

CHAPTER 2

HIERONYMI CHRONICON. A TRANSLATION OF JEROME'S CONTINUATION OF EUSEBIUS' CHRONICLE FROM AD 327 TO 379¹

(231f) Eusebius, the companion of the martyr Pamphilus, wrote his history to this point. I have appended to it the following.

AD 327

(231g) Arnobius was considered a distinguished rhetorician in Africa. When he was in Sicca [in Africa] instructing young men in declamation, he was converted to true belief by his dreams; a pagan up to then, he did not receive the faith, that which he had always fought against, from the bishop. He spent his nights composing the most authoritative books against his former religion. Finally he obtained the covenant through certain pledges of faith, as it were.

(231h) Constantine restored the city of Drepana in Bithynia, and paid honor to the martyr Lucian who was buried there. He renamed it Helenopolis after his mother.

(231i) In Antioch construction was begun on the Palace, which is called "golden" [or "Golden House"].

¹Helm's Latin text is reproduced in Appendix A. I have omitted from the translation the references to the Olympiads and the regnal years of each emperor, items which are found in the left margin of the Latin text. For ease of reference it seemed best to include in the translation both the year (*anno domini*) and the page and section of Helm's text (e.g. 231f = Helm, page 231, section f).

AD 328

(232a) Constantine killed his wife Fausta.

(232b) Donatus, whose followers throughout Africa were called Donatists, won renown.

(232c) At Antioch Vitalis was ordained as the city's twentieth bishop; he was the successor of Tyrannus. After Vitalis came Filogonius as the twenty-first. Paulinus followed his as the twenty-second. After Paulinus came Eustathius as the twenty-third. From the time he was driven into exile for his faith down to the present day, Arians have continued to control the church in Antioch. The succession of their bishops was as follows: Eulalius, Eusebius, Eufronius, Placillus, Stefanus, Leontius, Eudoxius, Meletius, Euzoius, Dorotheus and Meletius again.

AD 329

I have not provided their dates for this reason: I judge them to have been Christ's adversaries rather than his bishops.

(232d) The priest Iuvencus, a native of Spain, expounded the Gospels in epic poetry [i.e., Vergilian hexameter].

(232e) Porphyrius was recalled from his exile after he sent his distinguished book to Constantine.

AD 330

(232f) At Alexandria Athanasius was ordained as the nineteenth bishop.

(232g) After almost every other city had been plundered, Constantinople was dedicated.

(232h) Metrodorus the philosopher asserted himself.

AD 331

(233a) At Rome Marcus governed the church as the thirty-second bishop for eight months, after which Iulius was ordained the city's thirty-third; he governed the church for sixteen years and four months.

(233b) In accordance with the edict of Constantine, the temples of the pagans were torn down.

AD 332

(233c) The Romans defeated the Goths in the territory of the Sarmatians.

(233d) Constans, the son of Constantine, was promoted to the throne.

(233e) A countless multitude died from the pestilence and famine in Syria and Cilicia.

AD 334

(233f) The Sarmatians assembled a force and drove their masters, the Limigantes, who are now known as the Argaragantes, into Roman territory.

(233g) Calocaerus was suppressed after he stirred up a revolution on Cyprus.

AD 335

(233h) Constantine together with his children sent a letter to honor Antony.

(233i) During the thirtieth anniversary of Constantine's reign (the *tricennalia*) Dalmatius was named to the office of Caesar.

AD 336

(233k) Pater the rhetorican taught at Rome with great success.

(233l) The daughter of the rhetorican Nazarius equalled her father in eloquence.

(233m) Tiberianus, an eloquent man, governed Gaul as praetorian prefect.

(233n) Eustathius, a priest of Constantinople, won renown. By his industry a martyr's shrine was built at Jerusalem.

AD 337

(234a) Constantine, baptized in his last days by Eusebius, the bishop of Nicomedia, deviated into the doctrine of the Arians. From then until the present time the plundering of the churches and the discord of the whole world has proceeded apace.

