

Outline History of Christianity with Judaism and Mohammedanism

While Christianity traditionally begins with the birth of Jesus, it is so inextricably enmeshed with Judaism - i.e.; the usual "Judeo-Christian tradition" - that this history begins with that that engendered the growth of the Talmudic tradition, eventually being written down to become the Christian Old Testament. But Christianity is a "syncretic" religion, that is, it is a syncretism or blending of, or very much influenced by, the many different sects and beliefs that were extant in the region at that time. These ranged from the Zoroastrianism of Babylon to Hindu ideas brought by the Greeks, and from the virgin born Egyptian Osiris to the philosophical considerations of Neoplatonism.

Judaism is included in this outline because of the very close association Christianity has with the older religion, an association that has been acrimonious, brutal and largely unkind toward Judaism and continues to this day. Islam is included because it claims the Bible as its roots, recognizing the prophets and so is kind of a Judeo-Christian "offshoot", though it too, claiming tolerance, has largely not been so during its history.

The corpus of both Talmudic and Biblical papyri is huge and so only a cursory number are included in this outline. A fairly complete list is found in Appendix X.

10,000 - 8000 The Natufian culture appears in modern-day Israel - some of the first known human settlements in the world.

8000 Agriculture begins in the Near East as people start using "digging sticks" to plant the seeds of wild grasses which will eventually become the domesticated wheat we know today.

6750 About this time pigs are domesticated in modern Iraq.

6500 - 6300 The wheel is invented by Sumerians who live in the Tigris-Euphrates river basin.

6000 About this time chickens are domesticated in southern Asia.

5508 Year of Creation, as calculated in seventh century CE Constantinople and used by the Eastern Orthodox Church until the 18th century.

5490 Year of Creation, as calculated by Syrian Christians.

5000 About this time the earliest known cities are founded as increasing numbers of people begin to gather in villages scattered around the Fertile Crescent.

About this time also begins (to about 2800) a long period of wet weather; heavy rains and flooding. Creation of the North Sea and breaching of the isthmus between Asia and Europe which floods the fertile plains around the Black Sea, flooding out a great number of towns and farms, displacing the many people who lived there (see 1999-2000).

4004 (October 23) Date of Creation, as calculated by Irish theologian James Ussher in 1650 CE.

4000 About this time the horse is domesticated.

About this time Sumerians in southern Mesopotamia develop the boat for water transportation.

3760 Year of Creation, as calculated by the Hebrews and used since the 15th century CE.

3641 (February 10) Date of Creation, as calculated by the Mayans.

3500 Sumerian society develops in the Tigris-Euphrates river basin. The Sumerians make use of many agricultural advances, such as domestic animals to pull plows, irrigated desert, drained marshlands and more in order to create a large, cosmopolitan civilization. The increased output of food allows for the further development of a "leisure class" that does not have to work for food, allowing them to become priests, artists, merchants, scholars, etc. The Sumerians also develop oar-powered ships, animal-drawn wheeled chariots and other, similar vehicles, bronze objects, and the written cuneiform alphabet.

3400 About this time an early form of hieroglyphic writing starts being used in Egypt.

3200 Begin Early Bronze Age I in the region. New population (Semitic) influx of Canaanites from the north brings new crafts and tradition of architecture and urban life. Fortified cities in defensible positions replace villages. They are developing as city states. Sanctuaries (or temples) are not prominent and perhaps there's only one per city. The Canaanites serve as mediators between the Protoliterate culture of Mesopotamia and the Gerzean culture of Egypt.

By this time the cross has become a common symbol of peace and the balance between male and female. See Appendix A.

3100 The first Egyptian Dynasty unites the southern and northern kingdoms under the rule of Menes, founder of the city of Memphis which becomes the center of his authority. At this time funerary texts – incantations, hymns, litanies, prayers, formulas and petitions – have been in use long before this time. They are associated with funeral ceremonies and burials. See 1567.

Last great flood of the Euphrates, source of the story of the Biblical Flood.

3000 About this time first human settlements are established on the site of modern-day Athens.

About this time Stonehenge is built in England.

About this time last great flood of the Indus, allowing the rise of the Harappan Culture.

2980- 2950 About this time is the life of Imhotep, famed Egyptian physician. He is worshiped as a medical demigod in Egypt because of his work on medical methods for treating diseases rather than simply religious methods. Imhotep is also responsible for the construction of the pyramid of Zoser (the Step Pyramid at Sakkara), the first large stone structure in the entire world.

2900 Begin Early Bronze Age II in the region. Syria-Palestine is developing swiftly in urbanization and in size of population. Splendid constructions. Territory is divided into small warring states. Egyptian influence is present: There is indirect evidence for an Egyptian campaign into Palestine in this period. Egyptian inscriptions begin at Byblos with Pharaoh Nebka.

2800 About this time Egyptians began wearing wedding rings, believing that the circular bands symbolized eternity.

Last great flood of the Hwang Ho, allowing the rise of Chinese civilization.

2613 The Great Pyramid of Cheops at Giza is constructed by Cheops, son of the founder of Egypt's 4th Dynasty, Snefru.

2600 Begin Early Bronze Age III in the region. It begins in Palestine. Amorite influx into Mesopotamia begins to be countered by Egyptian campaigns (2440 to after 2300) unsettling Palestine: Many cities are abandoned; parts of Transjordan and the Negev are settled. Palestine declines into nomadism toward the end of the period. Egypt begins exercising commercial if not political control over Palestine. Meanwhile, Sargon the Great conquers northern Syria (C 2330).

About this time the first recorded seagoing voyage carries Egyptian sailors to Phoenicia in search of cedar wood.

About this time the Chinese began the cultivation of silkworms.

2560 Great Sphinx at Giza, a 189-foot long monument to King Khafra (Khafre), the third king of the 4th Dynasty, is carved.

2500 Sumerian cuneiform script is simplified from an earlier version consisting of thousands of ideograms.

2350 Sargon I founds the Akkadian empire, which rules Mesopotamia for the next couple of centuries.

2340 Beginning of the Sixth Dynasty in Egypt. By this time the Pyramid Texts (see 3110) are well developed. Inscribed or painted on walls of chambers and corridors in pyramid tombs, they contain magical funerary spells, and provide a view of the afterlife and ascent of the divine pharaoh after his death.

2349 The Great Flood occurs (according to modern fundamentalists).

2247 The Tower of Babel is constructed (according to modern fundamentalists).

2200 Indo-European invaders, speaking the earliest forms of Greek, enter the mainland of Greece, and the Mycenaean Civilization (named after the leading Greek city on the peninsula from 1600-1200 BCE) emerges.

About this time Amorite movement into Syria-Palestine begins.

Begin Middle Bronze Age I in the region. The Canaanites develop a system of writing. Amorites have combined with the Canaanites creating a new culture that has its origins (probably) in coastal Syria around Byblos. Town again appear. This is the kinakhna (Canaanite) culture. Egypt claims suzerainty over southern Syria-Palestine.

2134 Eleventh Dynasty; the Egyptian Middle Kingdom. At this time the Pyramid Texts are superseded by the Coffin Texts; they are carved or painted on coffins. They mark the democratization of the afterlife – no longer exclusively for royalty: Officials and their subordinates and common people who can afford them. They are written on tomb walls, stelae, canopic chests, papyri and mummy masks.

2100 Ziggurat of Ur is built by Sumerian king Ur-Nammu. Sumerians called it Temen, from which the later word temple was derived.

2000 About this time; Babylonians replaced Sumerians as the dominant power in the Middle East. They create a decimal system notation.

Domestic bathroom plumbing appears in Crete.

2000-1700 About this time Abraham leaves Ur in Chaldea (according to traditional sources). This is often called the age of the "patriarchs" (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) or the beginning of the Patriarchal ("Abrahamic") Age. There is nomadism; Amorites (Habiru, etc.). The people worship various gods.

2000 - 1500 Minoan Civilization (named after the Cretan ruler Minos) reaches its height with its central power in Knossos on the island of Crete. This culture may have been more female-oriented and peaceful than others at the time.

1850 Begin Middle Bronze Age II (A) in the region. General spread of Canaanite (Kinakhna) culture. Rapid growth of fortified towns but they are not large. Temples or sanctuaries, which are almost non-existent, vary in form. Foreign trade is minimal yet there are slight influences from Egypt and others. Beginning of settlement of nomadic Amorites.

First appearance of the word Hebrew (or Habiru).

1800 About this time Babylonians are believed to have initiated the custom of the handshake. It began with grasping the hand of a statue of the god Marduk in order to receive his power symbolically and it later came to symbolize good will.

1800 – 1700 Period that the Israelites (Habiru) (Tribe of Jacob) enter Egypt with the Hyksos, a Semitic tribe, that dominated the Nile Delta for about a century. The Hyksos are successful because they were superior archers and ride horses and chariots at the same time.

The Egyptian XIV dynasty is thought to have been a Canaanite dynasty.

1792-1750 About this time Hammurabi rules Babylon and creates his famous legal code.

1750 The Babylonians began using windmills to pump water for irrigation.

1700 Begin Middle Bronze Age II (B). Beginning of rule over Palestine by the Hyksos; begins the golden age of Palestine. There is an innovative addition to fortifications; a rampart is added to the wall as an aid in defense. This new addition is the product of the alien (Hyksos) aristocracy, mostly Syro-Palestinian princes. This new defense has possibly been developed to deter the new (or improved) method of attack with the battering ram.

1650 Begin Middle Bronze Age II (C). Hurrians begin streaming into Palestine.

About this time the Cult of Yahweh, earliest form of Judaism, may have been created by Abraham and carried on by his sons.

1568 The Hyksos, are finally driven out by Egyptian leader Ahmose I, who founded the 16th Dynasty.

1567 Egyptian 18th Dynasty. At this time the funerary texts (Coffin Texts, see 2134) are superseded by texts written on papyri, the "Book of the Dead". They are individualized for the deceased person. In the final judgment before one enters the hereafter, one must affirm he has not committed theft, uttered curses on the king, uttered falsehood, adultery, avarice, deceit, extortion, impurity, insolence, ire, murder and violence. All the funerary texts, especially the Books of the Dead, have been of great influence on the Hebraic tribes living in Egypt.

1500 Beginning of Late Bronze Age I in the region: Corresponds to the establishment of Egyptian control over the area.

End of the Patriarchal Age.

About this time the domestic camel appears in Palestine.

1491 Date of the Exodus of the Hebrews out of Egypt (according to modern fundamentalists) and receiving of the Ten Commandments (also according to modern fundamentalists) (see 1285).

1483 Egyptian armies under Pharaoh Tuthmosis III defeated a confederation of Palestinian states and captured a fortress on the hill of Meggido. Christian theology predicts a final battle between good and evil on this spot (Armageddon = Hill of Megiddo). The first use of the title "Pharaoh," which means "Great House," is found here applied to Tuthmosis.

1470 A massive volcanic eruption at Thera destroyed the Minoan civilization on Crete. Because of huge waves rising up to 160 feet, the water levels along the eastern shores of the Mediterranean at first dropped, but then the Egyptian coast was flooded by large amounts of seawater, resulting in famine due to the loss of arable farmland.

1451 Hebrews arrive in Canaan (according to traditional sources) (see 1285).

1400 Iron Age begins in Asia Minor when methods for smelting iron ore are developed

Beginning of Late Bronze Age II; the Amarna Age and decline of Egyptian power. Palestine becomes beset with factions contesting Egyptian rule: The Habiru from Mesopotamia, Amorites from Lebanon and Hittites from Anatolia. Ended by Sethos I of the XIX dynasty (1318 – 1317).

1379 - 1362 Amenhotep IV, aka Akhenaten, rules Egypt and developed the first recorded strict monotheism. His monotheism is adopted by the Hebrews in Egypt, Yahweh becomes their God. Akhenaten is succeeded by his nine-year-old son Tutankhamen, who eliminates his father's religious reforms. This is the AMARNA AGE: Decline of Egyptian rule and prevalence of the Canaanite gods 'El, Baal-Haddu, Aslerah-El'at and 'Anat. There is conflict with the Hebrews who decide to retain their one God belief.

1300 In Babylon is developing a new alphabetic script which is a further simplification of the cuneiform writing.

About this time Arameans (Akhlamu) from northeastern Arabia begin entering Mesopotamia and Syria.

1291-24 Ramesses II. Israelites forced labor, possibly because they refuse to recognize Ramesses as God. There is growing antagonism among the Hebrews who desire to leave Egypt and their forced labor. Perhaps their work (construction of Pi-Rameses city and others) is coming to an end.

1285 Israelites exodus from Egypt. See Appendix Aa

1232 Israelites of some sort were definitely in Canaan - Merneptah defeats them in battle. They are not necessarily the same Israelites as those who left in the Exodus - they might have been from earlier emigrations.

1230 Invasion and first settlement in Canaan (hill country of Palestine).

1200 Gilgamesh epic, recorded in cuneiform script, is the first known such written legend.

Writing of the Old Testament begins. It is calculated the world was created in 3761 (BCE).

1200-1020 Period of the Judges (rulers) in Israel. Period of battling the Philistines and others driving the Hebrew confederacy into closer union.

1190 Invasion of the Sea Peoples; they are defeated By Ramesses III. This invasion leaves the Philistines on the coast of Palestine while Israelites from Egypt are settling in the hill country. Achaeans and Indo-Europeans begin migrating into the area. The great Phoenician cities begin to flourish as independent kingdoms.

1146 Nebuchadnezzar I begins his reign as King of Babylon for 23 years.

1141 According to biblical accounts in Samuel, Israelite armies suffered massive losses to the Philistines.

1100 The Sea Peoples invasion has seriously disrupted the manufacture and trade in bronze. Rise in the manufacture and use of iron.

1050 Philistines conquer Israel.

1020 Samuel, last of the Israelite Judges, anoints Saul as the first King of Israel. Saul had led a successful rebellion against Philistines.

1020 - 922 Period of the United Monarchy of Israel. Saul is Israel's first king.

1000 Saul is killed at the Battle of Gilboa and is succeeded by David, first as King of Judah and then later as King of Israel. David later captures Jerusalem and makes it his capital.

About this time the Hebrews develop a written language with which they begin writing down their oral traditions. The earliest Old Testament documents are created from older and highly developed oral tradition.

1000-950 Era in which biography of David may have been composed, eventually becoming a written narrative of David's life later included in I and II Samuel and I Kings.

961 David dies and is succeeded by his son, Solomon.

953 Dedication of the Temple of Jerusalem, built by Solomon.

950 - 900 About this time composition of the "Yahwistic" (J) document, one of the four major sources believed to have been the basis of the Pentateuch (Books of Moses): Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

922 Death of Solomon, who is succeeded by his son, Rehoboam. A rebellion against Rehoboam is led by Jeroboam, leading to a split of the kingdom into two halves: Judah in the south under Rehoboam and Israel in the north under Jeroboam.

900 About this time Assyrian war chariots are equipped with metal tires (copper or bronze) for greater durability.

884 Ashurnasirpal II, Assyrian king, begins a 24-year reign during which he defeats Babylon and ensures Assyrian dominance throughout the Near East.

854 Ahab of Israel joins with Ben Hadad of Damascus and Irkhuleni of Hamath in an allied army to halt Shalmaneser III. Egypt and Jehoshaphat of Judah lend support, but the alliance fails to stop the onslaught.

850 Traditional date for when Elijah lived and prophesized.

About this time writing of the J (for their god Jehovah) version begins in Judah, the southern kingdom in which their hero is Aaron.

842 Jehu, an Israelite soldier, leads a rebellion against Jehoram, Ahab's son, and founds a new dynasty in Israel. By the next year, however, he is paying tribute to the Assyrian leaders.

750 About this time writing of the “Elohistic” **E** (for their god El or Elohim) version begins in Israel, the northern kingdom in which their hero is Moses.

