time (or later). (refer: c. 125)

64

Pancratius, who traveled with Peter, becomes Bishop of Sicily.

65

Buddhism develops in China.

During the Reign of Linus c. 66 – c. 78

66

(r. - 70) Emperor Nero's Jewish war
Roman Christians meet Paul at Appi Forum (Market of Appius).

67

Three years after Peter's death, Paul is beheaded by Nero. As a Roman citizen, beheading was the proper method of execution; likely buried on the Ostian Way.

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(refer: Elaboration)

Fearing Christians' political, social, financial and religious influence, Nero ordered thousands to be dipped in pitch, hooked through the neck and set on fire, illuminating Rome streets.

68

Mark murdered in Alexandria. (refer: Elaboration-Copts)
(- 69) Emperor Galba reigns.

c. 70

Ebionites (Ebionaioi) were Jewish Christians who accepted Jesus as the Messiah but not divine. (refer: Elaboration)

70

Romans destroy second Temple in Jerusalem, murdering thousands. Only then did the Jewish-Christians suspect that the *Parousia* (Jesus' Second Coming and Judgment) was more remote. (refer: Elaboration)
Displaced Jews began replacing oral scholarship with written Rabbinic Discussions. (refer: c. 200)

77

Pliny the Elder's first ten books of *Naturalis Historia* published; included, were comments about explorer, Juba, who found an island populated by wild dogs. Pliny named it Canaria Insula (Dog Island). Much later, resident singing birds were called *Canaries*. Pliny coined phrase, "With the addition of a grain of salt."

During the Reign of Anacletus (Cletus) c. 79 - c. 91

79

Volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius buries Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Stabiae. (refer: 1738 and 1748)

c. 80

Mary of Magdala, *Apostola Apostolorum* (the apostle to the apostles) died in Judea. She had been at Calvary, present at the burial and first witness of Christ's resurrection. Tradition holds that she financed the works of several Apostles as well sponsoring many home churches.

80

Completion of the Coliseum in Rome under Emperor Titus; seating for 50,000.

c. 81 - c. 96

Book of Revelation's (the *Apocalypse*) author identifies himself as John, but was, most likely, a disciple of the Apostle.

81

Temple of Vespasian and Titus dedicated by Emperor Domitian.

c. 85 - c. 95

The Christians, as Messianists, did not voluntarily abandon synagogue services. They were considered radical and expelled. Familiar Jewish prayer services (some of which are now part of Catholic liturgy) were incorporated as preludes to the Eucharist.

Matthew's Gospel was written 10/12 years after and shows reliance on Mark's; 600 of Mark's verses are repeated.

Matthew's anti-Pharisee Gospel was directed primarily to Jewish Christians. It reflects on the birth of Christ, refers to Magi (but not titled kings). He refers to Jesus as the Son of God.

90

(-95) *First Epistle of Peter*, anonymously authored, as was the Second (c. 100-125).

During the Reign of Clement c. 91 - c. 100 (resigned)

90 -100

The *Gospel of John* (son of Zebedee) as well as the Epistles of John were likely written by several people. John's, the last Synoptic Gospel, was published at Ephesus. Portions were added well after the initial document.

Epistle of Jude (not the apostle, but probably a relative of Jesus and James, the administrator (see 62) written by an anonymous author(s).

93

Jewish historian, Flavius Josephus' *Jewish Antiquities* is a history of Judaism from biblical times through the Great Revolt (66-73). He refers to James, who was executed in 62, as "the brother of Jesus the so-called Christ". A second passage (although somewhat embellished by translators) substantially corroborates Jesus' crucifixion under Pontius Pilate and the ongoing belief in Him as the Messiah and a miracle worker.

c. 95

Apocalypse of Saint John (*Book of Revelation*), clash between good and evil, written on

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island of Patmos where John had been banished by Emperor Domitian.
Paul's *Letter to the Hebrews* was probably authored by Apollos. (refer: Elaboration-Paul)

c. 96

Clement, as Bishop of Rome, wrote a prayer to the Corinthians in part, ...*Jesus Christ, by whom to thee be all glory and power. Now and in endless ages.*

c. 98

Priscilla dies. She had established the oldest of the Roman Catacombs (home churches).