(234b) While Constantine was preparing for war against the Persians he died at a public villa in Ancyra [Ankara] near Nicomedia in the sixty-sixth year of his life. After him his three sons were hailed as *Augusti* rather than *Caesares*. Constantine was the thirty-fifth ruler of the Romans.

Constantius and Constans ruled for twenty-four years, five months and thirteen days.

AD 338

(234c) The praetorian prefect Ablabius was killed, together with many of noble rank.

(234d) Sapor the king of Persia besieged Nisibis for almost two months after he had laid waste to Mesopotamia.

(234e) Dalmatius Caesar, to whom his uncle Constantine had allotted an equal share of the empire with his sons, was assassinated by a faction of his cousin Constantius in a sudden outbreak of civil war.

(234f) Jacob the bishop of Nisibis won renown. Due to his prayers his city was often freed from crises.

AD 339

(234g) From this point the Arian impiety, supported by the Emperor Constantius, persecuted Athanasius first of all, then all the bishops who were not Arian, with exile, imprisonment and various kinds of afflictions.

AD 340

(235a) Constantine (II) was killed near Aquileia at Alsia while making war on his brother.

AD 341

(235b) Constans carried out a campaign against the Franks with inconclusive results.

(235c) Many of the cities of the East rested together from a frightful earthquake.

(235d) Audeus was a famous man in Coelo-Syria. The Audian heresy was named after him.

AD 342

(235e) Constans thoroughly defeated the Franks and established peace with them.

(235f) Hermogenes, the Master of the Soldiers, banished the bishop Paulus following the order of the emperor and the Arian party. Accordingly Hermogenes was abused by the populace at Constantinople.

(235g) The Golden Palace [see above] was dedicated at Antioch.

(235h) Macedonius, skilled in the art of embroidery, was appointed bishop in place of Paulus by the Arians. The Macedonian heresy of the present derives from him.

(235i) Due to Arian stratagems and the cruelty of the prefect Phillippus (who was a partisan of the Macedonian sect) Paulus was strangled.

AD 343

(236a) Maximinus, the bishop of Treves, was a famous man. He honorably received Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria, when Constantius sought to punish him.

AD 344

(236b) Sapor the king of Persia persecuted the Christians.

(236c) Neocaesaria in Pontus was destroyed except for the church and the bishop and the others who had taken refuge there.

AD 345

(236d) Titianus, an eloquent man, administered the praetorian prefecture in the Gallic provinces.

AD 346

(236e) Athanasius returned to Alexandria due to a letter from Constans.

(236f) Dyrrachium was ruined by an earthquake. For three days and nights Rome trembled and a great many of the cities of Campania were shaken.

(236g) At great expense the state constructed a port at Seleucia in Syria.

(236h) Sapor again besieged Nisibis for three months.

AD 347

(236i) Eusebius Emisenus, a standard bearer of the Arian sect, wrote many things on a variety of subjects.

(236k) There was an eclipse of the sun.

AD 348

(2361) There was a night battle with the Persians at Singara. In this we squandered a certain victory because of our soldiers' sluggishness. In fact there was not any more serious battle for Constantius out of nine very serious battles against the Persians. For as I shall omit others, Nisibis was besieged, Bizabde [on the Tigris] and Amida [again, on the Tigris; northwest of Nisibis] were taken.

(237a) Maximus, the fortieth bishop of Jerusalem and successor to Macarius, died. After him the Arians seized the church; that is, these Arians were its bishops: Cyril, Eutychius, Cyril again, Irenaeus, Cyril for a third time, Hilarius, and Cyril for the fourth time. Of these men Cyrillus served as a deacon in the Church. Although he had been ordained a priest by Maximus, after the latter's death the see was offered to him by Acacius and other Arians if he would reject Maximus' ordination. For this impiety concerning the priesthood he was compensated with a bribe. The dying Maximus had substituted Heraclius in his own place. Worrying this man with a variety of deceits, Cyril demoted him from bishop to priest.