739 Tiglath Pileser of Assyria defeats Uzziah; Judah escapes much harm.

734 Israel and Aram attack Judah; Ahaz appeals to Assyria.

732 Tiglath Pileser lays waste Israel and Damascus. Israel becomes a province of Assyria under Hosea.

725 Hosea rebels against Assyria. Samaria is besieged.

722 Samaria falls; Sargon II takes Israel. Many of the inhabitants are taken back to Assyria. Those not captured move to Judah. There the **J** and **E** versions are combined into the **JE** becoming the official history of Israel shortly after.

701 Defeat of Hezekiah and his allies by Sennacherib of Assyria. 46 walled cities of Judah are razed. Jerusalem remains.

632 About this time Josiah repudiates the gods of his Assyrian overlords.

627 Death of Assurbanipal; Josiah annexes Samaria, Gilead and Galilee.

622 Josiah launches a full scale revival of the Davidic kingdom. This after the high priest brought a book he’d found in the Temple to Josiah; it is a book of laws, **D** (modern Deuteronomy 12-26) and the king makes it the law of the land. It was attributed to Moses which gives it veracity. This **D** is combined with the **JE** into the **JED** which also includes Joshua, Judges, Chronicles and Kings.

609 Death of Josiah at Megiddo. Judah is under Egyptian control; Jehoiakim is placed on the throne.

605 Jehoiakim transfers his allegiance to Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

601 Jehoiakim rebels against Nebuchadnezzar.

600 About this time Zoroaster promulgates his religion, Zoroastrianism. It’s writings are encompassed in the *Avesta*. See Appendix I.

598 Nebuchadnezzar marches against Judah.

597 Fall of Jerusalem: First carrying away to Babylon (where Israel is exposed to Zoroastrian monotheism); Zedekiah is placed on the throne.

588 Zedekiah, in league with Egypt, revolts against Babylon.

586 End of the Old Testament “Golden Age”; destruction (conquest) of Judah and Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar; the temple is razed; second carrying away to Babylon.

550 Accession of Cyrus the Great to the Persian throne. Persian rulers become ardent Zoroastrians, although they are tolerant toward other religions.

539 Persia takes Babylon and Israel – Jews begin to enjoy relative freedom: Begin a Post-Exilic period; Persian rule. Further exposure to the Persian religion of Zoroastrianism.

528 About this time Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha, C560 – C483) experiences his enlightenment in which he realizes the “four noble truths”; Existence is Suffering, the Cause of Suffering is Within the Self, an end to Suffering is Possible, and Following the Eightfold Path ends Suffering and leads to Nirvana.

520 – 515 The temple is rebuilt at the urging of Haggai.

500 About this time is written most of the Pentateuch by a priestly author. It is called **P**. The two stories (JED and P) begin to be blended together. There arises around this time the EARLY SOPHERIM, scribes who devote themselves to these writings. They are not copyists but keepers of records who assemble the texts into a standardized text.

By this time a period of religious transformation is well underway throughout the region. It involves the removal of women as key or equal participants in religious ceremony. See Appendix B.

445 Nehemiah governor of Jerusalem.

444 About this time Ezra, an Aaronic priest and editor called the Redactor, blends the **JED** and **P** versions of the Pentateuch into its present order (the **R** document). This is the first five books of the Bible and it is credited to Moses in order to give it authority.

439 The walls of Jerusalem are rebuilt.

332 Alexander the Great takes Israel, beginning Greek rule: Beginning of translation of Old Testament into Greek. Begins Hellenistic Period; exposure to the Greek philosophy of Gnosticism, stories of virgin births of Egyptian Horus and Indian Krishna and the Neoplatonistic idea of the “logos”, something like a savior.

330 Conquest of Persia by Alexander. Hellenization of the region begins.

Late 4th century: The Samaritan Pentateuch is established as the supreme law-book in Samaria. Written in Samaritan characters, it is inaccurate.

3rd century: Greek translations of the Hebrew Scriptures are in circulation.

250 About this time Rabbinical writings are begun to be translated into Greek in Egypt. The Septuagint (LXX) requested by Ptolemy II Philadelphus. Later with the Greek New Testament, it becomes the text of the Greek Orthodox Church (see 100 BCE).

200 By this time two teachings have appeared: (MISHNAH (Repetition); oral tradition committed to writing; TALMUD = Mishna plus later commentary on it).

HALSKHAH (Walking) Rabbinical book; determination of legal regulations of conduct.

HAGGADAH (Showing Forth); Imaginative filling of gaps in the Old Testament.

BOTH: Translation from ancient Hebrew into Aramaic = TARGUMS (Interpretations).

THUS: Begins rise of the Synagogue more as a collection of experts (i.e.; “wise men”) rather than a building. About this time the Books of the Prophets become scripture.

200 – 50 BCE Period of the writing of the Apocrypha (hidden or secret books), Jewish books or parts thereof that generally applies to a Christian collection of literature of Hellenistic Judaism. Ecclesiastical opinion in different periods has differed widely as to the value of this literature. Post diasporic Jews in Egypt place a high estimate upon these books and included them in the Greek translation of the Old Testament, called the Septuagint, but they were rejected from the Hebrew canon by the Jews of Palestine. Some are included in the Catholic Bible, none are in the Protestant Bible. See Appendix IA.

168 Judas Maccabaeus leads a revolt against the Seleucids who had declared Judaism illegal.

164 Jews gain religious freedom.

161 – 143 Johathan High Priest.

About this time the PHARISEES (“Separated”; class of expert teaches of the LAW, heretofore the realm of priests and subject to sectarian interpretation (after Nehemiah the Pentateuch was so interpreted)). SADDUCEES and ESSENES come into existence.

142 Independence under the Hasmonaean dynasty (established by Simon Maccabee).

100 “Letter of Aristeas” makes it clear that there are a number of Greek versions of the Law, felt to be unsatisfactory.

By this time is seen the rise of Jewish religious communities with varying interpretations – i.e.; NAZARENES.

About this time the writing of the Old Testament ends: Closing of the Palestinian Canon upon the question of a standard exemplar of the text rectified by the labors of the School of Rabbi Akiba (see 135 CE). Beginning of the Period of the LATER SOPHERIM (to 500), concerned with stereotyping the text. Their text is purely consonantal with no pointing for vocalization or accentuation, no punctuation in the modern sense with the only hope to the reader of occasional paragraphs.

About this time the “Revisions Committee” has established a more official version of the Old Testament. This is the Seventy or Septuagint (LXX) that finds favor with the Christian Church which includes the Greek versions of other parts of the Hebrew Scriptures, along with Ecclesiasticus, I Maccabees, Tobit and even Wisdom, II Maccabees and I Esdras.

67 Rivalry begins between Aristobulus II and his brother Hyrcanus II.

63 Rome, under Pompey, using the rivalry as an excuse, takes Israel; Hyrcanus II becomes High Priest.

40 Herod the Great is appointed King of Judea by Marc Antony in Rome. Herod allies himself with the Parthians, angering the Romans.

37 Romans end the Hasmonaeon dynasty. Herod the Great is appointed king (“Ethnarch”) of Judea.

30 Defeat of Antony in the Battle of Actium. Herod, like many others, quickly shifts his allegiance to Octavian.

20 Herod begins to rebuild the Great Temple in Jerusalem in an attempt to restore it to its former splendor.

7 (May) A significant configuration of planets begins involving the movements of Jupiter and Saturn in the constellation of Pisces the Fish, known as “The House of the Hebrews”. Jupiter appears to regress and then resume its normal movement (Dec). It would later be said that Jesus was born under this sign.

6 (Spring) The planet Mars joins Jupiter and Saturn to form a bright triangle in the sky just before dawn. It is interpreted as a sign that something important was about to happen to the Hebrew people. It would later be said that Jesus was born under this sign.

4 BCE Death of Herod; his sons succeed: Philip (to 33/4 CE) as tetrarch of the area north of the Sea of Galilee; Herod Antipas (to 39 CE) as tetrarch of Galilee and Perea; and Archelaus (recalled 6 CE) as ethnarch of Samaria and Judea.

3 – 2 BCE A complicated series of planetary motions occur that involves Jupiter and Venus – planets representing the father and mother – and the star Regulus, the brightest star in the constellation of Leo, believed to be symbolic of both kingship and the Hebrew tribe of Judah. It would later be said that Jesus was born under this sign.

1 CE About this time world population is estimated to be 150 million.

18 Caiaphas became high priest in Jerusalem (until 36).

26 - 36 Pontius Pilate governor (Procurator) of Judea and Samaria.

27 - 28 John the Baptist wanders and preaches.

28 John the Baptist is executed on orders from Herod Antipas.

30 About this time ends the authority of the Sanhedrin.

About this time the burial place of Jesus is assumed to be somewhere outside of Jerusalem, the location is uncertain.

31 About this time Stephen becomes the first Christian martyr when he is stoned to death for blasphemy. One of those present at his execution is the Pharisee Saul.

34-35 About this time Saul of Tarsus, formerly a rabbi and enemy of Christianity, converts to the new Christian faith and became known as Paul. [Acts 9]. He regards the cross as sacred, but this long stemmed symbol was originated by the Romans as a torture device. The name "cross" and "crucifix" comes from the Latin verb *cruciare* – to torture.

35 Birth of Ignatius. His letters to churches and to Polycarp are widely quoted in the early church

37-40 About this time Paul first visits Jerusalem as a Christian.

37 - 41 Gaius Caligula, nephew of Tiberius, becomes emperor of Rome and declared himself a god, demanding divine honors.

40 Paul goes to Jerusalem to consult with Peter [Gal 1, 18-20].

About this time the site where Jesus was assumed to have been buried, formerly a granary, is incorporated into the city.

40 - 51 About this time Paul travels to Asia Minor and Cyprus, establishing churches and writing the earliest epistles which would become part of the New Testament canon.

41 – 44 Herod Agrippa I rules all Palestine while Samaria and Judea are ruled directly from Rome by procurators.

44 James, brother of John, is executed by Herod Agrippa I [Acts 12, 1-3].

46 Alexandrian Gnostic Ormus and six of his followers are converted by Jesus' disciple Mark. From this conversion, Rosicrucianism is born, fusing early Christianity with the Egyptian mysteries (see 1393).

47 First recorded use of the term "Christian" occurs in Antioch, Syria, home of one of the earliest Christian churches .

47 - 48 Paul and Barnabas are on Cyprus [Acts 13, 4-12].

48 - 49 Council of Jerusalem, first Christian Council, doctrines on circumcision and dietary law are agreed to by apostles and presbyters, written in a letter addressed to "the brothers of Gentile origin in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia" [Acts 15]

49 Emperor Claudius orders all Jewish Christians expelled from Rome.

About this time Paul composes his epistle to the Thessalonians - the earliest known New Testament writing

50 About this time the Peshitta translation is begun, Hebrew OT into Syriac Aramaic, (Greek NT in 400).

About this time is written the Ascension of Isaiah, originally written in Hebrew (Ethiopic Bible).

51 The Jewish persecution of Christians in Rome becomes so disruptive that the Jews are expelled from the city.

51 – 52 Paul writes I and II Thessalonians.

52 About this time Paul writes epistle to the Galatians.

52 – 60 About this time Felix is Procurator, then Festus (C 60 – C 62), then Albinus (C 62 – 64).

54 Death of Philo (born C20 BCE) of Alexandria. He wrote a history of the Jews making no mention of Jesus. He developed the doctrine of the Logos (see Appendix V), unaware the Christians considered Jesus the Logos.

55 About this time Paul writes I and II Corinthians and Romans.

About this time Peter travels to Rome where his leadership over the church of Rome establishes the tradition

of the papacy. He later comes to be regarded as the first bishop of Rome (pope).

57 Paul's last visit to Jerusalem [Acts 21].

58 Paul is arrested and imprisoned in Caesarea [Acts 25:4].

59 – 62 Period in which Paul writes Philippians, Philemon, Colossians and Ephesians.

60 Birth of Papias, Bishop of Hierapolis in Asia Minor. "He was a man of long ago and the disciple of one 'John' and a companion of Polycarp," according to Irenaeus

61 Human sacrifices in religious celebrations are prohibited by Roman law.

About this time Paul arrives in Rome. By this time Christians are meeting in private rooms or small chapels, and organize themselves on the model of the synagogue, each called an *ekklesia*. Women are admitted but must be veiled for their hair is considered seductive, distracting even angels during the service. Paul had instructed his communities: "Women should keep quiet in church. They must take a subordinate place. If they want to find out anything they should ask their husbands at home, for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in church. . . . A man ought not to wear anything on his head in church, for he is the image of God and reflects God's glory, while woman is a reflection of man's glory. For man was not made from woman, but woman from man; and man was not created for woman, but woman for man. That is why she ought to wear upon her head something to symbolize this subjection".

62 Paul is held under house arrest in Rome, but then is allowed to resume his travels.

About this time (?) James is written by the leader of the Jerusalem community? (Gal 2,9). Another "catholic" epistle.

64 Roman emperor Nero (37 - 68) accuses the Christians of having started the fire which destroyed large sections of Rome, initiating widespread persecution. He blames the fire on the Christians. He persecutes the church ruthlessly, and uses Christians as candles to light his garden.

Peter is in Rome, it is possible he had been there earlier. The church at this time is merely a community with a leader soon to be called a bishop.

64 – 66 Procurator Gessius Florus plunders the Temple treasury (66).

65 Famous and influential Roman philosopher Seneca commits suicide on orders from Emperor Nero. He had written about the relationship between man and God: "No man is good without God", "God made the world because he is good; as the good never grudges anything good, He therefore made everything the best possible", "God has a fatherly mind towards good men and loves them stoutly; and, saith he, let them be harassed with toils, with pains, with losses, that they may gain true strength" and "A holy spirit resides within us, the guardian and observer of our good and evil deeds."

About this time Q is possibly written, (German: Quelle, meaning "source") a hypothetical Greek text used in writing of Matthew and Luke (see 1990).

Writing of the Didache begins: Instructions of the Apostles (to 150).

Gospel of Thomas written, based on Q?, pub. 1959, Greek originals: Papyrus Ox. 1,654-5 (see 1990).

66 Jews – the Essenes and Zealots at Masada - revolt against direct Roman rule.

67 About this time Nero orders the execution of both Peter and Paul. Very little is known of Peter's successors, leaders, or bishops, of the Christian community of Rome. Most are put to death during Rome's persecutions.

68 Qumran (Essenes?) community is destroyed by Rome. The site of their "Dead Sea Scrolls" would be found in 1949.

69 Vespasian, a Roman general, leaves Rome in order to quell the Jewish uprising. A coup by other generals causes him to be made emperor.

Birth of Polycarp, in Smyrna. He becomes a strong defender of the faith in Asia Minor combating the Marcionites and the Valentinians. Irenaeus reports that Polycarp had communication with John the Apostle and others who had

seen the Lord'

70 Titus, son of Roman emperor Vespasian, retaliates against the Jewish uprising, captures and destroys Jerusalem and suppresses the Jewish revolt, destroying the Temple in the process. He enslaves many leaders and disperses the Jewish people ("Diaspora"). With the fall of Jerusalem, Judaism becomes Hebrew and Rabbinic: Hellenistic Judaism withers away. The Old Testament canon is closed about this time. II or IV Esdras is written.

With the fall of Jerusalem, Rome rapidly begins to become the center of Christianity; other bishops (leaders of Christian communities) begin to consult Rome on ecclesiastical matters. The bishop of Rome is rapidly coming to be called the pope.

About this time Mark, the earliest known gospel, is probably composed. It is the first time Jesus Christ is mentioned as a person and his life outlined. The original ending was lost with a new one added C 400.

After this time is published Josephus' (37 – 100?) *The Antiquities of the Jews* in which the existence of Jesus is proclaimed. But that section is a forgery added by later editors. See Appendix II.

About this time (?) is written the "Signs Gospel", a hypothetical Greek text used by the Gospel of John to prove Jesus is the Messiah.

73 Masada, last remaining stronghold of Jewish Zealots, falls to a Roman assault.

75 About this time Epictetus writes "The first thing to learn is that there is a God, that his knowledge pervades the whole universe, and that it extends not only to our acts but to our thoughts and feelings", "To have God for our maker and father and guardian, should not that emancipate us from all sadness and all fear?" and "When you have shut your door and darkened your room, say not to yourself that you are alone. God is in your room, and your attendant genius likewise. Think not that they need the light to see what you do."

