

“A knowledge and appreciation of history is difficult for a culture so enthralled by the moment, a culture that shuns the discipline of a larger context in any study. Unfortunately this loss of historical interest has made the present difficult to address because the context of the past is imperative if we are to salvage the future.” - *Ravi Zacharias*

Rome Until the Time of Christ

- 753 B.C. - The foundation of Rome as a city
- 509 - Rome becomes a Republic
- 586 - Babylonians sack Jerusalem
- 539 - Cyrus captures Babylon
- 330 - Alexander the Great burns Persepolis (Built by Darius the Great in 518 B.C.)
- 218 - Hannibal leads Carthage against Italy
- 49 - Julius Caesar crosses the Rubicon, ‘the die is cast’, rebellion against Pompey.
- 44 - Julius Caesar murdered by Brutus
- 27 - Octavius declares himself Caesar Augustus, begins Roman Empire.
- 33 A.D. - crucifixion of Jesus Christ

Rome Until Constantine’s Death

- 64 - Nero burns most of Rome
- 70 - Romans sack Jerusalem under general Titus (crucified as many as 500/day during siege)
- 100 - Romans invade Scotland, Hadrian builds wall to hold out Barbarians
- 132-135 - Emperor Hadrian defeats Jewish uprising, builds temple to Jupiter on the Temple Mount and temple to Venus over supposed sight of Jesus’ tomb.
- 260 - Byzantine Emperor Valerian (great persecutor of Christians) defeated by Shapur I at the Battle of Edessa. Roman Emperor held as captive for the rest of his life.
- 306 - Constantine crowned Emperor of Roman Empire in Eboracum, Britannia (modern day York) He and his father had been involved in excursions beyond Hadrian’s wall to suppress the Picts.
- 312 - Constantine converts to Christianity
- 313 - Edict of Milan, Christians can practice free from persecution.
- 324 - Constantinople is founded by Constantine, center of empire moves east.
- 325 - Constantine destroys Hadrian’s pagan temple on the Temple Mount and starts construction of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, assembles Council of Nicea.
 - Mormons - canon of scripture decided, therefore cannot trust the Bible (canon wasn’t discussed)
 - Jehovah’s Witness - beginning of the doctrine of the Trinity (sought clarity for the doctrine)
 - New Agers - destruction of reincarnation (what?)

Athanasius - orthodox position, Jesus was *homoousios*, of the same substance as the Father.

Arius - heretical position, Jesus was *heteroousios*, of a different substance.

Eusebius - heretical position, Jesus was *homoiousios*, the same person as the Father.

“We believe...in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten from the Father, only-begotten, that is, from the substance of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one substance (*homoousios*) with the Father, through Whom all things were made....”

326 - Helena (mother of Constantine) discovers the “True Cross” in Jerusalem.

337 - Death of Constantine

Rome Until the Defeat of Persia

- 451 - Council of Chalcedon - Jesus is 'complete' in Godhead and 'complete in' humanness.
- 476 - deposition of the last Roman emperor of the west; Italy is ruled by Ostrogoths
- 527 - Justinian becomes Emperor of Rome
- 532 - mass rioting in Constantinople (Blue vs. Green charioteers) nearly destroys city and Justinian. A combination of austerity measures, over taxation, and Charioteer hooligans started the riot. Put down by Belisarius.
- 535-536 - Belisarius captures Sicily and Rome
- 541 - the plague breaks out from Egypt, spreads to Alexandria, the Mediterranean, by August of 542 Constantinople was feeling the ravages of it. By 543, Italy, Gaul, Spain. By 545, Mesopotamia, Iranshahr, China. Estimates that 1/3 of world's population died.
- 610 - Heraclius (hair A cleeus), of Balkan descent, becomes Roman Emperor
- 627 - Heraclius invades Mesopotamia subdues Khusrow II signs peace treaty with Shahrbaraz
- 630 - Heraclitus returns "True Cross" to Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem.

Persia and the East

- 224 - Ardashir establishes the Sasanian Empire of Iranshahr
- 484 - Hephthalites (called "White Huns", Buddhist and Zoroastrian) defeat Peroz King of Persia
- 496 - forced abdication of Kavad, he had "converted" to a heretical sect of Zoroastrianism under the influence of a priest named Mazdak who taught communism. This disturbed the nobility and the *mowbeds* of traditional Zoroastrianism so they imprisoned him at the "Castle of Oblivion". He somehow procured some women's clothing and disguised himself as his wife and escaped to the Hephthalites. He then lead the Hephthalites against his own people and re-established himself as king.
- 503 - Kavad captures Amida - A key fortress that would be fought over multiple times by the Romans and Persians. It was on a major route east to west in what is modern day Diyarbakır (dee Are bakeer) on the Tigris river in what is Turkish Kurdistan.
- 524 - Murder of the Christians in Najran (by the Jews, one record states 2K), city in northern Yemen.
- 540 - Khusrow I sacks Antioch in Syria (first called Christians in Antioch), Khusrow sought to humiliate Justinian and therefor Christianity.
- 554 - Byzantine backed Arabs (under Arethas) defeat Persian backed Arabs (under Mundhir, who in 527 had sacrificed 400 Christian virgins to al 'Uzza, the Mighty Queen) at the battle of Chalcis.
- 591 - accession of Khusrow II
- 614 - Persians burn Ephesus and storm Jerusalem under general Shahrbaraz (50K corpses in the streets, 35K Christians taken into captivity, "True Cross" taken to Ctesiphon (across the Tigris river from ancient Selucia (named after Seleucus one of Alexander's generals 312-63 B.C. Seleucid Dynasty, Antiochus Epiphanies, NE of Babylon, and 22 miles south of Baghdad.
- 619 - Persians capture Alexandria (northern Africa)
- 626 - Persians and Avars (heterogenous people of central Asian origin) lay siege to Constantinople. Romans sink Avars troop ships and Persians retreat.
- 628 - Execution of Khusrow II; Heraclius and Shahrbaraz sign peace treaty.