

Section 1b: The Roman Empire and Christianity

From 100 *anno Domini* to 999 *anno Domini*

Christianity as Inspiration and Influence

Muslim Impact and Expansionism

Second Century

During the Reign of Evaristus c. 100 – c. 109

c. 100

Estimated Christian portion of the world's population is 0.6%.

John, last Apostle, dies in Ephesus.

Term Christians becomes more popular.

Aztecs begin the construction of the Pyramids of the Sun and the Moon.

In China, T'sai Lun manufactures paper.

During the Reign of Alexander c. 109 – c. 116

c. 110

Tabitha (aka *Dorcas*) funded charities and operated home churches.

Ignatius of Antioch coins term, Catholic Church, in a letter to Christians in Smyrna.

c. 111

Pliny, the Younger, wrote to the Emperor Trajan assailing the contagious superstition of the Christians who recite an antiphonal hymn referring to Christ as God.

c. 113

Rome's population is over one million.

During the Reign of Sixtus (Xystus) c. 116 – c. 125

116

Sixtus (in Greek Xystus) means shaved. Beards were not the fashion. Anicetus addressed the variety of dates celebrating Easter holidays. Roman Christians observed Pascha (Passover) on a Sunday (finally resolved in 335). (refer: c. 195)

c. 117

Tacitus' *Roman Annals* noted that Emperor Nero blamed Rome's fire of A.D. 64 on the people who got their name from Christ, who had been executed under Pilate, and their pernicious superstition continued in Judea and Rome.

117

Alexander was interrogated by Aurelian, aide to Emperor Hadrian (Hadrianus). He wanted to learn the mysteries of the Christian sect of Judaism. Alexander replied, "Christ has forbidden us to give holy things to the dogs." He was then tortured with burning lamps, iron claws, and thrown into a furnace with two others.

c. 120

Suetonius' *Life of Claudius* confirms that in A.D.49 the Emperor expelled many of Rome's Jews who were in rebellion over their belief in the Chrestus.

During the Reign of Telesphorus c. 125 – c. 136

c. 125

Some hold that Paul's Epistles to Timothy were written 55 years after his death by an anonymous historian compiling traditional data about him. Rome's Pantheon, world's largest unreinforced concrete dome (rising 71 feet), constructed under Emperors Trajan or Hadrian (his adopted son). (refer: 613)

c. 130

The Didache of the Apostles includes teachings of the twelve apostles, the earliest surviving fragments of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John as well as various writings of Paul. (refer: 1873 and Elaboration)

Heretic Valentinus, leader of a group of Gnostics who worship a mother Goddess, considers Christ a redeemer, not God.

132

(-35) Bar Koziba (aka Bar Kokhba) leads the last Jewish revolt against the Roman Empire.

c. 135

Justin Martyr opens a school in Rome. Writes three books on Christianity called *Apologies* (in defense of). His *Dialogue with Trypho* refers to memoirs of the apostles (Gospels) and other authors, never limiting orthodox canon.

(c. 166) Decapitated by order of Emperor Marcus Aurelius.

Marcion (aka Marcinian) edits the first canon of scripture. It includes ten of Paul's 13 letters and a gospel similar to Luke's.

After a failed candidacy for the position of pope, Marcion rejects all papal authority, breaking off relationships with popes. His *Antitheses* denies any comparison between the god (of wrath) of the Jews and the true God (of love) of the New Testament.

Marcion was excommunicated and died, c. 165. (refer: Elaboration- Marcionites, Paulist, and Religious Documents) [[Some particulars: The title, Pope was not assigned to the bishops of Rome until applied by Siricius about 389.]

Marcionites, followers of Marcion, rejected all Jewish law, accepting only Jesus.

Epistle of Banabus written in criticism of the Jews. (refer: Elaboration)

Emperor Hadrian puts down the second Jewish revolt, rebuilds Jerusalem as a Roman colony, prohibiting Jews from entering the city. Judea is renamed Judea Palestine (adaptation from word Philistines).

Exiled Jews begin collecting scattered liturgies, legal data and moral codes. (refer: c. 600 and Elaboration)

**During the Reigns of:
Hyginus c. 136 – c. 142
Pius c. 142 –c. 155**

c. 150

Ptolemy of Alexandria publishes first World Atlas.

Eurcinas condemns the *Gospel of Judas*.

High Mayan civilization, dynamic through 900, contributes hundreds of ceremonial centers, Olmec writing, a calendar, astronomy, and mathematics.

Vetus Latina, a Latin translation of the Greek language Scriptures, circulated.

School for Christian clergy established in Alexandria.

**During the Reigns of:
Anicetus c. 155 – c. 166
Soter c. 166 – c. 174
Eleutherius (Eleutherus) c. 174 – c. 189**

c. 160

Tropaion (canopy-like structure) erected over Peter's tomb.

Montanus of Phrygia (Montanism) denies Church's power to remit sin.

Irenaeus of Lyon's *Adversus Haereses (Against the Heresies)* maintains the four Gospels (the *Tetramorph*), not more or fewer, are the only acceptable combination. He opposed Gnostics.

Irenaeus makes reference to the *Gospel of Judas* as fictitious history. (refer: c220 and Elaboration)-

161

(r. – 180) Emperor Marcus Aurelius, during his persecutions, refers to Christians as miracle-mongers, magicians, and exorcisors. He authored *The Mediations*, his indifference to grief, pain or suffering of others.

179

Lucius the first Christian ruler in Britain, constructs a church on top of an old Roman basilica (government building). This is the oldest place of Christian worship in that country. (refer: 1677)

c. 180

Melito of Sardis, late second century, preaches against Jews and their faith. (refer: Elaboration)

**During the Reigns of:
Victor c. 189 – c. 198
Zephyrinus c. 198 – c. 217**

c. 195

Victor is the first African pope. Believed to be the first pope to celebrate the Mass in Latin, rather than the traditional Greek. He excommunicates the Quartodecimans regarding differences concerning Easter. They hold that Passover for Christians should be on the 14th day of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar.

Irenaeus authors *Apostolic Succession*, *Canon laws* (later called the Creed) and *Rules of Faith*. These works defused dozens of arising Christian sects.

Victor excommunicates Theodotus, the Cobbler, who had denied that Jesus was God.

Third Century

c. 200

Black Fast, Christian practice defining quantity, quality, and specific time of a single daily meal, observed through mid ninth century.

Tertullian of Carthage, defends early Church beliefs and a variety of Gnostics. (refer: Elaboration). He belittles women saying, "...because of their sinfulness, even the son of God had to die." His is the first known use of the Latin terms, Sacramentum, Tres Personae, Trinitas, and Una Substantia.

Rome's estimated population is 1.5 million.

(- c. 230) Second Discourse of Great Seth (Gnostic) maintains the Christ was never crucified.

200

Physician Galen of Pergamon (in today's Turkey) defines the nature of blood circulation. Regarding martyrdom, he notes that Christians must be mad for accepting such suffering of their children and wives.

202

Anti-Semitism expanding.

Hippolytus Romanus writes of the struggle between Christ and Antichrist, who would be a Jew. He criticizes many Gnostics. (refer; Elaboration)

203

Arch of Septimus Severus (Rome) honors the Emperor's victory in Parthian Wars.

c. 210

Historians make reference to the graves of Peter and Paul at Vatican (a hill on right bank of Tiber)) and the Ostian Way.

Anti-Christian graffiti is drawn on a wall at Rome's Palatine Hill. Entitled, *Alexmenos is worshipping his god*, depicts Christ crucified as a man with a donkey's head.

Muratorian Canon is the first list of books dealing with Christian beliefs. Contains four Gospels and 13 Epistles of Paul. (refer: Elaboration-Religious Documents)

c. 215

Christ as the Good Shepherd, a painted ceiling in the Catacomb of Saint Peter and Marcellinus in Rome is completed.