79 Mount Vesuvius erupts, burying the cities of Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Stabiae.

81 Domitian becomes Emperor (to 96). He persecutes both Jews and Christians: He demands emperor worship.

85 - 95 About this time the Gospels of Luke and Matthew (both based on Mark and Q) and the Book of Acts (by the same author as the gospel according to Luke) are probably composed.

88 – 97 Pope St. Clement blames the Jews for Nero's persecution of the Christians.

90 About this time the Old Testament books, called "The Writings," are established as part of the Christian canon: Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, and Chronicles.

About this time (81 – 96) the Book of Revelations is probably composed by John (son of Zebedee) and/or a disciple of his.

About this time the Council of Jamnia: Judaism is reorganized along Pharisaic lines; books of Jewish scriptures are decided, oral traditions collected and the prayer against Christians (Nazarenes) and Heretics added to the 18 Benedictions.

95 About this time Clement of Rome (c. 30 - 100), one of the earliest popes (92-101), writes a letter arguing that church leaders possess a divine authority inherited from Christ and his apostles. He is said to have written (C 92) *Epistle* to the Church of Corinth.

About this time Peter writes I Peter in Rome, the "catholic" epistle.

About this time Hebrews is written, but the author is unknown.

About this time Jude is written, probably by a doubting relative of Jesus (Mark 6,3), rejected by some early Christians due to its reference to the apocryphal Book of Enoch (v14), another "catholic" epistle.

95- 105 About this time Composition of the "Pastoral Epistles," by a "Paulinist" but falsely attributed to Paul: I and II Timothy and Titus.

96 Death of Clement of Rome. He wrote influential epistles to Corinth

98 - 116 Trajan emperor of Rome. Around this time the Roman empire reaches its maximum size. Trajan eventually

institutes a policy toward Christians that remains in effect until the time of Aurelius. His policy is not to seek Christians out, but if they are brought before the authorities they are to be punished, usually executed, for being Christians.

2nd century: Several Latin versions of the Old Testament made from the Greek circulate in Italy, Gaul and North Africa.

New Testament forgeries begin to appear.

Of the New Testament writings, a period of the greatest textual change and alteration begins at this time. See Appendix VIII.

Appearance of the Adamites who profess to have regained Adam's innocence: As Adam and Eve were naked and without sin in Paradise, so too does this group embrace a type of "holy" nudism.

100 About this time Christian churches are established in Greece, North Africa, Italy, and Asia Minor. By this time it is possible to document congregations in almost every city that Paul visited on his three missionary journeys. There are also a few churches in Egypt and along the coast of Northern Africa. The Christian Church is combining Hebrew religion with Greek culture for its own guidance.

By this time with hopes of the early return of Christ fading, the strict code by which Christians were encouraged to live are easing: Attendance at theaters and public games, also attending the festivities of pagan holidays, is on the rise. The rule of celibacy and virginity are being ignored, while recommended as ideal; marriage is tolerated only as a check on promiscuity and as a ridiculous means of continuing the race; husband and wife are encouraged to refrain from sexual relations. Divorce is allowed only when a pagan wishes to annul a marriage with a convert. The remarriage of widows or widowers is discountenanced. Homosexual practices are condemned with an earnestness rare for this age.

About this time Tacitus (?55 – 117?) calls the "Christians" a turbulent minority of worshippers of the Egyptian Serapis or Osiris whose activities are considered to be against the state; he calls them Christians.

100 - 125 About this time the Gospel of John is probably composed by John (son of Zebedee) and others?

100 - 165 St. Justin Martyr lives and is one of the first Christian apologists to offer a defense of Christianity.

105-115 Alexander I. Traditionally inserts into the canon of the mass the words commemorative of the Eucharist and introduces the use of holy water.

106 Pliny the Younger, Proconsul of Bithynia, writes a letter to emperor Trajan in which he reports the presence in his province of a group of people who gather before daybreak on a certain day and sing hymns to Christ as a God. That he speaks of Christians in such a remote province as Bithynia before they gain notoriety in Rome raises the possibility of forgery.

107 Ignatius is led to Rome and martyred.

113 – 116 The second Jewish revolt against Rome under emperor Trajan is unsuccessful.

115 Birth of Irenaeus, the first great Catholic theologian and author of *Against Heresies*, a treatise against the Gnostics.

120 (±50?) Papyrus Oxyrhynchus 1224 fragments [published in 1914]. See Appendix X.

(±50?) Papyrus Egerton 2 (Unknown Gospel) fragments [published 1935/87], in Greek from Palestine.

(±20?) Writing of 2 Peter, it is an expansion of Jude. This is the last writing of the New Testament.

121 About this time publication of "The Lives of the Caesars" by Suetonius (69 – 140). In the chapter *The Life of Claudius*, he states "Since the Jews constantly made disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus, he [emperor Claudius] expelled them from Rome". Chrestus was a common name among Roman freedmen.

125 Beginning of period during which the first Bible is assembled - Christians are fiercely persecuted and then finally tolerated by the Roman Empire. There is a great plague in Rome

130 Death of Papias

Conversion of Justin Martyr. Justin loves philosophy, and had studied many philosophies and pagan religions in his search for truth. He becomes an apologist, teaching that the seeds of truth (logos) could be found in all religions, but that only Christianity taught the whole truth

132 Shimeon Bar-Kokhba and Rabbi Akiba Ben-Joseph lead Jews in a revolt against Roman rule. They capture Jerusalem and create an independent state of Israel.

134 Emperor Hadrian in a letter to the consul Servanius asserts that the worshippers of the sun-god Serapis, in Egypt, are Christians, and call themselves "Bishops of Christ".

135 The third Jewish rebellion against Rome is crushed and its leader, Bar Kochba, whom many Jews had accepted to be the Messiah, is killed. Rabbi Akiba is tortured and killed as well. Julius Severus, formerly governor of Britain, crushes the revolt. Final Diaspora (dispersion) of the Jews occurs. Judea and Jerusalem are erased from maps, all of southern Syria is renamed Palestine (coined by Herodotus). Hadrian refounds Jerusalem as **Aelia Capitolina** where a Roman temple is built over what is thought to be Jesus' burial site.

Death of Rabbi Akiba. His School had issued a final standard text of the Hebrew Old Testament but it is no longer satisfactory to the Jews who begin new Greek versions made from this newly authorized text: I.e.; Aquila, Symmachus and Theodotion.

137-40 Hyginus. During this time Gnostic ideas ("heresies") begin appearing in Rome.

140 About this time the Shepherd of Hermas is written, describing a highly developed system of bishops, deacons, and priests.

144 About this time Marcion founds an influential Christian sect which argues for the existence of two gods (one good, one evil) and for the rejection of the Old Testament. He is excommunicated for rejecting the Old Testament, rejecting most of the New Testament, and teaching that Christ only appears to be human (Docetism). His challenge helps the church realize the necessity of formally recognizing the canon.

150 About this time the four "canonical" gospels are collected together.

The School of Alexandria is founded in Egypt, quickly becoming a major center for both Christian theology and Greek philosophy. Among its prominent teachers are the theologians Clement and Origen.

Birth of Clement of Alexandria. He becomes an apologist who uses Plato to support Christianity, and tries to reach Gnostics by showing that only the Christian has real "gnosis." He helps establish the allegorical method of interpreting scripture. His works make up a large proportion of The Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. II

154 Roman bishop Ancitus receives a visit by Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna.

155 Polycarp is martyred in Smyrna by being burned to death. Polycarp declared, "Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He never did me any injury: how then can I blaspheme my King and my Savior?" The only known writings to survive are parts of letters he wrote to the Philippians

156 Possibly the beginning of the Montanist movement. They are an ascetic movement with apocalyptic visions. They claim the Spirit speaks directly through their prophets and prophetesses.

160 (±60?) Papyrus Fayum (P. Vindob. G. 2325) fragments [published 1887].

161 Marcus Aurelius becomes emperor. He abandoned Trajan's passive approach and actively seeks Christians to persecute them throughout the empire

165 Justin is martyred

166 Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius sends gifts to Chinese Emperor Huan Ti.

166 – 174 Pope Soter moves Easter from Nisan 14 to the following Sunday

170 Christian council on Montanist sect in Asia Minor.

Letters of Dionysius, bishop of Corinth, claims Christians are changing and faking his own letters just as, he claims, they are changing the Gospels.

Era of Tertullian (150-225). He objects to Justin's use of philosophy to defend Christianity, saying "What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?." Late in life he becomes a Montanist and wrote *Against Praxeas*, which helped the church understand the Trinity

About this time Lucian (C 120 – 180?) issues a revision of the Greek Old Testament.

180 First African Christians are martyred at Scillium.

About this time Irenaeus (125 - c. 202), Catholic theologian, writes *Against Heresies* in an attempt to fight the spread of Gnosticism. He claims that "every church must agree" with the church of Rome because of its apostolic authority.

About this time the New Testament writing becomes practically fixed. The Muratorium Fragment (incomplete) only obviously begins with Matthew and Mark.

189 – 198 Pope Victor I, first Latin Pope, excommunicates Eastern churches that continue to observe Easter on Nisan 14 "Quartodeciman." During his reign, Greek ceases to be the single official language of the Roman Church; Latin begins to take its place.

190 A Christian council establishes the "official" date of Easter.

197 First recorded usage of the term "catholic" appears in the writings of Apollonius in reference to 1 John.

199 Zephyrinus becomes pope. He is faced with the schism of Hypolytus who champions the doctrine of the Logos that emphasizes the distinction of the Persons of the Trinity.

200 New Testament canon is mostly fixed in currently known form.

About this time Latin Bible translations begun in Carthage?, originals no longer extant. Also Sahidic Coptic cop(sa) Bible translations written in Alexandria.

By this time the Gnostics (see Appendix III) are trying to determine if the Gospels are history or edifying parable.

By this time the Neoplatonist philosophy (see Appendix IV) holds perhaps the widest influence.

By this time the weekly Christian meetings have taken the form of the Mass. Based partly on the Judaic Temple service, partly on Greek mystery rituals of purification, vicarious sacrifice, and participation, through communion, in the death-overcoming powers of the deity, it is growing into a rich conger of prayers, psalms, readings, sermon, antiphonal recitations, and, above all, the symbolic atoning sacrifice of the "Lamb of God" which is replacing the bloody offerings of older faiths. The bread and wine, once considered gifts, and now changed by the priestly act of consecration into the body and blood of Christ, and are presented to God as a repetition of the self-immolation of Jesus on the cross. Worshippers then partake of the very life and substance of their Savior.

By this time there has emerged differences about baptism: The eastern church (Asia Minor, Egypt, northeastern Africa and Constantinople) baptism is invalid unless administered by one of the clergy with proper manner and form. To the western church (Italy, Gaul, Spain and northwestern Africa) its virtue lies in the invocation of the Trinity and ceremonial sprinkling with an immersion in water, i.e., baptism can be administered by anyone.

202 Septimus Severus tries to unite the empire under one religion, the worship of the Unconquered Sun. He creates laws forbidding heathens, under penalty of severe punishment, to embrace Judaism. Origen, the Bishop of Alexandria wrote: "*We may thus assert in utter confidence that the Jews will not return to their earlier situation, for they have committed the most abominable of crimes, in forming the conspiracy against the Savior of the human race ... Hence the city where Jesus suffered was necessarily destroyed, the Jewish nation was driven from its country, and another people [meaning the church] was called by God to the blessed election.*" Both Jews and Christians refuse and are vehemently persecuted. Irenaeus is martyred(?)

Clement of Alexandria flees to Syria until his death in 215. He identified the Adamiani (Adamites) in his *Stromatis*: According to Carpocrates' son Epiphanes in his *On Righteousness*, differences in class and the ownership of property are unnatural and argues for property and women to be held in common. Clement claims the licentiousness

of the Carpocratians, claiming that at their Agape (in the sense of an early Christian gathering) they "have intercourse where they will and with whom they will".

Era of Origen (182-251). Pupil of Clement of Alexandria, further develops the allegorical method. This and his desire to relate to the Neoplatonists in Alexandria lead him away from orthodoxy in some matters. But he is still important to the church. *On First Principles* is the first systematic theology. He issues his *Hexapla*, which is intended to be a critical revision of the Greek Old Testament: It is six parallels of Hebrew and Greek versions.

Death of Irenaeus, who gave an account of the Carpocratian Gnostics in his *Against Heresies*: They believe that Jesus was not divine but because his soul was "steadfast and pure", he "remembered those things which he had witnessed within the sphere of the unbegotten God". This is simply Plato's concept of Anamnesis. Because of this he was able to free himself from the material powers (what other Gnostics call Archons, the Demiurge etc.). Similarly, the Carpocratians believe they themselves can transcend the material realm and, as a result, were no longer bound by Mosaic law (which was established by the material powers) or any morality (which, they held, was mere human opinion). This belief, Irenaeus offers as an explanation of their licentious behaviour. The followers of Carpocrates, he says, believe that in order to leave this world, one's imprisoned eternal soul must pass through every possible condition of earthly life. Moreover, it is possible to do this within one lifetime. As a result, the Carpocratians did "all those things which we dare not either speak or hear of" in order that when they died that would not be compelled to incarnate again but would return to God. He says that they practise various magical arts as well as leading a licentious life.

209-74 Felix I is given the church buildings of Rome by Aurelian.

217 Death of Zephyrinus. Hypolytus is the rival of Calixtus, an ex-slave, who nevertheless is raised as pope (to 222). Hypolytus becomes anti-pope (to 235) and accuses Calixtus of supporting Monarchism and certain relaxations of discipline. Calixtus does reduce the penitential severities against fornication and adultery.

223 About this time Tertullian, writes: *de Spectaculis* (Latin): v30.6 cites the rumor that Jesus was the son of a prostitute, coined "New Testament", cites "Western" Gospel text-type (Loeb).

227 Ardashir (Artashatr, or Artaxerxes) overthrows the Parthian Arsacids and establishes the New Persian (Sassanid) Empire. The strength of the new empire lay in a revival of Zoroastrianism.

230-35 Pontianus is exiled to Sardinia by Maximinus; he resigns.

230 – 250 Christian council of Rome. Demetrius, bishop of Alexandria, condemns Origen who in 248 cited a rumor recorded by Celsus that "Jesus fabricated the account of his birth from a virgin. In reality, Jesus' mother was driven out by the carpenter husband to whom she was betrothed because she had committed adultery with a [Roman] soldier named Panthera [thus the ben Pantere of Jewish sources]. Left poor and homeless, she gave birth to Jesus in secret. Jesus later spent time in Egypt, where he hired himself out as a laborer, learned magic, and so came to claim the title of God." [CC1.28-32, Marginal Jew, Meier, p. 223]

235 Council of Iconium is held to try to settle the baptism question.

236 (3 Jan) Death of Anteros (elected 235) for having ordered a collection of the acts of the martyrs be made.

240 – 250 Christian council of Carthage

245 Conversion of Cyprian (200-258).

247 Cyprian becomes Bishop of Carthage.

249 The reign of Decius (to 251). He orders everyone in the empire to burn incense to him. Those who comply were issued a certificate. Those who do not have a certificate are persecuted. Many Christians bought forged certificates, causing a great controversy in the church. Cyprian goes into hiding during the persecution and rules the church by letters. With Decius' stepping up the persecution of Christians, martyrs become revered as saints

250 About this time appears Mani (215-273), founder of Manichaeism, in Persia. He fuses Persian, Christian, and Buddhist elements into a major new heresy. His followers, or Mandeans (followers of John the Baptist) begin compilation of "Ginza". One of its tenets is the practice of birth control.

251 – 253 Cornelius, whose election is contested by supporters of Novatian (251-C258), who becomes anti-pope. He is an uncompromising champion of rigorism in church discipline and refuses to admit the *lapsi* to the sacrament of penance. Cornelius convenes (251) a synod that excommunicates Novatian and his adherents.

253 Stephen, bishop of Rome, issues a bull of excommunication against eastern bishops whom he styles Rebaptizers or Anabaptists.

