

Geographic Timeline - First 1500 Years of Christianity

Century/ Region	First AD 1-100	Second 101-200	Third 201-300	Fourth 301-400	Fifth 401-500	Sixth 501-600	Seventh 601-700
World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 12 disciples spread Gospel to known world James to Spain, Andrew to Russia, Simon to Persia #T26 * 18% of the world is reached with gospel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 220 Non-Christians per believer world-wide. * 4000 ethnic groups in the world; only a handful evangelized. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Christianity expands from 5% to 20% of world population and reaches an additional 10%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Theophilus the Indian: sent from Rome, converts the king of S. Arabia and plants four churches in Yemen. * Abdisha builds monastery in Bahrain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Christians make up 20% of world population. * Ecumenical councils of Ephesus & Chalcedon re: Christ's natures further division b/w West and Monophysite East. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Phemion and other Monophysite evangelists arrive in Yemen. * Christian Ethiopian king drives Jewish rulers out of Arabia with army and installs Christian king from Africa who ruthlessly stamps out idolatry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Christians as percentage of world population hold steady just below 20%, and evangelistic impact diminishes - world B decreases 10% * Mohamed founds the Islamic religion. * Christianity exists side-by-side with Islam in Arabia.
Middle East	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Jesus born, crucified, resurrected, ascended. * Addai, one of the 70, founds church in Syria at Edessa. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Monastery with 200 Nestorian monks established in Persian Gulf. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Over 20 bishoprics established in Mesopotamia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Emperor Constantine converted #L91 and tolerates Christianity in Roman Empire. * Christianity later becomes official Roman religion. * Ulfilas, Arian British missionary to the Goths, invents Gothic script and translates Bible. Most Goths became Christians. #T35. * Burgundians and Georgians also introduced to Gospel. * Roman Empire 50% Christian by end of century. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Bishops in Qatar and Bahrain. * Barbarian (Goth) invasions of Rome destabilize Rome and bring European Arian Christians side-by-side with Roman Catholics #C126. * Cyril, Byzantine missionary to Moscow, invents Russian alphabet (Cyrillic), translates Bible. * Irish Monks (Perigrin) preach Bible to Germanic Tribes (Donegal). * Patrick evangelizes Ireland #T38 (Patrick's strategy #W1). * Nintian converts Pict tribe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Columba, Irish Celtic missionary to Britain, converts the Scots #T41. * Clovis converts Franks. * Augustine of Canterbury and Ethelbert convert the Angles and Saxons late in this century. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Mohamed founds the Islamic religion. * Christianity exists side-by-side with Islam in Arabia.
Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Roman Empire facilitates rapid spread of Christianity with peace, order, roads, common language. * Paul spreads Gospel to Asia Minor, Greece, Rome, France, and Spain #C62 * Christians in every province of Rome by end of century. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Regional persecution of Christians in Roman Empire. (Polycarp #T32, Libelus #C92) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Empire-wide Roman persecution under emperors Decius, Valerian, and later, Diocletian. #Wa 10 * 100 bishoprics in Italy. * Christianity well-established in Britain, Spain, and Gaul/France. * Christianity begins to spread up to Southern Russia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Emperor Constantine converted #L91 and tolerates Christianity in Roman Empire. * Christianity later becomes official Roman religion. * Ulfilas, Arian British missionary to the Goths, invents Gothic script and translates Bible. Most Goths became Christians. #T35. * Burgundians and Georgians also introduced to Gospel. * Roman Empire 50% Christian by end of century. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Bishops in Qatar and Bahrain. * Barbarian (Goth) invasions of Rome destabilize Rome and bring European Arian Christians side-by-side with Roman Catholics #C126. * Cyril, Byzantine missionary to Moscow, invents Russian alphabet (Cyrillic), translates Bible. * Irish Monks (Perigrin) preach Bible to Germanic Tribes (Donegal). * Patrick evangelizes Ireland #T38 (Patrick's strategy #W1). * Nintian converts Pict tribe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Columba, Irish Celtic missionary to Britain, converts the Scots #T41. * Clovis converts Franks. * Augustine of Canterbury and Ethelbert convert the Angles and Saxons late in this century. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Mohamed founds the Islamic religion. * Christianity exists side-by-side with Islam in Arabia.