AD 349

(237b) Liberius was ordained the thirty-fourth bishop of the Roman church. When he was driven into exile for his faith, all the clergy swore that they would support no one else. But when the Arians had substituted Felix in the priesthood, most of them violated their oaths. A year later they were cast out with Felix, because Liberius, overcome by the weariness of exile and subscribing to a heretical depravity, had entered Rome like a conqueror.

AD 350

(237c) While Magnentius was usurping the imperial throne at Augustodunum [in Gaul; modern Autun] Constans was not far from Spain in a camp which is called Helena. Constans was killed in his thirtieth year and as a result the state was thrown into disorder. Vetranio was declared emperor at Mursa [in Pannonia], and Nepotianus, at Rome.

(238a) At Rome, when the people rebelled against the party of Magnentius, they were betrayed by a senator named Heraclides.

(238b) Nepotianus' head was carried around through the city on a javelin, and many nobles were proscribed and put to death.

AD 351

(238c) At Naissus [in Moesia] Constantius removed the imperial insignia from Vetranio.

(238d) Magnentius was defeated at Mursa. In this battle the might of Rome perished.

(238e) Gallus, the cousin of Constantius, was made *Caesar*.

AD 352

(238f) The Jews seized weapons for a rebellion when they had killed the soldiers at night. Gallus caught them by surprise and slaughtered many thousands of men, even those of an innocent age, and he burned Diocaesaria, Tiberias, Diospolis and many towns.

(238g) Gallus had some of the nobles of Antioch killed.

AD 353 (A jubilee year according to the Hebrews)

(238h) Magnentius killed himself with his own hand in the palace at Lug-

dunum [Lyons]. His brother Decentius, whom he had sent as *Caesar* to protect the Gallic provinces, ended his life among the Senones by hanging himself.

(239a) Gennadius was considered a distinguished forensic orator at Rome.

(239b) Minervius the rhetorician from Burgdigala [Bordeaux] taught at Rome in a most distinguished manner.

AD 354

(239c) Gallus Caesar was vexed by his cousin Constantius; Gallus had come under the latter's suspicion for his extraordinary talent. He was killed at Histria [in Moesia by the Black Sea].

(239d) Silvanus stirred up a revolution in Gaul but was put down within twenty-eight days.

(239e) The rhetorician Victorinus and the grammarian Donatus, my teacher, were considered outstanding men at Rome. One of them, Victorinus, was even honored with a statue in the Forum of Trajan.

(239f) Paulinus and Rodanius, bishops of the Gallic provinces, were driven into exile for their faith.

AD 355

(239g) The rhetoricians Alcimius and Delfidius taught in Aquitania most eloquently.

(239h) Donatus was driven out of Carthage. The Donatists in Africa were named after him, as I have recounted above. They also call certain followers of his "Montensians," because initially they began to hold their assembly on a hill at Rome.

(239i) The following were condemned to exiles far apart from one another by Constantius

and the Arians: Eusebius, the bishop of Vercellae, Lucifer, Dionysius of Caralitana, the bishops of the church of Milan, and also Pancratius, a Roman priest, and Hilarius, a deacon.

(240a) Julian, the brother of Gallus, was named *Caesar* at Milan.

AD 356

(240b) The monk Antony died in the desert in his one hundred and fifth year of age. He used to tell the story of Paulus, a certain Theban who was wonderfully blessed, to many of those who came to him. I have given an account of Paulus' death in a brief book.

(240c) Hilary, the bishop of Pictavi [Poitiers] was driven into exile in Phrygia for three years by a faction of Saturnius, the bishop of Arles, and those of the Arians who were associated with him.

There he composed books about our religion.

(240d) The relics of the Apostle Timothy were carried into Constantinople.