253-54 Lucius I continues his predecessor's policy of lenient treatment of relapsed penitents.

253 – 260 Valerian emperor of Rome, executes all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons

254 The Novatian schism develops concerning the treatment of the lapsed. (The Novatians, or Cathari, last until about 600). Cyprian refuses to accept the validity of baptism by schismatic priests. The church in Rome is critical of Cyprian's view, and sends him scathing letters. He claims Christians are freely forging his letters to discredit him.

254-57 Stephen I severs relations with Cyprian and certain Asiatic bishops because they want to rebaptize heretics.

256 Cyprian speaks of Rome as the seat of primacy. He is killed in 258.

Council of Synnada is called to settle the baptism question. The decision is that rebaptism is unnecessary for those who had been baptized by heretics. The controversy continues.

257-58 Sixtus II restores relations with the African and Asiatic churches severed by the question of heretical baptism.

260 – 268 Gallienus emperor of Rome. He reverses Valerian and restores the Roman Church
Pope Dionysius (259-68) rebuilds Roman Church after Valerian's massacre

264 – 268 Christian council on Paul of Samosata, Bishop of Antioch, founder of Adoptionism (Jesus was human until Holy Spirit descended at his baptism)

268 Goths sack Athens, Corinth, and Sparta.

269 Felix I pope, confirmed by emperor Aurelian in settling a dispute with Paul of Samosata.

270 About this time Anthony (C250-C356(?)) gives away his property and retires to a height near the Nile to live the life of an ascetic. Athanasius later writes his biography.

274 Emperor Aurelian, recognizing the precedence of the Roman bishop(s) over all the others, decides that the Christian church property in Antioch should be dealt with as the bishops of Rome and Italy see fit.

275 – 283 Pope Eutychian decrees that only beans and grapes are to be blessed at mass.

276 Mani, born 215, is crucified. He was founder of the Manichaean Christian sect in Persia.

284 Beginning of the Diocletian persecution

Era of Eusebius of Caesarea (264-340) the first church historian. Many works of the early church survive only as fragments in his writings.

286 Emperor Diocletian divides the empire - he rules the east and Maximilian rules the west.

290 – 345 St Pachomius establishes the first monastery in Egypt

296 – 304 Pope Marcellinus is ordered by Diocletian to sacrifice and offer incense to idols (pagan worship). When he repents and confesses the Christian faith, he is killed.

300 About this time Bohairic Coptic cop(bo) Bible translations are written in Alexandria.

Eusebius, Bishop of Caesaria, claims that Jews in every community crucify a Christian at their Purim festival as a rejection of Jesus. He uses the charge of ritual murder made by the pagans Democritus and Apion, which the Romans had first made against the early Christians. Eusebius makes a distinction between Hebrews who were good men in the Old Testament and Jews whom he characterizes as evil.

About this time Arias (256 – 336), tries to settle the serious question raised by Philo: Is the Logos fully divine or not? If no, how can he create – much less redeem? If yes, then the purely transcendent God acts for himself and ceases to be transcendent. He preaches peculiar principles about Jesus' person (see Appendix VI).

About this time the Codex Claromontanus of Paul's letters (found in Egypt in the 6th century): The Clermont List; Matthew, John, Mark and Luke in that order.

301 Armenia becomes the first country to make Christianity its state religion.

303 Diocletian orders a general persecution of all Christians.

305 End of the Diocletian persecution.

306 The church Synod of Elvira (Spain) bans all community contacts between Christians and the "evil" Hebrews and states that Christians cannot marry Jews.

306 – 309 Pope Marcellus I tries removing prior Pope Marcellinus from the official records for apostasy. He imposes severe penalties on Christians who had lapsed during the persecutions. This creates a riot and he is exiled from Rome by Maxentius for disturbing the peace.

309-10 Eusebius holds a mild view on the reconciliation of apostates. He is opposed by Heraclius.

310 Pope Eusebius is deported to Sicily with anti-Pope Heraclius by Maxentius.

Birth of Apollinaris, the heretic who says that Jesus had a human body but not a human mind; He had the divine mind. Gregory of Nazianzus' reply: "What has not been assumed cannot be restored"

311 Donatist controversy begins. Numidian Bishops in North Africa refuse to recognize the newly appointed Bishop of Carthage because he had been ordained by a bishop who had, according to them, forfeited his Holy Orders by handing over holy books during recent persecutions. They elect a rival, Bishop Donatus.

Last persecution of Christians in Rome. Miltiades is raised as pope (to 314). Emperor Maxentius restores to the church properties taken during the persecutions. By this time the bishop of Rome has consistently exercised the role of principle representative of the Christian church. Many prominent churchmen (i.e.; Polycarp, Irenaeus and Oriegen) have visited him and the Roman see has been asked to decide doctrinal or disciplinary questions from other churches. The Roman see has acquired a special authority.

312 Constantine, emperor of the Eastern Empire defeats and kills Maxentius, emperor of the Western Empire, at the Battle of Milvian Bridge. He had had a vision (vision of a cross in the sky and the words: In hoc signo vinces), and used the letters chi and rho (the first two letters in "Christ") as his symbol during the battle. He is converted to Christianity.

Caecilian elected bishop of Carthage. He was lax toward the Traditores, who had saved themselves by handing over scriptures during the Diocletian persecution. And he seems unenthusiastic about the martyrs. A group in Carthage reject Caecilian's election on the grounds that he was ordained by a traditore. They elect a rival bishop named Majorinus

Era of Pachomius (C292-C346), Egyptian pioneer of cenobitic (communal rather than solitary) monasticism. Founds first monastic community (318) near Dendera.

Death of Lucian, founded the Exegetical School of Antioch.

About this time Constantine gives Fausta's palace as the papal residence.

313 Edict of Milan (Edict of Toleration) gives Christians equal rights. It is issued by Constantine in the West and Licinius in the East, but Licinius soon withdraws his commitment to it. The church's property that was confiscated from it during the persecutions is restored to it. Imperial policy toward the Church changes from one of toleration to one of positive favor. But no official recognition of the pope's primacy of authority over the church is given.

The Donatist schism arises (refusing to absolve the *lapsi* – lapsed to avoid the persecutions). Miltiades calls a council in the Lateran palace that excommunicates Donatus for requiring rebaptism of apostates. The Donatists refuse to submit.

314 By this date, there is a significant number of Christians in Britain.

Council of Arles, called by Constantine against the Donatist (Donatus) schism. It is unable to arrive at a settlement. At the council, however, the Church states that charging any interest on a loan is absolutely forbidden as being contrary to divine law.

315 Majorinus dies, Donatus is his successor. This party becomes known as the Donatist party.

About this time, with Christianity now "legal", a long period (to the 6th century) of destruction of pagan temples (i.e.; the Sanctuary of Aesculap in Aegaea, the Temple of Aphrodite in Golgatha, Aphaka in Lebanon, the Heliopolis, etc.), killing of pagan priests and slaying of thousands of pagan believers begins. Later, Christian authorities have the philosopher Sopatros executed.

316 The Donatists appeal to Constantine, but he rules against them. Then he outlaws them and banishes them in an effort to unite the church.

318 Arias is censured.

321 Constantine decrees Sunday as official Roman-Christian day of rest. When he became emperor he claimed to be a Christian and urged his subjects to convert to Christianity. He reenacted the laws of his predecessors forbidding Jews to live in Jerusalem and to engage in any proselytizing activity. Arias is excommunicated.

323 Arias (or Arianism) is endorsed by Eusebius and soon becomes supported by Eastern Christendom.

324 Constantine defeats Licinius and becomes Emperor of both East and West. Constantine favors Christianity, which effects the face of the church even today

325 First Ecumenical Council of Nicea is convened by emperor Constantine to solve the problem of Jesus. While the bishop of Rome is involved with sorting out the Christian apocrypha to decide which (among many forgeries) should be adopted as authentic, the roman government is involved in determining the reality of Jesus and his relationship with God, at this time leaning toward the Arian viewpoint. Indeed, if Christ was not God, the whole structure of Christian doctrine would begin to crack; and if division were permitted on this question, chaos of belief might destroy the unity and authority of the Church and therefore its value as an aide to the state.

The council establishes the Nicene Creed as the fundamental statement of Christian faith. The Council continues the effort to separate Christianity from Judaism by deciding that Easter should no longer be determined by the Jewish Passover (pesach): "*For it is unbecoming beyond measure that on this holiest of festivals we should follow the customs of the Jews. Henceforth let us have nothing in common with this odious people...*"

The council condemns Arianism (see Appendix VI). Arius, in Alexandria, taught that Christ was the first created being, that there was a time when He was not. The council declared that Jesus was begotten, not made, and that He is Homoousios, of the same substance as the Father.

The council also states charging any interest on a loan is absolutely forbidden as being contrary to divine law.

Constantine changes Aelia Capitolina back to Jerusalem. It is decided to raze the Roman temple and build a church over what is thought to be the sepulcher. The architect Zenobius does this work.

328 Athanasius (C293-373) becomes bishop of Alexandria. He is a defender of Orthodoxy during the Arian controversy. Constantine revokes the sentence against Arius

329 Birth of Basil the Great of Cappadocia, the monk who creates the basic Rule for the Eastern Orthodox monks that is still in use today. Basil teaches a communal monasticism that serves the poor, sick, and needy. One immediate effect of the disappearance of persecution is the rise of monasticism to replace the old martyr witnesses.

330 Old Saint Peter's Basilica is dedicated by Constantine; it is located over the traditional burial site of Saint Peter the Apostle in Rome on Vatican Hill.

Capital of the Roman empire is moved to Constantinople. Constantine grants to Pope Sylvester, Rome, Italy and the western islands; this is the Donation of Constantine.

335 Birth of Martin of Tours, he becomes a great monk famous for his compassion for the poor.

336 Death of Arius, priest at Alexandria and founder of Arianism. Arianism was one of the most widespread and divisive heresies in the history of Christianity for, among other things, it held that Jesus was a created being.

337 Emperor Constantius declares: "Let my will be religion and the law of the church!" One of his first acts was to prohibit under punishment of death the marriage between a Jew and a Christian woman.

337-52 Julius I holds a synod at Rome without the Eusebians who refuse to attend. With Athanasius thus justified, a council "of the Dedication" is held at Antioch (341). Julius counters this with a council of Sardica (343) from which the Eusebians withdraw.

338 Jewish calendar is modified with different year lengths to correct it to the Solar calendar.

339 Birth of Ambrose the Churchman, who fights Arianism and the revival of paganism, and promotes the power of the Church which is campaigning to eradicate the pagan religions and convert the masses to Christianity. It is running an on-going smear campaign against pagan gods and goddesses, recasting their divine symbols as evil. Thus Poseidon's trident will become the devil's pitchfork, the wise crone's pointed hat will become the symbol of a witch, and Venus's pentacle will become a sign of the devil.

340 Ulfilas is converted to Arian Christianity. He takes it to the Germanic tribes, gives them an alphabet, and translates the Bible into their language. Most of the Germanic tribes became Arian Christians'

About this time Manichean Christians have been inciting slaves of the Roman Empire to take charge of their destiny and emancipate themselves. In response, the Christian *Council of Gangra* issues a statement supporting slavery: "*If anyone, on the pretext of religion, teaches another man's slave to despise his master and to withdraw from his service, and not serve his master with good will and all respect, let him be anathema.*"

343 Council of Sardica; the western bishops recognize the supreme authority of the bishop of Rome. The council recognizes that it is within his power to annul any decision of the entire Catholic episcopate.

345 Birth of John Chrysostom, "Golden Mouthed." He becomes a bold and reforming preacher, who uses the Historical-grammatical method of exegesis. This is unusual, because exegetes had been looking at the allegorical interpretation ever since Clement of Alexandria and Origen.

At Carthage, the Church states charging any interest on a loan is absolutely forbidden as being contrary to divine law.

348 Completion of Constantine's "Martyrium" (Basilica) around the Sepulchre.

350 Christianity first reaches Ethiopia.

351 Emperor Julian attempts to reintroduce paganism in the place of Christianity.

352-366 Liberius Roman bishop. He defends Athanasius against the emperor. He is exiled (355) and Felix becomes anti-pope.

353 Emperor Constantius releases his pro-Arian campaign and drives Athanasius from Alexandria

354 – 430 St. Augustine, the Latin Bishop considered the founder of formalized Christian theology.

355 Liberius (352-66) refuses to sign the condemnation of Athanasius which had been imposed at Milan by Constantius: He is sent to Beroea in Thrace; the emperor replaces him with Felix II (355-58). Liberius is allowed back in Rome (356) by agreeing to give up the “homousios”, abandon Athanasius and accept the communion of his adversaries. On his arrival, the Roman people expel Felix. When Constantius dies (361), Liberius annuls the decrees of the council of Rimini (359).

356 Pagan services become punishable by death.

360 About this time scrolls begin to be replaced by books (codex).
About this time the Cheltenham List, North Africa.

361 – 363 Julian the Apostate emperor of East who converts from Christianity to paganism, attempts to revive Paganism. He removes the restrictions on the Donatists.

362 Deaths of Mark of Arethusa and Cyril of Heliopolis, known for being pagan “temple destroyers”.

363 Council of Laodicea names 26 New Testament books (excluding Revelations).

364 About this time the Church Council of Laodicea orders that religious observances are to be conducted on Sunday, not Saturday. Sunday becomes the new Sabbath: *Christians shall not Judaize and be idle on Saturday, but shall work on that day.* The council decrees death for Christians who keep the 7th day Sabbath

365 Liberius gives in, agreeing with the emperor. Felix flees but Constantine says two bishops should rule at Rome concurrently but this is ignored.

366 – 384 Pope Damasus I had supported Felix before retiring to the fold, but a party of extremists raise Ursinus as anti-pope. Damasus hires thugs to massacre rival Ursinians (Liberians), but gives up (367) upon intervention by Valentinian I. Damasus enjoys the support of Roman nobles and is able to maintain the primacy of the Roman see, recognizing Alexandria and Antioch as next in rank, disallowing the pretensions of Constantinople. He maintains condemnation of the Arians, favored by Valens, and supports the Athanasians. At the council of Constantinople (381) the Arian party is defeated.

367 Festal (Easter) Epistle of St. Athanasius offers earliest known list of the New Testament canon in its current form, naming the 66 books of the canon.

About this time (±?) there are other versions of the Bible extant: Codex Sinaiticus; originally a codex of the Greek Bible. Codex Vaticanus (B); originally contained the whole Bible but much is missing. There are also the Sahidic; a Coptic (Egyptian) translated from the Greek, and an Armenian version translated from the Greek.

367 – 376 St. Hilary of Poitiers writes and speaks of the Jews as a perverse people forever accursed by God. St. Ephroem refers in his hymns to synagogues as whorehouses.

372 Campaigns begin throughout the Roman Empire to exterminate all followers of the Manichaean heresy (to 444).
Buddhism is introduced into Korea.

378 Wynod of the council of Rome; Roman see’s jurisdiction extends over the whole of the Western Church.

379 – 395 Emperor Theodosius protects Jews from the church’s persecutions of heretics. Chrysostom and Ambrose of Milan - both sainted - want to include Jews in this persecution. Chrysostom: "The Jews are the most worthless of all men... They are perfidious murderers of Christ. They worship the devil, their religion is a sickness..." Ambrose reprimanded the emperor for rebuilding a synagogue and offers to burn it down himself. St. Gregory of Nyssa characterizes Jews as assassins of the prophets, companions of the devil, a race of vipers, a Sanhedrin of demons, enemies of all that is beautiful, hogs and goats in their lewd grossness."

380 (27 Feb.) Christianity becomes the official religion of the Roman Empire under the reign of Theodosius I.

381 First Council of Constantinople. Convened by Theodosius I, then emperor of the East and a recent convert, to confirm the victory over Arianism. The council draws up a dogmatic statement on the Trinity and defines Holy Spirit as having the same divinity expressed for the Son by the Council of Nicaea 56 years earlier. It decrees that Jesus had a true human soul. The Nicene position becomes dominant again, and the legal religion of the Empire. Jesus Christ is truly human, contrary to Apollinarianism, which holds that Jesus had a human body but a divine mind. The Great Cappadocians are the inspiration behind the defeat of Arianism at this council. They are St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory of Nazianzus, and St. Gregory of Nyssa.