Rabbi Yehudah Ha-Nasi (aka Judah the Patriarch) compiles rabbinic discussions into the *Mishnah* (to repeat or review). (refer: c. 700)

During the Reign of Callistus (Calixtus – Very handsome) 217 – 222
[Antipope Hippolytus 217 – 235]

217

(- c. 227) Scholar Hippolytus is the second Bishop of Rome during the reign of Popes Callistus and Urban.

c. 218

Origen of Alexandria (185-254) founder of Speculative Theology; nationalism considered a threat to Church authority. (refer: 400, 1971-Ratzinger, 1981-Jesuits)

219

Sura, rabbinic academy, founded by Abba Arika on the Euphrates in Mesopotamia. (refer: c. 925)

c. 220

Papa (pope or father) applied to any respected person in civil positions or clergy. (refer: 1073-Gregory VII)

(-c. 340) Translation of *Gospel of Judas Iscariot* into Coptic. (refer: Elaboration)

During the Reigns of:
Urban 222 – 230
Pontianus (Pontian) 230 – 235

c. 230

Wheelbarrow developed in China.

Origen (died 254) authors *On First Principles*. Developed theory of Holy Trinity and supported pre-existence of souls, discounting original sin. He believed in the final release of sinners from hell. Theories called Origenism. (refer: 553)

235

Pope Pontian, imprisoned by Emperor Maximus Thrax, resigned and died.

**During the Reigns of:
Anterus November, 235 – January, 236
Fabian 236 – January, 250
A fifteen-month vacancy followed.**

c. 242

Mani (Manichaeus), a title, not a person's name meaning "the illustrious" preached salvation by pure reason. *Manichaeism* became a form of religious Dualism. Steadfastly renounced by a great number of theologians. (refer: 1179)

250

(-51) Church run by a committee.

250

Emperor Decius initiates first Empire-wide Christian persecution. Everyone required to perform sacrifices to Roman gods or be executed. He orders the murder of Pope Fabian.

c. 251

Saint Christopher worked as a ferryman, offering travelers free help with crossing over turbulent rivers. Legend suggests that Jesus, appearing as a child, was also a patron.

**During the Reigns of:
Cornelius March, 251 – June, 253
[Antipope Novatian March, 251 – August, 258]
Lucius June, 253 – March, 254
Stephen 254 – 257
Sixtus II August, 257 – August, 258
A two-year vacancy followed.**

c. 254

Stephen is the first pope to formally proclaim direct succession from Peter; uses term *cathedra Petri* (the chair of Peter). (refer: Leo-451)

258

Sixtus II beheaded while preaching.

Lawrence, Archdeacon and Treasurer converts Church property into cash, giving it to the poor. Cornelius Saecularis, the Prefect of Rome, arrested and condemned him to roasting over a slow fire. Lawrence was quoted, "My flesh is well-cooked on one side, turn the other."

**During the Reigns of:
Dionysius July, 260 – 268
Felix 269 – 274
Eutychian 275 – 283
Gaius (Caius) 283 – 296**

265
(-317) Chin dynasty rules western China.

284
(r. - 305) Diocletian ruled Byzantine Empire.

284
Sebastian, a captain of the Imperial Praetorian Guard, converts Agrestius Chromatius, the Governor of Rome, to Christianity.
During the persecutions of 286, Sebastian secretly freed Christian prisoners. Emperor Diocletian had him clubbed to death, cut into small pieces and thrown into the Tiber River.

**During the Reign of Marcellinus 296 – 304 (resigned)
A two-year vacancy followed.**

Fourth Century

c. 300
Kamasutra written in India.

301
Establishment of San Marino, the world's oldest republic (24 square miles encircled by Italy).

c. 302
Armenia is the first country to accept Christianity as the state religion.

303
Emperor Diocletian ordered Pope Marcellinus to hand over Scriptures and other sacred writings. Christians are required to offer incense and prayers to pagan gods.

The Great Persecution saw the immediate murder or imprisonment of all leaders. With varying intensity, over the next ten years, Christian-genocide resulted in thousands of deaths and the destruction of churches, religious books and private property.

304

Pope Marcellinus, having been removed from power resigns; no immediate replacement.

**During the Reign of
Marcellus December, 306 – January, 308
A two-year vacancy followed.**

c. 307

In Egypt, Pachomius establishes monastic life of hermits or monks from Greek monachos or solitary. Known as the Monastery of Saint Pachomius. (refer: 360)

308

Pope imposes cash payments from sinners who repented. Riots ensued.

Emperor Maximinus II removes him from the Papacy.

Pope Marcellus, exiled from Rome; dies in 309.

[Some particulars: All popes from Peter to Marcellus, except Dionysius (260-68), were said to have been martyred.]

**During the Reigns of:
Eusebius April, 310 – October, 310
Miltiades (Melchiades) 311 – 314**

c. 310

Athanasius (295 - 373), a Coptic, wrote a prayer later called the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed. (refer: c. 325- Athanasius, 325-First Ecumenical Council, 367, 649, and Elaboration- Coptic)

311

Emperor Galerius' edict allowed some practice of Christianity.

312

Constantine (r. 306-37) defeats Maxentius at the Battle of Milvian Bridge near Rome. Constantine is declared Emperor.

c. 313

Constantine gives the Church authority to own property and donates the Laterani Palace to Pope Miltiades.

This Basilica of Our Savior is the Episcopal seat of the Bishop of Rome.

313

Edict of Milan by Constantine and Licinius (Lacinese), legalizing Christianity, is the first proclamation of religious freedom.

Jews are no longer allowed to live in Jerusalem.

Constantine initiates the practice of clergy appointments. (refer: Elaboration)

During the Reign of Sylvester 314 – 335

c. 314

Constantine orders the construction of a public building (basilica) directing Sylvester to oversee.

The complex with a church over the tomb of Peter is known as *Basilica di San Pietro in Vaticano*.

317

(-420) Chin dynasty rules eastern China.

c. 320

The Mount Sinai Manuscripts (aka the Codex [Book] Sinaiticus) contain Greek translations of Old Testament and the New Testament in the original Greek. (refer: 1859).

c. 325

Athanasius, now the Bishop of Alexandria experiences on-going problems with clergy and church members, causing Constantine to exile him (six times). (refer: 336 and 337)

325

First Ecumenical Council (Council of Nicaea) called by Emperor Constantine.

Council held at his summer palace near the imperial capital at Byzantium on the Bosphorus (later, named Constantinople).

Pope Sylvester chose not to attend, but sent legates, Victor and Vincentius.

Attendees included 318 bishops.

Condemned heresy of Arius (Arianism) who denied Jesus being of one essence, nature, or substance with God (maintained that Christ was a subordinate, lesser god).

Affirmed Divinity of Christ as Son of God, and fixed the date of the Resurrection (Easter).

Ordered that Jewish customs may no longer be included in Christian sacred rites. Fixed the date of Easter as the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. This eliminated reliance on the fluctuating date of the Jewish Passover by documenting that, "Henceforth let us have nothing in common with this odious people..."

Refined the Creed (Symbllum) changing the Jewish tradition of Sheol (the place after death) to Hell. (refer: Council of Chalcedon 451 and Elaboration: Hell or Sheol)

Proclaimed belief in the Trinity (refer: 381).

Established long-term political bonds between Church and governments.

c. 330

A sarcophagus in Rome has a bas-relief of a woman holding a partially opened scroll, a symbol of the Bible. This distinguishes the woman as a significant Church leader. Historian Eusebuis confirmed that Peter was executed during the reign of Nero (54-68).

330

Constantinople becomes the capital of the Roman Empire.

c. 335

Tradition holds that Helena, Constantine's mother, found the True Cross of Christ in Jerusalem.

Helena directs construction of The Church of the Holy Sepulcher on the Hill of Golgotha. (refer: 614)

During the Reigns of:
Mark January, 336 – October, 336
Julius 337 – 352
Liberius 352 – September, 366
[Antipope Felix II February, 355 – November, 365]

336

Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria is deposed by the First Council of Tyrehim..

337

Constantine converts to Christianity, dies shortly thereafter.

Pope Julius, during the Council of Sardica, overrules Council of Tyrehim's order against Athanasius. Julius maintains that a pope has a holy right to reverse any decision by any previous councils. (refer: 367)

c. 340

Julius reinforced Rome's primacy over bishoprics of the East.
Artist Wei Furen works in China; now considered Mother of Calligraphy.

c. 350

Bishop's use of the stole (long cloth garment) as a sign of dignity. Connotes rank and office.

