

Chronology of Christianity

The following chronological table was prepared to accompany David Chidester's book, *Christianity: A Global History*, since it is sometimes useful to have a reference table of dates as one reads. Dates BC are given as negative numbers.

-960	-950	First Temple constructed by Solomon	
-587	-539	Babylonian Exile	
-587		First Temple destroyed by Babylonians	
-516		Second Temple constructed	
-168	-164	Maccabean revolt and foundation of dynasty	
-99	-1		Ist CENTURY BC
-73	-4	Life of Herod the Great, king of the Roman province of Judea	
-63		Pompey captures Palestine	
-27	14	Reign of Augustus	
-10	45	Life of Philo of Alexandria, Jewish philosopher	
-4±	30±	Life of Jesus	
1	99		Ist CENTURY AD
3	62	Life of Paul	
6		Judas of Galilee argues against paying taxes to Rome	
35±		Stephen stoned to death, the first martyr (sometimes called proto-martyr) at Jerusalem gate under gaze of pre-conversion Paul	
37	100	Life of Josephus, author of History of the Jewish War	
42		Paul discusses circumcision with Jerusalem church	
50±	70±	Gospel of Q composed	
50±	150±	Gospel of Thomas composed	
50±		Apostle Thomas arrives on Malabar coast and forms churches	
52±	54±	Paul's letter to Galatians composed	
54	68	Reign of Nero	
56	120	Life of Tacitus, Roman historian	
62		James, brother of Jesus, executed by stoning	
63		Great Fire in Nero's Rome blamed on Christians	
64±		Apostle Paul executed in Rome	
65±		Nero begins persecution of Christians; Peter crucified in Rome	
66	70	Jewish War (rebellion of Zealots against Rome)	
69	155	Life of Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, burned alive (pp. 77-78); famed as one of earliest well documented martyrs	
70	80	Pharisees finally emerge as dominant in Palestinian Judaism	
70		Temple Destroyed	
72±		Gospel of Mark composed	
73		Last Zealots perish at Masada	
79	81	Reign of Titus	
80	90	Gospels of Matthew & Luke composed	
80±	140	Life of Basilides, major founder of Alexandrian Gnosticism	

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85±	160	Life of Marcion, from Pontus in Asia Minor, whose heresy stimulated the creation of the Apostles' Creed
90	100	Gospel of John composed
90		Johanan ben Zakkai et al. at Yavneh reformulate post-Temple Judaism
97	117	Reign of Trajan
100	199	IIrd CENTURY
100±	165	Life of Justin Martyr from Samaria; theory of logos; evil due to fallen angels
100±	175	Life of Valentinus the Gnostic of Alexandria
100±	300±	"Hermetic" texts attributed to Hermes Trismegistus believed to embody secret Egyptian wisdom
107		Ignatius of Antioch arrested under Trajan's ban; devoured in the arena; left cheerful letters en route to Rome
107		Christianity outlawed by Trajan
107±		Ignatius of Antioch devoured in Roman arena; left cheerful letters along the road (may be AD 98, 107, 117)
110		Book of Revelation composed
112		Pliny writes to Trajan about Christians
115	150	Life of Irenaeus, bishop of Lyon; opposed Gnosticism; Martyred 142-200
117	138	Reign of Hadrian
120±		Basilides of Alexandria argues martyrdom was unnecessary suicide (p. 83)
130	150	Marcion moves to Rome; theory of 2 gods, clumsy creator and redeemer
132		Simon bar Kozibah changes name to Bar Kochbah (son of the star)
132±	135	Jewish Revolt ends in Hadrian banishing Jews from Jerusalem (p. 57)
135		Jerusalem reconstructed as Aelia Capitolina
140		Valentinus moves to Rome
144		Church rejects teachings of Marcion
150	135	Works of Justin Martyr composed
150	217	Life of Clement of Alexandria, skeptic about motives of martyrs (pp. 83f)
150±	215±	Life of Clement of Alexandria, teacher of Origen; opposed pleasure
155		Martyrdom of Polycarp (p. 155)
156		Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrnia, burned alive
160±	220±	Life of Tertullian, North-African Christian leader
170		Athenagoras condemns sex except for procreation
170±	235±	Life of Hippolytus, Rome, Eucharistic prayer (pp. 68ff.); opposed Gnostics
177		Platonic philosopher Celsus argues against Jesus as mere magician
181	203	Life of Vibia Perpetua, martyred after visions in prison (pp. 78-82)
185	254	Origen of Alexandria, author of Exhortation to Martyrdom
185±	254±	Life of Origen
200	299	IIIrd CENTURY
200	258	Cyprian martyred in Carthage after hiding