382 Emperor Theodosius passes laws making heresy punishable by death.

A council in Rome affirms the authority of the New Testament canon. It is important to remember that the content of the canon is not a conciliar decision. The church recognized, or discovered, the canon. The church did not determine the canon. The council furthermore, holds the primacy of Rome to be a divine, not imperial, institution.

Jerome (C 347 – C 419) begins to attempt to revise the Old Latin from the Greek Old Testament but gives up in favor of a new translation directly from the Hebrew, producing the original Vulgate, to his death.

Last year Roman festivals and rituals are paid for out of the imperial treasury. Greek and Roman beliefs, however, remain popular until the 5th century.

383 Priscillian of Avila is executed (beheaded). He was accused of Manichaeism, but the official reason for burning him was witchcraft. Six of his followers are killed along with him.

384-99 Siricius, during whose pontificate the last attempt to revive paganism in Rome is made (392-94) by Nichomachus Flavianus.

386 Augustine is converted in a garden in Milan after hearing a child saying "Take up and read!" He took up Romans 13: 13-14. He is baptized by Ambrose next year.

388 On command of the bishop of Kallinikon, the synagogue near the river Euphrat is burned down.

390 Apollinaris of Laodicea claims Jesus had a human body but divine spirit

391 Augustine is ordained a priest in Hippo, North Africa. He becomes bishop of Hippo in 395.

About this time Ammianus Marcellinus, born 330, a Christian historian, writes *Res gestae*.

393 The Council of Hippo recognizes the canon. To be recognized as canonical, a book had to be Apostolic, fit in with the other scriptures, and have been of fruitful use throughout the church up to this time.

394 Council of Carthage - first council to uphold doctrines of prayers for the dead and purgatory.

395 The Roman Empire is divided again between East and West, setting the stage for the eventual division of the Christian Church. Latin Christianity is based in Rome under the leadership of the popes, while Eastern Orthodoxy develops in Constantinople under the leadership of patriarchs.

Theodosius prohibits the practice of Pagan rituals including the Olympic Games

395 – 408 Christian fanaticism is resisted by the Byzantine Emperor Arcadius. He does not allow the destruction of synagogues. St. Epiphonius characterizes Jews as dishonest and indolent.

397 The council of Carthage agrees with the council of Hippo.

397 – 401 Augustine writes his Confessions.

398 John Chrysostom becomes bishop of Constantinople.

399-401 Anastasius I condemns the writings of Origen shortly after they're translated into Latin.

5th Century: By this time the Syriac version of the Old Testament (Eastern Aramaic version) has been taken over by the Christian Church and revised into the Peshitta version, used by Jacobites and Nestorians. Chronicles is missing.

By this time appears the Codex Ephraemi Rescriptus (C), translated from the Greek but with many gaps; and Codex Alexandrinus (A) containing the whole Greek Bible except 40 leaves.

400 Death of Nestorius, the heretic who said that Mary was the bearer of Christ (christokos), but not the bearer of God (theotokos). He could not call a three month old Jesus God. So he said that Jesus Christ was two persons, whose only union was a moral one.

St Ninian (C360-C432) begins the Church of Scotland.

About this time St. Augustine [354 - 430 CE] speaks of the granting of freedom to slaves as a great religious virtue, and declares the Christian law against regarding God's rational creation as property.

401 Innocent I becomes Pope (until 417) asserts the pope is custodian of the apostolic traditions and claims universal jurisdiction over the Roman Church. He decrees the Roman custom as the norm for Christianity. He invokes the Petrine Theory (Peter transmitted "the power of the keys of the kingdom of heaven" to his successors) and extends his rights over Rome; to resolve disputes in other dioceses, to define doctrine and exercise administration and discipline throughout the church: The Roman see is the ultimate resort for the settlement of all disputes.

405 About this time St. Jerome completes the Vulgate - a Latin translation of both the Old and New Testaments. This remains the Latin Bible of the Roman Catholic Church.

408 – 450 Theodosius II forbids Jews to build new synagogues. He has children executed for playing with the remains of pagan statues. He is praised for meticulously following "all Christian teachings".

410 Led by Alaric, the Goths sack Rome. Imperial authority is reduced to a shadow and papal power begins to grow as people find in him their only protection and succor against the barbarians.

411 – 430 Augustine's Anti-Pelagian writings. Pelagius rejected the idea that we all fell in Adam (Federal Headship), original sin, and the sin nature. We could earn our salvation by works, so grace is not necessary. Augustine insisted that we all sinned in Adam, and spiritual death, guilt, and our diseased nature is the result. God's grace is necessary not only to be able to choose to obey God's commands, but to be able to choose to turn to God initially for salvation.

413 – 426 Augustine writes *The City of God*. Some people blamed the fall of Rome on the Christians, saying it happened because Rome abandoned paganism. This is Augustine's response, along with many diversions.

415 Bishop Cyril of Alexandria incites a mob against the Jews and has them expelled. Bishop Severus burns a synagogue and incites people to attack and harass Jews in the streets. Many Jews convert to Christianity out of fear. The Bishop also kills world famous female philosopher Hypatia of Alexandria: she is dragged into a church, stripped naked, torn to pieces with glass fragments, torn limb from limb and thrown out into the street.. St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo: "The true image of the Hebrew is Judas Iscariot, who sells the Lord for silver. The Jew can never understand the Scriptures and forever will bear the guilt for the death of Jesus."

418 British monk Pelagius is excommunicated by the Council of Carthage. Pelagius denies original sin and the need for baptism, asserting that if God asked men to do good, then they must be capable of doing good on their own. He is condemned by Augustine.

Bishop Severus of Majorca forces Jews to convert. Violent street fighting breaks out by a mob incited by the bishop. The synagogue is burnt. Finally the leaders of the Jewish community give in and 540 Jews are converted. St. Jerome, who had studied with Jewish scholars in Palestine and translated the Bible into Latin (the Vulgate), wrote about the synagogue: "If you call it a brothel, a den of vice, the Devil's refuge, Satan's fortress, a place to deprave the soul, an abyss of every conceivable disaster or whatever you will, you are still saying less than it deserves."

418-422 Boniface I is elected pope (Dec, 418) along with Eulalius (anti-pope). The emperor bans both popes from Rome to leave the decision to a council. Eulalius breaks the ban and Flavius Honorius recognizes Boniface, ousting Eulalius (419) who is banished to Campania. The emperor's act is the first interference of the temporal authority in papal elections.

422 – 432 Celestine I pope. His policies are the same as Innocent I (401). He calls a council in Rome to instruct Cyril of Alexandria to indict Nestorius (who claims Mary is not “Mother of God” but “Mother of Christ”), if he doesn’t recant, to depose him. He sends Palladius to preach the gospel in Ireland.

431 Ecumenical Council of Ephesus, under Cyril’s influence, denounces the teachings of Nestorius (d. 451), who argues that Christ had completely separate human and divine natures. It states that Jesus Christ is one person. It also decrees Mary the Mother of God. Nestorius is deposed and receives the pope’s approbation for doing so without his direction (see above ?).

Syrian Christianity splits into East (Nestorian-disagreed with Council of Ephesus) and West (Jacobites)

432 St Patrick begins mission in Ireland

433 Attila became ruler of the Huns (until 453).

440 About this time Theodoret (393-C457) views the Adamiani as offshoots of the Caprocratian Gnostics who profess a sensual mysticism and a complete emancipation from the moral law. Others consider them to be misguided ascetics, who strive to extirpate carnal desires by a return to simpler manners, and by the abolition of marriage.

440 – 461 Pope Leo I (the Great). An outstanding pope. He is influential in Chalcedon. He also argues for papal supremacy and shows political leadership in his negotiations with Attila the Hun. He assumes defensive, financial, civil and political responsibilities for the city of Rome; he claims *plenitudo potestatis* (fullness of power or jurisdiction) over the entire church. The title Pontifex Maximus, held by Roman emperors since Julius Caesar, is transferred to Leo I.

445 Leo I procures an edict from Valentinian III declaring that papal decisions have the force of law.

448 Leo writes an epistle to Flavian, *The Tome of Leo*, to encourage him. It encapsulates the Christology of the church, drawing from Augustine and Tertullian

449 Leo I calls a council at Ephesus to expound the orthodox doctrine of the two natures united in the one person of Christ. But the council opposes this position, becoming known as the Latrocinium (Robber's) Council. Dioscorus, Patriarch of Alexandria, presides. This Council declares Eutychianism, which holds Christ had only one nature, to be orthodox. According to this heresy, His humanity was not like ours. This would make redemption impossible. The council deposes Flavian, the orthodox Patriarch of Constantinople. Leo denounces the council and asks the emperor to call a new council (Chalcedon, 451) that vindicates his doctrine.

Theodosius II calls a council at Ephesus to settle the Nestorian, or Monophysite problem (Christ is God incarnate, had not two natures but only one single nature). Eutyches of Constantinople is against, Flavian also of Constantinople opposes and had taken action against him. Pope Leo sends representatives and writes the *Tome of Leo*, a statement of Catholic Christological doctrine. Dioscorus, patriarch of Alexandria and supporter of Monophysitism prevails, deposing Flavian and his supporting bishops: The council becomes known as the “Robber Synod”.

450 Mark's Resurrection of Jesus is added to the Bible (Mark 16, 9-20)

451 Attila invades Gaul but is repulsed by joint forces of Franks, Alemanni and Romans at the Battle of Chalons. Attila invades Italy the next year.

Leo calls the ecumenical Council of Chalcedon: Eutychianism is condemned, Dioscorus is deposed, *The Tome of Leo* is confirmed: It votes that Christ is simultaneously "truly man and truly God." Jesus Christ is "two natures, the Divine of the same substance as the Father (against Arianism), the human of the same substance as us (against Eutychianism), which are united unconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably (against Nestorianism)." A little known statement of the Council was Canon #15 (1): *No woman under 40 years of age is to be ordained a deacon, and then only after close scrutiny.* This is appears to have been the last time in church history that the ordination of women was mentioned as a routine practice in any form, and certainly establishes that women did hold, at one time, important church offices. The council also formalizes the primacy of the pope, exclaiming “What Leo believes we all believe; anathema to him who believes anything else. Peter has spoken by the mouth of Law,” even though it ranks the patriarch of Constantinople about equal to the pope. Leo refuses to approve this.

Nestorius of Constantinople states the Nestorian view: Mary was **not** "Mother of God"

452 Attila invades Italy. Imperial authority is further reduced to a shadow and papal power grows as people find in him their only protection and succor against the barbarians. Leo I (440-461) persuades Attila to halt his march on Rome at the Mincio.

454 Eutyches of Constantinople states the Monophysite view: Jesus was divine but not human.

455 Italy is invaded by Gaiseric who begins sacking Rome's surrounding areas. By now imperial authority has all but disappeared. Papal power is now the only source for people to find strength as their only protector and succor against the barbarians. Leo I intercedes with Gaiseric, preventing him from sacking the city.

461-68 Hilarius holds a council at Rome to stop bishops from appointing their own successors. He extends papal authority into France and Spain.

468-83 Simplicius is abandoned by the bishop of Constantinople in his support of the council of Chalcedon. The bishop switches to the emperor's side in support of the Henoticon (482).

475 About this time St Epiphanius of Pavia (439-496), as did St Augustine earlier, mention the Adamites by name, and describe their practices: They call their church Paradise, claiming that its members are re-established in Adam and Eve's state of original innocence. Accordingly, they practice "holy nudism", rejecting the form of marriage as foreign to Eden, saying it would never have existed but for sin, live in absolute lawlessness, holding that, whatever they do, their actions can be neither good nor bad and strip themselves naked while engaged in common worship.

476 Deposition of Romulus Augustulus and the Western Roman Empire falls to barbarian armies, leaving the church as the primary authority in the West. In the East, the Byzantine Empire based in Constantinople continues for another 977 years.

477 Latest date for the invention of the stirrup in China. Stirrups provide many advantages to the horseback rider: An easy way to mount a horse, lateral stability while mounted, and they make it much easier to strike to the left or right with a sword while mounted without falling.

478 The first Shinto religious shrines are built in Japan.

480 Birth of Boethius, a significant thinker who influences the Middle ages. In *The Consolation of Philosophy* he tries to find comfort in reason and philosophy. He doesn't quote scripture (dies 525).

Birth of Benedict of Nursia, who writes the normal Rule for Western monks to the present.

483 Death of Simplicius. Odovacar's representative announces to the assembly of Roman senators and clergy that his master should be consulted about the choice of the next pontiff who must pledge not to alienate any part of the church's patrimony of which the pope is to be regarded as administrator. Felix III elected (to 492).

484 – 519 Acacian schism, over "Henoticon" divides Eastern (Greek: Patriarch Acacius of Constantinople) and Western (Roman: Emperor Zeno) churches. Photinus, deacon of Thessalonica, of the Greek church, holds to the Acacian heresy, which denies the divine paternity of Christ. Photinus persuades emperor Anastasius I to accept the Acacian heresy. It is a reaction against the legislation of Chalcedon and the only solution is issuance of an "edict of unification" (the Henoticon) which omits all reference to the two natures of Christ. Felix III can not allow the patriarch of Constantinople, supported by the emperor, to arrogate to himself the right of superseding the council of Chalcedon. When Acacius refuses to explain why he did, the pope pronounces the sentence of deposition and excommunicates (484) him. An east-west schism begins (to 519).

489 Zeno destroys the Nestorian (451) school at Edessa, and erects the Church of St Simeon.

A Christian mob set fire to the synagogues in Antioch and throws the bodies of slain Jews into the fire.

491 The Armenian Church secedes from both East (Byzantium) and West (Rome) churches.

492-496 Pope Gelasius I develops the doctrine of papal primacy: "Vicar of Christ" is first used as another title. His doctrine of church-state relations is called the "theory of two swords" in which society is governed by two swords, one spiritual and the other temporal, *sacerdotium* and *imperium*. But the two swords are not equal. The first, the instrument of human salvation, is wielded solely by the church, and the second by civil government but *on behalf* of the church. Spiritual power is supreme, not coequal, with temporal power. He proclaims the independence of the papacy from the Catholic emperor and church councils in matters of faith. He confirms the estrangement between the eastern and western churches by insisting on the removal of the name of Acacius, bishop of Constantinople from the diptychs.

494 St. Valentine's Day is set as February 14th by Pope Gelasius I.

498 Death of Anastasius II. Two parties confront each other; one led by Laurentius (anti-pope, dies C 508) who favors conciliation between emperor and pope, and the other party under deacon Symmachus sees this as weakness. Theodoric upholds Symmachus as rightful pope but he insists Theodoric doesn't have this right.

Nestorians (451) settle in Nisibis, Persia.

498-514 Symmachus is elected in the Lateran while Laurentius, supported by the Byzantines, is elected at Sta Maria Maggiore. Theodoric decides in favor of Symmachus but peace isn't restored until Theodoric orders the Laurentians to surrender their churches (505/6). The "Palmarium synod" (502) promulgates the doctrine "that no one can pass judgment on the pope."

6th century: Christian-Palestinian versions of the Old Testament are made from the Greek of a Melkite version. Codex Bezae (D) of the New Testament. Cairo Genizah (fragments) of the Old Testament (into the 7th century).

During this century, pagans are declared void of all rights.

500 Incense is introduced in Christian church service. The first plans for the Vatican are drawn up.

About this time the Talmud, a compilation of Jewish oral laws and traditions, is put in its final form in Babylonia. It consists of two parts: an oral law (Mishnah) in Hebrew and commentaries on the oral law (Gemara) in Aramaic.

About this time the Sopherim are succeeded by the MASORETES (to the 15th century) who labor to supply the text with the missing attributes (see 100 CE), in addition adding a great body of annotation in order to make it intelligible to the reader. They standardize verse division, and break up the text into pericopes of convenient size for liturgical cycles of public reading of the Scriptures.

