

Early Church

Chronology

EMPERORS	BISHOPS OF ROME*	AUTHORS AND DOCUMENTS**	EVENTS
Augustus (27 BCE-14CE)		(Philo)	Jesus
Tiberius (14-37)			
Caligula (37-41)			
Claudius (41-54)		Paul's Epistles (Flavius Josephus)	Jews expelled from Rome
Nero (54-68)	Linus (?)	Mark	Persecution Jerusalem Christians flee to Pella (66)
Galba (68-69)			
Otho (69)			
Vitellius (69)			
Vespasian (69-79)	Anacletus (?)	Matthew (?) Luke—Acts (?)	Fall of Jerusalem (70)
Titus (79-81)			
Domitian (81-96)	Clement	John (?) Revelation	Persecution
Nerva (96-98)			
Trajan (98-117)	Evaristus Alexander Sixtus	Ignatius	Persecution
Hadrian (117-138)	Telesphorus Hyginus	Quadratus Aristides Papias (Epictetus) Didache (?) Gospel of the Hebrews Pseudo-Barnabas (?)	Persecution Surge of Gnosticism Marcion in Rome

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Antoninus Pius (138-161)	Pius Anicetus	Basilides Aristo of Pella (130) Hermas (c. 150) Martyrdom of Polycarp Roman Symbol Valentinus Gospel of Peter Muratorian Fragment (160) Fronto of Cirta Epitaph of Pectorius (?) Ascension of Isaiah (?) Odes of Solomon (?)	Montanism
Marcus Aurelius (161-180)	Justin (165)		Persecution
Lucius Verus co-emperor (161-169)	Soter Eleuterus (?-189)	Hegesippus (154-166) Lucian of Samosata Titian II Enoch (?) Athenagoras	Martyrs of Gaul (177)
Commodus	Theophilus of Antioch (Celus) Victor (189-199)	Irenaeus (c. 180) Pantenus Melito of Sardis (189)	Scillitan martyrs Debate over date of Easter
Pertinax (193)		Tertullian (195-220)	
Didius Julian (193)			
Septimus Severus	Zephyrinus (199-217)	Minucius Felix (?) Epitaph of Abercius Perpetua and Felicitas Clement of Alexandria (200-215)	Persecution Syncretistic policy Tertullian Montanist (207)
Caracalla (211-217)		Origen (215-253)	
Macrinus (217-218)	Calixtus (217-222)	(Plotinus)	
Elagabalus (218-222)			
Alexander Severus (222-235)	Urban (222-230) Hippolytus (222-235) Pontian (230-235)	Pseudo-Clementine (?)	Two bishops in Rome Origen in Palestine
Maximi (235-238)	Anterus (235-236) Fabian (236-250)		

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Gordian I (238)			
Gordian II (238)			
Pupienus (238)	Sextus Julius Africanus		
Balbinus (238)			
Gordian III (238-244)	Gospel of Thomas (?) Methodius	Manicheism founded	
Philip the Arabian (244-249)	Heraclas		
Decius (249-251)		Cyprian	Persecution
Hostilian (251)			
Gallus (251-253)	Cornelius (251-253) <i>Novatian</i> (251-258?)		Two bishops in Rome
Aemilian (253)	Lucius (253-254)	Didascalia (?)	
Valerian (253-259)	Stephen (254-257) Sixtus II (257-258)		
Gallienus (259-268)	Dionysius (260-268) Felix (269-274)	Dionysius of Alexandria Lucian of Antioch Gregory the Wonderworker Firmilian of Caesarea	Paul of Samosata bishop of Antioch
Claudius II (268-270)		Theognost	
Quintillus (270)		Gnostic papyri (?)	
Aurelian (270-275)		Gospel of Bartholomew	
Tacitus (275-276)	Eutychian (275-283)		
Florian (276)			
Probus (276-282)			
Carus (282-283)	Caius (283-296)		
Numerian (283-284)		Arnobius	
Carinus (283-285)			
Diocletian (284-305)			

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Maximian (285-305)	Marcellinus (296-304)		
Constant Chorus (292-306)		Pierius	Great Persecution
Galerius (292-311)			Edict of Toleration (311)
Maximinus Daia (305-313)	Marcellus (308-309)		
Constantine (306-337)	Eusebius (309-310)		
Severus (306-312)			
Maxentius (306-312)	Miltiades (311-314)		Battle of Milvian Bridge
Licinius (307-323)	Sylvester (314-335)		Edict of Milan (313)

* Bishops whom the Roman Church does not recognize are in italics.

** Non-Christian authors are in parentheses.