

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 ✱.



✱ Sally A. Struthers, ROMAN FORUM, 2007, Inkjet print, Loan from the artist, L20.2007.10.

PERIOD: REGAL ERA, 753 BCE – 509 BCE

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

✱ Roman, Attributed to Hamman Lif, Tunisia, SQUARE BASKET WITH FRUIT, 6th century CE, Stone and mortar, Brooklyn Museum, Museum Collection Fund, 05.24.



753 BCE

Legendary founding of Rome

753–509 BCE

Rome ruled by Etruscan kings



CAPITOLINE WOLF, c. 500 BCE, Bronze, Museo Capitolino, Rome.

CULTURAL/RELIGIOUS EVENTS

c. 600 BCE

Earliest Latin inscriptions



Example of Latin inscription, TRAJAN COLUMN (detail).

POLITICAL/MILITARY EVENTS

509 BCE

Roman Republic established

* Sally A. Struthers, THEATER, OSTIA, 2007, Inkjet print, Loan from the artist, L20.2007.10.



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 Aquae (At the Waters) and Aquae Persianae (The Waters of Perseus)

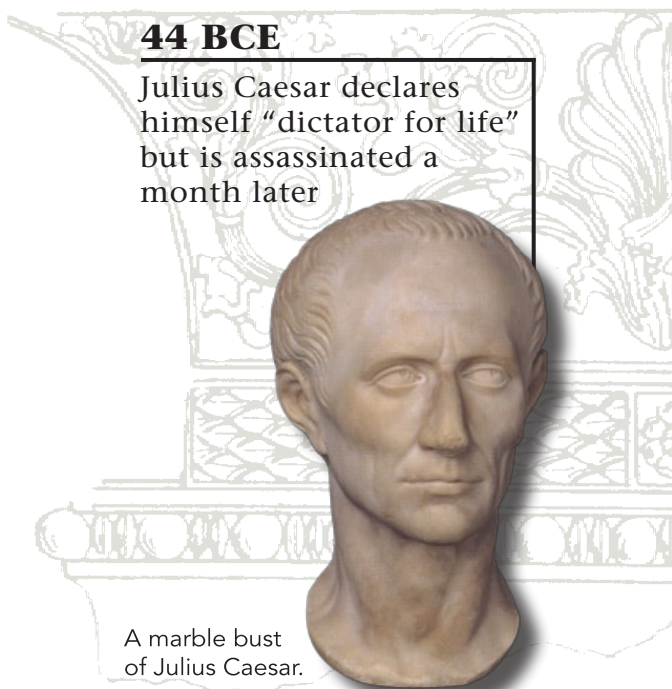
44 BCE

Julius Caesar declares himself "dictator for life" but is assassinated a month later



* From left to right: Byzantine, COIN OF CONSTANTINE THE GREAT, 312-337 CE, Bronze. Brooklyn Museum, Frank L. Babbott and Henry L. Batterman Fund, 36.151

Roman, TETRADRACHM OF EMPEROR NERO, 64 CE, Silver. Brooklyn Museum, Charles Edwin Wilbour Fund, 33.417.7



A marble bust of Julius Caesar.

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

Julian Calendar instituted

37–4 BCE

Herod the Great rules Israel, builds Temple



TEMPLE TO JUNO, Rome, Italy.



VIA APPIA, Rome, Italy.



Gladiator's helmet found at Pompeii, Italy.

Illustration from THE HISTORY AND MIRACLES OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Herod the Great and his army, The British Library.