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200	258	Novation, anti-Pope; advocates excommunicating backsliders from martyrdom
200		Pope Calistus permits women "just concubinage"
200±	300±	Paul of Samosata argues for "adoptionism": a human Jesus adopted by God to be divine (a heresy)
200±	300±	Sabellius argues for crypto-Unitarianism: Father & Son as windows on the same reality (a heresy)
205	270	Life of Plotinus, influential neo-Platonist arguing ideal forms are in the mind of God
216±	276±	Life of Mani, dualist founder of Manicheans
235	238	Reign of Maximinus (much political disorder)
235		Christians martyred at Caesarea
240±	320±	Life of Lactantius, who argued for purifying fire before the final judgment
246	248	Origin writes "Against Celsus," a pagan
248	328	Life of Helena, mother of Constantine, finder of monuments
249	251	Emperor Decius requires universal participation in sacrifices; orders persecutions
250	260	Pionius, bishop of Smyrna, martyred
250±	336	Life of Arius, who argued Father superior to Son, founding the Arian Heresy
253	260	Reign of Valerian; persecutions
260	339	Life of Eusebius, bishop of Caesarea, historian, pro-Constantine
273	337	Life of Constantine
284	305	Reign of Diocletian (East) & persecutions (pp. 87f)
292	346	Life of Pachomius, founder of monasticism
293±	373	Life of Athanasius of Alexandria, defender of chastity
297		Diocletian order destruction of Egyptian Manicheans
300	399	IVth CENTURY
300±	310±	Council of Elvira (Spain) declares endorses chastity
303		Alphaeus beheaded at Caesarea for disrupting pagan sacrifices
303		Romanus martyred at Antioch for disrupting pagan sacrifices
304		Euplus begs to be martyred in Sicily
306	337	Reign of Constantine (306-324 west only)
311		Emperor Galerius excuses Christians from worship of Roman gods, removing a source of martyrdom
312		Constantine has vision the night before October 28 battle at Milvian Bridge
312		Constantine makes self emperor of the west
313		Edict of Milan
315	387	Life of Cyril of Jerusalem
316	397	Martin of Tours, founder of first western Pachovian monastery (in Gaul)
316		Carthage Controversy: Donatus requires apostate rebaptism; Caecilianus favors leniency
316		Donatists outlawed & become underground church
320		Pachomius establishes monastery near Nile, widely imitated

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324		Constantine becomes sole emperor; Byzantium renamed Constantinople
325		Council of Nicea unites Father & Son; condemns Arianism; controls ordination, excommunication
329±	379	Life of Basil of Caesarea
329±	391±	Life of Gregory of Nazianzus
335±	395±	Life of Gregory of Nyssa
337		Constantine baptized on deathbed
339		Basilica of the Nativity dedicated
339±	397	Life of Ambrose of Milan, opponant of Arianism; teacher of Ausustine; made Theodosius repent; one of 4 Doctors of the Church
342±	420±	Life of Jerome, Bible tanslator; one of 4 Doctors of the Church
354	430	Life of Augustine, bishop of Hippo (N. Africa), opposed Manichaeans, Donatists, Arians, Pelagians
354		Legal protection provided for the virginity of nuns (p. 114)
360±	420±	Life of Pelagius, who argued guilt for the sin of Adam limited to Adam, a heresy
361	363	Reign of Julian, who revives paganism
376	444	Life of Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria
379	395	Reign of Theodosius
381	384	Pilgrimage of Egeria from Spain to the Holy Land
381		Council of Constantinople
381		Second Ecumenical Council of Constantinople reaffirms Nicene Crede
381		Theodosius outlaws all other religions
386	391	Augustine in contemplation at Cassiciacum
391		Augustine made bishop
395		Jovinian attacked for declaring marriage as good as chastity
400	499	Vth CENTURY
400±	440±	Life of Nestorius of Antioch, condemned for heresy of saying Christ had separate human and divine natures
410		Alaric (an Arian Goth) sacks Rome
410		Alaric the Goth, an Arian, sacks rome
412	426	Augustine writes City of God
431		Third Ecumenical Council at Ephesus, condemns Nestorius
436		Nestorius exiled
440±		Possible approximate date of the Athanasian Creed ("Quicumque Vult")
451		Council of Chalcedon states definitive trinitarian formula, condemns Eutyches & other heretics
480	547	Life of Benedict of Nursia, author of a system of monastic discipline
496		Baptism of Clovis, king of the Franks
500	599	VIth CENTURY
500±	578	Jacob Bradeus of Nisibis, founder of Syrian monasteries
521		Birth of St. Columba, founder of Scottish and Irish monasteries
527	565	Reign of Justinian
532	537	Building of Hagia Sophia in Constantinople

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540±	604	Life of Gregory the Great; first monk made pope; reorganized church, sent mission to England; one of the 4 Doctors of the Church
543±	651	Life of Columbanus (Ireland), Director of missions to Europe
553		Council of Constantinople condemns those who doubt hell
553		Fifth Ecumenical Council at Constantinople, condemns position that suffering in hell is not eternal
567	754	Life of Boniface, sent as apostle to Germany
570	632	Life of Muhammad
580	662	Maximus "the Confessor" of Turin denounces Monothelites
589		Visigoths of Spain give up Arianism, come under Roman church
590	604	Papacy of Gregory I (the Great)
596		Gregory I sends mission to convert the English

600 699 VIIth CENTURY

610±	640±	Leontius of Neapolis, defender of icons and sacred objects
614		Persians capture and sack Jerusalem
628		Heraclius recaptures Jerusalem from Persians
638		Arabs capture Jerusalem, Antioch, Alexandria; Jews permitted to return to Jerusalem
638		Jerusalem capture by Muslims
653		Maximus of Turin exiled
673±	735	Life of the Venerable Bede, historian of Christianity in England ("Venerable" was a priestly title at the time.)
675	749	Life of John of Damascus, who saw Islam as a Christian heresy
675±	749	Life of John of Damascus, advocate of icons, critic of excessive Marianism; viewed Islam as Christian heresy
681		Sixth Ecumenical Council at Constantinople

700 799 VIIIth CENTURY

700±		Approximate date of the present text of the Apostles' Creed
717	741	Reign of Byzantine Emperor Leo III, iconoclast
726		Emperor Leo III moves against icons
741	775	Reign of Byzantine emperor Constantine V, iconoclast
745		Rome council condemns Aldebert's compromises with paganism (pp. 168f)
750±	825±	Life of Theodore abu Qurra, defender of icons
754		Council at Nicaea condemns icons as doubly blasphemous
754		Second Council of Nicaea (against icons) (p. 207)
768	814	Life of Charlemagne, king of the Franks
787		Church council reinstates icons
787		Council restores icons
787		Second Council of Nicaea