503 Britons, possibly under war leader Arthur, defeat the Saxons at Mount Badon.

506 A Christian mob attacks and destroyed the synagogue at Daphne near Antioch. The congregation is slaughtered.

511 The Merovingian Dynasty is founded under Clovis.

518 Justin I becomes emperor. He supports the canons of Chalcedon as does Constantinople. Hermisdas (514-23) manages to bring an understanding to reunite the eastern and western churches (split since 484). He draws up a formula; "we desire in all things to adhere to the communion of the Apostolic See...." Nestorius, Eutyches and Acacius are condemned and the Tome of Leo is reaffirmed, thus ends the Acacian schism. This rapprochement between Rome and Constantinople ends friendly relations between the pope and Ostrogothic king.

519 The Christian population of Ravenna attacks Jews and burns the synagogue.

520 Indian scholar Bodhidharma arrives in China. The Zen school of Buddhism eventually grows out of his teachings.

523 Death of Hormisdas. Theodoric forces John I (523-26) to go to Constantinople to persuade the emperor to withdraw his edict depriving Arians the use of their churches. It is done, but he doesn't ask Theodoric's other request, that new Arian converts be sent into heresy. He is thrown into prison.

525 Dionysius Exiguus sets the Christian calendar (A.D.) and Jesus' birth at 23 December 1 AD.

526-30 Felix IV raised by the Theodoric. To avoid a disputed succession, he nominates his successor Boniface. Felix condemns Pelagianism.

527 Justinian's reign begins and, with that, also the rise of by Byzantine empire. He is developing Justinian's Code, a codification of Roman Law that will influence many future civilizations: Roman Law is systematized and codified as *Corpus Iuris Civilis* also known as the Justinian Code. Church Law and doctrine becomes state policy. Jews are not permitted to testify against Christians. They can not celebrate Passover before Easter and are allowed only a prescribed version of Scripture in their synagogues and are prohibited to use prayers that are seen as anti-trinitarian.

529 Plato's Academy is dissolved by Justinian: The 1000 year old Athen's School of Philosophy is declared Paganistic
About this time Italian monk Benedict establishes a monastery on Monte Cassino, in Italy. His Benedictine order eventually establishes the Western monastic tradition which spreads rapidly throughout Europe.

The Council of Orange approves the Augustinian doctrine of sin and grace, but without absolute predestination.

530 (Sept) Election of Boniface II (to Oct, 532) who is opposed by a rival pope Dioscorus during the autumn. The Monophysite crisis continues: Some Constantinople monks, the Acoemetae, refuse to accept the term *theotokos* (Mother of God). Boniface tries to nominate his own successor, but the clergy and senate of Rome force him to cancel this.

532 The Church of Hagia Sofia (Divine Wisdom), the largest Christian church in the world, is built in Constantinople by emperor Justinian (483 - 565) as the focal point of Byzantine Christianity.

534 Justinian invites John II (533-35) to Constantinople to condemn the Acoemetae. John goes but this doesn't win the Monophysites over, something Justinian desires as Theodora has their interests at heart.

535 The church Synod of Claremont decrees that Jews can not hold public office or have authority over Christians.

535-536 Agapetus I pope. He maintains good relations between the papacy and empire. Then Ostrogoth king Bheodat asks him to dissuade Justinian from the reconquest of Italy. He refuses to support patriarch Anthemius who joined Severus, a strongly monophysite patriarch of Antioch. He convinces the emperor of the heterodoxy on the patriarch and Anthemius withdraws and is immediately replaced. Agapetus publicly burns the anathema of Boniface II against Dioscurus.

535 – 554 Belisarius and Narses conquer Italy and bring the pope(s) once more under the sway of Constantinople.

536 A council at Constantinople declares both Anthemius and Severus deposed. Agapetus has died and Silverius refuses to reinstate Anthemius and is accused of having collaborated with the Goths against Belisarius (537). He is disposed.

536-37 Silverius, son of pope Hormisdas, is pressed on the Roman clergy by Theodahad. (9 Dec) He, with others, admits Belisarius into Rome. He is deposed by Belisarius, charged with treasonable correspondence with the Goths.

537-555 Vigilius is raised by empress Theodora who induces him to promise to disallow the council of Chalcedon, specifically the "Three Chapters" controversy: Justinian, to satisfy the Monophysites, demands the condemnation of (1) writings and person of Theodore of Mopsuestia, (2) his writings against Cyril of Alexandria and (3) *Letter to Maris* of Ibas, bishop of Edessa – all suspected of Nestorianism (the "Three Chapters" controversy). Pope Vigilius is also involved in the death of Pope Silverius and had conspired with Justinian and Theodora. He is excommunicated by north African bishops in 550.

538 Jews are (again) forbidden to have Christian servants or slaves, which effectively excludes them from agriculture. The Third and Fourth Councils of Orleans forbids Jews to appear in public during the Passion and Easter periods.

543 Justinian condemns Origen (254).

544 Justinian condemns the "Three Chapters" of Theodore of Mopsuestia (d.428) and other writings of "Two-natures" Christology of the Council of Chalcedon (451)

547 Pope Vigilius, failing to settle the Three Chapters dispute, is summoned to Constantinople where he issues *Iudicatum* supporting Justinian's anti-"Two-natures". It condemns the "Three Chapters" but avoids disparagement of the Council of Chalcedon.

550 Saint David brings Christianity to Wales. The crucifix becomes a Christian icon.

552 Buddhism is introduced into Japan.

553 Second Council of Constantinople, convened by Byzantine Emperor Justinian I to settle the dispute known as the Three Chapters. The West, in general, is slow to recognize it as an ecumenical council, though ultimately it is accepted, mainly because of the orthodoxy of its pronouncements. In an attempt to reconcile moderate Monophysite parties to orthodoxy, Justinian had issued (544) a declaration of faith. The last three chapters anathematized the writings of Theodore of Mopsuestia, Theodoret of Cyrus, and Ibas of Edessa for Nestorianism. While the charge was true of their writings to a certain extent, the Council of Chalcedon had cleared those men of any personal heresy. Justinian's edict slighted the council and encouraged Monophysitism; it was deeply resented in the West. Pope Vigilius, resists at first, but eventually is forced to support the edict. Under pressure from the Western bishops he then reverses himself. In retaliation, Justinian calls the council at Constantinople; it is attended by only six Western bishops, boycotted by Vigilius, and dominated by Justinian and the Eastern bishops. The council approves the imperial edict and seems to censure Vigilius. The pope is forced to ratify the council's work the following year. The West, in general, is slow in recognizing it as an ecumenical council, but ultimately it is accepted - mainly because of the orthodoxy of its pronouncements.

Justinian outlaws the Talmud as "a tissue of puerilities, fables, iniquities, insults, imprecations, heresies and blasphemies." It is not enforced and Jewish communities maintain their study of it.

554 Bishop Avitus of Aversa tries to convert the Jews with no result. Then he incites a mob which destroys the synagogues. The Jews had to choose between baptism and expulsion. One Jew converted. During the procession after his baptism a Jew sprinkled him with rancid oil. That enraged the mob and many Jews are killed. 500 Jews allowed themselves to be baptized. The rest flee to Marseilles.

555-61 Pelagius I, selected by Justinian, is elected only because of being protected by Narses, Byzantine military governor of Italy. The bishops of northern Italy refuse to communicate with him. He (556) endorses the "Iudicatum" of 547.

560 Birth of Isidore of Seville, whose *Book of Sentences* becomes the key book of theology until the twelfth century.

561 Pope John III, authorized by Justinian

The Bishop of Uzès in France forces the Jews in his diocese to decide between baptism and expulsion.

563 Irish monk Saint Columba (521-597) founds a monastery on the island of Iona and begins the conversion of the Picts to Christianity, introducing medieval church life into Scotland. This island monastery becomes an important place where knowledge and learning are preserved.

570 Muhammad born in Mecca.

575 Pope Benedict I, authorized by Justin II.

582 John of Ephesus turns seven Jewish synagogues into churches.

Under king Chilperic of Merovingia all Jews in his kingdom must choose between conversion or having their eyes torn out.

587 Visigoths of Spain are converted to Christianity.

589 Lombards of Italy are converted to Christianity.

The king of Visigoth Spain, Reccared, orders children born of mixed marriages to be forcibly baptized.

Irish monk Columbanus of Bangor (543 - 615) travels to the continent with 12 companions where they preach and built churches. They also establish several monasteries in Switzerland, Burgundy, and northern Italy.

590 – 604 Pope Gregory the Great. He is a very effective and popular pope during a time when the government is weak. He feeds the peasants and protects farms and villages from the Lombard invasion. His development of the doctrine of purgatory is instrumental in establishing the medieval Roman Catholic sacramental system. He begins liturgical reforms and changes in church administration, enhancing both the power and prestige of the papacy. He commands that a way be found to collect and preserve the singing of the Benedictine monks of Santo Domingo de Silos (now known as Gregorian Chant). He maintains the pope is by divine designation head of all churches. Denies title of universal bishop to the patriarch of Constantinople. Assumes the powers of a temporal prince. He reorganizes the Church's vast estates in Italy, Sicily and Gaul which enables the papacy to realize great political and social power.

593 Gregory I assumes command of the army and buys off Agilulf, saving Rome, and (598) concludes a treaty of peace with him.

595 Pope Gregory dispatches a priest to Britain to purchase Pagan boys to work as slaves on church estates.

596 Pope Gregory sends Augustine of Canterbury (d. 605) to England on a missionary journey to spread Christianity in Britain. He begins to impose the Roman liturgy on the old British Christians.

597 St. Augustine of Canterbury converts the kingdom of Kent to Christianity, baptizing King Ethelbert (also known as King Aethelbryht or Aethelberht). This leads to the development of Celtic Christianity.

600 About this time Pope Gregory I writes, in *Pastoral Rule*: "*Slaves should be told...not [to] despise their masters and recognize that they are only slaves.*"

601 First cathedral is built in England.

602 Earliest Anglo-Saxon code of law: Laws of Aethelberht.

Through Gregory's influence and his baptism of a Lombard King's child, the Lombards begin converting from Arianism to Orthodoxy.

604 Pope Sabinian, authorized by emperor Phocas

606 Pope Boniface III (19 Feb – 12 Nov) is authorized by emperor Phocas as "headship of the church at Rome", meaning the emperor has forced the patriarch of Constantinople to abandon his claim to title of ecumenical patriarch.

607 Pope Boniface IV, authorized by emperor Phocas

609 All Saints' Day (a.k.a. *All Hallows' Day*) is first celebrated on May 13th when Pope Boniface IV dedicates the Pantheon in Rome to the Virgin Mary.

610 Pretzels are invented by an Italian monk who uses them as rewards to children who learn their prayers.

About this time Isidore of Seville writes: "*I can hardly credit that a friend of Christ, who has experienced that grace, which bestowed freedom on all, would still own slaves.*" In his "*Regula monachorum*" which describes the monastic life, he writes that "*God has made no difference between the soul of the slave and that of the freedman.*"

611 Mohammed has his first revelation or vision of Allah in a cave on Mount Hira; it changes his life.

612 – 621 The Spanish king Sisebut severely restricts the rights of Jews in his kingdom. They are not allowed to own or work the land or operate certain trades. Later he issues an ultimatum to all Jews: convert or be exiled.

613 Muhammad issues a declaration at Mount Safa inviting the general public to Islam.

614 Persians take Damascus and Jerusalem and the "Holy Cross of Christ". The basilica over what is thought to be the Holy Sepulcher is burned but not razed.

615 Muhammad invites the Hashimites to adopt Islam.

Persecution of Muslims by the Quraish in Mecca intensifies and a group of Muslims leave for Abyssinia (modern Ethiopia).

616 A second migration of Muslims to Abyssinia.

616 – 617 Paul of Tella makes a literal translation from the Greek into Syriac of Origen's *Hexapla*.

617 Boycott of the Hashemites and Muhammad by the Quraish (lifted 619).

619 Pope Boniface V, authorized by Heraclius

620 Vikings began invading Ireland.

Muhammad visits Taif. The "Ascension to the heavens".

About this time abbot Modestus begins restoration (actually a "tidying up") of the burned basilica over the Sepulchre.

621 Abu Jahl becomes the leader of a mounting opposition to Muslims in Mecca and organizes a boycott of merchants in Mohammad's clan, the Hashim.

622 About 75 converts from Medina take the two Pledges of al-Aqaba, professing to Islam and to protect Muhammad from all danger. Muhammad and his small band of followers flee to the town of Yathrib in the north. The leaders of that town invited him to come and lead them and are willing to adopt Islam. The Hijrah of 622, Mohammed's flight to save his life, becomes called the "migration", and marks the beginning of the Muslim era and the Islamic (Lunar) calendar. It is the beginning of Islam: First year in Muslim calendar, The Hegira, 1a.h., (a.h. = anno hegirae)

622 – 680 Monothelite controversy: Condemned at the Sixth Ecumenical Council of Constantinople

624 Buddhism becomes the established religion of Japan.

Mohammed marries Aisha, daughter of Abu Bekr. Muhammad breaks with his Jewish supporters because they refuse to recognize him as a prophet and adopt Islam. He chooses now to emphasize the Arabness of the new religion and has his followers face Mecca when praying instead of Jerusalem. In the end, all the Jews are either banished or executed.

(15 March) At the Battle of Badr, Muhammad and his followers defeat an army from Mecca (of the Koreish tribe, Mohammed's own) defending a caravan. The caravan is captured and Muhammad's chief rival in Mecca, Abu Jahl, is executed. Expulsion of the Bani Qainuqa Jews from Medina.

625 Muhammad begins dictating the Koran (Qur'an) to his scribe (he dies 632).

Paulinus of Rome comes to convert Northumbria to Christianity.

Battle of Uhud: A thousand Moslems are defeated by the Koreish tribe. Mohammed is wounded and retires to Medina. Expulsion of Banu Nadir Jews from Medina.

625 – 638 Pope Honorius I shows great interest in the church in Spain and the British Isles and does much to reform the education of the clergy.

626 King Edwin of Northumbria founds Edinburgh and begins Christianization of the country.

627 Meccan leader Abu Sufyan (c. 567 - c. 655) lays siege to Muhammad's forces in Medina during the battle of the Trench. Even with 10,000 men he is unsuccessful for the 15 days he is there. Muhammad suspects the Banu Quraiza Jews of helping the Meccans and has all the men enslaved or killed.

A confederation is created between Muhammad's followers in Mecca and the eight Arab clans in Medina with the Constitution of Medina.

628 Emperor Heraclius wins back the "Cross of Christ" from the Persians

Mohammed captures Mecca: He leads about 1,600 men on a pilgrimage to Mecca where their passage is blocked by the citizens of Mecca. Fortunately, they agree to negotiate with Muhammad and then later agree to the Pact of Hudaibiya, ending hostilities and allowing for Muslim pilgrimages. Mohammed writes to rulers of the world explaining Islam.

628 – 629 Emperor Heraclius orders the forced conversion of all Jews in his empire and renews the Hadrian and Constantine codes that bars Jews from Jerusalem. Dagobert, the Merovingian king, follows the example of Heraclius and forces the Jews in his kingdom under the threat of death to convert to Christianity.

629 Heraclius recovers Jerusalem from the Persians

Pope Honorius I sides with Emperor Heraclius and the Monothelites (622)

After a group of Muslims is attacked, Muhammad dissolves the Pact of Hudaibiya and prepares to attack Mecca.

630 An army of 30,000 Muslims march on Mecca which surrenders with little resistance. Muhammad takes control of the city and makes it the spiritual center of Islam. The Ka'ba is cleansed, pilgrimage rites are Islamicized and the tribes of Arabia vow allegiance to Muhammad.

632 East Anglia is Christianized.

Death of Muhammad. His father-in-law, Abu-Bakr, and Umar ibn al-Khattab devise a system to allow Islam to sustain religious and political stability. (see Appendix VII) Accepting the name of caliph ("deputy of the Prophet"), Abu-Bakr begins a military exhibition to enforce the caliph's authority over Arabian followers of Muhammad: Wars of *ridda* (apostasy) to restore the Bedouins to allegiance to Islam (632-3). Abu-Bakr then moves northward, defeating Byzantine and Persian forces.