(240e) Sarmata, Amatas and Macarius, disciples of Antony, were esteemed as remarkable men.

(240f) Liberius the Roman Bishop was sent into exile.

(240g) A great hoard of the Alemmani was crushed by the *Caesar* Julian at the Gallic town of Argentoratum [Strasbourg].

AD 357

(240h) The Saracens rushed into the monastery of the blessed Antony and killed Sarmata.

(240i) Upon Constantius' entry into Rome the bones of the Apostle Andrew and the Evangelist Luke were received from the people of Constantinople with

extraordinary good will.

AD 358

(241a) Nicomedia was entirely devastated by an earthquake while the neighboring cities were shaken in part.

(241b) Paulinus, the bishop of Treves, who was living in Phrygia as an exile, died.

(241c) Evanthius, the most learned of grammarians died at Constantinople; Chrestus was brought from Africa to replace him.

AD 359

(241d) Synods were held at Ariminum [Rimini] and Seleucia of Isauria, in which the ancient faith of the fathers was condemned first by the treason of ten legates and then by that of an who were present.

(241e) Honoratus was made the first urban prefect of Constantinople after serving as praetorian prefect of the Gallic provinces.

(241f) Gratian who is now the emperor was born.

(241g) Hilary returned to Gaul after he had offered his book on his own behalf to Constantius at Constantinople.

(241h) Macedonius was driven from Constantinople.

(241i) Almost all the churches in the whole world were polluted under the pretense of peace and the partnership of the king of the Arians.

AD 360

(241k) The greatest of the churches was dedicated at Constantinople.

(241l) Meletius of Sebastia, the bishop of the Armenians, was transferred to Antioch by the Arian bishops Acacius and George. After a brief interval in which he restored the priests

deposed by his predecessor Eudoxius, Meletius mocked the most just cause of exile by an improvised change of faith.

(242a) Gaul--through the agency of Hilary--condemned the treacheries of the falsehood of Ariminum.

AD 361

(242b) Constantius died at Mopsucrene between Cilicia and Cappadocia in his forty-fifth year. Julian was the thirty-sixth ruler of the Romans. He reigned for one year and eight months.

AD 362

(242c) Julian converted to idol-worship; then a mild persecution was alluring rather than compelling Christians to sacrifice. In this persecution many of our people fell into ruin willingly.

(242d) When George, the man who had been ordained by the Arians to replace Athanasius, was burned during an insurrection, Athanasius returned to Alexandria.

(242e) Eusebius and Lucifer returned from exile. Lucifer, after he had taken in two other confessors, made Paulinus the bishop of the Catholic party of Antioch. Paulinus was a priest of the bishop Eustathius and he had never polluted himself with the communion of the heretics.

AD363

(242f) Prohaeresius the Athenian sophist abandoned his school of his own accord after the enactment of the law which forbade Christians to teach the liberal arts. This was in spite of the fact that Julian made an exception for him so he could teach as a Christian.

(243a) Aemilianus was burned to death by the *vicar* for overthrowing the altars of Dorostorus [in Moesia].

(243b) The church of Antioch was closed shut, and God by His will quieted the severest storm of an impending persecution. For when Julian set out against the Persians he had sworn that he would offer our blood to the gods after his victory. He was conducted to the desert by a certain man playing the part of a deserter, when the same apostate had ruined his army with hunger and thirst. Then when he very ill-advisedly strayed from the ranks of his own soldiers, he by chance encountered an enemy cavalryman who pierced his side with a spear. He died in his thirty-second year of age. On the very next day Jovian was raised from commander of the household troops to be Julian's successor. Jovian was the thirty-seventh ruler of the Romans; he reigned for eight months.

AD 364

(243c) Jovian was compelled by the necessity of the situation to surrender Nisibis and a large part of Mesopotamia to Sapor, the Persian king.