800 899 IXth CENTURY

800		Council in Carthage decides to destroy altars lacking relics
800		Crowning of Charlemagne as monarch of the Holy Roman Empire
815	843	Second campaign against icons

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- 815 Iconoclasm revived
 827 869 Life of Cyril the Missionary, brother of Methodius
 832 Latin translation of Dionysius the Areopagite's Vith Cent fake scriptures; describes sacred order
 843 Iconoclasm ends
 847± 877± Irish theologian John Scoitus Eriugena, follower of Dionysius the Areopagite

900 999 Xth CENTURY

- 949 1022 Life of Symeon, who developed theology of mystic visions of God; creator of hesychasm meditation
 960± 970± Aelfric endorses 3-class system: laboratores, bellatores, oratores
 980 1037 Life of Avicenna (Ibn Sina), Muslim theologian influential among Christians

1000 1099 XIth CENTURY

- 1007 1072 Peter Damian founds communistic sect of preachers
 1033 1109 Life of Anselm of Canterbury (Benedictine), rationalizes Christian beliefs
 1050± 1115± Life of Peter the Hermit, French preacher of the First Crusade
 1054 Break between Roman and Constantinople churches
 1054 East-West schism divides Roman from Orthodox Christianity
 1075± 1129 Life of Rupert of Deutz, male erotic visionary
 1077 Anselm defines God as great beyond our understanding; ignores Satan; orients future theology
 1079 1142 Life of Peter Abélard; challenges myth of consensus of ancient writers
 1087 Body of St. Nicholas translated from Myra (Syria) to Bari (Italy)
 1090 1153 Life of Bernard de Clairvaux, monastic leader, supporter of crusades, reformer of Knights Templar; theologian of love
 1095 Council of Clermont
 1095 Urban III offers plenary indulgence to crusaders
 1096 1099 First Crusade captures Jerusalem
 1096± 1141 Hugh of St. Victor founds mystical school of Victorines
 1098 1179 Life of Hildegard of Bingen, mystic and visionary
 1099 Anselm becomes archbishop of Canterbury

1100 1199 XIIth CENTURY

- 1119 Knights Templar founded
 1126 1198 Life of Averroës (Ibn Rushd), Muslim theologian influential among Christians
 1135 1202 Life of Joachim of Fiore (Italy), millennial prophet
 1135± 1204 Life of Moses Maimonides (Mosheh ben Maimon), Jewish theologian influential among Christians
 1140 1200 Life of Hugh of Lincoln, who saw a child in the host, advocated host-worship
 1141 Abélard condemned for heresy & general cleverness
 1147 Synod of Trier; Hildegard permitted to publish her visions

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- 1150 Peter Lomgard creates university textbook in theology, "Sentences"
- 1150± 1250± Cathars (Albigensians), Christian dualists, flourished in Spain & Italy; branded heretics by Rome
- 1170 1221 Life of Dominic de Guzman, founder of Friars Preachers, a teaching order (Dominicans)
- 1170 Thomas Becket murdered at Canterbury
- 1172 Cathar church council at Toulouse attracts Bogomil leader Nicetas from Constantinople
- 1175 Peter Waldo (Valdes) embraces poverty
- 1179 Alexander III refuses Valdes right to preach
- 1180± 1262 Life of Stephen of Bourbon, official inquisitor
- 1181 1226 Life of Francis of Assisi (Francesco Bernardone), founder of Franciscans, a contemplative mendicant order
- 1184 Waldensianism listed as heretical sect, driven from Lyons
- 1185± 1243 Life of Alexander of Hales (Franciscan), who claimed alien were races deformed because of their sin

1200 1299 XIIIth CENTURY

- 1200± 1250± Life of Hadewijch of Antwerp, producer of Beguine texts on erotic visions
- 1200± 1280 Life of Albert the Great (Dominican), scholastic philosopher, who argued Pygmies are not actually human
- 1200± 1550± Cult of Anne important in Europe
- 1201 1204 Fourth Crusade
- 1201 Pope Innocene III grants Francis of Assisi charter for Friars Minor
- 1204 Constantinople sacked in Fourth Crusade
- 1205 Francis of Assisi vows poverty
- 1206 Diego de Osma
- 1207 1294 Life of Mechthild of Magdeburg, Beguine with erotic visions
- 1208 Crusade against Albergensians (French Cathars)
- 1208 Crusade against Albigensians
- 1210 Franciscans founded
- 1212 Founding of Poor Clares (female Franciscans)
- 1214 Apparition of Mary to Dominic (according to 1470 account, probably false)
- 1215 Fourth Lateran Council prohibits founding new orders; requires ritual penance
- 1215 Fourth Lateran Council rules Christ physically present in eucharist (transubstantiation); prohibits removal from church
- 1215 Physical presence in host; penance mandatory; new orders prohibited
- 1216 Beguine movement receives papal endorsement
- 1217± 1274 Life of Bonaventure, mystical theologian, successor to Francis of Assisi
- 1225 1275 Life of Thomas Aquinas, major theologian, author of Summa Theologica
- 1230± 1879± Folk cult of St. Guinefort, a dog, persists in France despite church opposition
- 1233 Francis of Assisi canonized (sainted)