352

Goths raid Romans at Dacia, north of the Danube.

c. 353

Pope Liberius, by compromising theology with the heretical Arians, initiated arguments between Christians in Rome and Constantinople. [Some particulars: He is the first pope not to be canonized.]

354

(d. 430) Augustine (Aurelius Augustinus) born. (refer: 396)

355

(-65) While Liberius was in forced exile, Felix II (Antipope), as Bishop of Rome, claimed the title. Deacon (and future pope) Damasus, was his assistant. (refer: c. 382)
When Liberius returned, a group of bishops elected Ursinus while another faction elected Damasus.
Damasus routed Ursinus' supporters in a three-day massacre, killing over 150 at the Saint Mary Major Basilica and exiling Ursinus.

c. 359

Judaism establishes a fixed calendar.

360

Basil, throughout Asia Minor expands on monasticism with rules for hours of meals, prayer, and work.

c. 361

Blaise, physician and bishop, removes fish bone caught in child's throat.

361

(r. - 63) Julianus II (Julian) the Apostate, Constantine's nephew, is declared emperor by the western armies. His slaughterous attack on Christianity results in a short-lived reduction of Church influence.
Julianus, the last non-Christian Roman Emperor, is killed in a war in Persia.

**During the Reign of
Damasus (Ravenna Damasus) October, 366 – December, 384
[Antipope Ursinus September, 366 – November, 367]**

367

Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, approves of only 27 books as canonical Scripture (the New Testament). He directs all Christians to ignore Gnostic texts.

Hilary of Poitiers writes of the Jews, "...perverse people who God has cursed forever."

c. 368

Pope Damasus referred to Rome as Apostolic See, began calling himself *Pontifex Maximus* (Supreme Pontiff or Bridge Builder), which was the emperors' title.

Bishop Zeno of Verona often fished in the Adige River. He is the Patron of Anglers; emblem is a fish under crossed rods and reels,

372

Huns from Asia invade Europe.

c. 380s

In the unconquered area (now Scotland) the Celtic peoples in the north were called Picti (Picts) and in the south, Celtic Britons (related to the modern Welch).

Irish tribes known as Scoti (an old Roman term for pirates) began to inhabit Dalriada (now Angylshire) from which Scotland emerged.

380

Emperor Theodosius' edict, *De Fide Catolica*, orders that "all the inhabitants of the empire are to practice that form of religion...[which is] followed by Bishop Damasus." This made Roman Theology the official religion of the Empire.

c. 381

Cyril of Jerusalem theorizes the change of bread and wine into Christ's body and blood. The study continues over the next 1000 years. (refer: 831)

381

Emperor orders the Second Ecumenical Council (First General Council of Constantinople).

Pope Damasus refused to attend

Council reaffirmed the Divinity of the Holy Ghost and the Trinity, condemning those followers of Macedonius who disagreed.

Added references to the Holy Ghost, revising the Nicene Creed.

(-84) Egeria (aka Etheria) writes *Itinerarium Egeriae*, letters on her pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

c. 382

Pope Damasus establishes Latin as the liturgical language and institutes the Papal Archives.

He now strongly defends papal supremacy in spite of his previous loyalty to Felix II.

382

Damasus directs Jerome to translate and combine Old and New Testament writings. (refer: 405)

Paula of Rome finances the construction in Bethlehem of the first four Christian monasteries. There were one for priests and three for religious women.

**During the Reigns of:
Siricius December, 384 – November, 399
Anastasius November 399 – December 401**

c. 385

Most of the Roman Army is made up of Germanic troops.

c. 386

(-461) Maewyn Succat, born in Wales, son of the deacon, Calpurnius was a Roman citizen. Circa 404, pirates captured and sold him to Irish farmers. After six years, he was returned, traveled to Auxerre, France (415 - 432), and became a Bishop, adopting the Latin name Patricius (Patrick).

After Bishop Palladius, a contemporary, was sent to Ireland and martyred, Patrick replaced him. (refer: c. 432)

c. 389

Siricius was first to use title, Pope. He developed papal authority by issuing *Decretals* (Rulings) and restored the Basilica of Saint Paul on the Ostian Way.

c. 390

Peshitta (simple), the bible of the Syrian Church compiled. Oldest existing complete copy is c.442. (refer: Elaboration-Religious Documents)

Throughout the Roman Empire many Christians moved worship activities from private dwellings and catacombs to public buildings (basilicas).

390

Christ Pantocrator and Saints Peter and Paul, a Tempera cypress wood panel painted. (r: 540) [Editor's note: Pantocrator (Pantocratoris) means enthroned or in glory.]

391

The *Theodosian Decrees* outlaw pagan rituals in Rome.

393

African Synod of Hippo approved contents of the New Testament.

396

(d. 430) Augustine (Aurelius Augustinus), a convert of Bishop Ambrose, Milan, becomes Bishop of Hippo, northern Africa.

Authored *Confessions* (397-401) containing 13 books.

About 410 began work on *City of God (De civitate Dei)*, that the only permanent community is the Church. (refer: Elaboration-Augustine)

Declared that original sin is the exclusive fault of woman.

Asserted that all babies who died before the opportunity for Baptism must go to hell. (refer: 1273-Aquinas)

Fifth Century

400

Pope Anastasius, who had not read the writings of Origen of Alexandria from the 3rd century, under political pressure condemned them.

During the Reign of Innocent December 401 – March 417

401

Anastasius' son becomes Pope Innocent.

Niall of the nine hostages, an Irish High King, leads raids on Britain and the European mainland, kidnapping for ransom. Tradition holds that during one foray he captured Patrick.

402

Emperor Honorius makes Ravenna the capital of the Western Roman Empire (Western Europe), in aversion to the Pope in Rome. (refer: 476)

405

Jerome completes translations of the *Septuagint* (a Greek version of the Old Testament) and the New Testament and Psalms from the original Hebrew and Greek into Latin. (refer: years 1582, 1609-10, 1750, and 1970)

Innocent declares it to be the only official version, therefore called *Vulgate Bible* (meaning in common use). [Some particulars: Pope Benedict XV wrote in 1920, "The

Church venerates Jerome, the greatest doctor, for the interpretation of the Holy Scriptures.”]

406

Collapse of Roman Empire’s control of the Rhine frontier.

407

Rome’s imperial legions leave the British Isles.

c. 410

Expansion of Eastern Churches disillusioned with expansion of papal power.

Egyptian Copts are governed by Patriarch of Alexandria. Jacobites of Syria, Mesopotamia, and Malabar are led by Patriarch of Antioch.

[Some background: During this time, the Roman Empire experienced a decline in social order. Citizens, long dependent upon strong governmental control of all details of their lives were generally disinterested or incapable of handling every-day situations. Apathy was apparent in both a breakdown in personal responsibility and a lack of the Empire’s intellectual, commercial, and communal progress.]

410

Visigoths (*Goths* originally from the lands of Sweden), led by Alaric sack Rome while Innocent is in Ravenna. He returned after Alaric departed.

(- c. 800) Period is often called the Dark Ages.

Marcellinus of Carthage, Secretary of State under Emperor Honorius declared Donalists to be heretics. Violence and murders followed. They killed Marcellinus in 413.

c. 412

Temple priestess to goddess Brigid (Brigid, Bride, or Bridget), adopts the goddess’ name and at age 13 enters convent at Meath, Ireland. (refer: 523 and Elaboration)

c. 414

British heresy, Pelagianism, defined human will as completely free and equal, ready to do good or evil.

During the Reigns of:
Zosimus 417 – 418
Boniface 418 – 422
[Antipope Eulalius December 418 – April 419]
Celestine 422 – 432
Sixtus III 432 – 440

c. 418

Boniface forced out of Rome for a couple of years by Antipope Eulalius.

c. 425

Monophysitism heresy stated that Christ had two natures but a single will, exalting his divine over his human nature. (refer: 451)

c. 430

Building of Mar Saba, the oldest, continuously inhabited monastery; near the Dead Sea.
The parting of Lot and Abraham, a wall mosaic prepared in Rome.

Mulruabh, a Catholic preacher from Ireland, brought Christianity and the Gaelic language to the Isle of Skye.

(c. - 600) Angles from Angleland (narrow land) at the bottom of Denmark, and Saxons from northern Germany and the Jutes settle in the British Isles.

