

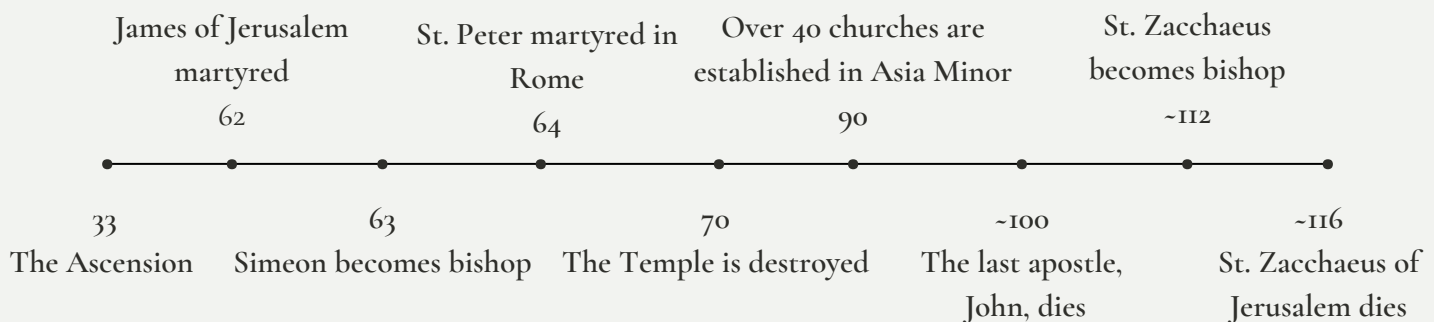


## History

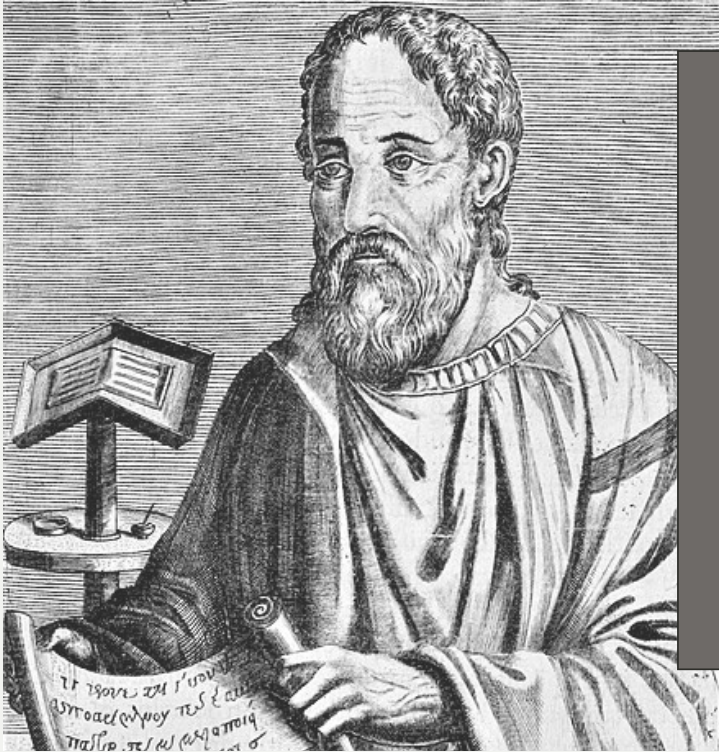
The Acts of the Apostles cues us into the earliest organization of the Church. If you've ever considered this era of Church history, you might have found yourself asking the questions: what did a weekly gathering consist of? How did the Church function? Just before our Lord's Ascension, he ordered his disciples to remain in Jerusalem until they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1). After Pentecost, some would go on to witness to their risen Savior to the ends of the earth. But until then, the first church started in Jerusalem where, we read, the disciples devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, namely the breaking of bread and the prayers.

A bishop, understood from the earliest times, is one who oversees the eucharistic assembly. As the origins of the word implies, a bishop is literally one who "looks over" or "oversees." The earliest bishop according to Eusebius, the author of *Ecclesiastical History*, was James, the brother of our Lord, or James of Jerusalem as he would come to be called. Eusebius also records the names of the 14 bishops who come after James and chronicles the events that take place in the first centuries of the Christian church. St. Zacchaeus of Jerusalem, whom the Church celebrates on August 23rd, was one of these early bishops recorded by Eusebius and is believed to have died in 116.

## Timeline



# Leading Characters



## EUSEBIUS PAMPHILUS

Eusebius was the bishop of Caesarea and is best known today for being an early Church historian. The accuracy of his history, however, is considered by many to be up for debate and has in some respects been flat-out disproven by Church historians. Nevertheless, his work is valued as an early account of the Church and has served as a type of preservation of the work of other historians who recorded Christianity's events in the centuries leading up to him.

## ZACCHAEUS

Eusebius provides us with the names of an unbroken succession of thirty-six bishops of Jerusalem up to the year 324. Zacchaeus comes fourth in the list, following the first bishop of Jerusalem, James, the brother of our Lord, as well as Simeon I and Justus I.

The first fifteen of these bishops, including Zacchaeus, were all of Jewish descent. It is believed that Zacchaeus was only bishop from ~112 to ~116 AD.



# Sources

Eusebius of Caesarea, Church History, ca. 341 AD.  
[http://www.documentacatholicaomnia.eu/03d/0265-0339,\\_Eusebius\\_Caesariensis,\\_Church\\_History,\\_EN.pdf](http://www.documentacatholicaomnia.eu/03d/0265-0339,_Eusebius_Caesariensis,_Church_History,_EN.pdf)

Hegesippus. Commentaries on the Acts of the Church.  
<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/hegesippus.html>

## IMAGES:

Hierosolima From Liber cronicarum, Hartmann Schedel, Germany, 1493.

Eusebius of Caesarea. artist unknown, <https://onb.digital/result/10F880F9>.

Bishops, Tobias Stimmer and L. Fly, Germany, second half of the 16th century.