

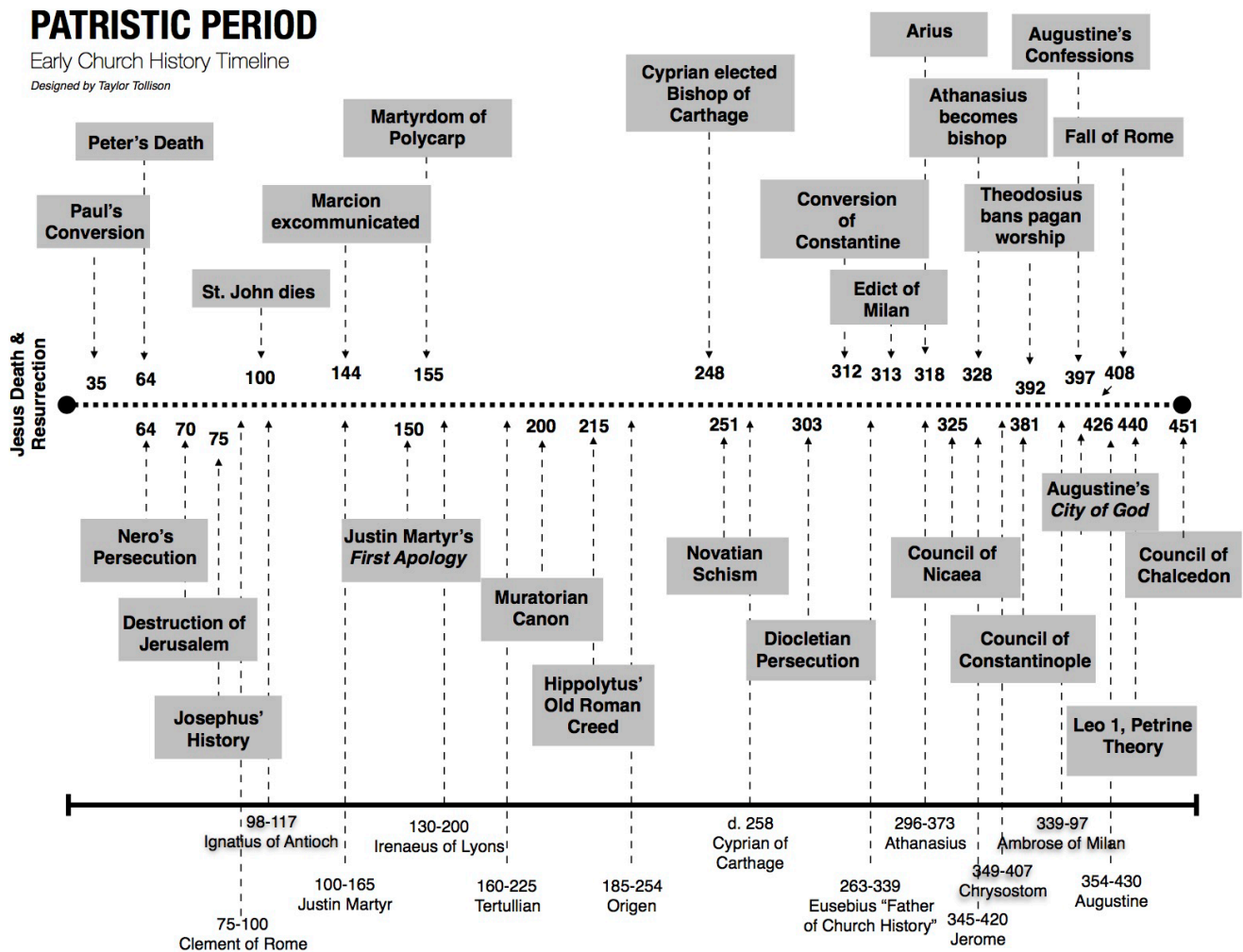
Faith of our Fathers

A Tour Through Church History

Class #1 – Establishing the Foundations

... the newer is the truer, only what is recent is decent, every shift of ground is a step forward,
and every latest word must be hailed as the last word on its subject.

Jl Packer (in describing the arrogant spirit of the modern age)



I. Principles to keep in mind when studying church history

1. There are two extremes to avoid: they got it all right (*therefore we have to go back*); or they got it all wrong (*therefore we can ignore the past & just move on*).
2. Christianity is an "earthly", historical religion.
3. History tells the story of God's redemption of His people through Jesus Christ.
4. History may seem familiar (even repetitive) but it is not cyclical.

II. An overview of the 1st century

A. There were 5 main groups in Israel that reacted to the influence of Rome & as well as the return from exile

1. Pharisees
2. Sadducees
3. Essenes
4. Zealots
5. Samaritans

B. There were 3 main heresies (false teachings) in the early church period ...

1. Legalism
2. Antinomianism
3. Gnosticism