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1233		Inquisition established
1235		Stephen of Bourbon becomes inquisitor
1240	1380	Russia ruled by Tatars
1240		Center of Russian orthodoxy moved from Kiev to Moscow
1244		Two hundred Albigensians burned at storming of Foix Albigensian fort; movement effectively extinct
1252		Gregory IX approves torture to gain Inquisition confessions
1260	1327	Life of Meister Eckhart, German Dominican mystic, condemned for heresy
1264		King Louis IX founds house for Beguines in Paris
1265	1321	Life of Dante Alighieri, poet, author of influential Divine Comedy
1274		Council of Lyons unsuccessfully bans Beguines in France
1280	1349	Life of William of Ockham, English mystic (but creator of Ockham's razor for theorizing about worldly things)
1285±	1310	Life of Marguerite Porete, Beguine mystic, burned at the stake for calling Rome "Lesser Church" & declaring mystics free spirits birth a guestimate
1290±	1350	Life of Barlaam the Calabrian, campaigner against hesychasm ("navel gazing")
1291		Fall of Latin Jerusalem, Acre, etc.
1296	1359	Life of Gregory Palmas, monk of Mt. Athos, defender of hesychasm meditation
1300	1399	XIVth CENTURY
1300	1366	Life of Henry Suso, flagellator & disciple of Meister Eckhart
1300		Plenary indulgences granted for Jubilee Year pilgrimage to Rome as substitute for Jerusalem
1303±	1109	Life of Anselm of Canterbury, argued that Mary was second in importance to God
1303±	1373	Life of Bridget of Sweden, visionary of the virgin birth
1304	1374	Life of Petrarch (Francesco Petrarch), Romophile humanist writer; scholar and poet
1307		Knights Templar accused of devil worship
1309	1378	Avignon exile of the papacy
1313	1325	Inquisition targets Beguines in France (Some still survive in Benelux.)
1313	1371	Life of Giovanni Boccaccio, poet, essayist, and theologian
1313	1392	Life of Sergii of Radnezh, ascetic abbot of St. Sergius Trinity Monastery
1314		Knights Templar dissolved; leaders burned as witches
1323		Belief in Jesus' absolute poverty declared heresy by John XXII
1336	1339	Judenschläger of Bavaria attack Jews for slaying Jesus
1340	1384	Life of Gerhard Groote, founder of the Brothers & Sisters of the Common Life, including lay eucharist devotees & devotio moderna
1342±	1416±	Life of Julian of Norwich, female erotic visionary
1347	1351	Black Death (bubonic plague) kills one third to one half of European population
1350	1420	Life of Pierre d'Ailly, predicted end of the world for 1492

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1356±		John Mandeville (Johan Maudeville) writes fraudulent but influential "Travels," stimulating pilgrimage/tourism
1360±	1452	Life of Gemistus Pletho, Byzantine Platonist
1371	1415	Life of Jan Huss, Bohemian priest turned Protestant, burned for heresy (launching 19-year civil war)
1378	1417	Double papacy (Rome and Avignon)
1379	1471	Life of Thomas à Kempis, author of "Imitation of Christ"
1381	1447	Life of Colette of Corbie, reformer of Poor Clares (Colettine Convents)
1389		Corpus Christi declared equal to Easter (p. 213)
1389		Urban VI declares Corpus Christi equal to Xmas, Easter, Pentecost, Assumption
1395	1485	Life of George Trebizond, Byzantine Aristotelian
1400	1499	XVth CENTURY
1403±	1472	Life of Bessarion, Bishop of Nicaea, Byzantine Platonist
1407	1457	Life of Lorenza Valla, unmasker of Dionysius the Aeropagite as non-Biblical
1415		Council of Constance divides Europe into blocks of states
1425		Second Council of Arles condemns bishops who fail to suppress paganism
1427	1486	Italian & German witch hunts
1433	1499	Life of Marsilio Ficino, translator of Greek texts; advocates meditating on Venus; discovers proto-Christianity
1436		Pope Eugenius authorizes Portuguese conquest of Canary Island "savages"
1438	1439	Council of Ferrara & Florence; Orthodox church accepts "filioque" without including it; Byzantine Catholic Church created
1438	1439	E-W dialog & the term "filioque" (p. 297)
1438		Council of Basel: Immaculate Conception of Mary declared doctrine (See 1854.)
1439		Bishop Isidore deposed in Moscow by King Vasili II for supporting Council of Florence agreement on "filioque"
1439		Reunion of E and W churches declared to little effect
1444	1510	Life of Sandro Boticelli, painter
1448		Jonas installed in Moscow
1449	1492	Life of Lorenzo de Medici, Florentine ruler and patron of the arts
1451	1506	Life of Christopher Columbus, explorer
1452	1498	Life of Giolamo Savonarola, fanatic Dominican, dictator in Florence, excommunicated, hanged by a mob
1453		Constantinople falls to Sultan Muhammad II; Pius II argues only Europeans are real Christians anyway
1463	1494	Life of Giovanni Pico della Mirandola, student of Ficino, pan-humanist theologian and Kabbalist; condemned for heresy
1465	1519	Life of Johann Tetzel (Dominican), who had domino theory of consequences of Luther's critique
1465	1532	Life of Giles Antonini of Viterbo (Augustinian), internal critic of Catholicism

