

Timeline of the Middle Ages

Year	Date	Event	Significance
406		<u>Visigoths</u> , <u>Suevi</u> and <u>Burgundians</u> cross the <u>Rhine</u> and invade Roman <u>Gaul</u> .	Beginning of the collapse of the <u>Western Roman Empire</u> .
410		Rome is captured by the <u>Visigoths</u> under <u>Alaric I</u> .	
430		<u>Saint Patrick's</u> Irish mission begins. ^[1]	
455		The Vandals pillage Rome. ^[1]	
476		The last Roman Emperor, <u>Romulus Augustus</u> , is deposed by <u>Odoacar</u> , conventionally ending the Western Roman Empire. ^[1]	

6th century

Year	Date	Event	Significance
571		<u>Mohammed</u> is born. ^[1]	Professed receiving revelations from God, which were recorded in the <u>Qur'an</u> , the basis of <u>Islamic</u> theology, in which he is regarded as the most important prophet.

7th century

Year	Date	Event	Significance
602-629		Last great <u>Roman-Persian War</u> ^[1]	Long conflict leaves both empires exhausted and unable to cope with the newly united Arab armies under Islam in the 630s
627		<u>Battle of Nineveh</u> . The Byzantines, under <u>Heraclius</u> , crush the <u>Persians</u> . ^[1]	
631		Death of Mohammed. ^[1]	By this point, all of Arabia is <u>Muslim</u> . ^[1]
638		<u>Jerusalem</u> captured by <u>Muslims</u> . ^[1]	
643		Muslims take <u>Alexandria</u> . ^[1]	

8th century

Year	Date	Event	Significance
726		Iconoclast movement begun in the Byzantine Empire under <u>Leo III</u> . ^[1]	This was opposed by Pope <u>Gregory II</u> , and an important difference between the Roman and Byzantine churches. ^[1]
754		Pepin promises the Pope central Italy. ^[1]	This is arguably the beginning of the temporal power of the Papacy. ^[1]
768		Beginning of <u>Charlemagne's</u> reign.	

9th century

Year	Date	Event	Significance
800		Charlemagne is crowned Emperor of the <u>Holy Roman Empire</u> by Pope <u>Leo III</u> .	
840		Muslims capture <u>Barj</u> and much of southern Italy. ^[1]	
871		<u>Alfred the Great</u> assumes the throne, the first king of a united England.	He defended England from <u>Viking</u> invaders, formed new laws and fostered a rebirth of religious and scholarly activities.

11th century

Year	Date	Event	Significance
1054		The <u>East-West Schism</u> which divided the church into <u>Western Catholicism</u> and <u>Eastern Orthodoxy</u> .	
1066		<u>William the Conqueror</u> , Duke of Normandy, invades England and becomes King after the <u>Battle of Hastings</u> .	End of Anglosaxon rule in England and start of Norman lineage
1077		Holy Roman Emperor <u>Henry IV</u> walks to <u>Canossa</u> where he stands barefoot in the snow to beg forgiveness of the Pope for his offences, and admitting defeat in the <u>Investiture Controversy</u> .	This helps establish Papal rule over European heads of state for another 450 years.
1099		<u>First Crusade</u> . Jerusalem is re-taken from the Muslims on the urging of <u>Pope Urban II</u> .	

12th century

Year	Date	Event	Significance
1187		<u>Saladin</u> recaptures Jerusalem.	
1189– 1192		The <u>Third Crusade</u> follows upon <u>Saladin's</u> uniting the Muslim world and recapturing <u>Jerusalem</u> .	Despite managing to win several major battles, the Crusaders did not recapture Jerusalem.

13th century

Year	Date	Event	Significance
1215		The <u>Magna Carta</u> is sealed by <u>John of England</u> .	This marks one of the first times a medieval ruler is forced to accept limits on his power.
1215		<u>Fourth Lateran Council</u> . Dealt with transubstantiation, papal primacy and conduct of clergy. Proclaimed that <u>Jews</u> and <u>Muslims</u> should wear identification marks to distinguish them from <u>Christians</u> .	
1274		<u>Thomas Aquinas'</u> work, <u>Summa Theologica</u> is published.	
1295		<u>Marco Polo</u> publishes his tales of China.	A key step to the bridging of East and West

14th century

Year	Date	Event	Significance
1347		The <u>Black Death</u> ravages Europe for the first of many times. An estimated 20% - 40% of the population is thought to have perished within the first year.	
1381		The <u>Bible</u> is translated into English by <u>John Wycliffe</u> .	

15th century

Year	Date	Event	Significance
1434		The <u>Medici</u> family rises to prominence in <u>Florence</u> .	
1453		<u>Constantinople</u> falls to the <u>Ottoman Turks</u>	
1492		<u>Christopher Columbus</u> reaches the <u>New World</u> . Regarded by many historians as the end of the Middle Ages.	

Evaluating the Middle Ages:

1. As the Roman Empire came to an end, the church was showing life
 - a. Ambrose and Augustine spoke of a vital biblical Christianity
 - b. Christian art was realistic and vibrant
2. As the Empire decline and fell religion became the focus and was highly stylized
 - a. Perspective in art became lost
 - b. Portrayals of nature were abandoned
 - c. Learning became specialized and centered around the monks
 - d. The authority of the Church became primary over the Scriptures
 - e. Salvation began to shift to the merit of men rather than Christ's grace
3. Christianity struggled with the blurred lines of Christian and pagan culture
 - a. Was secular literature allowed? (Classic writings from Rome)
 - b. What is the place of non-Christian philosophers?
 - c. Aquinas placed reason on equal footing with faith
 - d. What is the role of wealth? (Francis of Assisi)
4. There was a struggle of the law of God versus the law of the state
 - a. Rex Lex or Lex Rex
 - b. Thomas a Beckett
 - c. Charlemagne developed a mixed role of Church and State
5. Baptism became the measure of not only faith, but of society
 - a. Those without baptism were shunned
 - b. Baptism became necessary for citizenship

6. The Church wavered between the power of the Pope and that of councils
 - a. Mariology became increasingly important in the Church
 - b. John Wycliffe fought the misguided efforts of the Church by attempting to place the Scriptures in their proper place
7. Art made a comeback through music and architecture
8. Universities began to be created
9. Technology began to advance, such as the use of windmills
10. There began to be a divide between nature and grace
11. This will set the stage for the Renaissance and the Reformation