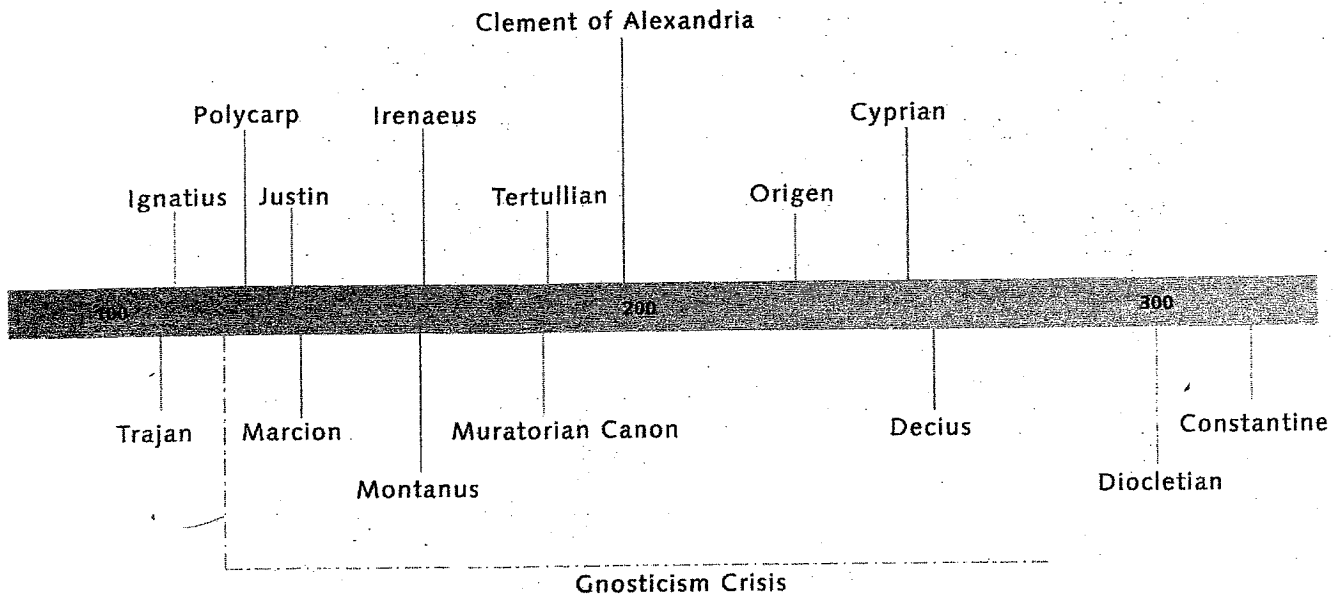


# The Age of Catholic Christianity



## Scripture by the Early Church

	300	400		
<p>Different parts of our New Testament were written by this time, but not collected and defined as "Scripture." Early Christian writers (for example Polycarp and Ignatius) quote from the Gospels and Paul's letters, as well as from other Christian writing and oral sources.</p> <p>Paul's letters were collected late in the first century. Matthew, Mark, and Luke were brought together by 150.</p>	<p><b>New Testament used in the church at Rome (the "Muratorian Canon")</b></p> <p>Four Gospels Acts Paul's letters: Romans 1 &amp; 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 &amp; 2 Thessalonians 1 &amp; 2 Timothy Titus Philemon</p> <p>James</p> <p>1 &amp; 2 John Jude Revelation of John Revelation of Peter Wisdom of Solomon</p> <p><b>To be used in private, but not public worship</b> The Shepherd of Hermas</p>	<p><b>New Testament used by Origen</b></p> <p>Four Gospels Acts Paul's letters: Romans 1 &amp; 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 &amp; 2 Thessalonians 1 &amp; 2 Timothy Titus Philemon</p> <p>1 Peter 1 John</p> <p>Revelation of John</p> <p><b>Disputed</b> Hebrews James 2 Peter 2 &amp; 3 John Jude The Shepherd of Hermas Letter of Barnabus Teaching of Twelve Apostles Gospel of the Hebrews</p>	<p><b>New Testament used by Eusebius</b></p> <p>Four Gospels Acts Paul's letters: Romans 1 &amp; 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 &amp; 2 Thessalonians 1 &amp; 2 Timothy Titus Philemon</p> <p>1 Peter 1 John</p> <p>Revelation of John (authorship in doubt)</p> <p><b>Disputed but well known</b> James 2 Peter 2 &amp; 3 John Jude</p>	<p><b>New Testament fixed for the West by the Council of Carthage</b></p> <p>Four Gospels Acts Paul's letters: Romans 1 &amp; 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 &amp; 2 Thessalonians 1 &amp; 2 Timothy Titus Philemon</p> <p>Hebrews James 1 &amp; 2 Peter 1, 2, &amp; 3 John Jude Revelation of John</p> <p><b>To be excluded</b> The Shepherd of Hermas Letter of Barnabus Gospel of the Hebrews Revelation of Peter Acts of Peter Didache</p>