[Some background: Old English, the name of the language, is related to Old High German and Old Dutch. Celtic literature in Old Welsh and Old Irish existed long before the written version of Old English developed.]

431

Third Ecumenical Council (Ephesus) is led by Cyril of Alexandria representing Pope Celestine.

Upheld the Trinity.

Condemned Nestorius, the Patriarch of Constantinople, who professes that the two natures in Christ (divine and human) were two personalities (Nestorianism) and that Mary had given birth to the human personality alone.

Council affirmed her title, *Theotokos* (Mother of God).

Condemned the monk, Eutyches, a proponent of Monophysitism.

c. 432

Patrick led the first missionaries to Northern Ireland near Armagh, Ulster. As both a Celtic prince and a Bishop, Irish Druids and nobility initially, at least, respected him. Patrick opened missions in Connacht. Patrick had contact with earlier established (circa 412) missions in Leinster and Munster.

c. 435

Sixtus III builds church of *Santa Maria Maggiore*, manifesting influence of Catholic devotion to Mary.

During the Reign of Leo the Great 440 – 461

c. 443

Attila becomes King of the Huns.

449

Second Council of Tyre (Chalcedon) called. (refer: 514)

Honorina (Roman Emperor Valentinian's sister) sends her ring to Attila, asking for his protection. Attila interprets this as a marriage proposal. (refer: 451)

c. 450

The Alexandrian Manuscript produced; now located in British Museum.

Term "pope" increased in addressing bishops of Rome.

Donatism heresy develops; held that a priest, without the true grace from God, could not administer valid sacraments.

451

Fourth Ecumenical Council (Chalcedon) headed by Emperor Marcianus (aka Marcian).

Pope Leo sent delegates.

About 150 bishops were in attendance.

Condemned all subscribers to Monophysitism. Leo had sent instructions that his *Tome* (Letter) was not to be questioned, following the standard, "Rome has spoken; the subject is closed."

Attendees defined the two natures of Jesus, human and divine, united hypostatically in one divine person. Eutyches, who had opposed this decision, was, of course, excommunicated.

Council established dialog regarding Mary's Parthenogenesis (virgin birth of Christ). (refer: 649-Lateran Council)

Attila's army occupies Gaul, claiming one-half of the empire as Honorina's inheritance. He raids The Balkans and Italy.

Leo asserts authority over all bishops claiming that right as successor of Peter. This is ignored by major bishops. (refer: c. 500)

[Some background: Little reference relative to succession from Peter had appeared since Pope Stephen's proclamation *cathedra Petri* (the chair of Peter), circa 254 and certainly not one of power or control over other bishops.]

452

Attila the Hun attacks Mantua.

Pope Leo ventures outside of Rome to pay tribute money and, successfully pleads with Attila to avoid further devastation. Previously, Bishop Lupus of Troyes had also

confronted Attila who later said, “I can conquer men, but not the lion (Leo) and the wolf (Lupus).”

453

Attila dies. Huns withdraw.

455

Leo is unable to prevent Gaiseric the Vandal (Vandal) from looting and burning Rome.

461

Leo the Great dies. First pope to be buried in *Basilica di San Pietro in Vaticano*.

[Editor’s note: To date, the title “the Great” applies only to popes Leo, Gregory (590) and Nicholas (858).]

**During the Reigns of:
Hilary (Hilarus) 461 – 468
Simplicius 468 – 483
Felix III (or II) 483 – 492**

474

(r. - 91) Zeno, Eastern (Constantinople) emperor basically ignores Pope Simplicius.

475

Romulus Augustus is last Roman emperor.

Western Empire disintegrates into non-Roman principalities.

476

Emperor Romulus Augustus is deposed in Rome. The Church expands in the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine Empire with its capital, Constantinople).

Ravenna becomes the capital of the Ostrogothic kingdom of Italy. (refer: 540)

New King Odovacar, dropped the “emperor” title. (refer: 493)

478

(-c. 800) Period is often referred to as *The Early Middle Ages*.

481

(r. - 511) King Clovis converts to Christianity and unites the Franks on both sides of Rhine River.

**During the Reigns of:
Gelasius 492 – 496
Anastasius II 496 – 498**

493

King Odovacar, invited to dinner, is murdered by Theodoric.

(r. - 526) Theodoric, King of Ostrogoths, an Arian heretic, becomes King of Italy. He protects Catholics from the growth of Monophysitism (Christ as one divine nature) in the Eastern Church.

Pope Gelasius decrees that women may no longer assist as altar servers in any liturgical service.

Pope develops theory of two world powers: one Episcopal (the superior, held by popes) and one Royal (inferior, held by emperors or kings).

496

(-98) Anastasius II experiences problems with King Theodoric. Pope's sudden death is attributed to the wrath of God.

Clovis I, King of the Franks, converts to Christianity.

**During the Reign of Symmachus November 22, 498 – 514
[Antipope Lawrence November 22, 498 – February, 499 and 501 – 506]**

498

A divided election with Antipope Lawrence causes King to pick Symmachus; later accused of misusing church property and lack of theological expertise.

Symmachus leaves Ravenna, flees to Rome and hides from Theodoric in Basilica of Saint Peter.

Lawrence and Symmachus coexist as bishops of Rome.

Sixth Century

c. 500

Estimated Christian portion of the world's population is 22%.

Monks introduce concept of Irish penitential system, the future basis of private confession, to the Franks' Court of Clovis I, in Paris. (refer: c. 570)

During early 500s, the five major Christian bishoprics were Rome, Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem. Incumbents were known as patriarchs, except the bishop in Rome, who called himself pope.

The patriarch of the imperial capital, Constantinople, was considered to be of the same status as the pope in Rome.

502

Symmachus eliminates non-ordained voting rights for election of popes, limiting that privilege to upper-level clergy.

**During the Reigns of:
Hormisdas 514 – 523
John 523 – 526**

514

(- 515) Third Council of Tyre under Severus, Patriarch of Antioch, rejects the entire 2nd Council in 449.

r. 518

(- 527) Byzantine (East Roman) ruler Justin.

d. 523

Irish Abbess, Brigid, founder of four monasteries for women. (refer: 597)

c. 525

The Mandylion (little towel) of Edessa is a small piece of linen that shows the true face of Jesus. Tradition holds that the image was created by Jesus (c. 32) and sent to the ailing King Abgar V of Edessa in Macedonia, who was miraculously cured.

Benedict of Nursia writes *Rule for Monks* guideline for living together in shared, common spiritual life.

During the Reign of Felix IV (III) 526 – 530

526

By order of King Theodoric, John (first pope to visit Constantinople) tried to quell Justin's persecution of Arians. Failing, he returned to Ravenna to the angry King. John, probably imprisoned, died within a few weeks.

Earthquake in Antioch, Syria kills 250,000.

527

Felix IV (or III) converts Roman Forum buildings, Temple of the Sacred City and Shrine of Romulus into churches dedicated to martyrs Cosma (Cosmas) and Damiano (Damian).

Dionysius Exiguus, a Roman monk, establishes modern dating system using *anno Domini*, in the year of the Lord (his calculations missed Christ's birth date by a few years). (refer: Elaboration)

(-65) Justinian I (Eastern emperor) re-conquers parts of Spain, North Africa and Italy. Orders all pagans to convert to Christianity.

c. 529

Benedictine community established at Monte Cassino, Italy.

Kevin (aka Keivin and Coemgen) Abbot of Glendalough Monastery and Patron of Dublin; lived 120 years (b. c. 498- d. 618)

529

Emperor issues *Codex Justinianus*, Europe's major legal text. Its first portion is *Corpus Iuris Civilis* (Body of Civil Law). (refer: 533)

Beginning of the Feudal System in Europe.

**During the Reign of
Boniface II September 22, 530 – 532
[Antipope Dioscorus
September 22- October 14, 530]**

530

Boniface II, first German (nominated by Felix), opposed by Antipope Dioscorus who had been voted in by the clergy. Dioscorus unexpectedly died just 22 days later.

Clergy, supportive of Dioscorus, then had to sign letters confessing their mistake.

