

Interesting Info #1

Early Christianity in the East & Russian Religious History to 1721

Awesome Timeline On Early Christianity

63 BC	Conquest of Palestine by Romans, loss of Jewish statehood ¹
31 BC-14 AD	Rule of Augustus Caesar
6-4 BC	Birth of Jeshua ben Joseph (Jesus Christ)
29 AD	Crucifixion of Christ
66-73	Revolt of Palestinian Jews against Rome
70	Jerusalem (and Jewish temple) destroyed
312	Roman Emperor Constantine's conversion to Christianity
313	Christianity becomes tolerated religion in Roman Empire
314	Conversion of Armenians to Christianity
324	Constantine decides to move capital of Roman Empire to new city, Constantinople ²
325	First Ecumenical Council (Nicaea)
337 (319?)	Conversion of Georgians (western kingdom) to Christianity
341	Christianity becomes official religion of Roman Empire
381	Second Ecumenical Council (Constantinople)
431	Third Ecumenical Council (Ephesus)
451	Fourth Ecumenical Council (Chalcedon)
553	Fifth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople)
680-81	Sixth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople)
787	Seventh (and last) Ecumenical Council (Nicaea)
863	Mission of Saints Cyril & Methodius to the Slavs (in Moravia)
988	Conversion of the Rus' to Christianity under prince Vladimir
1054	Traditional date of the schism (division) of church into eastern & western
1438-39	Council of Florence & Union of Florence
1453	Fall of Constantinople (and Byzantine Empire) to Ottoman Turks

Words You Should Know³

ecumenical	catholic (small "c")	Catholic (large "c")
apostolic	autocephalous	Orthodox (large "o")

Concepts, People & Events Worth Knowing

Constantine	Constantinople	Patriarchs
Metropolitans	Ecumenical Councils	The Pope
Trinity	Icons	Iconoclasts
<i>Filioque</i>	Papal claims	Council (& Union) of Florence
Cyril & Methodius	Church Slavonic	Alexander Nevsky
Sergius of Radonezh	Council (Union) of Brest	Uniates (Greek Catholics)
Moscow as "Third Rome"	Schism & Old Believers	Patriarch Nikon

¹ Jews had an independent state for the years 168-63 BC.

² The city was inaugurated with that name in 330, having been known as "New Rome" for its first few years.

³ You should know what these words mean. If you do not, then look them up or ask in class.

Excellent Timeline on Religious History of Russia (to 1721)

862	Traditional date for arrival of the Rus' in present-day Russia
922	Conversion of Volga Bulgars to Islam
988	Vladimir converts Rus' to Orthodox Christianity; Kiev receives Metropolitan
1054	Division between Eastern (Orthodox) and Western (Catholic) Churches
1237-41	Invasion and conquest of Rus' by Golden Horde (Mongols)
1240-42	Prince Alexander Nevsky leads wars against Swedes & Teutonic Knights
1299	Metropolitan of Kiev moves to city of Vladimir, near Moscow
1303	New Metropolitanate set up in Galicia
1313 (?)	Conversion of Golden Horde to Islam
1326/28	Metropolitan Peter moves from the city of Vladimir to Moscow ⁴
1386	Christianization of Lithuanians (under Catholicism)
1439	Byzantine church tries to gain Rome's support against Turks at Council of Florence
1448	Russians select own Metropolitan (Jonah) without approval of Constantinople
1453	Ottoman Turks conquer Constantinople and destroy the Byzantine Empire
1458	Division of Orthodox Church (two Metropolitans, in Lithuania and Moscow) ⁵
1523/4	Filofei, a monk in Pskov, articulates idea of "Third Rome"
1552-56	Muscovite conquest of the Islamic Khanates of Kazan' & Astrakhan'
1569	Union of Lublin: Formal political union of Poland & Lithuania
1589	Constantinople recognizes Metropolitan Job (Iova) as Patriarch of Moscow
1596	Union of Brest creates Uniate church in Poland-Lithuania Orthodox Church in Poland-Lithuania essentially outlawed
1632	Orthodox hierarchy permitted to function again in Polish Ukraine
1648	Cossack uprising in Ukraine, led by Bogdan Khmel'nitsky
1652	Nikon becomes Patriarch of Orthodox Church in Muscovy
1654	Nikon initiates reform of liturgical texts and other aspects of ritual Agreement of Pereiaslavl': Ukraine to east of Dniepr is joined to Muscovy
1658	Nikon removed from position as Patriarch
1666-7	Church Council ousts Nikon from power, but upholds his reforms
1668-76	Revolt of Solvetskii Monastery
1682	Old Believer Avvakum burned at the stake
1699	Introduction of new calendar (from birth of Christ) ⁶
1700	Patriarch Adrian dies; Peter refuses to name successor
1710	Acquisition of Lutheran Baltic provinces (Estland & Livland)
1713	Tatar nobility compelled by Peter to convert or lose their privileges
1718	Double tax imposed on Old Believers
1721	End of Great Northern War; Peter declares Russia an empire Creation of the Holy Synod in Peter the Great's <i>Spiritual Regulation</i>

⁴ The head of the Russian Orthodox Church remains in Moscow until Peter the Great abolishes the Patriarchate in 1721.

⁵ Both Metropolitans called themselves "Metropolitan of Kiev and All Rus'" (otherwise their titles differed slightly), even though neither of them resided in Kiev. The Muscovite Metropolitan resided in Moscow, the Lithuanian one in Navahrudak.

⁶ New calendar takes effect on 1 January 1700. Previous calendar counted from the beginning of time.