### APOSTOLIC FATHERS

Name	Date	Locality	Type of Literature
<i>Didache</i>	c. 100	Syria	Church Order
<i>Barnabas</i>	97/135?	Alexandria?	Letter-treatise
<i>1 Clement</i>	96?	Rome	Letter-treatise
<i>2 Clement</i>	100/150	Corinth?	Sermon
<i>Hermas</i>	100-155	Rome	Apocalypse
<i>Ignatius</i>	d. c. 117	Antioch of Syria	Letters
<i>Polycarp</i>	115/135	Smyrna	Letter(s)
<i>Papias</i>	c. 130	Hierapolis	Explanations

### APOLOGISTS

Names	Place	Emperors
(1) Those known by fragments: <i>Quadratus, Preaching of Peter, and Aristo of Pella</i>		Hadrian (117-38)
<i>Miltiades, Apollinaris of Hierapolis, and Melito of Sardis</i>		Marcus Aurelius (161-80)
(2) <i>Epistle to Diognetus</i>		Date uncertain
(3) Aristides	Athens	Hadrian or Antoninus Pius (138-61)
(4) Justin Martyr	Rome	Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius
(5) Tatian	Syria	Marcus Aurelius
(6) Athenagoras	Athens	Marcus Aurelius
(7) Theophilus	Antioch	Commodus (180-92)
(8) Minucius Felix	Carthage?	Between Marcus Aurelius and Septimius Severus (193-211)

### ACCOUNTS OF MARTYRDOM

Documents	Date	Location
<b>Letters of Churches</b>		
<i>Martyrdom of Polycarp</i>	156?	Smyrna
<i>Letter of the Churches of Vienne and Lyons</i>	177	Lyons
<b>Passions</b>		
<i>Martyrdom of Ptolemy and Lucius (in Justin, 2 Apology)</i>	c. 150-60	Rome
<i>Passion of Perpetua and Felicitas</i>	203	Carthage
<b>Acts</b>		
<i>Acts of Justin and his Companions</i>	167	Rome
<i>Acts of the Pergamene Saints</i>	c. 165-70	Pergamum
<i>Acts of the Martyrs of Scilli</i>	180	Carthage
<i>Acts of Apollonius</i>	c. 184	Rome

## Defense of the Faith

### Apologists

Converted from paganism  
Faced external persecution  
Used the Old Testament primarily  
Defended or explained Christianity  
Apologetic or dialogical literary forms

#### To Heads of State

Answer false charges  
Athenagoras

Good qualities of  
Christians demand  
tolerance

#### To Jews

Justin Martyr:  
*Dialogue With Trypho*

#### Against Pagan Intellectuals

Refutation of  
pagan idolatry  
and immorality

Christianity  
is superior,  
e.g., prophecy

### Polemicists

Raised in Christian culture  
Faced internal heretical foes  
Used the New Testament primarily  
Attacked the heretical ideas  
Polemical literature