(243d) A synod at Antioch was held by Meletius and his supporters; after they had rejected the *homoousios* and the *anomoeos*, they espoused a middle position between these dogmas--the *homoeousion* of the Macedonians.

(243e) Jovian died at Dadastana [on the border of Bithynia and Galatia] in his thirty-fourth year. His death was due to either indigestion or the fumes of live coals, of which he had ordered too many burned. After him Valentinian, a tribune of the targeteers in the household troops from Pannonia Cibalensis [i.e., the area of Cibalae] was named *Augustus* at Nicaea. He took his brother Valens who was at Constantinople as his colleague in

power. The reign of Valentinian and Valens was the thirty-eighth of the Romans: they ruled for fourteen years and five months.

AD 365

(244a) Valentinian was a distinguished emperor in some regards, similar to Aurelian in character, except that certain persons interpreted Valentinian's excessive severity and stinginess as cruelty and greediness.

(244b) Apollinaris, the bishop of Laodicea [in Asia] composed a great number of works on our religion.

(244c) An earthquake shook the whole world and the sea advanced onto the shore; the tremors shook the cities of Sicily and many of the islands, and thereby crushed countless people.

(244d) Procopius, who had seized power at Constantinople, was killed in advantageously situated Phrygia and a great many of the Procopian party were put to death and their property was proscribed.

(244e) Damasus was ordained as the thirty-fifth bishop of the Roman church. After a brief interval of time, certain individuals established Ursinus as bishop. He and his followers invaded the basilica of Sicininus, where the people of Damasus' party were assembling, and carried out the cruelest executions of both sexes.

(245a) After Valens was baptized by Eudoxius, the bishop of the Arians, he persecuted our people.

AD 367

(245b) Gratian, the son of Valentinian, was made emperor at Ambiani [in Gaul].

(245c) Such a great storm arose at Constantinople that several persons were killed by hail of an astonishing size.

(245d) At Atrabatae [in northern Gaul] wool mixed with rain floated down from the sky.

(245e) Hilary, the bishop of Pictavi (or Limonum: modern Poitiers) died.

AD 368

(245f) Nicaea, which had often suffered damage in the past, was completely overthrown by an earthquake.

(245g) Libanius of Antioch was esteemed as a distinguished rhetorician.

AD 369

(245h) Valens returned the public games to Constantinople.

(245i) Athanaric, the king of the Goths, killed a great number of Christians when he had incited a persecution. He also drove many from their own settlements into Roman territory.

(245j) Eusebius, the bishop of Vercellae, died.

AD 370

(245l) The martyrs' shrine for the Apostles was dedicated at Constantinople.

(245m) There was a great famine in Phrygia.

(246a) Lucifer, the bishop of Carales [Cagliari in Sardinia], died; like Gregory, a bishop in Spain, and Philo of Libya, he never joined himself to the Arian depravity.

AD 371

(246b) Maximinus, prefect of the grain supply, obeyed the emperor's order to

investigate criminals, and put to death a great many of the nobles at Rome.

(246c) Valentinian was suppressed in Britain before he could seize power.

(246d) A priest of Sirmium [in Pannonia] was unjustly beheaded because he had refused to hand over Octavian (whom he had sheltered in his home) in accordance with the proconsul's order.

AD 372

(246e) Didymus of Alexandria, utilizing secretaries, wrote numerous commentaries on many things concerning our doctrine. He was deprived of his eyesight in the fifth year after his birth and therefore he was wholly illiterate.

(246f) Probus the prefect of Illyricum exacted the most unjust tribute from the provinces he was governing before they were laid waste by the barbarians.

AD 373

(246g) Eunomius, a disciple of Aetius of Constantinople, won notoriety; the Eunomian heresy derives from him.

(246h) The Saxons were cut to pieces at Deuso in the territory of the Franks.

(247a) Almost eighty-thousand Burgundians descended to the Rhine--something which never happened before.