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

BCE/CE

54–68 CE

Reign of Emperor Nero, persecutor of Christians and Jews



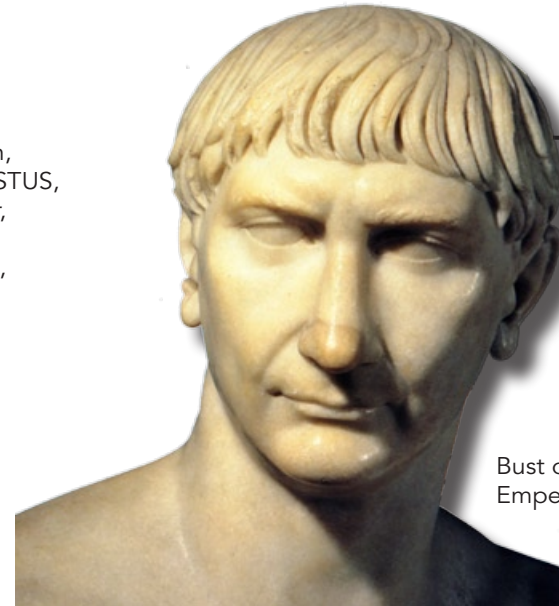
Provenance not known, DENARIUS OF AUGUSTUS, 27 BCE – 14 CE, Silver, Brooklyn Museum, Frederick Loeser Fund, 33.403.17.

98–117 CE

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

117–138 CE

Reign of Emperor Hadrian



Bust of Emperor Trajan.

CULTURAL/RELIGIOUS EVENTS

4 BCE

Jesus is born

BCE/CE

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



The COLOSSEUM, Rome, Italy.



ARCH OF TITUS, Rome, Italy.

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

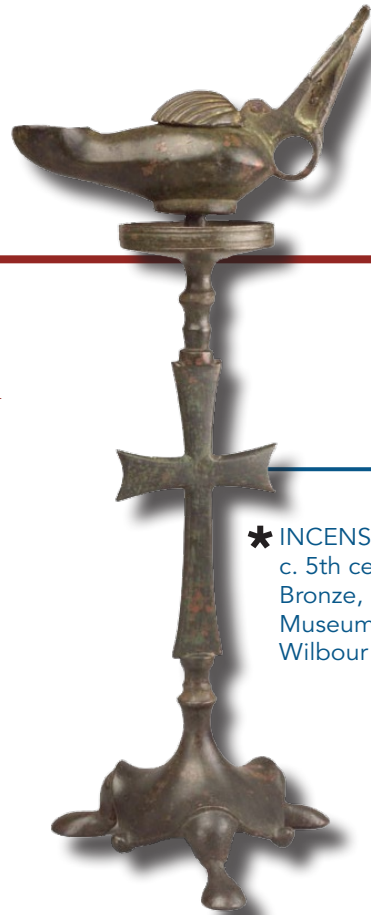
324 CE

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)

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



Bust of Constantine the Great.

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



The PANTHEON, Rome, Italy.

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

Current ST. PETER'S CHURCH, Rome, Italy, © Howard Davis.



POLITICAL/MILITARY EVENTS

370 CE

The Goths and Huns push into the Empire, beginning period of invasions

395 CE

Permanent division of Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine) from Western Roman Empire

410 CE

Ravenna becomes capital of the Western Roman Empire after Rome is captured by the Visigoths

429 CE

Vandals invade North Africa

439

Vandals conquer Carthage but Roman culture continues to dominate

476 CE

Odacer conquers Italy, marking end of the Western Roman Empire, but Eastern half survives for another thousand years as the Byzantine Empire

533 CE

Byzantine Empire recovers control in Tunisia

648–669 CE

Arabs invade Tunisia; Roman culture disappears and is replaced by Islamic culture

1453 CE

Fall of Constantinople marks the end of Byzantine Empire



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



CULTURAL/RELIGIOUS EVENTS

360 CE

First St. Sophia's church completed in Constantinople

361 CE

Emperor Julian attempts to return Empire to pagan worship

392 CE

Emperor Theodosius abolishes pagan worship



HAGIA

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

452 CE

Fourth Ecumenical Council in Chalcedon – Church of Alexandria splits into the Melkites and the Copts (Coptic Church)

532 CE

Emperor Justinian rebuilds Hagia's church in Constantinople



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