#### External Attack

Pagan  
intellectuals  
Origen:  
*Against Celsus*

#### Internal Attack

Heretics inside  
the church  
Irenaeus:  
*Against Heresies*

## The Church Fathers

West

East

### First Century (95–ca. 150) Apostolic Fathers—To Edify—Typological Interpretation

#### Edification

Clement of Rome

Ignatius  
Polycarp  
Pseudo-Barnabas  
The Epistle to Diognetus  
The Second Epistle of Clement  
Papias  
*Shepherd of Hermas* (apocalyptic)  
*Didache* (catechetical manual)

### Second Century (120–220) Apologists—To Defend Christianity

#### Explanation

Tertullian

Aristides  
Justin Martyr  
Tatian  
Athenagoras  
Theophilus

### Third Century (180–250) Polemicists—To Fight False Doctrine

#### Refutation

*Practical* (polity)

Irenaeus vs. Gnostics  
Tertullian—founder of Western theology,  
“Trinity,” vs. Praxeas  
Cyprian on Episcopacy and primacy of  
honor of Roman bishop

*Alexandrian School*  
(Allegorical and  
speculative)  
Pantaenus  
Clement  
Origin—*Hexapla*  
(text of Old Testament)  
*De Principiis* (first  
systematic theology)  
used allegorical  
method of  
interpretation

*Antiochene School*  
(Grammatico-historical)

### Fourth Century (325–460) Golden Age of Scientific Bible Study

#### Exposition

Jerome—translator of Bible  
Ambrose—preacher  
Augustine—philosophy of history in  
*City of God*; theologian

Athanasius  
Basil of Caesarea

Chrysostom—preacher  
(Christian conduct)  
Theodore (use of context)

**SOME NEW TESTAMENT  
APOCRYPHA OF THE  
SECOND CENTURY**

**Gospels**

*Gospel of Thomas*

*Gospel of Peter*

*Protevangelium of James*

**Acts**

*Acts of Peter*

*Acts of Paul*

*Acts of John*

**Epistles**

*Epistle of the Apostles*

**Apocalypses**

*Apocalypse of Peter*

**SOME TEACHERS JUDGED HERETICAL**

Name	Date	Place
Simon Magus	First century	Samaria and Rome
Menander	End of first century	Samaria and Antioch
Cerinthus	End of first century	Asia Minor
Saturninus	Early second century	Antioch
Carpocrates	Early second century	Alexandria
Basilides	Early second century	Alexandria
Valentinus	Second century	Alexandria and Rome
Ptolemy	Second century	Rome?
Theodotus	Second century	Alexandria?
Heracleon	Second century	Italy?