**During the Reigns of:
John II (Mercury) 533 - 535
Agapitus (Agapetus) 535 – 536**

533

John II was probably the first pope since Peter (Symeon-Simon) to have name changed (from Mercury).

Justinian's *Digest (Pandects)* and the *Institutes* of the *Corpus Iuris Civilis* (Body of Civil Law) are issued.

c. 534

John II ratifies a decree favoring Monophysitism (one divine nature of Christ).

535

Synod of Clarendon (and several others through 1078 and beyond) direct that Jews cannot hold public office.

(-36) Agapitus travels to Constantinople attempting to convince Justinian not to invade Rome. He dies on the visit.

**During the Reign of
Silverius June, 536 – November, 537**

536

Empress Theodora (Justinian's wife) offers Vigilius the papal throne if later he would reinstate Anthimus as patriarch of Constantinople, and he would agree to dismiss all decisions made at Council of Chalcedon (refer: 451).

The clergy had already elected Silverius. Justinian's military commander in Italy, Belisarius, seizes Silverius. Vigilius forces the abdication and exile of the Pope. Soon, Silverius starves to death.

Emperor Justinian constructs the Hagia Sophia, the Church of Holy Wisdom of God (in Turkish referred to as Aya Sofya) in Constantinople. (refer: 1453)

**During the Reign of Vigilius
c. December, 537 or early, 538 – June, 555
A ten-month vacancy followed.**

538

Council of Orleans orders that Jews (under death-threat) cannot appear in public during the Easter season.

c. 540 (or c. 590)

One of the earliest icons is a fresco of *Christ Pantocratoris* (Pantocrator). It is presently located at the Greek Orthodox Saint Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai (oldest active Christian church).

540

General Belisarius' conquest of Ravenna, which becomes the seat of the Byzantine government in Italy. (refer: c. 784)

541

Great Plague of Justinian (bubonic) kills hundreds of thousands from Egypt to Palestine and Constantinople.

543

Justinian and Pope Vigilius, supporting the opinion of the two-fold nature of Christ, condemn authors of the controversial essay, *Three Chapters*.

c. 550

Watermill developed

553

Fifth Ecumenical Council (Second General Council of Constantinople, (Constantinople II) called by Emperor Justinian I. (Pope Vigilius, in self exile from Rome, considered it prudent not to attend.)

Condemned many dissenting theologies.

Solidified a strong cooperation between church and secular authority.

Condemned Origen, a heretic (who was already in hell).

555

After seven years away, the Pope was allowed to return to Rome but, en route, died in Syracuse.

556

Justinian chose Pelagius as pope. Not elected, two bishops performed the installation ceremony.

**During the Reigns of:
Pelagius April, 556 – March, 561
John III (Catelinus) 561 – July, 574
A one-year vacancy followed.**

c. 560

Papal use of Coat of Arms begins.

c. 563

Crimthann (aka Columcille and Columba), born 521, died 597, founded monasteries at Donegal, Durrow, and Kells, Ireland. He brought Celtic Christianity to Iona and the rest of Scotland.

572

Lombards invade Italy. John III flees south to Naples, ruling later from a church a few miles outside Rome.

**During the Reigns of:
Benedict 575 – 579
Pelagius II 579 – 590**

580

First iron-chain suspension bridge (China).

581

(- 618) China reunified under the Sui dynasty.

586

A topic covered (but unresolved) at the Council of Macon questioned the existence of women's souls.

588

Patriarch of Constantinople's new title, Ecumenical Patriarch, again reviles Papacy.

During the Reign of Gregory the Great 590 – 604

590

Thousands, including Pelagius, die of plague.

Columbanus and monks of the Monastery of Bangor, Ireland found monasteries in Gaul and expand the practice of private confession to the Court of Gontram, King of Burgundy.

After elected, Gregory (Pelagius' secretary) had to await Emperor Maurice's approval. He is the first monk to become pope. He was the second "the Great", following Leo (440).

Gregory is the first to use the term, *ex cathedra*, defining the authority of papal office. Cathedra originally meant a high-backed chair.

c. 591

Gregory, convinced of the imminent Second Coming of Christ, writes *The Rule of the Shepherd*, which included rules for election and conduct of bishops and priests. He encourages clerical celibacy, which had been obligatory since c. 395 (Pope Siricius).

c. 593

The Germanic Lombards (originally from Baltic Sea area) occupied northern Italy, threatening Rome. Many hadn't been paid. Gregory compensated them, preventing sacking of Rome.

Papacy evolved as the political authority over Rome and central Italy.

Japan's empress Suiko is first woman ruler to be recognized by China.

Buddhism grows throughout the Far East.

Gregory writes *Dialogues*, lives and miracles of saints.

c. 596

(- 602) Gregory developed the Liturgy. He vigorously opposed the autonomous positions of the Oriental churches.

Portions of Italy and Sicily remained divided among Gregory's papacy, the Byzantines and the Lombards.

Pope Gregory reduced rent charged Jews by one-third if they were to become Christians.

Gregory's work, *Magna Moralia*, was a review of moral questions.

The Pope was probably responsible for burning contents of the Palatine Library, including Latin classics (heathen).

Pope Gregory coined the papal title "Servant of the servants of God."

Speaking "in due authority," Gregory branded Mary of Magdala, a harlot. [Some particulars: Single-handedly the Pope discounted all the influence and contribution that she and other women had made to the development of the Christian Church.]

The Pope banished astrologers from his court.

Gregory's doctrine on Christian Art was a major contribution to religious instruction.

Bible stories in paintings taught the vast population who were illiterate. (refer: Elaboration-Art)

597

Gregory sends Augustine, Abbot of Benedictine Order in Rome, to convert the Anglo-Saxons in southern England.

As Archbishop of Canterbury, Augustine incorporates pagan's festival of spring, symbols of eggs, rabbits and lilies, into the Christian Easter ritual.

The Irish continue two celebrations, Saint Brigid's Feast and Easter.

Seventh Century

- c. 600 Founding of *Chichen Itza* , major Mayan city of Yucatan peninsula.
- c. 603 Tradition of singing in church, *Gregorian Chant* begins.

**During the Reigns of:
Sabinian 604 – 606
Boniface III February, 607 – November, 607
An eleven-month vacancy followed.**

604

(- 06) Rome and central Italy in famine. Sabinian, contrasting Gregory's charity, sells papal grain reserves at inflated prices.

607

After waiting a year for Emperor Phocas' (r. 602-10) confirmation, Boniface III reigns only eight months.

Phocas decrees Rome to be the head of all churches (henceforth, Byzantine historians described him as a bloody tyrant).

During the Reign of Boniface IV September, 608 – 615

608

Boniface IV has to wait one year for emperor-approval.

609

Pope establishes All Saints Day. Church organs and bells come into popular use.

c. 610

Isadore (c. 560-636), Bishop of Seville and Doctor of the Church founds the college near Seville. He writes *Origines* (also known as *Etymologiae*), an extensive effort to collect all knowledge of the age.

Prophet Muhammad ibn Abdullah (c. 570-632) establishes Islam (surrender/submission to God) now 1.2 billion followers. His teachings in *al-Qur'an* (Koran) inclusive of Abrahamic monotheistic ideas. (refer: Elaboration-Islam)

610

(r. - 41) Heraclius, Eastern emperor.
(- 38) Sergius, Patriarch of Constantinople.

612

Lady Zac-Kuk (First Mother) rules Mayan Empire in the Yucatan.

613

Pope converts Rome's Pantheon (from 27 BC.) into a Catholic church.

614

The Church of the Holy Sepulcher on the Hill of Golgotha in Jerusalem destroyed by the Persians. (refer: 1009)

**During the Reigns of:
Deusdedit (Adeodatus) 615 – 618
Boniface V 619 – 625
Honorius 625 - 638**

615

Pope Deusdedit is "I", but "III" appears later (672) with no "II" between.
Some Muslims migrate to Ethiopia and are welcomed by Catholic leadership. This is Islam's first venture into Africa.

618

(- 906) Tang Dynasty rules China.

622

Muslims begin migrating from Mecca to Medina marking *Hijra*, commencement of the Islamic age.
First year of the Muslim lunar calendar

624

At the Battle of Badr, Muslims (with "help from thousands of angels") overpower Meccans.