Central & West Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Thomas/Bartholomew evangelizes India. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Pantaenus, great scholar from Alexandria, goes as missionary to India. * Christians are living on the shores of the Caspian Sea. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Asia Minor is stronghold of Christianity. * Gregory Thaumaturgos propagates Christianity in Pontus #L76. * First priest ordained in India. * Gregory facilitates Mass conversion of Armenians #L79. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Council of Nicea (First Ecumenical Council, deals with Christological Controversy, called by Roman emperor Constantine). * John Chrysostom, evangelistic bishop in Asia Minor #L98. * India strewn with bishoprics & monasteries. * The Great Persecution begins under Shapur III of Persia (nationalistic backlash for Romans making Christianity their official religion) - 190,000 martyred, many Persian Christians flee to Arabia and India, carrying the Gospel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Persian Nestorians reach the end of Central Asia. * Nestorian missionaries among the Huns/Turks help excited Shah who later comes to power in Persia and reinstates tolerance for Christians. * First Hun Patriarchate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Jacob Bard of Syria #M245 and other Monophysite missionaries evangelize India. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * T'ang Dynasty of China re-opens Silk Road b/w Europe and China across Central Asia after 400 years of lost control.
East Asia		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Buddhist missionaries from Persia and India travel Silk Road and win China. 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Nestorian Christian Businessmen begin penetrating China. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Alopen, first recorded Christian missionary to China (from Persia), translates Bible and propagates Christianity with emperor's toleration. * At least a dozen Nestorian monasteries/churches established. * Later Buddhist Empress Wu Ha encourages persecution of Christians.
Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Apostle Mark & many other Jews form Hellenistic Christian hub in Alexandria. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * North Africa - esp. Tunis and Algeria - has thriving Latin churches, Christian literature, and church leaders: Tertullian, Perpetua, Cyprian. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Axum/ Abyssinia/Ethiopia embraces Gospel. * Cyprian leads Latin church in Carthage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Frumentius from Syria appointed first Bishop of Axum #L104. #I32. * Egyptian Coptic Church begins; over 700,000 Coptic Christians martyred. * Donatist church grows among oppressed poor in Carthage & opposes Latin church. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Augustine Bishop of Hippo #L96. * Arian Vandals invade N. Africa, persecute Catholics & Donatists, overthrow later by Byzantines. * 9 Syrian miss. to Ethiopia, found monasteries, translate Ge'ez Bible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Byzantine missionaries (incl. Julian & Longinus) evangelize Nubia - churches in each village. #I30 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Muslims begin conquering N. Africa with help of Berbers. They leave sub-Saharan Africa un-Islamized to facilitate their slave trade.
Americas						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Brendan of Ireland crosses Atlantic, evangelizes Algonquins. 	

Century/ Region	Eighth AD 701-800	Ninth 801-900	Tenth 901-1000	Eleventh 1001-1100	Twelfth 1101-1200	Thirteenth 1201-1300	Fourteenth 1301-1400	Fifteenth 1401-1500
World	* Christians make up 19% of world population.	* Serious decline of Christianity in Arabia as Muslims gain power.	* Christians make up 17% of world population.	* 220 Non-Christians per believer world-wide.	* Christians make up 18% of world population.	* Christians increase markedly to 24% of world population. * Dominicans founded (Roman Catholic).		* Christianity decreases markedly to 18% of world population. * 69 Non-Christians per believer world-wide by 1500.
