

Timeline of Church History¹

Early Christianity

(~AD 30 – 325)

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Ante-Nicene Period (~AD 100 – 325)

- ~AD 100 — Birth of Justin Martyr in Samaria
- ~AD 107 — Martyrdom of Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, and Simeon, Bishop of Jerusalem
- ~AD 112 — Christianity is officially outlawed under Emperor Trajan.
- ~AD 115 — Birth of Irenaeus in Smyrna
- ~AD 132-135 — Bar-Kokhba Revolt²
- ~AD 143 — Marcion founds his own rival church.
- ~AD 156 — Polycarp travels to Rome to discuss the date of Easter.
- ~AD 155 or 166 — Martyrdom of Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna
- ~AD 160 — Birth of Tertullian in Carthage, North Africa
- ~AD 165 — Martyrdom of Justin Martyr
- ~AD 170 — Birth of Hippolytus
- ~AD 185 — Birth of Origen in Alexandria, Egypt
- ~AD 185 — Irenaeus writes *Against Heresies*.
- ~AD 190 — Pope Victor excommunicates Asiatic churches for not celebrating Easter only on Sundays.³
- ~AD 202 — Death of Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons⁴
- ~AD 215 — Hippolytus compiled *The Apostolic Tradition*.
- ~AD 225 — Death of Tertullian
- ~AD 231 — Origen condemned as a heretic by the Bishop of Alexandria
- ~AD 236 — Death of Hippolytus
- ~AD 250 — Emperor Decius requires public sacrifices from Christians.
- ~AD 254 — Martyrdom of Origen
- ~AD 296 — Birth of Athanasius
- ~AD 313 — Conversion of Emperor Constantine and the Edict of Milan
- ~AD 321 — Sunday decreed as an empire-wide day of rest
- ~AD 325 — First Council of Nicea

¹ Almost all of these dates are approximations and/or best guesses, and for many of them, there is much debate among historians.

² Simon bar-Kokhba was said to be the Jewish Messiah and began a revolt. Christians refused to join and were killed by the revolters. Afterward, Jews and Jewish Christians were barred from Jerusalem.

³ These Asian churches celebrated it three days after the Jewish Passover, no matter what day of the week that happened to fall.

⁴ Lyons is located in modern France.