

Chronology of the Pre-Nicene Period

- 151 --Justin Martyr
- 161 --Rule of Marcus Aurelius...he is a "scholarly" emperor committed to Stoicism and offers sporadic persecution to the church...the most grim being at Lyons
- 180 --Commodus rules
--this is also the age of Irenaeus
- 193 --Septimius Severus rules Rome: persecution in Egypt and North Africa
- 196 --Easter Controversy..Victorinus, bishop of Rome, threatens to excommunicate all holding the Passover date.
- 203 --youthful Origen teaching
- 217 --Tertullian prominent
- 218 --Hippolytus: The Refutation of All Heresies...He is particularly hard on Callistus, a former slave and now Bishop of Rome whom Hippolytus identifies as a Monarchian..a follower of Noetus.
- 222 --Alexander Severus rules
- 244 --Philip the Arabian takes Roman authority...during the days of both of these rulers there was more peace for the church...limited persecution.
- 248 --the age of Cyprian. Eventually martyred, his letters and tractates strengthened the church in the days of the Trajan persecution.
- 249-251--the Trajan (Decius) persecutions, the strongest effort to date. Followed with less energy but still a hatred for the church by Valerian.
- 254 --Novatian schism: Bishop Stephen of Rome at odds with Novatian on the question of dealing with the lapsed after persecution.
- 270 --Paul of Samosota, a Monarchian bishop, deposed
- 290 --activity of Lactantius, early Church history writer
--Diocletian becomes emperor, divides the Empire for better administrative effectiveness.
- 301-
- 305 --persecutions by Diocletian with great intensity in 304, 305. Galerius particularly vicious in the east.
- 313 --Constantine, Emperor in the west, and Licinius, ruler in the east, give the Edict of Milan, legalizing Christianity
- 314 --Synods of Arles, Ancyra
- 314 --Donatist schism (North Africa) over lapsed propositions
- 324 --Constantine overthrows Licinius, rules alone
- 325 --Council of Nicaea: the Arian question and the Easter controversy among others.

The dates of the lives of the fathers, etc., are figure dates for a sphere of activity. And I only mention the emperors who seem important enough to deserve it!