625

(- 38) Honorius employs monks rather than secular clergy.
Subscribes to Monophysitism (Christ did not possess a divine and a human will but, only one which He exercised through divine and human natures). Later, Sixth Ecumenical Council condemned belief as heretical.

629

Muhammad conquers Mecca.

632

As the Arabian Peninsula converts, Muslims push into what is now Syria and Iraq.

The Prophet Muhammad dies in Medina.

Minority Shiah-Ali (Shiite) claims leadership belongs to Ali ibn Abi Talib, Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law.

Through 661, Islamic rule is under The Rightly Guided Caliphs.

(- 34) Sunnah (Sunni) prevail, Islam leadership transfers to Caliph (Successor) Abu Bakr. Followed by Umar (634-44), Uthman (644-56) and (non-related) Ali (656-60).

(refer: 680 and Elaboration-Islam)

634

(- 44) Under Umar, Muslims invade Palestine and Mesopotamia (637).

636

Defeat of the Byzantines in the Battle of Yarmuk allows Muslim-conquest of Syria and Egypt.

638

Muslims invade Jerusalem.

Caliph Omar begins construction of Islam's the Dome of the Rock over the Jewish Temple Mount. (refer: Elaboration)

**During the Reigns of:
Severinus May – August, 640
John IV 640 – 642
Theodore 642 - 649**

640

During two-month reign, Severinus keeps peace by paying local soldiers from papal treasury.

Power source, Windmill, developed.

John IV condemns Monophysitism clashing with Patriarch Pyrrhos of Constantinople.

Emperor Constans II (r. 641 - 68) forbids further discussions.

641

(- 42)

Muslims conquer Egypt. Caliph Omar, on the burning of the Library of Alexandria announces, "If these writings of the Greeks agree with the book of God [*al-Qur'an*], they

are useless and need not be preserved; if they disagree, they are pernicious and ought to be destroyed.”

c. 644

Muslims rule over all Arabia (including Palestine, Egypt and Persia). (refer: 680)

648

Constans II issues *The Typos*, limiting all Christian teachings to that defined in the first five Ecumenical Councils.

During the Reign of Martin 649 – 653

649

Martin calls a Council at the Lateran Basilica, Rome.

The Virgin birth of Christ is finally defined.

Mary is placed on high (in this case by God).

The final modifications to the Apostles Creed are established.

c. 650

(- 75) Islamic expansion diminished prestige of bishops in Antioch, Jerusalem, and Alexandria, leaving Rome and Constantinople as Christian power centers.

[Some particulars: Hadith, the sayings of the Prophet Mohammed, calls for the murder of an apostate. Extremists carry this concept further. Non-believers rejecting the opportunity to embrace Allah, deserve death.]

The practice of Agape (a meeting, banquet and prayers with rich and poor at the same table) was condemned, and banned by Pope Martin as “often too big a party.”

Islam’s third Caliph, Uthman ibn Affan sends delegation to the Tang rulers.

First mosque in China opens in Chang’an.

c. 651

Martin holds a synod opposing Monophysitism. He refuses to sign Emperor Constans II’s *The Typos*. He, in turn, rejects Martin’s claim to the papacy.

Martin is arrested, brought to Constantinople, tried for treason, flogged and exiled to the Crimea. He is the last pope to be venerated as a martyr.

Rome’s Temple of Antoninus and Faustins converted to the church Saint Lorenzo in Miranda.

**During the Reigns of:
Eugene 654 – 657
Vitalian 657 – 672**

657

Eugene's compromise with Constans II over Monophysitism is rejected by Rome clergy. He is threatened with arrest and deportation, but unexpectedly dies.

661

Beginning of the Umayyad Islamic Empire (through 750).

663

After Vitalian effects reconciliation, Constans II visits Rome for 12 days-the last Eastern emperor to do so for the next 700 years.

664

England's Celtic Church adopts Roman Catholicism at Synod of Whitby.

c. 665

Constans II orders that Ravenna, seat of Imperial government in Italy, be independent of Rome's control.

**During the Reigns of:
Deusdedit III (Adeodatus II) 672 - 676
Donus 676 – 678
Agatho (Agathonus) 678 – 681
Leo II 682 – 683
A one-year vacancy followed.**

r. 668

(- 85) Emperor Constantine IV (Pogonatus).

680

Hussein (Hussain) the fourth caliph's son massacred with 72 others after dispute with sixth caliph. (refer: Elaboration-Islam)

Muslim invaders control all of North Africa. (refer: 711)

(-81) Sixth Ecumenical Council (Third General Council of Constantinople, Constantinople III)

Called by Emperor Constantine IV (Pogonatus), who invited Pope Agatho and the Patriarchs of Constantinople and Antioch.
Ended Monophysitism by defining two wills in Christ (divine and human) as two distinct principles.
Sergius, Pyrrhus, Macarius and all their followers were anathematized (a curse by ecclesiastical authority including excommunication).

681

Ravenna returned to Rome control.

682

Of the next 16 popes (to 772) only four would come from Rome.
At Constantinople's insistence, Leo II condemns Pope Honorius' support of Monophysitism Only then is he recognized as pope.

During the Reigns of:
Benedict II June, 684 – May, 685
John V July, 685 – August, 686
Conon October, 686 – September, 687
[Antipope Theodore October, 687]
[Antipope Paschal November, 687]
Sergius December, 687 – September, 701

685

(r. - 695) Justinian II, Eastern emperor

687

Conon so mishandled clerical appointments that Antipope Theodore became involved.
(- 701) Sergius faced two antipopes, Theodore and Paschal. Violence and bribery settled the disputes.

692

Emperor Justinian II calls Church Council, mostly Eastern. Pope Sergius refuses to accept decisions. His requested military intervention is opposed by Italian Imperial troops.

695

Justinian II exiled.

Eighth Century

**During the Reigns of:
John VI 701 – 705
John VII 705 – 707
Sisinnius January 15 – February 4, 708
Constantine March, 708 – 715**

c. 700

Development of porcelain.

Traditional Veronica's Veil with Jesus' face brought to the Basilica of Saint Peter's.

Practice of assembly kissing the Gospel reading. Later, this is reserved only for bishops and priests.

Final form of the Jews' *Mishnah* with extensive commentary is incorporated into the *Talmud Bauli* (Babylonian version). (There is some reference to earlier versions c. 620)

701

John VI, a Greek, seeks reconciliation with Eastern empire.

705

After ten years, Justinian II restored to power through 711.

John VII avoids addressing issues raised in Justinian II's 692 Church Council. Both Roman and Eastern clergy criticize him for indecisiveness and cowardice.

c. 710

On Lindisfarne, England (Holy Island), Eadfrith and other monks transcribe Scripture. [Some detail: Referred to as *The Lindisfarne Gospels*.]

711

(- 15) Berber Muslims from North Africa invade Iberian Peninsula, present-day Portugal and Spain. (refer: 732 and 1492)

During the Reign of Gregory II 715 - 731

716

Lisbon falls to Moors. (refer: 1492)

717

(r. - 41) Leo III, Eastern emperor. An iconoclast (breaker of images) tries to force Gregory II to agree to destruction of statues and pictures. He refuses, supported by armies in Northern Italy.

726 (- 843)

Destruction of religious images (Iconoclasm) begins in Eastern Europe.

730

Saint Bede, the Venerable, an Anglo-Saxon monk, announces that each Julian Calendar was 11 minutes, 14 seconds too long. [Some particulars: By 1582, the error was estimated to be 16 days.]

During the Reigns of:
Gregory III 731 – 741
Zachary (Zacharius) December, 741 – March 15, 752
Stephen (or Stephen II) March 22 – March 25, 752
Stephen III (or Stephen II) March 26, 752 – April, 757

731

Gregory III is the last pope to wait for Eastern imperial approval.

732

Bede the Venerable, wrote *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, which covered the period from their origins to 731.

Muslim Moors invade what is now southern France. After almost 100 years of aggression and occupation, they are stopped by Charles Martel near Tours.

c. 750

Norse traders (Varangians) develop Russian river commerce.

Islamic Empire spreads from France to Pakistan. Influences the political and spiritual separation of Christian East and Christian West, a reality that could no longer be concealed.

