

Appendix A—Timelines

Early Church (the First Three Centuries)

27 BC-68	Julio-Claudians reign at Rome.
circa 30	Jesus' death and resurrection; Pentecost.
35	Martyrdom of Stephen; conversion of Paul.
circa 40	Believers first called Christians at Antioch.
45-100	Gospels and other New Testament books written.
49-50	Council of Jerusalem.
64-68	Great fire at Rome. Nero blames the Christians and severe local persecution ensues. Peter and Paul are martyred.
66-73	Jewish revolt against Rome.
85-150	Writings of the so called Apostolic Fathers (Barnabas, Clement of Rome, Ignatius, Papias, Polycarp, and others).
96	Ascension of Nerva (96-98) and beginning of the Age of the Antonnines (96-180)—zenith of territorial extent and power of Rome.
circa 100	Death of John, last of the apostles.
107	Martyrdom of Ignatius, bishop of Antioch.
111	Pliny the Younger's inquiry to Emperor Trajan (98-117) concerning treatment of Christians.
132-135	Another major Jewish (Bar Kochba) revolt against Rome.
144	Marcion excommunicated for heresy at Rome.
155	Martyrdom of Polycarp; Justin Martyr writes his first <i>Apology</i> .
156 or 172	Montanus of Phrygia and his associates active.
160s	Germanic migrations begin to threaten Rome's northern border; initially met with vigorous action by Marcus Aurelius (161-180).

- 177 Intense local persecution of Christians at Lyon and Vienne with the sanction of Emperor Marcus Aurelius.
- 180 Ascension of Commodus (180-192) ends the age of the adoptive emperors.
- 190s Muratorian Canon.
- 193 Septimius Severus (193-211); Severan dynasty (193-235) was last stable dynasty of Rome.
- 220s Origen founds a school in Caesarea; he publishes *On First Principles*, the first Christian systematic theology.
- 227-299 Sassanid Parthian armies threaten Roman east.
- 235-284 Era of the “barracks emperors” and the crisis of the third century.
- 249-251, 257-260 Empire-wide persecutions under Trajan Decius and later under Valerius.
- 258 Cyprian, bishop of Carthage, martyred.
- 260s or 270s Anthony enters ascetic life in Egyptian/Libyan desert.
- 284 Ascension of Diocletian and reformulation of Roman state; the Principate transformed to the Dominate.
- 293 Diocletian creates the Tetrarchy (rule by four emperors) for defense and succession purposes.
- 303-311 Empire-wide persecution of Christians under Diocletian and Galerius.
- 312 Constantine’s victory at Milvian Bridge; his conversion to the faith(?).
- 313 Edict of Milan.