**Political/Military Events**

- **c. 815 BCE**
  
  Carthage is founded by the Phoenicians (in present day Tunisia); Hamman Lif (site where the *Tree of Paradise* floor was discovered) was called Naro at this time.

- **753 BCE**
  
  Legendary founding of Rome.

- **753–509 BCE**
  
  Rome ruled by Etruscan kings.

**Cultural/Religious Events**

- **c. 600 BCE**
  
  Earliest Latin inscriptions.

**Historical Timeline**

This timeline is limited to the major events that are directly related to the timeframe and the overall theme of the exhibition. Because the relationships between polytheistic religions, Judaism, and Christianity are a major theme of this exhibition, timeline information is color-coded. Events that reference **polytheistic religions are green**, **Judaic events are red** and **Christian events are blue**. Key art works from the exhibition are identified with an ★.

### Period: The Republic, 509 BCE – 32 BCE

**Political/Military Events**

- **509 BCE**
  - Roman Republic established

- **264–241 BCE**
  - First Punic War against Carthage

- **218–202 BCE**
  - Second Punic War: Hannibal defeated

- **149–146 BCE**
  - Third Punic War: Carthage is destroyed, Africa becomes Roman province; Hamman Lif was then known as Ad Aqae (At the Waters) and Aquaae Persianae (The Waters of Perseus)

- **44 BCE**
  - Julius Caesar declares himself “dictator for life” but is assassinated a month later

**Cultural/Religious Events**

- **450 BCE**
  - Earliest code of Roman law, the Twelve Tables

- **344 BCE**
  - Temple to Juno, queen of the gods

- **312 BCE**
  - Via Appia (first major road) and Aqua Appia (first aqueduct) are built

- **c. 270 BCE**
  - Use of coins for buying and selling begins

- **264 BCE**
  - First gladiatorial games

- **174 BCE**
  - Circus Maximus is rebuilt

- **45 BCE**
  - Julian Calendar instituted

- **37–4 BCE**
  - Herod the Great builds Temple
**Political/Military Events**

**32 BCE**

Roman Empire (Rome ruled by emperors, who are also considered gods) begins with Octavius who is granted the title of Augustus in 27 BCE.

**54–68 CE**

Reign of Emperor Nero, persecutor of Christians and Jews.


**98–117 CE**

Empire reaches its greatest size and power under rule of Emperor Trajan.

**117–138 CE**

Reign of Emperor Hadrian.

**Cultural/Religious Events**

**4 BCE**

Jesus is born.

**c. 50 CE**

According to tradition St. Mark introduces Christianity to Egypt—the Church of Alexandria is born (later called the Coptic Church).

**64 CE**

Great fire of Rome occurs.

**66–70 CE**

First Jewish revolt.

**70 CE**

Titus conquers Jerusalem, Temple destroyed.

**72 CE**

Colosseum built.

**79 CE**

Mt. Vesuvius erupts and destroys Pompeii and Herculaneum.

**c. 80 CE**

Arch of Titus built.
**Political/Military Events**

- **166 CE**  
  Empire extends to China

- **212 CE**  
  Citizenship granted to all free inhabitants of the empire

- **235–284 CE**  
  Empire begins gradual fall into economic and political ruin

- **286 CE**  
  Emperor Diocletian restructures Empire into Eastern and Western halves with co-rulers in each half

- **324 CE**  
  Constantine the Great becomes sole ruler of the Roman Empire

- **325 CE**  
  Empire’s capital moved from Rome to Byzantium and re-named Constantinople (modern day Istanbul)

**Cultural/Religious Events**

- **118–125 CE**  
  Pantheon built under Emperor Hadrian

- **132–136 CE**  
  Jewish revolt

- **136 CE**  
  Hadrian puts down final Jewish revolt against the Romans

- **313 CE**  
  Christianity is accepted across the empire under the Edict of Milan

- **325 CE**  
  First Council of Nicaea

- **c. 329 CE**  
  St. Peter’s church completed on Vatican Hill

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- **Roman, DOUBLE HEAD SHAPED FLASK, 3rd century CE, Glass, mold-blown. Toledo Museum of Art, Gift of Edward Drummond Libbey**

- **INCENSE BURNER, c. 5th century CE, Bronze, Brooklyn Museum, Charles Edwin Wilbour Fund, 41.684.**

- **Bust of Constantine the Great.**

- **The PANTEHON, Rome, Italy.**

- **Current ST. PETER’S CHURCH, Rome, Italy, © Howard Davis.**
### Political/Military Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>370 CE</td>
<td>The Goths and Huns push into the Empire, beginning period of invasions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>395 CE</td>
<td>Permanent division of Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine) from Western Roman Empire</td>
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<tr>
<td>410 CE</td>
<td>Ravenna becomes capital of the Western Roman Empire after Rome is captured by the Visigoths</td>
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<tr>
<td>429 CE</td>
<td>Vandals invade North Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>439 CE</td>
<td>Vandal leader captures Carthage but Roman culture continues to dominate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>476 CE</td>
<td>Odacer conquers Italy, marking end of the Western Roman Empire, but Eastern half survives for another thousand years as the Byzantine Empire</td>
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<tr>
<td>533 CE</td>
<td>Byzantine Empire recovers control in Tunisia</td>
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<tr>
<td>532 CE</td>
<td>Emperor Justinian rebuilds Hagia's church in Constantinople</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1453 CE</td>
<td>Fall of Constantinople marks the end of the Byzantine Empire</td>
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</table>

### Cultural/Religious Events

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<tr>
<td>360 CE</td>
<td>First St. Sophia’s church completed in Constantinople</td>
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<tr>
<td>361 CE</td>
<td>Emperor Julian attempts to return Empire to pagan worship</td>
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<tr>
<td>392 CE</td>
<td>Emperor Theodosius abolishes pagan worship</td>
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<tr>
<td>452 CE</td>
<td>Fourth Ecumenical Council in Chalcedon – Church of Alexandria splits into the Melkites and the Copts (Coptic Church)</td>
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<tr>
<td>648–669 CE</td>
<td>Arabs invade Tunisia; Roman culture disappears and is replaced by Islamic culture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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★Roman, Hammam Lif, Tunisia, DOLPHIN FACING LEFT, 6th century CE, Stone and mortar, Brooklyn Museum, Museum Collection Fund, 05.17.

★Roman, Hammam Lif, Tunisia, DATE PALM (TREE OF PARADISE), 6th century CE, Stone and mortar, Brooklyn Museum, Museum Collection Fund, 05.14.

★Egyptian, TEXTILE OF HALOED HEAD OF A WOMAN, 6th century CE, Wool and linen, Brooklyn Museum, Gift of Pratt Institute, 42.438.4.