Title *Pope* becomes exclusive to head of the Roman Church.

750

Beginning of the Abbasid Islamic Empire (through 1258).

752

Pope Stephen (also titled II) reigned three days. Because he did not live long enough to be consecrated, some lists exclude him. [Editor's note: arbitrary, in that others often reigned for much less time.]

Stephen III (or II) was elected hours later. To add to the confusion, the original Stephen I had reigned in 254.

754

Eastern Church council denounces all religious statues and images as idols.

Frankish king, Pepin III's campaigns of 754/56 defeat Lombard King Aistulf and promise the return of papacy lands.

During the Reign of Paul May, 757 – June 28, 767
[Antipope Constantine July 5, 767 – August 6, 768]
[Antipope Phillip July 31, 768]
Stephen IV (or III) August 7, 768 – January 24, 772

757

Paul, Stephen's younger brother, elected.

762

Baghdad founded.

768

(- 72) Under Stephen IV (or III) papacy switches loyalty, again, favoring Lombards over the Franks.

(r. - 814) Frankish king, Charlemagne (Charles the Great), King Pepin III's son, conquers most Germanic lands, ruling France, Italy and middle Europe.

**During the Reign of Adrian (Hadrian)
February 1, 772 - 795**

773

(- 74) Adrian (Hadrian) threatens Lombard King Desiderius with excommunication, switches papal alliance still again. Pope begs Charlemagne (Frankish king) for help. King captures the Lombard capital, Pavia; destroys the kingdom. Charlemagne finally promises some papacy's lands in exchange for others. King confirms the right of popes to own property (duchy of Rome, the exarchate of Ravenna, the Pentapolis, and others), but he maintains control.

c. 784

Archbishops of Ravenna temporarily benefit from *autocephaly* (not required to report to a higher bishop), sharing the same degree of authority as the pope.

787

Seventh Ecumenical Council (Nicaea II) called. Condemns Iconoclasm, legitimatizing images.

789

Initial raids by The North Men (Vikings) on the East Coast of England.

793

Vikings raid the Irish monastery at Lindisfarne, England, murdering farmers and monks and taking slaves. Matching action at Iona, Scotland. (refer: 875)

794

Charlemagne holds his Synod of Frankfurt, invalidating Iconoclasm, angering the Eastern Church.

During the Reign of Leo III December, 795 - 816

795

Vikings invade Dyflin (Dublin).

797

Irene orders her son Constantine VI (age 27) seized, tortured, and blinded. She becomes the first Byzantine empress (deposed in 802). (refer: 800)

798

Buddhist Temple, Otowa-san Kiyomizu-dera, in Kyoto, Japan.

c. 799

Testa Di Apostolo, in mosaic, is the only surviving portrait of Paul.

799

Paschalis (Adrian's nephew), papal administrative officer, leads a gang-attack while Leo III is saying Mass at Saint Peter's. They try to cut out his tongue and gouge his eyes.

Left for dead, with help Leo escapes to England.

Charlemagne, located in Paderborn, takes the pope back to Rome.

Ninth Century

c. 800

(- c. 1500) Period is often referred to as *The High Middle Ages*.

Book of Kells (aka *Book of Columba*), Irish manuscript containing the Four Gospels, a fragment of Hebrew names, and the Eusebian Canons. Some believe books originated in 6th Century.

800

Leo III crowns Charlemagne Emperor in the West. Leo pays homage, conferring both secular and spiritual authority to him (and his successors). His marriage proposal to Irene is ignored.

Charlemagne, with the new title and also King of the Franks is considered leader and guide of Christians and God's Vicar.

As a reformer of Christendom, Charlemagne appoints abbots and bishops in France, conducts Church councils, issues instructions to clergy as to their duties, finances, and some theological concerns. (refer: Elaboration-Clergy appointments)

Leo III separates from the Eastern Church, declaring himself to be the Supreme Bishop in the West.

810

Vikings raid towns in Francia (later France) eventually settling Normandy.

815

A second attempted assassination of Leo III; conspirators executed.

Estimated Christian portion of the world's population is 23%.

During the Reigns of:
Stephen V (IV) June, 816 - January 24, 817
Paschal January 24, 817 – 824
Eugene II 824 – August, 827
Valentine August – September, 827
Gregory IV September, 827 - January 25, 844

816

Arabic numeral system developed.

Stephen V (IV) crowns Louis the Pious Holy Roman Emperor.

817

To offset interference by Louis, Paschal is elected within hours of Stephan's sudden death.

c. 820

Swedish Vikings, called Rus, conquer city of Kiev, establishing Kievan Rus territory.

They raid and trade as far south as Baghdad. (refer: 860 and 988)

First snow sleds developed (Norway).

824

Eugene II and future popes were required to take an oath of loyalty to Western emperors.

c. 825

Eugene resisted rise of iconoclasm in East and West empires.

826

Commissioned by Frankish king Louis the Pious, missionary Anskar establishes the first Christian church in Denmark at Hedeby.

827

Valentine lasts less than one month - immediately replaced by Gregory IV.

829

Egbert, King of Wessex, unifies English.

Missionary Ansgar begins conversions in southern Sweden, establishing a church at Birka.

831

Paschasius Radbertus published observations on the principles of transubstantiation.

Theologians' in-depth analysis grows in interest. (refer: c. 1078- Hildebert)

843

(r. – 77) Frankish king Charles I given additional title of Holy Roman Emperor by Gregory IV. This is the beginning of Carolingian family control. (refer: 986)

**During the Reign of
Sergius II January 27, 844 - 847
[Antipope John January 26, 844]**

844

At Gregory's death on January 25, the Roman populace elects Antipope John. Aristocracy elects Sergius II. Angry at not being consulted, Emperor Lothair threatens to invade Rome.

Papacy is accused by many of overwhelming corruption in sale of clerical jobs and privileges.

Prudentius (d. 861), as an historian, gathers records throughout Europe of all secular and religious topics available. In 844, as Bishop of Troyes, his theological teachings are comparable to predestination, diminishing the part of freewill in salvation.

(- 862) Vikings raid towns in Islamic-controlled Iberian Peninsula (present-day Spain and Portugal) and the Mediterranean coast to Pisa, Italy. (refer: 1469)

842

(r. - 67) Byzantine emperor, Michael III makes Photius his Chief Secretary of State. (refer: 857)

845

Danish Vikings loot and burn Hamburg.

846

After raids in southern France and Italy, Saracens (Muslims of any race) of Africa sack Rome, causing worst destruction ever including desecration of the Basilica of Saint Peter's.

Kenneth I MacAlpin, first to rule both the Scots and the Picts.

**During the Reigns of:
Leo IV 847 – July, 855
[Antipope Anastasius (Bibliothecarius)
August – September 855]
Benedict III September 29, 855 – 858
Nicholas the Great 858 – 867**

852

Pope Leo IV places battlements and a 40-foot-high wall around the Basilica of Saint Peter's. The fortified Vatican settlement officially becomes Leonine City.

854

Letters (14 books) issued on Pope Gregory's (590-604) reign and papal responsibilities.

855

Antipope Anastasius (Bibliothecarius), supported by the Emperor, reigned for two months; replaced by Benedict III.

Jews expelled from Italy.

858

On a fast-track, Photius studies and is ordained a priest in six days and shortly thereafter, a bishop. After advising the new Pope Nicholas, Michael III fires Patriarch Ignatius and appoints Photius Patriarch of Constantinople.

Over the next few years, Photius argues against papal controls and supremacy issues. Traditionally, he is considered the principal author of the Great Schism.

(refer: 1378)

Pope Nicholas was the third "the Great", following Leo (440) and Gregory (590).

860

(-1043) Rus Vikings attempt raids on Constantinople.

863

Nicholas excommunicates Photius. (refer: 867)

Missionaries Cyril and Methodius bring Christianity to the Slavic area.

c. 864

Nicholas fights with two bishops over property rights; fires two others.

867

Photius excommunicates Pope Nicholas.

