

The Crusades - Timeline A.C.E.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
33	First Christians in Jerusalem: Pentecost
71	Temple is destroyed, after siege during rebellion
135	Emperor Hadrian orders temple rebuilt, including Roman gods
ca. 300	Emperor Constantine officially recognizes Christianity as religion of the Roman Empire; his mother Helena travels to Jerusalem to dig up the True Cross; she orders the building of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre
ca. 300	Church of Holy Nativity built in Bethlehem, along with other Holy Places; pilgrims begin traveling to Jerusalem
300s	Emperor Constantine moves his capital from Rome to Byzantium, renamed Constantinople in his honor
ca. 400	Empire splits into East and West, using Adriatic Sea as dividing line
406	Barbarians invade Rome
By 600	Eastern Empire includes all Greek lands of Europe and Asia, southern Italy, and all across North Africa up to Morocco
610	Persians invade Eastern Empire
614	Persians capture Jerusalem
622	Mohammed begins his teachings, bringing the religion of Islam to Arabia
630	Emperor Heraclius defeats the Persians, forces them to return the True Cross
632	Mohammed dies
638	Muslims capture Jerusalem
By 717	Muslims control all of North Africa, southern Spain, the Persian Empire, and lands to the east as far as India; eastern Empire's border is the Tarsus Mountains

- 800 Pope appoints and crowns Charlemagne as Emperor of the western region (later to be called the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation)
- mid 800s Normans invade and settle in Italy, Sicily; cross the Adriatic to attempt to gain territory in Greece
- By 900 Greeks capture Cilicia and Antioch; Moslem rule splits between Baghdad and Cairo
- By mid 1000s Hungarians and Poles accept Christianity; allow pilgrims to Jerusalem safe passage through their territory
- 1054 Pope excommunicates the Patriarch of Constantinople, the beginning of the split in the church
- 1071 Emperor Romanus Diogenes declares war on the Sultan of all the Turks, marches an army of 100,000 to Manzikert on the eastern frontier; army is destroyed, emperor is wounded and captured
- 1081 Alexius Comnenus assumes throne as Emperor of Eastern Empire, is excommunicated by Pope Urban II (later lifted)
- By 1085 Turks capture Nicaea, build a pirate fleet after capturing Smyrna, and buy the fortress of Antioch; continue raids into Asia Minor.
Normans capture the port of Bari and threaten Eastern Empire
Armenians control the Tarsus Mountains.
No pilgrim can get through to the Holy Land.
- 1095 Alexius writes to Pope Urban II, asking for help to defend the "Holy Church against the pagans..." (meaning the Turks)
- Pope Urban II calls a second council to excommunicate King Philip of France; speaks of danger to Christians in the East; when he describes the sufferings of pilgrims and the oppression of the Church in Jerusalem, thousands enlist in the Crusade.
- 1096 First wave of Crusaders arrive in Constantinople, are slaughtered near Nicaea; second group reaches Hungary, turns back