Middle East	* Charlemagne's Carolingian Revival (Latin-speaking Holy Roman Empire based in Germany). * Monasteries preserve law, science, literature, & religion. * Charles Martel stops Muslim Arab invasion of Europe @ Spanish-French border. * Boniface, greatest R.C. missionary to German Goths. #T46 * Willibrord converts the Frisians late in the century. * Chinese-controlled Kyrghyzstan taken over by Muslim Arabs.	* Vikings pillage Europe, destroy monasteries and most historical records. * Anskar, French missionary to Scandinavia. #T49 * Monks and women who are taken as slaves by Vikings spread Gospel among Vikings.	* Alfred the Great of West-Saxons gives up on Latin and starts worship and book-copying in Anglo-Saxon language. * Monastic revival in Cluny, France raises up strong church leaders and churches. * Mass conversion of the Rus under Vladimir.	* Crusades (all led by Viking descendants) against heretical Christians in Europe, Slavs, and Muslims in Sicily, Spain, and Palestine alienating Eastern Christians and Arabic Muslims. #C220 * Scholastic movement: many cathedrals and universities built.	* Francis of Assisi begins mission in Syria. * Fra Riccardo – incamational witness to Muslims (5 rules for missionaries #W1). * Persian Ghazan converts to Islam; Persia goes Muslim. * Friars spread message across Europe.	* Black Plague kills 1/3 of population of Europe and an even larger percentage of Franciscan Friars. * Wycliffe translates Bible into English. * John Huss uses Bible to challenge Roman Catholic authority in Bohemia. * Muslims Re-conquer Central Asia - Tamerlane wipes out Eastern Church.		
C. & W. Asia	* Persecution ends in China, more Persian missionaries arrive. * Uighurs declare Nestorian-Christianity their state religion! * Adam (aka Ching-Ching), Nestorian monk from Central Asia, prolific Bible translator, honored even by Buddhist monks.	* Growing xenophobia brings persecution against foreign religions of Buddhism and Christianity – monasteries reduced from 4600 to one per prefecture. * Christian Uighurs conquered and Islamized by Kyrgyz.	* Decline of Tang dynasty brings end of Christianity which patronized in China. * "Only one Christian left in China."	* Prince of the Kerait tribe receives vision, connects with Nestorian missionaries in Mongolia, and is baptized with 200,000 tribesmen. Tribe remains Christian for centuries.		* Genghis Khan conquers all of Central Asia and slaughters Christians, but Christianity grows under Pax Mongolia. * Genghis Khan, from Kerait tribe, becomes emperor of Mongols, conquers all of Central Asia and China, forms religiously-pluralistic Pax Mongolia. * John of Plano, a disciple of Francis of Assisi, is first of 7 Roman Catholic missionaries sent to Mongolia. Rebuffed by Khan, but found Nestorians in Khan's court. * Marco Polo visits Mongolia later and discovers hundreds of thousands of Nestorian Christians. * Kublai Khan requests the pope send 100 scholarly missionaries. Two are sent, but don't even make it there.	* John of Montecorvino, R.C. Franciscan, reaches Peking just after Kublai Khan dies and wins 6,000 converts (many from Nestorians). * Odoric, a Franciscan, visits John's work and reports 30,000 Nestorians in China. * John of Marignoli: last Roman Catholic bishop in China. * Last Mongol emperor welcomes John, but is a foolish, lazy leader and loses the empire between an internal uprising and the external Chinese armies that re-conquered China. * Christianity, dependent on Khan Dynasty, disappears.	* Jesuit missionaries find no trace of Christianity when they arrive in China in 1500's.
East Asia			* Egypt only 50% Coptic & declining.			* Raymond Lull, R.C. missionary, studies Arabic, debates with Muslims in Tunisia. #T53, #I55 * Francis sends 5 miss. to Morocco - martyred. * After repelling Muslim invaders in 7 th Cent, Christianity is gradually undermined in Nubia by Muslim immigration.	* Ethiopia is only Christian country left in Africa.	* Portuguese sailors penetrate further into Africa.
Africa			* Vikings discover Canada.					
Americas								

After a name indicates a biographical sketch to share, referencing the Author's last name (see sources below) and page number where the sketch starts. This timeline was compiled by Rev. Nate Wilson using the following sources: Barrett & Johnson: *World Christian Trends*, Earle Cairns: *Christianity Through The Centuries*, Elizabeth Isichei: *A History of Christianity in Africa*, Patrick Johnstone: *The Church is Bigger than You Think*, Kenneth Scott Latourette: *A History of Christianity*, Samuel Moffat: *A History of the Church in Asia*, Ruth Tucker: *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya*, Robert Walton: *Chronological & Background Charts of Church History*, and Ralph Winter: multiple articles from *Mission Frontiers* magazine, *Perspectives* Readers, and *World Christian Foundations* material.