**SOME WORKS FROM THE NAG HAMMADI LIBRARY**

(1) Sethian Works

(a) Some concentrating more on the myth of origins

*Apocryphon of John*

*Apocalypse of Adam*

*Hypostasis of the Archons*

*Gospel of the Egyptians*

*Trimorphic Protennoia*

(b) Others relating to the ascent of the soul

*Zostrianos*

*Allogenes ("The Foreigner")*

*Three Steles of Seth*

(2) Valentinian works

*Gospel of Truth*

*Treatise on the Resurrection*

*Tripartite Tractate*

*Gospel of Philip*

(3) Works from the Thomas tradition in Syria

*Gospel of Thomas*

*Book of Thomas the Contender*

(4) Hermetic works

*Asclepius*

(5) Other works, including non-Gnostic Christian moral/wisdom writings

*Teachings of Silvanus*

*Sentences of Sextus*

# Chronology

Emperors	Bishops of Rome*	Authors and Documents**	Events
Hadrian (117-138)	Telesphorus	Quadratus Aristides Papias (Epictetus) Didache (?) Gospel of the Hebrews Pseudo-Barnabas (?)	Persecution Surge of Gnosticism Marcion in Rome
Antoninus Pius (138-161)	Hyginus Pius	Basilides Aristo of Pella (130) Hermas (c. 150) Martyrdom of Polycarp Roman Symbol Valentinus Gospel of Peter Muratorian Fragment (160) Fronto of Cirra Epitaph of Pectorius (?) Ascension of Isaiah (?) Odes of Solomon (?)	Montanism
Marcus Aurelius (161-180) Lucius Verus co-emperor (161-169)	Justin (165) Soter	Hegesippus (154-166) Lucian of Samosata Tatian II Enoch (?) Athenagoras	Persecution
Commodus	Eleuterus (?-189) Theophilus of Antioch (Celsus) Victor (189-199)	Irenaeus (c. 180) Pantenus Melito of Sardis (189)	Martyrs of Gaul (177) Scillitan martyrs Debate over date of Easter
Fertinax (193) Didius Julian (193) Septimius Severus	Zephyrinus (199-217)	Minucius Felix (?) Epitaph of Abercius Perpetua and Felicitas Clement of Alexandria (200-215) (207)	Persecution Syncretistic policy Tertullian Montanist

Emperors	Bishops of Rome*	Authors and Documents**	Events
Augustus (27 BCE-14 CE)	(Philo)		Jesus
Tiberius (14-37)			
Caligula (37-41)			
Claudius (41-54)		Paul's Epistles (Flavius Josephus) Mark	Jews expelled from Rome Persecution Jerusalem Christians flee to Pella (66)
Nero (54-68)	Linus (?)		
Galba (68-69)			
Otho (69)			
Vitellius (69)			
Vespasian (69-79)	Matthew (?)		Fall of Jerusalem (70)
Titus (79-81)	Anacleus (?)	Luke—Acts (?)	
Domitian (81-96)	Clement	John (?) Revelation	Persecution
Nerva (96-98)			
Trajan (98-117)	Evaristus Alexander Sixtus	Ignatius	Persecution

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

\*\* Non-Christian authors are in parentheses.

Emperors	Bishops of Rome*	Authors and Documents**	Events
Caracalla (211-217)			
Macrinus (217-218)	Calixtus (217-222)	Origen (215-253) (Plotinus)	
Elagabalus (218-222)			
Alexander Severus (222-235)	Urban (222-230) <i>Hippolytus</i> (222-235) Pontian (230-235)	Pseudo-Clementine (?)	Two bishops in Rome Origen in Palestine
Maximi (235-238)	Anterus (235-236) Fabian (236-250)		
Gordian I (238)			
Gordian II (238)			
Pupienus (238)	Sexrus Julius Africanus		
Balbinus (238)			
Gordian III (238-244)	Gospel of Thomas (?) Methodius Heracles		
Philip the Arabian (244-249)			
Decius (249-251)			
Hostilian (251)			
Gallus (251-253)	Cornelius (251-253) <i>Novatian</i> (251-258?) Lucius (253-254)		
Aemilian (253)		Didascalia (?)	
Valerian (253-259)	Stephen (254-257) Sixtus II (257-258)		
Gallienus (259-268)	Dionysius (260-268) Alexandria Lucian of Antioch Gregory the Wonderworker Firmilian of Caesarea Theognost		Paul of Samosata bishop of Antioch
	Felix (269-274)		
Claudius II (268-270)			
Quintillus (270)			
Aurelian (270-275)			
Tacitus (275-276)			
Florian (276)	Eutychian (275-283)		

Emperors	Bishops of Rome*	Authors and Documents**	Events
Probus (276-282)			
Carus (282-283)	Caius (283-296)	Arnobius	
Numerian (283-284)			
Carinus (283-285)			
Dioletian (284-305)			
Maximian (285-305)	Marcellinus (296-304)		
Constant Chlorus (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 (306-307)			
Maxentius (306-312)	Miltiades (311-314)		Battle of Milvian Bridge Edict of Milan (313)
Licinius (307-323)	Sylvester (314-335)		