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- 1469 1524 Life of Vasco da Gama, explorer
 1469 1535 Life of Desiderius Erasmus of Rotterdam, "Christian humanist
 1470± 1480± Rosary popularized
 1475± Jacob Sprenger (witch hunter) founds Confraternity of the Rosary
 1480± 1541 Life of Andreas Karlstadt, extreme Protestant iconoclast, destroyer of much art work
 1483 1546 Life of Martin Luther, priest turned Protestant reformer; the father of Protestantism; especially Evangelical movement
 1483 Pope Sixtus IV prohibits further argument about Immaculate Conception of Mary
 1484 1531 Life of Ulrich Zwingli, priest turned major Protestant reformer in Zurich; iconoclastic to images and eucharist; killed in religious war
 1484 1566 Life of Bartolomé de las Casas, critic of Spanish treatment of Mexicans
 1484 Innocent VIII institutes southern German inquisition
 1485 1547 Life of Hernán Cortés, conqueror of Mexico
 1486 1535 Life of Henricus Cornelius Agrippa, Christian magician in conflict with the Church
 1486 Jacob Sprenger & Heinrich Kramer publish Malleus Maleficarum, a guide to witch hunting
 1489 1565 Life of Guillaume Farel, iconoclastic follower of Zwingli in Bern
 1490 Ficino investigated for heresy for advocating magic (not condemned)
 1490± 1574 Life of Juan Gigés de Sepúlveda, defender of Spanish behavior in Mexico
 1491 1551 Life of Martin Bucer, iconoclastic follower of Zwingli in Strassburg
 1491 1556 Life of Ignatius Loyola, founder of Jesuits
 1492 1503 Reign of Pope Alexander VI (Rodrigo de Borgia)
 1492 End of the World (Eastern Orthodox)
 1492 Ferdinando drives the Moors from Spain; forcibly converts or expels Jews
 1495 Pope Alexander VI approves rosary
 1497 Pope Alexander VI suppresses pilgrimage to Lough Derg (Ireland) as too distant from Rome

1500 1599 XVIth CENTURY

- 1504 1575 Life of Heinrich Bullinger, iconoclastic follower and successor of Zwingli in Zurich
 1505 1507 Luther studies theology in Augustinian seminary; ordained as priest
 1506 1552 Life of Francis Xavier, Jesuit missionary to Asia
 1509 1564 Life of John Calvin (Jean Cauvin), major Protestant reformer, headquartered in Geneva; founder of Reformed movement
 1511 Elder Philotheus (Russia) explains failure of world to end in 1492; end date declared unknowable
 1512 1573 Spanish conquest of the Americas
 1512 Fifth Lateran Council; Giles of Viterbo argues for personal transformation, not changing the church
 1515 1582 Life of Teresa of Ávila, mystic; founder of Carmelite Reform; made Doctor of the Church in 1970

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- 1516 Erasmus translates New Testament, creates "philosophy of Christ" centered on ethical living
- 1517 Luther Posts 95 Theses
- 1519 Cortés lands in Mexico in year of prophesied return of Quetzalcóatl
- 1521 Luther excommunicated; followers condemned; Emperor Charles V condemns Luther to death, who flees to Hanover
- 1522 1523 Deformed ox fetus in Germany seen in Italy as sign of "Martin Utero" and end of the world
- 1522 Zwingli has images removed in Zurich
- 1524 1525 Peasant rebellions in Germany kill 100,000-200,000 people in widespread anti-Catholic anti-establishmentism
- 1524 Cortés receives 12 Franciscans at Tenochtitlan
- 1525 Sebastian Lotzer & Christoph Schappeler's "Twelve Articles of the Peasants" denounced by Luther
- 1527 1608 Life of John Dee, Christian magician in conflict with the Church
- 1527 Sack of Rome by troops of Charles V
- 1529 Conference of Marburg; Zwingli-Luther split over presence of Christ in the host
- 1530 1584 Life of Ivan IV of Russia, who forces religious conversion, especially of Muslims
- 1530 Augsburg Confession adopted as statement of faith by Lutheran ("Evangelical") churches
- 1531 Apparition of the Virgin of Guadalupe at Tepeyac, near former shrine to Tenantzin
- 1531 Vision of Virgin of Guadalupe at Tepeyac
- 1532 1599 Life of Domenico Scandella (= Menocchio), miller, executed as anticlerical and relativistic heretic
- 1532 1614 Life of Felipe Guamán Poma de Ayala, Peruvian author of Andean history
- 1532 Francisco Pizarro lands in Peru
- 1533 1592 Life of Michel de Montaigne, essayist, critic of Europeans as against noble savages
- 1534 Anti-Catholic iconoclastic riots in Geneva; city council closes churches, prohibits mass
- 1534 Henry VIII Act of Supremacy creates Anglican Church
- 1534 Loyola begins mission to the Muslims
- 1536 Calvin arrives in officially iconoclastic Geneva
- 1538 1541 Calvin banished from Geneva
- 1539 Society of Jesus (Jesuits) founded by Loyola
- 1542 1591 Life of John of the Cross (Carmelite), Spanish mystic and poet
- 1545 1563 Council of Trent begins Catholic counter-Reformation
- 1548 1600 Life of Giordano Bruno, Christian magician in conflict with the Church
- 1550 Valladolid debate: Las Casas denounces Spanish in Mexico; Sepúlveda defends them
- 1550± 1580± Catholic-Huguenot (Calvinist) struggles in Lyons

