

Roman Church Timeline

1. About 33 A.D.
 - a. The first Christian church began in Jerusalem, on Pentecost.
 - b. Peter preached to many visitors to Jerusalem.
 - c. Among them were 'visitors from Rome, both Jews and Gentiles who believed the Jewish religion'. Some of these were probably among the 3000 that became Christians (Acts 2:9-11; 2:41). They carried the gospel to Rome.
2. 49 A.D..
 - a. The Emperor Claudius ordered Jews to leave Rome.
 - b. A Roman called Suetonius wrote that someone called 'Chrestus' had caused the trouble. Chrestus may have been a Jew who caused the trouble. But 'Chrestus' may be the same as 'Christus' (that is, Christ). Jews opposed those who preached the message about Christ. So the trouble might have begun at that time.
3. Aquila and Priscilla from Rome.
 - a. Were probably Christians before they met Paul in Corinth (Acts 18:1-3).
 - b. They returned to Rome, after they worked in Corinth and Ephesus. Christians used to gather in their home (Romans 16:3-5).
4. 57 A.D..

Paul probably wrote the Romans letter

 - a. He had not yet visited Rome.
 - b. Paul knew many people in the church at Rome.
 - c. Many Gentile as well as Jewish Christians were already members of the church.
5. 60 A.D..
 - a. Paul reached Rome as a prisoner.
 - b. Christians from Rome met him on the Appian road to go with him to Rome (Acts 28:14-16).
 - c. Paul spent two years in Rome. Although he was a prisoner, he was able to preach and to teach (Acts 28:30-31).
 - d. His plan was to visit Spain (Romans 15:24).
6. 64 A.D..
 - a. Christians received the blame for the great fire that the Emperor Nero himself may have started.
 - b. The writer Tacitus spoke about great numbers of Christians. He called them 'enemies of the human family of people'.
7. There is evidence of Christian graves in the catacombs (underground graves in Rome) before 100 A.D..