633 The Third Council of Toledo decides against forcible conversions. However, Jews who had in the past been forcibly converted are not allowed to return to Judaism and must separate from the Jewish communities. Jewish children are taken from their parents and raised in monasteries. Neither Jews nor converts to Christianity are allowed to hold public office. The Council is chaired by Isidore, Bishop of Hispalis (Seville).

Moslem *futuhat* (conquests) begin; campaigns into Bahrain, Oman, Yemen, and Hadramaut. Raids into Mesopotamia. At the Battle of Hira they defeat a Persian force.

634 Arab leader Khalid ibn al-Walid sends an ultimatum to Parthian ruler Yazdigird III to embrace Islam or be faced with war. At the Battle of the Bridge, the Persians defeat the Moslems and regain Hira.

Death of Abu-Bakr. Umar ibn al-Khattab succeeds him as the second caliph and launches new campaigns against the neighboring empires. At the Battle of Ajnadain (30 July) a Byzantine force is defeated and the Moslems head for Damascus.

635 Christianization of Wessex. St Aidan begins converting Northumbria to Christianity.

Muslims begin their conquest of Palestine and Mesopotamia.

(23 Jan) Moslems defeat the Byzantines at the Battle of Pella and continue toward Damascus.

By this time Nestorian Christianity has reached the heart of China, but it lasts there only for about two hundred years.

636 The southern Irish Church submits to Roman Catholicism.

Battle of Yarmuk; Muslim armies win a crushing victory over the Byzantines, thus paving the way for their conquest of Egypt and Syria.

637 Jerusalem is captured by Islam. Syria is conquered.

Battle of Qadisiya, Arabs under Sa'd ibn-abi-Waqqas defeat the Persians, and Zoroastrianism is smothered under Islamic rule.

638 Emperor Heraclius' *Ecthesis*, decrees Christ is of one nature: "Monothelites"

The Fourth Council of Toledo decrees that Jewish children baptized as Christians are not to be returned to their blood parents. Converts must be strictly supervised by church authorities. Jews must swear that they had given up

Jewish law and practice. Penalties range from flogging, loss of limb, confiscation of property to burning at the stake.
The Bishops of Seville and Toledo, Isidore and Julian write polemical papers against the Jews.
Jerusalem surrenders to Caliph Umar and large imperial gifts to church maintenance cease.
Moslems conquer Jazirah.

638-40 Severinus isn't ratified until May 640 as Heraclius hesitated until he accepted the *Ecthesis*. Meanwhile, the exarch of Ravenna, supported by Roman troops, occupies the Lateran and seizes the church's treasure.

638 – 642 Non-Catholics are expelled from Visigoth Spain.

639 Moslems conquer Khuzistan and advance into Egypt.

640 Library of Alexandria, "The Center of Western Culture," with 300,000 ancient papyrus scrolls, is completely destroyed by fire.

641 Moslems conquer Alexandria.

642 Moslems complete their conquest of Egypt. Since 633 they have conquered Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Mesopotamia, the North African coast and parts of the Persian and Byzantine Empires.

642-49 Theodore, an opponent of monothelitism, excommunicates Pyrrhus and Paul, patriarchs of Constantinople, for refusing to abandon the *Ecthesis* of Heraclius.

643 Moslems conquer Azarbaijan and Tabaristan (Mazandaran).

644 Moslems conquer Fars, Kerman, Sistan, Mekran and Kharan. Death of Umar ibn al-Khattab. Uthman ibn Affan becomes the Caliph.

646 Moslems campaign in Khurasan, Armenia and Asia Minor.

647 Moslems campaign in north Africa and conquer Cyprus.

648 Moslem campaigns against the Byzantines.

649-55 Martin I summons a synod to deal with the Monophysite heresy. It, its authors and their writings are condemned. This includes patriarch Sergius, supported by Heraclius, and Pau, supported by Constans II. Constans has Martin arrested (June 653), taken from Rome to Constantinople where he is publicly degraded and banished to Cherson.

650 About this time caliph Uthman has the Qur'an written down.

650 – 754 The theology of Orthodox Christianity is developed, particularly under the influence of John of Damascus, who wrote *Fount of Wisdom*.

652 There is rising disaffection against the rule of Caliph Uthman.

653 The Eighth Council of Toledo agrees with king Recceswith of Spain who appears before the Council, calls Judaism a pollution of his country and asks for the removal of all unbelievers. Jews must sign an oath (placitum) that makes the practice of Judaism almost impossible. Violations are punished by burning or stoning.

655 The Ninth Council of Toledo orders converted Jews to spend all Jewish and Christian holy days in the presence of a bishop. In an attempt to persuade priests to remain celibate, the Council rules that all children of clerics are to be automatically enslaved. This ruling is later incorporated into the canon law of the church.

656 Uthman is killed. Ali ibn Abi Talib becomes the fourth Caliph. He is also the First Imam of the Shiite sect.

656 – 657 First Civil War; a struggle over the succession of the caliph that brings the emergence of several Moslem factions.

657 Caliph Ali shifts the capital from Medina to Kufa. After the Battle of Siffin, Ali and Mu'awiya divide Islam. 'Ali is compelled to submit his claim to caliph to arbitration. A number of his supporters (the Khawarij) break away, declaring arbitration inadmissible as the Koran states a clear mandate. Thus Islam is divided into three main groups: (1) The Sunnites holding the caliphate is an elective office and must be occupied by a member of the Meccan tribe of Quraysh. (2) The Shiites who regard Ali and his descendants as the only rightful caliphs; the caliphate is a God-given office and not to be given away by human appointment. This is considered an article of faith, an ordinance of God, and to not accept it is to be an unbeliever. (3) The Khawarij who assert the office of caliph is open to any believer whom the faithful may consider fit for it, even a black slave. Mu'awiya, governor of Syria, claims the caliphate.

657-72 Vitalian, in the Monothelite controversy, refrains from the express condemnation of Constans II's *Typus*. He sends Theodore of Tarsus to England.

659 Conquest of Egypt by Muawiyah I.

660 Ali recaptures Hijaz and Yemen from Muawiyah. Muawiyah I declares himself as the Caliph at Damascus.

661 Ali is assassinated by Kharijites. Accession of Hasan bin Ali. His Iraqi army abandons him, forcing him to abdicate. Muawiyah is sole Caliph, beginning the Umayyad Dynasty. Several factions have emerged: 1) the Shi'a party (Shi'ites), maintaining that only Ali's male descendants have the right to head the Islamic community as both religious and political leaders. The majority of those not accepting the Shi'ite position become known as 2) Sunni Moslems: "People of the [prophet's] example and community"; they define political authority as whatever form of authority functions effectively to protect the faith of Islam and the Muslim community. 3) The Karijite (goers-out, senders) sect, who broke away from Ali because he was willing to submit his right to the caliphate when disputed by his rival Mu'awiyah, to arbitration. It only remains today in Algeria, Zanzibar and Oman. 4) The Qadarites (from Qadar, power) who maintain that man has power over his own actions, opposing the Orthodox (Sunni) view of predestination, a corollary of God's almightiness as emphasized in the Koran. Their interest in free will and self-determination indicates having contacted the Greek Christians throughout Syria. From them descends the Mu'tazilites (separatists) (see 750).

Though he was forced to abdicate, the Shiites consider Hasan bin Ali the legitimate caliph, but he remains "hidden".

662 A Kharijite revolt is put down.

663 Vitalian receives Constans in Rome before which the emperor requires him to strip all the bronze ornaments of the city – even the tiles of the Pantheon – and carries them off.

664 The Synod of Whitby reconciles the old British liturgy and the Roman liturgy: Oswy abandons the Celtic Christian Church and accepts the faith of the Latin Church of Rome. The Celtic Christian Church begins its decline and eventually merges with the Roman Church.

666 Moslems raid Sicily.

669 Hasan ibn Ali, the second Imam of shiite is poisoned and killed. Husayn ibn Ali becomes third Imam.

670 Moslem advance in North Africa. Uqba bin Nafe founds the town of Kairouan in Tunisia. To the east, Kabul is captured.

672 Moslems seize Rhodes. To the east they campaign in Khurasan.

674 Arab conquests reach the Indus River.

Churches in England are fitted with glass windows for the first time.

677 Moslems besiege Constantinople.

680 Death of Muawiyah. Yazid I becomes Caliph.

Battle of Karbala and Husayn bin Ali is killed. Ali ibn Husayn becomes Fourth Imam. The death of Husayn bin Ali marks beginning of the Shi'at Ali ("party of Ali") or Shi'a sect.

680 – 681 Third Council of Constantinople. It is convoked by Byzantine Emperor Constantine IV to deal with Monotheletism. The council is attended by more than 150 bishops from all over the world and presided over by papal legates.

681 King Erwig of Spain forbids practicing Jews to enter seaports. All Jews are ordered to be baptized. Converts must listen to Christian sermons and are not allowed to follow dietary laws.

The Twelfth Council of Toledo confirms the orders of the king and decrees to burn the Talmud and other Jewish literature.

681-83 Leo II condemns the Monothelite heresy and pope Honorius I when he states "by unholy betrayal tried to overthrow the immaculate faith." During his reign, the dependence of the see of Ravenna upon that of Rome occurs by imperial edict.

682 Moslem leader in the north African campaign Uqba bin Nafe who has reached the Atlantic, is ambushed and killed at Biskra. The Muslims evacuate Kairouan (founded 670) and withdraw to Burqa.

683 Death of Yazid. Muawiya II becomes Caliph.

684 Abd Allah ibn Zubayr declares himself as the Caliph at Mecca. Marwan I becomes the Caliph at Damascus.

685 Death of Marwan I. Abd al-Malik becomes the Caliph at Damascus. During his reign (to 705) the administration is centralized. Arabic becomes the official written language (instead of Greek and Persian) and Arab coinage is established.

686 Al-Mukhtar declares himself as the Caliph at Kufa.

687 Pepin of Heristal, a Merovingian ruler, unites the Frankish territories and builds the center of his kingdom in Belgium. He is succeeded by his son, Charles Martel, who creates an alliance with the Christian Church, allowing the Merovingian Dynasty (and Christianity) to expand into Germany. Pepin the Short succeeded his father, Charles Martel, and strengthens the convergence of Benedictine missionaries and Frankish expansion.

Battle of Kufa between the forces of Mukhtar and Abd Allah ibn Zubayr. Mukhtar killed.

687-701 Sergius I is ordered arrested by Justinian II for rejecting certain canons of the Trullan council (692) but Ravenna and the Pentapolis prevent him from being taken to Constantinople.

690 About this time begins earliest Bible translations into England's vernacular, continuing work by Bede and others from this point forward

692 The Trulanic Synod (Quinisext) of the Eastern empire prohibits Christians attendance at Jewish feasts, friendly relations with Jews and patronage of Jewish physicians.

Council of Constantinople reasserts the equality of the patriarchates of Constantinople and Rome.

The fall of Mecca. Death of ibn Zubayr. Abdul Malik becomes the sole Caliph.

693 – 694 The Sixteenth and Seventeenth Councils of Toledo, chaired by king Egica and the successor of Bishop Julian, Felix, again severely restricts the rights of Jews and charges them with undermining the church, the massacre of Catholics, plotting with the Moors and destruction of the country. Jews are declared slaves, their property is confiscated and their children forcibly raised in Catholic families or monasteries.

695 Spain begins persecution of Jews.

700 The Psalms are translated into Anglo-Saxon and the Lindisfarne Gospels are produced.

Benedictine missionaries complete the conversion of England begun by Pope Gregory the Great.
Moslem campaigns against the Berbers in North Africa.
About this time emerges the Zaydite Moslem sect. See Appendix VII.

701-05 John VI prevents the exarch Theophylact, sent by Justinian II, from using any violence against the Romans. He induces Gisulf, duke of Benevento, to withdraw from the duchy of Rome.

704 – 705 Jacob of Edessa revises the Syriac Bible on the basis of Greek texts.

705 Death of Abd al-Malik. Accession of Al-Walid I as Umayyad Caliph.

708-15 Constantine I asserts the supremacy of the papal see.

711 Moslems cross the Strait of Gibraltar and begin the conquest of Spain. In the Battle on the Guadalete (Rio Barbate), Visigothic king Roderick is defeated. The Moslems take Cordoba and Toledo.
By this time Islam has spread from India to North Africa. All of North Africa is under Islamic control.

712 Moslems take Medina Sidonia, Seville, Merida, and Saragossa.

713 Ali ibn Husayn, the Fourth Imam of Shiite is poisoned. Muhammad al Baqir (Muhammad ibn Ali) becomes Fifth Imam.

715 Death of Walid I. Sulayman ibn Abd al-Malik becomes Umayyad Caliph.

715-31 Gregory II, adherent of the eastern Roman empire (ruling over Rome, Ravenna and other western areas) comes into conflict (726) with Leo III about excessive taxation and iconoclasm.

716 Moslems again besiege Constantinople.

718 Visigoth king Pelayo defeats the Muslim Army in Alcala in the neighborhood of Covadonga, beginning the Christian reconquest of Spain.

719 St. Boniface begins his mission to Germany.
Moslems reach the Pyrenees, driving Christians into the mountains north and west.

720 Muslims take Spain

722 Judaism is outlawed in the empire of Leo III and Jews are forcibly baptized. Some are burned to death in their synagogues.

725 Moslems occupy Nimes, France.
About this time earliest known mechanical clock is built in China.

726 Byzantine emperor Leo III (717 - 741) begins the "Iconoclastic Controversy" (to 787 q.v.) by banning the worship of religious images (icons). John of Damascus defends the use of icons in worship by differentiating between veneration and worship. He also argues that the use of images is an affirmation of Christ's humanity, because a real person can be depicted. The opposition responds that images of Christ are not valid depictions because they can only represent his humanity, but not his divinity. Leo's decree angers Italy's great landowners, especially Pope Gregory III who is the largest landowner. Leo's iconoclasm drives Roman and Italian populations to transfer their civil allegiances to the papacy.

728 Birth of Sufism, not a sect but a way of life. It is mysticism as practiced by Islam. It represents a reaction against the formalism developed in the first century of Islam, to seek direct and personal relationship with the deity. It grows into a syncretic system borrowing from Christian, Neo-Platonism and Buddhism.

731-41 Gregory III, at a council at Rome (731) excommunicates all iconoclasts. He appeals to the Franks for aid against Liutprand.

732 Muslim forces are defeated at Tours by Christian armies under the command of Charles Martel.

735 Venerable Bede, an Anglo-Saxon Benedictine scholar, writes the *History of the English Church and People* in Latin, generally regarded as the best historical writing of medieval history.

737 The Muslims are defeated at Avignon in France.

740 Shi'a revolt under Zaid bin Ali. Berber revolt in North Africa.
About this time earliest known printed newspaper appears in China.

741-52 Zacharias encourages (751) the deposition of Childeric III and authorizes Boniface to anoint Pippin king of the Franks at Soissons.

743 Shi'a revolt in Khurasan under Yahya bin Zaid.
Muhammad al Baqir is poisoned. Jafar as Sadiq (Jafar ibn Muhammad) becomes Sixth Imam.

744 Walid II is deposed. Yazid III becomes Umayyad Caliph but dies. Ibrahim becomes Umayyad Caliph but he is overthrown and Marwan II becomes Umayyad Caliph.

746 Kufa and Mosul occupied by Marwan II.

747 Revolt of Abu Muslim in Khurasan, defeating the Umayyads.

748 Emergence of the Mu'tzilite Moslem sect. See Appendix VII.

749 Capture of Kufa by the Abbasids. As-Saffah becomes the Abbasid Caliph at Kufa.

750 The first great English epic poem, *Beowulf*, is written in Old English. An anonymous and untitled work until 1805, it is a Christian poem that exemplifies early medieval society in England and exhibits roots that reached back to Old Testament Law.

