

AD	CHURCH YEAR	KEY EVENT
324	292 nd	Constantine (52 yrs) became the sole ruler of the Roman Empire.
325	293 rd	The Nicene Council condemned Arianism, established “Easter” & published 20 Canons.
330	298 th	11 May – Constantinople officially dedicated by Emperor Constantine (58 yrs).
331	299 th	Emperor Constantine (59 yrs) commissioned the production of 50 Bibles. ¹
337	305 th	22 May – Emperor Constantine (65 yrs) died after being “baptized.” The Empire very shortly fell into disarray as his sons fought with others & amongst themselves on matters of state & theology. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constantine II (337-340) opposed Arianism • Constantius II (337-361) supported a compromise with Arianism • Constans (337-350), like his eldest brother, opposed Arianism
361	329 th	11 December – Julian attended the funeral of his cousin Emperor Constantius II at Constantinople; Thereafter he became the new Emperor.
362	330 th	4 February – Emperor Julian issued an Edict of Toleration, permitting the revival of the ancient Roman religions; This action earned him the name “Julian the Apostate.”
363	331 st	26 June – Emperor Julian (31 or 32 yrs) died of wounds sustained in battle with Persians. His successor, Jovian, reversed Julian’s anti-Christian edicts & burned the Alexandrian Library.
364	332 nd	Jovian died on his way back to Constantinople. The next Emperor, Valentinian (43 yrs), immediately gave control of the Eastern Empire to his brother, Valens (36 yrs), retaining the Western Empire for himself.
367	335 th	Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria testifies to the “Canon” of Scripture. ²
381	349 th	The First Council of Constantinople affirmed the Nicene Creed (which expansion on the Spirit’s role), further condemned Arianism & published Seven Canons. ³
402	370 th	Capital of the Western Roman Empire moved from Milan to Ravenna.
410	378 th	City of Rome looted by Alaric I, King of the Visigoths (who were mostly Arian Christians). [Pelagius (famous for teaching “free will”) escaped from Rome around this time. His chief critic, Augustine of Hippo, wrote his <u>City of God</u> , in part, to help Roman Christians combat the widely circulated idea that Rome had fallen due to the abandonment of its ancient gods.]
431	399 th	The First Council of Ephesus upheld the Nicene Creed, condemned Nestorianism ⁴ & published Eight Canons.
445	213 th	Emperor Valentinian III (419-455) declared that the Roman Bishop had primacy over all other bishops. Opposition to the “Pope” was considered treason.
451	419 th	The Council of Chalcedon published 30 Canons [See back of sheet for synopsis].
452	420 th	“Pope” Leo negotiated the withdrawal of Attila the Hun from northern Italy.
453	421 st	“Pope” Leo refused to ratify Canon 28 of the Chalcedonian Council.
455	423 rd	City of Rome looted by Genseric, King of the Vandals (who were also Arian Christians). “Pope” Leo was credited with keeping violence to a minimum.

¹ The so-called “Canon” of Scripture (books written by inspired Apostles or by those intimately connected to an Apostle) was already well established around AD 200, a century before Constantine made this commission.

² In his “Easter” Letter of this year, Athanasius acknowledges as inspired all the books found in our Bible today. About them he wrote, “These are fountains of salvation, that they who thirst may be satisfied with the living words they contain. In these alone is proclaimed the doctrine of godliness. Let no man add to these, neither let him take ought from these.”

³ Canon II gave secondary honor to the Bishop of Constantinople after that given to the Bishop of Rome.

⁴ Nestorius, Archbishop of Constantinople, objected to the term “Mother of God” commonly used in reference to Mary.

Canons of the Council of Chalcedon

1. States that all canons of previous councils shall remain in force.
2. Forbids simony (paying for ecclesiastic office).
3. Prohibits bishops from engaging in business.
4. Gives authority to bishops over the monks in their dioceses, with the right to permit or forbid the foundation of new monasteries.
5. States that travelling bishops are subject to canon law.
6. Forbids the clergy from changing dioceses.
7. Forbids the clergy from serving in the military.
8. Places the poorhouses under the jurisdiction of the bishop.
9. Limits the ability to accuse a bishop of wrong doing.
10. Prevents clergy belonging to multiple churches.
11. Regards letters of travel for the poor.
12. Prohibits provinces from being divided for the purposes of creating another church.
13. Prohibits clergy from officiating where they are unknown without a letter of recommendation from their bishop.
14. Regards wives and children of cantors and lectors.
15. Requires a deaconess to be at least 40.
16. Forbids monks and nuns from marrying on pain of excommunication.
17. Forbids rural parishes from changing bishops.
18. Forbids conspiracy against bishops.
19. Requires bishops to conduct a synod twice a year.
20. Lists exemptions for those who have been driven to another city.
21. States an accuser of a bishop shall be suspect before the bishop.
22. Forbids seizing the goods of a dead bishop.
23. Allows the expulsion of outsiders who cause trouble in Constantinople.
24. Asserts that monasteries are permanent.
25. Requires a new bishop to be ordained within 3 months of election.
26. Requires cathedrals to have a steward from among the clergy to monitor church business.
27. Forbids carrying off women under pretense of marriage (eloping).

Canon 28 grants equal privileges (*isa presbeia*) to Constantinople as of Rome because Constantinople is the New Rome as renewed by canon 36 of the Quinisext Council. The papal legates were not present for the vote on this canon, and protested it afterwards, and was not ratified by Pope Leo in Rome.

According to some ancient Greek collections, canons 29 and 30 are attributed to the council: canon 29, which states that an unworthy bishop cannot be demoted but can be removed, is an extract from the minutes of the 19th session; canon 30, which grants the Egyptians time to consider their rejection of Leo's *Tome*, is an extract from the minutes of the fourth session.