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- 1560 1609 Life of Jacobus Arminius, who argued that Calvinist election could be conditioned by human behavior; founder of Remonstrants
- 1562 Heidelberg Catechism adopted as statement of faith by Reformed ("Calvinist") churches
- 1562 Official Huguenot theocracy established in Lyons; Huguenots then expelled
- 1564 First European church dedicated to Joseph, the ignored earthly father of Jesus
- 1565 Council of Trent emphatically reaffirms need for Catholic sacraments
- 1572 St. Bartholomew Massacre of 8,000 Huguenots (French Calvinists) in Paris during marriage of Huguenot Henry of Navarre
- 1577 1656 Life of Roberto Nobili, aristocratic Jesuit missionary to India
- 1578 Pope expands rosary to include intercession
- 1578 Pope Pius V expands Rosary invocation (p. 277)
- 1584 1652 Life of John Cotton, Puritan cleric, known as the "patriarch of New England"; became head of Massachusetts Congregationalists
- 1588 1649 Life of John Winthrop (Puritan), 1st governor of Massachusetts 1630-1649.
- 1589 See of Moscow recognized by Constantinople
- 1591 1643 Life of Ann Hutchinson, Puritan critic of Puritanism; excommunicated & banished to RI for claiming messages from God
- 1595± Richard Hooker proposes that Protestantism and Catholicism are two separate religions (first use of plural form)
- 1598 Edict of Nantes under Henry IV (of Navarre, now a nominal Catholic) ends officially approved religious war in France

1600 1699 XVIIth CENTURY

- 1603± 1683 Life of Roger Williams (Puritan), banished to Rhode Island for advocating church-state separation
- 1604 1690 Life of John Eliot, Puritan missionary to Massachusetts Indians
- 1605 1681 Life of Archbishop Nikon, Russian patriarch (1652-66), who sought to return Russian ritual practice to Greek original
- 1610 Assassination of Henry IV; persecution of Huguenots resumed under Cardinal Richelieu
- 1613 Guamán Poma's "Talking Book" sent to Philip III in Spain complaining of Spanish treatment of Peruvians
- 1618 1619 Synod of Dort; Calvinist doctrine of election clarified and Arminian Remonstrants condemned; Puritans free converted slaves
- 1621 1682 Life of Archpriest Avvakum, Old Believer; condemned as heretic in 1667, burned for heresy
- 1624 1691 Life of George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends (Quakers) based on direct encounter with God
- 1643 Westminster Confession adopted by Presbyterians
- 1649 Islamic missionizing becomes capital crime in Russia
- 1652 1658 Orthodox reforms of Nikon
- 1652 1658 Reforms of Archbishop Nikon of Moscow offend Old Believers
- 1652 Society of Friends (Quakers) founded by George Fox

Chronology of Christianity

1656		Quaker missionaries enter Massachusetts unwelcomed
1662		English parliament outlaws Quakerism
1662		Puritan "Half-Way Covenant" for 2nd generation Puritans without calling begins slide for Puritanism
1672	1725	Life of Peter the Great, reformist tsar of Russia from 1682 (suicides among Old Believers)
1682	1725	Reign of Peter the Great, Russian reformer
1684		Old Believers condemned to death in Russia
1685		Edict of Nantes revoked by Louis XIV; official persecution of Huguenots is resumed, including burning at the stake
1689	1755	Life of Charles Louis Montesquieu, French rationalist
1700	1799	XVIIIth CENTURY
1702		Decree of Toleration (Peter) in Russia
1703	1758	Life of John Edwards, Congregational cleric & Methodist evangelist to USA; helped stimulate the "Great Awakening"
1703	1764	Life of Gilbert Tenant (Presbyterian) supporter of "Great Awakening," arguing that all who are called could preach
1703	1791	John Wesley, founder of Methodism
1706	1790	Life of Benjamin Franklin, American statesman and deist
1707	1788	Life of Charles Wesley, brother of John and co-founder of Methodism; author of many hymns
1708	1713	Episodes of Maya talking crosses and other syncretistic phenomena
1711		Apparition of the Virgin to Maya Dominica López
1712		Apparition of the Virtin to María de la Candelaria at Cancuc, Yucatán
1712		Dominica López executed for heresy
1712		Virgin movement of Cancuc, Yucatán, under Sebastián Gómez, rejecting Spanish church in Mexico
1714	1770	Life of George Whitfield, British Methodist evangelist in USA, collaborator of John Edwards in the Great Awakening
1720±	1730±	Reforms of Peter the Great diffuse Russian church power; reform calendar
1721		Russian missions centralized by Peter the Great
1724	1804	Life of Immanuel Kant, philosopher who equated religion with morality; condemned Judaism as mere ritualism
1728	1741	Vitus Bering explores Alaska for Russia
1729	1796	Life of Catherine the Great of Russia
1735	1826	Life of John Adams, American statesman and deist
1736	1784	Mother Anne Lee, founder of Shakers (celibate communalists)
1737	1809	Life of Thomas Paine, American statesman and deist
1740	1764	Russian Agency of Covert Affairs under Dmitrii Sechenov assaults non-Christian religions
1740±	1750±	First Great Awakening of revivalism in USA
1741	1815	Life of John Murray, Methodist founder of American Universalists, believing in the salvation of all humans
1743	1826	Life of Thomas Jefferson, American statesman and deist
1751	1836	Life of James Madison, American statesman and deist

