

# SELECTED TIMELINE OF CHURCH HISTORY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Empire</u>
???	<b>The Creation</b>	
~ 2100-1800 B.C.	Patriarchal Period - <b>Abraham</b> , Isaac & Jacob (Genesis 12-50)	<b>Egypt</b> (3000-600BC)
~ 1350 or 1200 B.C.	<b>Moses</b> leads the Hebrews out from Egypt (Exodus)	
d.~ 970 B.C.	King <b>David</b> (1 Samuel - 1 Kings)	<b>Assyria</b> (900-600)
722 B.C.	<b>Exile of Israel</b> (northern tribes) to Assyria	
586 B.C.	<b>Exile of Jews</b> to Babylon (Isaiah, Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Obadiah, Ezekiel, 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles).	<b>Babylon</b> (600-500) <b>Persia</b> (500-330)
~ 164 B.C.	Last Old Testament Book written or edited (Daniel) From an historical standpoint, O.T. dating ends about 450 B.C.	<b>Greece</b> (330-100)
1st cent. B.C.	The <b>Apocrypha</b> completed (I Macabees fulfills elements of prophecy in the book of Daniel)	<b>Rome</b> (100BC-400AD)
~ 4 B.C.	<b>LIFE OF JESUS</b>	
~29 A.D.		
~ 50 A.D. - 100 A.D.	<b>New Testament Written</b>	
70 A.D.	Destruction of <b>Jerusalem</b>	
~ 280 - 337	Emperor <b>Constantine</b> Defeated a rival to the Imperial throne in 312 bearing a battle standard depicting a "Chi-Rho" ( <i>i.e.</i> the first two greek letters of the word "Christ"). Before the battle, he had a vision of a cross emblazoned with the Latin words "In Hoc Signo Vinces" (In this sign you will conquer). Legalized Christianity in 313 with the Edict of Milan.	
~ 50 - 787	Many disputes regarding Christian doctrine settled Some important Councils: <b>Nicea</b> (325 A.D.) - Where we get the "Nicene" Creed (Jesus and the Father are "of one substance"); <b>Chalcendon</b> (451 A.D.) - (Jesus is both fully human and fully divine.)	

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**354 - 450** St. **Augustine** of Hippo

Most important theologian of the early church; A native of North Africa. His works were given great emphasis by the European reformers in the 16th cent.

~ **390 ~ 460** St. **Patrick**, Missionary to the Irish

**480-547** St. **Benedict** of Nursia (founder of the Benedictines).

Recommended a balanced life of work, prayer and rest.

**d. ~ 605** St. Augustine of **Canterbury** (first Archbishop of Canterbury)

Sent as a missionary to England by Pope Gregory the Great in 596. There was already an ancient Christian Church in England, but Augustine began process of bringing the English Church into line with Roman customs.

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**610** **Muhammad** begins preaching in Mecca

**742 - 814** **Charlemagne**

First emperor of the "Holy Roman Empire" - marked the model for the middle ages' marriage of Church and State)

**793** **Vikings** sack abbey of Lindisfarne off the northeast coast of England

Viking incursions continue until their final defeat in 1066.

**1054** **Great Schism**

The Western (Roman Catholic) Church and the Eastern (Orthodox) churches permanently break off all relations. The division is still not healed to this day. At issue were the claims of the jurisdiction of the Pope and also a question involving a clause of the Nicene Creed.

**1095 - 1464** **The Crusades**

A number of expeditions from Western Europe to the Eastern Mediterranean in an effort to win-back 'the Holy Land' from Muslim control).

**1181 - 1226** St. **Francis** of Assisi

Best-known saint of the Church. Emphasized simplicity & literal devotion to every commandment of Christ. Founded the Franciscans.

**1225 - 1274** St. **Thomas** Aquinas

Greatest Theologian of the Middle-Ages

**1453** The Fall of **Constantinople**

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## **1483-1546 Martin Luther**

Most famous of the leaders of the European Reformation; Luther never wished to found a new Church, but was swept up in a movement greater than any one person. The Lutheran Church which began in Germany owes its origins to him. Luther initiated no new teaching, but urged the Church to get back to the basics. October 31, 1517 is often considered the birthdate of the Reformation

## **1491 - 1547 Henry VIII**

The Christian Church in England went through **three stages**:

- 1 - Founded by missionaries in the first centuries after Christ (The "Celtic Church")
- 2 - Adapting to Roman custom beginning with Synod of Whitby (664-1529)
- 3 - Returning to the independence of the early English Church (1529 to present)

## **1509 - 64 John Calvin**

Reformation Theologian in Geneva. Theological Father of Presbyterian Church

## **1537 - 53 Edward VI**

Son of Henry VIII who succeeded him on the English throne and who ordered the creation of our English-language Prayer Book; the first two editions of which were published in 1549 and 1552.

## **1533 - 1603 Elizabeth I**

Queen of England and author of "the Elizabethan settlement" giving form to the modern Anglican Church - a compromise between Lutheranism and Catholicism (asserting the right of Kings, while maintaining the Apostolic succession). The *39 Articles of Religion* were issued during her reign (1928 BCP pp. 603-611).

## **1554 - 1600 Richard Hooker**

Foremost English theologian. Under the inspiration of whose works, Anglicans are said to base their theology on the three-legged stool of *scripture, tradition & reason*.

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**1620**     **Pilgrims** arrive in Plymouth Massachusetts

**1703 - 91**   **John Wesley**  
Church of England priest and founder of the Methodist movement.

## **1730's - 40's The First Great Awakening**

First great event shared by all 13 colonies. Made evangelism and revival a perennial feature of American religious life. There was a large increase in membership in all denominations. The # of Baptist churches exploded on the frontier.

## **1775 - 83 American Revolution**

Split the ministers and Congregations of the Church of England in this country. After the revolution, former Church of England parishes decided to reorganize as an independant Church. The Church of England was the established church in 6 of the original 13 colonies: Georgia, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

**1789**     Establishment of the "Protestant **Episcopal Church** in the United State of America."

**1863**     **Abolition** of Slavery in U.S.

## **1886, 1888 Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral**

Outlined a basis for the reunification of Christian Churches:

- 1 - The Holy **Scriptures** as the rule and ultimate standard of faith
- 2 - The Apostles' and Nicene **Creed** as sufficient statements of the faith
- 3 - The **Sacraments** of Baptism and the Lord's Supper
- 4 - The Historic Episcopate (**Bishops**)

## **1962 - 65 Second Vatican Council**

Major step in modernizing the Roman Catholic Church and reaching out to other denominations.

**2008**     Global Anglican Future Conference (**GAFCON**)  
Beginning of a realignment within the Anglican Communion.

**2009**     Formation of the Anglican Church in North America (**ACNA**)