

EARLY CHURCH HISTORY

The First 300 years

The Transition into a New Era

***“Constantine and the Triumph of
Christianity”***

Transition into a New Era

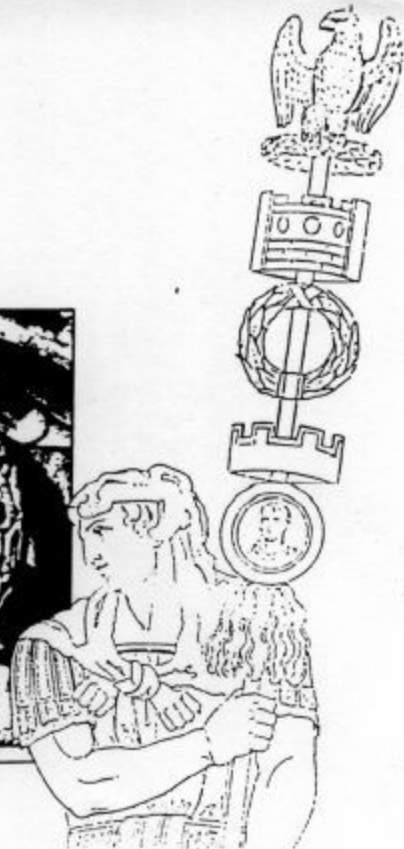
1. Great Persecution (303-311)

- Diocletian, influenced by Galerius, unleashes an intense, empire-wide persecution
- Purpose is to exterminate Christianity from the empire
- 311 – Galerius changes his policy after becoming ill with a painful disease

2. Rise of Constantine

- The Battle of Milivan Bridge (312) – defeats Maxentius in the sign of “chi & rho”
- Edit of Milan (313) – alliance with Licinius, officially recognized Christianity
- 313-322 – Constantine demonstrates his allegiance to Christianity
- 324 – defeats Licinius at Byzantium and becomes the ruler of the entire empire

Far right: A typical Roman military standard. Immediate right: an example (from a fourth-century sarcophagus) of the chi-rho monogram that Constantine placed atop the standards of his troops.



Division of the Roman Empire

284 – 305

EAST

Augustus: Diocletian
Caesar: Galerius

WEST

Augustus: Maximian
Caesar: Constantius Chlorus

306 – 311

EAST

Augustus: Galerius
Caesar: Maximinus Daia
(311 – *Licinius replaces Galerius*)

WEST

Augustus: Constantine
Caesar: Maxentius

313 – 324

EAST

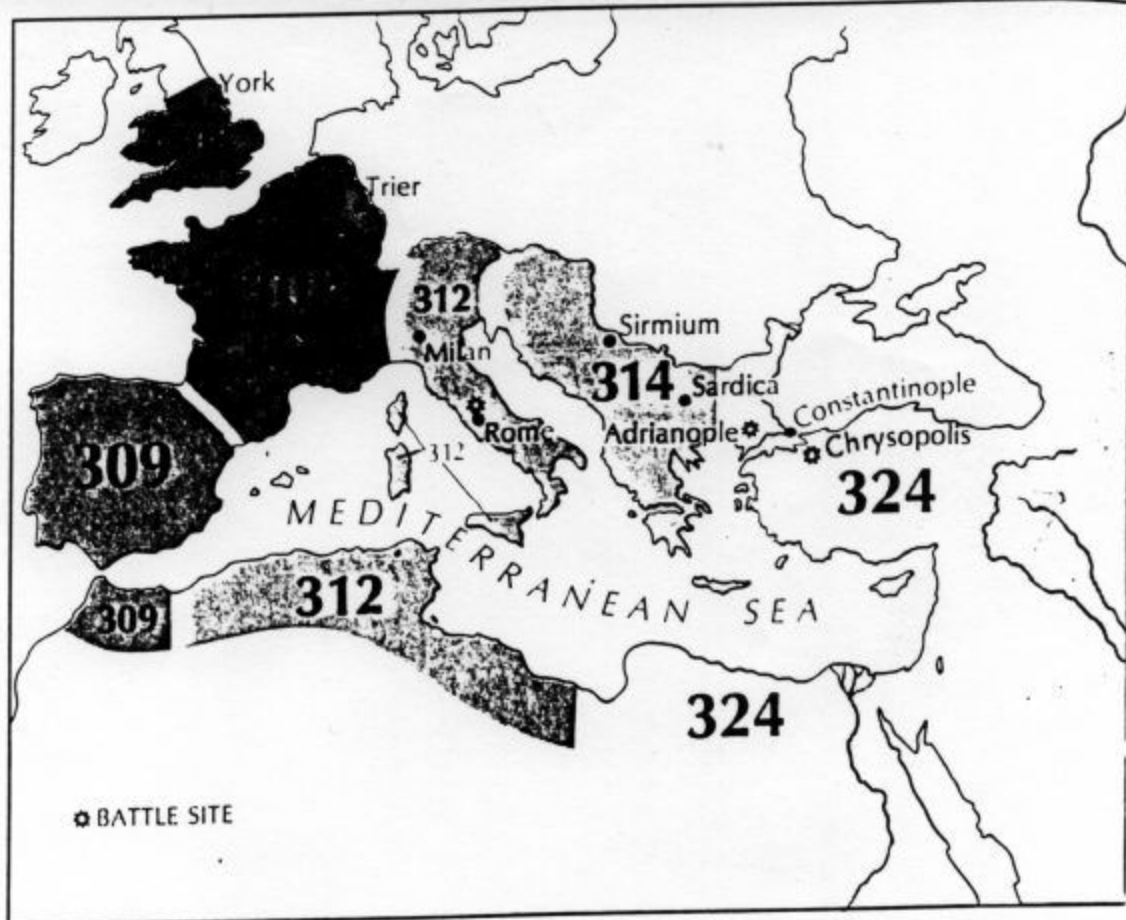
Augustus: Licinius

WEST

Augustus: Constantine



The Empire under Diocletian



Constantine's Advancing Power