Chronology of Christianity

1764		Decree of Toleration (Catherine) in Russia
1767		Jesuits expelled from New Spain by Charles III
1767±	1822	Life of Denmark Vessey, South Carolina slave revolt leader inspired by Joshua
1768	1834	Life of Friedrich Schleiermacher (Romantic); defined religion as way of feeling infinity of world and absolute dependency on God
1768	1837	Life of Joshua Marshman, evangelical theologian, missionary to India
1772	1829	Life of Friedrich Schlegel, influential German Romantic
1772	1833	Life of Ram Mohan Roy, Unitarian-inspired founder of Brahma Samaj
1772	1844	Life of Barton Stone (Presbyterian), co-founder with Alexander Campbell of Disciples of Christ
1775±	1800±	Life of Gabriel Prosser, Virginia slave-revolt leader inspired by Samson
1782	1849	William Miller (Baptist), revival leader, founder of M8illerite, predicted 2nd coming in 1843 and 1844
1786	1866	Life of Alexander Campbell, Baptist convert who eventually founded Disciples of Christ (ca. 1830)
1788	1866	Life of Alexander Campbell, founder with his father Thomas and with Barton Stone of Disciples of Christ
1790±	1815±	Gradual emergence of Disciples of Christ
1795	1883	Life of Robert Moffat, London Missionary Society missionary to Africa
1795		London Missionary Society (Congregationalist) first mission to Africa
1797	1879	Ioann Veniaminov (Ivan Popov), first Bishop of Iaska (canonized 1977 as St. Innocent)
1797		James Cook killed in Hawaii
1799		Church Missionary Society (Anglican) first mission to Africa
1800	1899	XIXth CENTURY
1800	1831	Life of Nat Turner (Baptist), Virginia slave revolt leader
1802	1877	Life of Brigham Young, leader of majority Utah branch of Mormons after death of Joseph Smith
1804	1863	Life of Charles Colcock Jones (Presbyterian), interdenominational missionary to USA slaves
1805	1844	Life of Joseph Smith, founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons)
1805	1873	Life of Samuel Wilberforce, Anglican bishop and advocate of British "mission civilisatrice"
1805	1879	Life of William Lloyd Garrison, founder of U.S. Anti-Slavery Society
1808	1871	Life of Wilhelm Weitling, evangelical advocate of class war, founder of League of the Just
1809		Founding of Christian Association of Washington County (PA) by Alexander Campbell, to evolve into Disciples of Christ
1810		American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions first mission to Africa
1813	1883	Life of Richard Wagner, German nationalist composer, promoter of myths of Aryan superiority & neo-paganism
1813	1887	Life of Henry Ward Beecher, famed American Congregationalist preacher

Chronology of Christianity

1813		Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society first mission to Africa
1818	1883	Life of Karl Marx
1820	1895	Life of Friedrich Engels
1820±	1840±	Second Great Awakening of revivalism in USA
1821	1910	Life of Mary Baker Eddy, founder of Christian Science
1826		Veniaminov establishes mission in Unalaska
1828		Veniaminov meets Christian shaman Ivan SAMirennikov, who was baptized in 1795
1830		Book of Mormon published
1834	1851	Veniaminov's mission to the Sitka Island Tlingit
1834	1915	Life of Henry M. Turner, founder of African Methodist Episcopal Church (USA)
1836	1886	Life of Ramakrishna, who regarded Jesus as legitimate focus for Hindu bhakti
1838	1884	Life of Keshab Chandra Sen, founder of the (Christo-Hindu) Church of the New Dispensation
1844		Mormons driven from Nauvoo; Joseph Smith shot & killed by mob
1847	1907	Life of John Alexander Dowie, self-proclaimed pophet and founder of Zion City, Illinois, and Zionist church movement
1851	1932	Life of Joseph Booth (Australia), evangelical missionary to S. Africa
1852	1916	Life of Charles Taze Russell, founder of Jehovah's Witnesses, rejecting formal church role in salvation
1854		Immaculate conception of Mary made Catholic dogma (See 1438.)
1858		Apparition of the Virgin to Bernadette Soubirous at Lourdes (France)
1860±	1915	Life of John Chilemowe (Malawi), evangelical anti-colonial rebel (possibly born 1871.)
1861	1910	Life of William Rauschenbusch, advocate of "social gospel"
1861		African Methodist Episcopal Church founded in USA
1863	1902	Life of Narendranath Datta, founder of Ramakrishna Mission (India) and Vedanta Society (USA)
1865	1928	Life of William Wade Harris (Liberia), Methodist, then creator of Harrist Christianity; rejects missionary monopoly
1867		Alaska sold to US; Veliaminov (Innocent) made Metropolitan of Moscow
1869	1942	Life of Joseph Franklin Rutherford, architect of Jehovah's Witness pacifism
1869	1948	Life of Mohandas (Mahatma) Ghandi
1870	1922	Life of Wm J. Seymour, charismatic Baptist follower of Parham, creator of Azusa Street Revivals in Los Angeles
1870	1924	Life of Vladimir Lenin, opponent of Christianity in USSR
1870	1935	Life of Isiah Shembe (S. Africa) advocate of Zulu faith healing in Christianity
1870		First Vatican Council; pope declared infallible
1873	1929	Life of Charles Fox Perham, Baptist who revives charism of speaking in tongues
1875		Christian Science founded by Mary Baker Eddy

Chronology of Christianity

- 1876 1966 Life of Karl Adam, pro-Nazi Catholic theologian
 1878 1965 Life of Martin Buber, Jewish theologian seeking Jewish-Christian reconciliation
 1886 1965 Life of Paul Tilich, theologian of Christian existentialism & mysticism
 1886 1968 Life of Karl Barth, anti-Nazi German theologian; stressed human-divine distance
 1887 1975 Life of Joesph Lortz, pro-Nazi Catholic historian
 1888 1965 Life of Hendrik Kraemer, "exclusivist" theologian (Non-Christians are damned)
 1889 1945 Life of Adolf Hitler; used ideals of Volk and Vaterland to justify killing European misfits, esp. Jews
 1889 1951 Life of Simon Kimbangu (C. Africa), Baptist, then founder of Kambangu Church
 1891 1956 Life of Karl Ludwig Schmidt, anti-Nazi German missionary to Jews
 1892 1971 Life of Reinhold Niebuhr, Protestant theologian & "Christian Marxist," then "Christian realist"
 1892 1984 Life of Martin Niemöller, anti-Nazi founder of Pastors' Emergency League in 1933
 1892 Mangena M. Mokone (Methodist) founds Ethiopian Church (in S. Africa)
 1893 World's Parliament of Religion (Chicago) pushes strong agenda of mutual tolerance
 1893 Zion City, Illinois, founded by Dowie