Fall of Damascus. End of the Umayyad Caliphate.

About this time a tower is added to St Peter's Basilica at the front of the atrium.

After about this time rise the Rationalists, an enhancement of Mu'tzilite doctrine: The denial of the coexistence with God of such divine attributes as wisdom and power. The attributes of God are not entities beside God. The Koran is not the "uncreated word of God" but a product of Mohammed's composition under divine influence. Reason is supreme. The Sunnites consider the Rationalists to be heretics.

751 Frankish nobles offer their crown to Pepin the Short who consults pope Zachary who states, "Let him be king in name, who is in fact so." St. Boniface anoints Pepin the Short as a divinely sanctioned king, and thus the Frankish monarchy becomes fused with the papal order, setting a precedent of papal indirect authority over temporal sovereigns. With this, the Carolingian dynasty is established.

752-57 Stephen III (Stephen II held office only four days), to protect Rome from Aistulf, travels to France (753-54) seeking help from Pippin. At St. Denis he anoints Pippin and his sons.

754 Death of As-Saffah. Accession of Al-Mansur as the Caliph. Baghdad (Madinat al-Salam, "city of peace") becomes the new capital of the Abbasid empire.

755 Death of Ismail, chosen by his father Jafar (6th Imam) to succeed him as imam. But accused of having drunk wine, Jafar chose instead Musa al-Kazim.

Abd ar-Rahman founds an Umayyad Dynasty in Cordoba, Spain.

756 In gratitude, Pepin makes a donation to Stephen II (the Donation of Pepin) - the papal domains in Italy are created (the pentapolis and Ravenna) and established as territory under the sovereign control of popes. They are large territories he had wrested from the Lombards. In return he is given the title Patrician of Rome beginning the establishment of the Christian "empire" with the papacy at its head.

Abd-ar-rahman I founds the Umayyad state in Spain.

760 Death of Isma'il and emergence of the Seveners Shi'ah (Isma'ilites) who maintains Isma'il as the 7th imam; their last and greatest imam (see 9th century).

763 Defeat of the Abbasids in Spain. To the east, Baghdad is founded.

765 Jafar as Sadiq, sixth Imam of Shiite is poisoned. He formulated theology and Shariah of Shiite during his life, which called Mazhabe Jafari. Musa al Kazim (Musa ibn Jafar) becomes seventh Imam. The Ismailite (Shiite) sect maintains Ismail to have been the 7th imam; the greatest and last imam in the true lineage of Mohammed, believing he will come again. They become known as Seveners.

767-68 Constantine II, antipope, is faced with opposition by Christopher and son Sergius who persuade Desiderius to send an army to Rome (768), depose and blind the pope.

768-72 Stephen IV's supporter (*primicerius*) Christophorus is overthrown (770/1) and the Lombard party gains control in Rome.

768 – 814 Pepin's son, Carolus Magnus (Charlemagne), succeeds his father and becomes one of the most important rulers of medieval history.

772 The Rustamids, an Islamic sect, sets up a state in Morocco.

774 Charlemagne confirms the donation of Pepin, laying the foundation of the Papal States, but makes it plain that he is sovereign even in Papal lands; he and his successors take part in papal elections.

778 The army of Charlemagne suffers at the battle of Roncevalles at the hands of the Vascons; death of Roland.

782 Charlemagne has 4,500 Saxons, unwilling to convert to Christianity, beheaded.

786 Accession of Harun ar-Rashid (to 809), best known through the stories of *The Thousand and One Nights*.

787 The Second Nicean Council meets - this is the last of the seven church councils commonly accepted as authoritative by both Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches. The Council votes to allow the veneration but not the worship of icons, supporting the decision of John of Damascus. This decision is not well received in the West because John's words for veneration and worship were difficult to translate

Danes invaded England for the first time.

789 At Aix, the Church states charging any interest on a loan is absolutely forbidden as being contrary to divine law.

792 Moslems invade the south of France.

795-816 Leo III is attacked (25 April, 799) by representatives of Adrian I to blind him and cut out his tongue to make him unfit for office. Saved, and only keeps his position by humiliating himself before Charlemagne, crowning him Holy Roman Emperor (25 Dec, 800), but establishing that the pope alone can confer the imperial crown.

9th century. Rise of the Qarmatians (Carmathians), a group closely allied to the Isma'ilites. They are extreme revolutionists who begin bloody campaigns in Iraq and Syria (to the 11th century).

Early in the century is Theta; the Karidethi Gospels, childishly copied (Greek); best example of Caesarean text.

800 Charlemagne (c. 742 - 814) is crowned emperor of the Holy Roman Empire (a.k.a. the Nominally Christian Germanic Kingdom) by Pope Leo III at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome. This coronation marks the beginning of a new relationship between the church and state, with the emperor's temporal authority depending upon the spiritual blessing of the pope.

Musa al Kazim is poisoned in the prison of Harun al-Rashid. Ali ar Rida (Ali ibn Musa) becomes Eighth Imam.

About this time Jews experience a "golden age" of creativity and toleration in Spain under Moorish (Muslim) rule (to 1200)

801 Vikings began selling slaves to Muslims.

805 Moslems Campaign against the Byzantines. They capture the islands of Rhodes and Cyprus.

806 Hien Tsung becomes the Emperor of China. During his reign a shortage of copper leads to the introduction of paper money.

809 Leo III confirms the dogmatic correctness of the *Filioque* clause of the Nicene Creed but in the interests of peace with the Greeks, urges that it should not be chanted in the public litany.

813 – 833 Caliph al-Ma'mun becomes a Mu'tazilite, making the doctrine the official creed of the state. He establishes an Inquisition (mihnah). After his death orthodoxy (Sunnism) is restored and Mu'tazilitism becomes extinct. During his reign there is theological controversy over whether the Qur'an is created or uncreated and eternal. A center for translation of texts from Greek to Arabic founded in Baghdad.

814 Death of Charlemagne; the Frankish empire breaks up and the papacy stands forth as the paramount authority in the political as it is in the spiritual world. The pope(s) begin to dictate how rulers should rule, how they should conduct their lives, etc.

815 The Shi'a revolt under Ibn Tuba Tabs.

816 The Shi'a revolt in Mecca; Harsama quells the revolt. In Spain the Umayyads capture the island of Corsica.

816-17 Stephen V crowns emperor Louis the Pious at Reims (Oct, 816).

817-24 Paschal I apologizes to the emperor (Louis) for his quick election without his approval. He maintains the close association between the papacy and empire in which the pope is the junior partner.

818 The Umayyads of Spain capture the islands of Ibiza, Majorca, and Sardinia.

Ali ar Rida is poisoned in Mashhad. Muhammad at Taqi (Muhammad ibn Ali, or Muhammad al Jawad) becomes Ninth Imam.

827 Caliph Ma'mun declares the Mu'tazili creed as the state religion.

829 The Archbishop of Lyon, St. Agobard, writes in his *Epistles* that Jews are born slaves and that they are stealing Christian children to sell them to the Arabs.

833 At the Battle of Lugenfeld (Field of Lies), the presence of Gregory IV (827-44) at Lothair's camp causes troops to desert Louis.

835 Muhammad at Taqi is poisoned. Ali al Hadi (Ali ibn Muhamad) becomes Tenth Imam.

839 The Muslims occupy South Italy and capture of the city of Messina in Sicily.

843 The worship of icons is restored in the East by Byzantine emperor Michael III (839 - 867), thus ending the "Iconoclastic Controversy."

844 A controversy over the doctrine of transubstantiation begins with Paschasius Radbertus, Ratramus, and Gottschalk.

844-47 Sergius II is raised without waiting for the emperor's sanction. He sends his son Louis to punish this breach of the Roman constitution (824). A settlement is reached where Louis is crowned king of the Lombards.

845 The bishops of Lyon, Rheims, Sens and Bourges call the Council of Meaux to renew anti-Jewish restrictions. Emperor Charles the Bald refused to implement them in the council of Paris (846).

846 The Saracens plunder the churches of St. Peter and St. Paul.

847 A controversy over Filioque begins.

847-55 Leo IV repairs damage done to Rome by the Saracens; constructs "the Leonine City."

850 The acropolis of Zimbabwe is built in Rhodesia.

Caliph Mutawakkil who had succeeded Wathiq in 847, restores orthodoxy.

About this time is King Alfred's translation of several Bible books into English vernacular, also done by Aldhelm and Aelfric.

About this time is the Cambridge Codex XIII. It is a complete Old Testament.

About this time are written Islam's Six Traditions: *Kitab al-jami as-Sahih* of BuHuari (810-700); *Sahih* by Moslem (817-75); *Kitab as-Sunan* of Abu Da'ud (817-88); *Jami' as-Sahih* of Tirmidhi (dies 892); *Kitab as-Sunan* of Ibn Maja (824-66) and *Kitab as-Sunan* of Nasa'i (830-915).

855 Louis II, king of Italy, expels the Jews effective 1 Oct., 855.

In sermons during the Easter season the people in Beziers are encouraged to revenge the crucifixion of Jesus. The nobility of Toulouse had for some years the privilege of publicly boxing the ears of the president of the Jewish community on Good Fridays. Later this is changed to an annual payment the Jews must make.

About this time pope "Joan" is supposed to come to the papal throne (to 858) as John VIII. She dies in childbirth during a papal procession.

855-58 Benedict III elected by the clergy and people of Rome but Louis II sets up Anastasius the Librarian as pope (July). (Oct) Imperial opposition to Benedict is dropped and he is consecrated pope.

858 – 867 Pope Nicholas I successfully asserts the independence of the papacy. He propounds the theory that no bishop may be elected or deposed without papal approval. He supports the claim of Ignatius, patriarch of Constantinople in which he excommunicates Photius (863), who in turn excommunicates the pope (867).

863 Under Cyril (826 - 869) and Methodius (c. 815 - 885) the conversion of Moravia begins. The two brothers were sent by the patriarch of Constantinople to Moravia, where the ruler, Rostislav, decrees this year that any preaching done had to be in the language of the people. As a result, Cyril and Methodius developed the first usable alphabet for the Slavic tongue - thus, the Cyrillic alphabet.

864 Louis II occupies the Leonine City, trying to have Nicholas revise the nullification of his marriage (863).

867 Photian Schism between Eastern and Western churches begins during the first patriarchy of Photius (c. 820 - 891). Photius excommunicates Pope Nicholas I (858 - 867) during their dispute over various issues, but especially the use in the Western church of the *filioque* clause in the Nicene Creed (meaning: "and from the son"). This had been added to the statement that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father. The schism leads to Photius' deposition, but he later manages to achieve reconciliation with Rome.

Death of Nicholas I. The papacy begins to decline, coming under the control of the Roman and Italian aristocracy.

868 Ali al Hadi is poisoned. Hasan al Askari (Hasan ibn Ali) becomes Eleventh Imam.

869 – 870 Fourth Council of Constantinople. It has never been accepted by the Orthodox Church, which instead recognizes the council of 880 that supported Photius. The council of 869 is convened at the suggestion of Basil I, the new Byzantine emperor, to confirm the restoration of St. Ignatius of Constantinople to the see that Photius had resigned. Photius had already been condemned, without a hearing, at a Roman synod. At Constantinople his defense is cut short, and when he refuses to sign his own condemnation, he is excommunicated. The result of these councils was to intensify the bitterness between East and West.

869-83 Uprisings of black slaves (Zanj) are eventually defeated.

871 King Alfred the Great of England constructs a system of government and education which allowed for the unification of smaller Anglo-Saxon states in the ninth and tenth centuries.

872-82 John VIII decides the imperial succession by crowning (25 Dec, 875) Charles the Bald. By 877, however, the Saracens from southern Italy are pressing upon Rome and Louis the German descends on Italy demanding the crown. Charles dies and John is a prisoner (878) in Rome, occupied by Lambert of Spoleto. John flees to Provence where after supporting some losers, settles the crown on Charles the Fat, who leaves Rome and John is murdered by members of his household.

874 Vikings settle in Iceland.

Death of al-Hasan al-Askari, the 11th imam, by poison. His partisan Mohammed ibn-Nusayr establishes the ultra Shi'ite sect of Nusayriyah. They deify Ali, practice their rites in secret and retain clear remnants of pre-Islamic pagan beliefs. They believe in metempsychosis. Their community is divided into two groups; the multitude of the profane who are kept in the dark so far as the tenets are concerned; the chosen few, who are initiated into the mysteries of the cult. Muhammad al Mahdi (Muhammad ibn Hasan) becomes Twelfth Imam.

878 Emergence of the Twelvers (or Imamates) sect from the Shi'ites. They believe in the transmission of the successorship of Muhammad from father to son (began with Ali) to the 12th imam, Muhammad al-Muntazar (the expected one), a sort of Messiah.

880 About this time translation of the Cairo Karaite; prophets only.

882-84 Marinus I restores Formosus, cardinal bishop of Porto and anathemizes Photius. To demonstrate his friendship with Alfred the Great, he exempts the Saxon colony at Rome from taxation.

885-91 Stephen VI crowns Guy of Spoleto as Holy Roman Emperor (Feb, 891).

891-96 Formosus is forced to consecrate (892) Lambert as emperor. (896) Arnulf, king of Germany seizes Rome and the pope crowns him emperor instead.

896-97 Stephen VII shocks many by his conduct toward the remains of pope Formosus. He is strangled in prison.

898 The Qarmatians sack Basra.

898-900 John IX's election is disputed by partisans of future Sergius III whom John excommunicates.

898-911 Sergius III is expelled from Rome after his election.

899 Emergence of the Qarmatian Moslem sect. See Appendix VII.

10th century. During the early part of the century are translated the Aleppo Sephardic Codex, it is the whole Old Testament. Also the Pentateuch Codex (imperfect), now in the British museum. Perhaps during this time is also translated the Codex Urbinus 2, it is all of the Old Testament.

900 About this time a small group of Iranian Zoroastrians land at Sanjan in Gujarat, India, establishing a colony there.

903 Christophorus elected pope against Leo V whom he imprisons. Sergius III has him imprisoned.

904 Sergius III returns to Rome, expels Leo V and Christophorus, has them strangled and is consecrated. Sergius is lover of Theodora's daughter Marozia and father of her son, future John XI. He restores the Lateran basilica that had fallen down in 897.

905 Abdullah bin Hamdan founds the Hamdanid rule in Mosul and Jazira. End of the Tulunid rule in Egypt.

906 *Canon Eposcopi*, a collection of church laws, appears. It declares that belief in witchcraft is heretical.

908 End of the Saffarid rule, annexation of their territories by the Samanids.

909 William the Pious, duke of Aquitaine, founds the abbey of Cluny near Macon in Burgundy, completely free of feudal and secular control, directly subordinate to Sts Peter and Paul as represented by the pope.

Sa'id ibn Husayn, with the help of his chief missionary-commander Abdullah ibn Husayn Al-Shi'i overthrows the Aghlabids and founds the Fatimid rule in North Africa at which time he changes his title to Imam Ubayd Allah al-Mahdi Billah. The Aghlabid Ziyadat Allah is thus expelled from the region, and with him the final remnants of Sunni Islam in North Africa. Fatimid members claim descent from Fatima; it is a Shi'ite caliphate. See Appendix VII.

910 The Benedictine monastery of Cluny in Burgundy becomes a place of monastic reform. The two major innovations here are the direct subjection of monasteries to the pope (avoiding the oversight of secular, local and ecclesiastical powers) and the building of "daughter monasteries" subordinate to the Cluniac "family," which grow to sixty-seven monasteries by 1049.

914-28 John X, allied with Theophylact and Alberic of Camerino and Spoleto, leads an army against the Saracens, defeating them at Garigliano (Aug, 915). His plans to stabilize Italy are frustrated and he is deposed (June, 928) through the intrigues of Theodora's daughter Marozia.

914 – 963 The "pornocracy" – nadir of the papacy: Led by senator Theophylact, his wife Theodora and daughter Marozia (mistress to pope Sergius III and mother of his son John – later pope John XI) the Roman aristocracy dominates the curia. The papacy is without political power or spiritual prestige.