

Constantine

- 303 Diocletian orders Roman forces to persecute Christians. He orders Christian churches closed throughout the Empire and scriptures burnt.
- 305 Diocletian and Maximian abdicate and chaos ensues as others compete for the imperial throne.
- 306 July 25, death of Constantius, Constantine son of Constantius elevated by his troops to be "caesar."
- 308 Maxentius, son of Maximian, becomes Emperor of the west til 312
- 311 Death of Diocletian at Split, death of Galerius from cancer.
- 312 Battle of Milvian Bridge, (still there) Constantine wins "*In hoc signo vinceres*" in sign of cross Constantine I, defeats and kills Maxentius
- 313 Edict of Milan.
- 323 Constantine takes on Licinius for control of the eastern empire. Constantine wins against Licinius and Constantine temporarily reunites the Eastern and Western halves of the Roman Empire.
- 325 Council of Nicaea, subject Trinity (Arius vs Athanasius).
- 326 Arrest and execution of both son Crispus and 2nd wife Fausta. was there a plot to displace Constantine? or was it sex betw son and his step-mother Fausta? We don't know.
- 330 Constantine inaugurates the city of Constantinople--on the site of Byzantium--as capital of the Roman Empire.
- 337 Emperor Constantine of Byzantium dies. He is possibly baptized as a Christian on his deathbed. Constantine's three sons, Constantine II, Constans, and Constantius share power peacefully for decades after his death.
- 340 Constantine II of Byzantium dies. Constans, and Constantius continue to share power for another decades after his death until Constans dies in 350 and Constantius dies in 361. Constantine nephew Julian succeeds, not a Christian, temporarily empire not "Christian."

SOURCES: Constantine was a ruler of major historical importance, and he has always been a controversial figure. The fluctuations in Constantine's reputation reflect the nature of the ancient sources for his reign. These are abundant and detailed, but have been strongly influenced by the official propaganda of the period, and are often one-sided. There are no surviving histories or biographies dealing with Constantine's life and rule. The nearest replacement is [Eusebius of Caesarea's *Vita Constantini*](#), a work that is a mixture of [eulogy](#) and [hagiography](#). Written between 335 and circa 339, the *Vita* extols Constantine's moral and religious virtues. The *Vita* creates a positive image of Constantine, and modern historians have frequently challenged its reliability. The fullest secular life of Constantine is the anonymous *Origo Constantini*. A work of uncertain date, the *Origo* focuses on military and political events, to the neglect of cultural and religious matters.