- 1900 1999 XXth CENTURY**
 1900 1945 Life of Martin Bormann, Nazi official, promoter of anti-semitism
 1901 Charismatic renewal movement begins at Bethel Bible College (Topeka)
 1904 1998 Life of Karl Rahner, "inclusivist" theologian (Non-Christians can be saved by grace as "anonymous Christians")
 1904 Daniel Bryant, follower of Dowie, accidentally triggers multiplication of Zionist denominations in South Africa
 1905 Edict of Toleration permits non-Orthodox churches in Russia
 1906 1945 Life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, anti-Nazi German theologian; executed
 1906 1976 Life of Walter Grundmann, pro-Nazi theologian
 1908 1909 Anti-colonial African Watchtower movement of Elliot Kenan Kamwana (Malawi); thousands baptized
 1910 Zion Christian Church (ZCC) founded in S. Africa; creates elaborate center at Moria
 1912 1963 Life of John Maranke (S. Africa), Methodist, then founder of New Reveltion of the Apostles
 1914 1917 World War I
 1915 1968 Life of Thomas Merton (Trappist), mystic; author of The Seven Story Mountain (1948)
 1918 Life of Billy Graham, American non-denominational ,fundamentalist, anti-communist evangelist
 1920 Life of Sun Myung Moon, Korean evangelist, founder of anti-communist, family-focused Unification Church (Moonies)
 1922 1939 Papacy of Pius XI (Ambrogio Damiano Achille Ratti)

Chronology of Christianity

1924		Mein Kampf published by Adolf Hitler
1925	1996	Tomo Nyirenda (Baptized in Free Ch. of Scotland) leads massive witch killing as Mwana Lesa. Executed.
1929	1968	Life of Martin Luther King, American civil rights activist, founder of Southern Christian Leadership Conference
1929	1990	USSR bans religious services outside registered buildings
1929		Concordat of 1929 cedes Papal States to Italy, guarantees Vatican status of independent nation
1930±	1940±	Heyday of cargo cults in New Guinea, often influenced by Christianity
1931	1978	Life of Jim Jones, Pentecostal socialist founder of apocalyptic suicide cult at Jonestown in Central America
1931		Vatican Radio founded
1933	1945	Nazi Party under Adolf Hitler in power in Germany; neopaganism; doctrine of Aryan racial superiority
1933		Anti-Nazi Pastors' Emergency League founded by Martin Niemöller; becomes Confessing Church movement in 1934
1934		Barmen Declaration of Karl Barth establishes Confessing Church in Germany; opposes rationalist "natural theology"
1939	1945	World War II
1939	1958	Papacy of Pius XII (Eugenio Maria Giuseppe Giovanni Pacelli)
1946	1977	Life of Steve Biko, founder of Black Consciousness Movement & "Black theology" in South Africa
1947		Seelisberg Conference of Christians & Jews under Jules Isaac (French Catholic) condemns anti-semitism
1948		Israel established s modern, officially Jewish state
1949		All foreign missionries ejected from China; All Christians forced into two government-controlled "patriotic associations
1951		Campus Crusade for Christ founded in Los Angeles by Bill Bright to promote fundamentalism on campuses
1957		Southern Christian Leadership Conference founded by Martin Luther King in US
1958	1963	Papacy of John XXIII (Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli); calls Vatican council
1960		Congress on World Missions (Chicago) proclaims damnation of all non-Christians
1960±	1970±	"Death of God" movement seeks to explain Holocaust
1962	1965	Second Vatican Council; approves vernacular liturgy and other reforms; condemns anti-semitism
1963	1978	Papacy of Paul VI (Giovanni Battista Montini)
1967		Six Day War; Israel annexes Jerusalem; captures West Bank, Gaza, and Sinai.
1968		Artificial birth control banned by Vatican
1968		Conference of Bishops in Medellín (Colombia) interprets Vatican II reforms into Liberation Theology
1978	1978	Papacy of John Paul I (Albino Luciani)
1978	2005	Papacy of John Paul II (Karol Wojtyła)

Chronology of Christianity

- 1981 Apparition of the Virgin to children at Medjugorje (Bosnia-Herzegovina, then part of Yugoslavia)
- 1981 Pope shot; survival attributed to Fatima, whose crown at the shrine in Portugal now holds bullet
- 1982 World Alliance of Reformed Churches declares apartheid a sin & suspends South African churches
- 1985 Kairos Document provides theological rationale for armed rebellion in South Africa
- 1986 South African Dutch Reformed Church denounces apartheid
- 1989 Collapse of European communism; USSR dissolved
- 1990± Collapse of apartheid in South Africa, no longer supported by nations needing an ally against Communism
- 1993 Parliament for the World's Religions (Chicago) follows up on 1893 event

2000 2099

XXIst CENTURY

- 2002 Pope adds "Mysteries of Light" to the rosary
- 2005 Papacy of Benedict XVI (Josef Alois Ratzinger)
- 2007 This Year

Most dates are from David Chidester 2001 Christianity: A Global History.