Michael III is murdered. Basil I becomes emperor. He restores Ignatius as Patriarch of Constantinople. (refer: 877)

**During the Reigns of:
Adrian II (Hadrian II)
December, 867 – November (or December), 872
John VIII December, 872 – December 16, 882
Marinus December 16, 882 – May 15, 884
Adrian III (Hadrian III) May 17, 884 – September, 885**

867 (continued)

Adrian II (aka Hedrian II) uses Antipope Anastasius as an advisor. Later, Adrian angers the emperor and loses control of Bulgaria (Eastern Empire takes over).

869

Eighth Ecumenical Council (Fourth General Council of Constantinople - Constantinople III) under Adrian and Basil I.

Condemned Photius and all acts and decrees of his illegal conciliabulum (council), c. 863.

No further general councils took place in the East.

c. 870

Muslims of Baghdad translate and apply Euclid's principles of geometry (from c. 300 BC). Europeans begin the same process c. 1070.

Vikings settle Iceland.

873

Muslim's Twelfth Imam, Muhammad ibn Husayn (Hasan), at five years old hides in a cave (or falls down a well). [Some particulars: Tradition holds that this *Mahdi* (Messiah) return will mark the beginning of the end of the world. Presently thought to be 2008.] (refer: Elaboration-Islam)

875

Danish Vikings raid Lindisfarne, England, burning church, taking slaves, killing everyone else they could find.

876

Charles II (the Fat) inherits East Francia (Germany) and West Francia (France).

877

Ignatius dies, Basil I appoints Photius Patriarch of Constantinople. John VIII is temporarily imprisoned in Rome. Basil arranges for his escape. The appreciative Pope recognizes Photius as the legitimate patriarch.

881

Adrian II crowns Charles II Holy Roman Emperor (deposed 887).

882

John VIII, first pope to be assassinated. Poisoned and clubbed to death by papal staff.

During the Reigns of :
Stephen VI (V) 885 – 891
Formosus 891 – April 4, 896
Boniface VI April, 896
Stephen VII (VI) May, 896 – August, 897
Romanus August – November, 897
Theodore II November, 897
John IX January, 898 – January, 900

888

Eudes (Odo) of West Francia (France) elected by nobles.

896

Pope Boniface VI lasts 15 days.

Stephen VII (VI) has Pope Formosus' body exhumed, dressed in papal finery, placed on the throne and prosecuted for blunders in office. Found guilty, three fingers of his right hand (used for blessings) are cut off and body tossed into the Tiber River. The affair is ridiculed as the *Cadaver Synod*.

897

Uprising in Rome, Stephen imprisoned and strangled.

Pope Romanus lasts three months followed by the estimated 45-day reign of Theodore II.

898

Although Sergius III had been elected, John IX assumes papacy by imperial appointment. Sergius has to wait until 904.

898

Charles III (the Simple) of France (West Francia) crowned.

Tenth Century

During the Reigns of:
Benedict IV June, 900 – August, 903
Leo V August – September, 903
[Antipope Christopher September, 903 – January, 904]
Sergius III January 29, 904 – April 14, 911
Anastasius III c. June, 911 – c. August, 913
Lando c. August, 913 – c. March, 914
John X March, 914 – May, 928
Leo VI May – December, 928

900's

Muslim Arab-Persian trading colonies established along the eastern coast of Africa exporting gold, palm oil, and slaves.

c. 906

Sergius III and mistress Marozia have a son (later, Pope John XI).

910

Benedictine Abby founded at Cluny. Clerical power strengthened through monastic reform.

912

Danish Viking, Hrolf, by order of Frankish king Charles III (the Simple), becomes Rollo, Duke of Normandy. (refer: c. 996)

915

In Italy, Saracen invaders defeated.

919

(r. - 36) Henry I (Germany) begins the Saxon Dynasty, The First Reich.

922

King Robert (France) reigns.

923

King Rudolph (France) reigns.

c. 925

Sa'adya Gaon becomes head Rabbi of the Sura rabbinic academy in Babylon. He is the first to apply rational deduction in defense of Judaism.

928

John X murdered in May and Leo VI, in December.

During the Reigns of:
Stephen VIII (VII) December, 928 – February, 931
John XI
February (or March), 931 – December, 935 (or January, 936)
Leo VII January 3, 936 – July 13, 939
Stephen IX (VIII) July 14, 939 – October, 942
Marinus II October 30, 942 – May 8, 946
Agapetus (Agapitus) II May 10, 946 – December, 955

c. 930

Rabbi Saadia Gaon, a Jewish philosopher, writes *HA'EMUNOT Ve' hade'ot* (Faith and Belief). He defends Jewish scripture and rabbinic traditions against Muslim and Karaites theological challenges.

931

Romans angry over Stephen VIII (VII) approval of his patroness' second marriage to king in Italy. Imprison Pope and king.

China uses woodblocks to print book pages.

933

Papacy initiates the practice of canonization.

936

(r. - 73) Otto I the Great, King of Germany

Louis IV becomes king of France.

(- 46) Roman Prince, Alberic II, directly responsible for the elections of Leo VII, Stephen IX, Marinus II and Agapetus II

954

Lothair is King of France.

955

In appreciation for Alberic's support, Pope Agapetus, along with nobility and clergy, promise to have Alberic's 18-year-old son, Octavian, elected as the next pope. Pope Agapetus dies in December.

During the Reigns of:
John XII (Octavian) December 16, 955 – May, 963
Leo VIII December, 963 – deposed February, 964
(Dies March, 965)
Benedict V May 22 – June 23, 964
John XIII October, 965 – September, 972

955

The custom of choosing a new name upon election begins with Octavian, who became John XII (at age c. 18).

959

Edger, *the Peaceful*, rules all of England.

c. 960

Aldemon, the Moor King of Toledo, murders thousands of Catholics and Jews in Spain.

962

Otto I's imperial coronation by John XII. Crowned Emperor of The Holy Roman Empire, a union of Germany, Northern Italy, and other lands (title now applies to West emperors).

963

Pope John sides with Italian King Berengar, angers Otto, who deposes him and consecrates Leo VIII as new pope.

964

Revolt deposes Leo VIII in February and puts John XII back in power. He dies suddenly at 27 from a strike on his head. Accident is recorded as delivered by Satan. When John dies, Romans ignore Leo, elect Benedict whom Emperor Otto deposed.

c. 968

Romans drive Pope John XIII into exile.

972

Creation of the Monastic Republic of Holy Mount Athos, Greece. (refer: Elaboration-Eastern Orthodox)

During the Reigns of:
Benedict VI January, 973 – July, 974
[Antipope Boniface VII (Franco) June – July, 974]
Benedict VII October, 974 – July, 983
John XIV (Peter Canepanova) December, 983 – August, 984
[Antipope Boniface VII (Franco) returns August, 984 – July, 985]
John XV August, 985 – March, 996
Gregory V (Bruno) May, 996 – February, 999
[Antipope John XVI (John Philagathos) February, 997 – May, 998]
Sylvester II (Gerbert) April, 999 – May, 1003

980's

There is a mounting fear for the end of the world with the approaching millennium.

984

John XV canonized Ulrich of Augsburg. Prior to that, local church authorities were the only ones responsible for the saint-status process.

Antipope Boniface VII arrested; John XIV-deposed, imprisoned, and starved to death. Boniface ruled until his death in July, 985.

986

Frankish Louis V, last king of the Carolingian family.

987

Louis is poisoned by his mother, Emma. Her friend, Hugh Capet becomes King of France. (This is the beginning of the Capet family reign through 1328.)

988

Vladimir I is baptized, the first Christian Grand Duke of Kiev. Missionaries spread the Gospel throughout Kievan Rus into what are now the Belarus, Russia and the Ukraine.

995

Olaf I brings Christianity to Norway, Iceland and Greenland.

c. 996

King Hugh Capet appoints Richard II as the Duke of Normandy.

996

King Otto III arranges for his cousin, Bruno to be elected as the first German pope, Gregory V.

997

Gregory V forced out of Rome to Lombardy by citizens and clergy. Antipope John XVI takes control.

998

Imperial army returns Gregory to power for balance of reign.

999

Sylvester II is the first French pope.

At the approach of the Millennium, Adso, a Frankish monk writes of the four horsemen of the Apocalypse - War, Famine, Disease, and Death.

According to Adso, there would be unification of the Roman Empire under a Frank king, peace until the arrival of the Antichrist, the Last Days and Final Judgment.