(247b) Clearchus, the prefect of the city at Constantinople was a famous man. He brought the necessary long-prayed-for water into the city with his aqueduct.

(247c) Peter was ordained the twentieth bishop of Alexandria. He was so easy about accepting heretics after the death of Valens that he aroused in some the suspicion that money was involved.

AD 374

(247d) Melania, noblest of Roman women and the daughter of Marcellinus who was once consul, abandoned her only son, the urban *praetor*, and sailed to Jerusalem. She lived there in such miraculous virtue, especially humility, that she received the name of Thecla.

(247e) After the belated death of Auxentius of Milan, Ambrose was appointed bishop and all Italy was restored to the right faith.

(247f) The clergy of Aquileia were regarded as if they were a choir of the blessed.

AD 375

(247g) Because the Sarmatians had laid waste the Pannonian provinces in the previous year, the same consuls remained in office.

(247h) Valentinian died suddenly at Brigetio [or Brigetio, in Pannonia] due to a sudden eruption of blood, which is called *apoplexis* in Greek. After him Gratian ruled, together with his uncle Valens. Gratian took his brother Valentinian as his colleague in power.

(248a) Many of the monks of Nitria [a monastic center west of the Nile delta] were killed by the tribunes and their soldiers.

(248b) After he had passed a law that the monks should serve in the army, Valens ordered those who refused to be clubbed to death.

AD 376

(248c) Theodosius, the father of the Theodosius who was afterwards emperor, and very many nobles were put to death.

(248d) Photinus died in Gaul. The Jewish doctrine called Photinian is named after him.

(248e) Basil of Caesarea, the bishop of Cappadocia, was a famous man. By the one fault of pride he ruined his many good qualities of chastity and talent.

AD 377

(248f) About thirty thousand Alamanni were laid low by Gratian's army at the Gallic town

of Argentoratum [modern Strasbourg].

(248g) Florentinus, Bonosus and Rufinus were regarded as distinguished monks. Of these Florentinus was so merciful to the destitute that he was named "father of the poor" by the common people.

(248h) The race of the Huns devastated the land of the Goths. The Goths were received by the Romans without having to lay down their arms. They were driven to rebel due to famine brought on by the greed of the general Maximus.

(249a) After they overcame the Romans in combat the Goths poured into Thrace.

AD 378

(249b) Valens, compelled to leave Antioch, recalled our people from their exile in his belated repentance.

AD 379

(249c) There was a lamentable war in Thrace. In this the protection of the calvary was lacking. The Roman legions were surrounded by the Goths and slaughtered to the last man. The Emperor Valens himself fled when he was wounded by an arrow and often nearly fell from his horse due to the very severe pain. He was carried off to the house of a certain modest villa.

The barbarians followed him there and they set fire to the house; he failed to even acquire a proper burial place.

(249d) From the founding of Rome to the last year of this work there were 1,131 years, which may be considered in the following manner:

Under the kings, 260 years. Under the consuls, 464 years. Under the *Augusti* and *Caesares*, 427 years.

(250) All the years down to the sixth consulship of Valens and the second of the Emperor Valentinian the younger are reckoned here:

From the fifteenth year of Tiberius and the preaching of our Lord Jesus Christ, 351 years. From the second year of Darius, king of Persia, at which time the temple of Jerusalem was restored, 899 years. From the first Olympiad, in which age Isaiah was prophesying among the Hebrews, 1,155 years. From Solomon and the first construction of the temple, 1,411 years. From the downfall of Troy, at which time Samson was among the Hebrews, 1,561 years. From Moses and Cecrops, the first king of Attica, 1,890 years. From Abraham and the reign of Ninus and Semiramis, 2,395 years.

All the list from Abraham down to the time written above which contains 2,395 years.

From the Flood, moreover, to Abraham, the years are estimated to be 942 years.

From Adam to the Flood, 2,242 years. From Adam down to the fourteenth year of Valens, that is, to his sixth consulship and the second of Valentinian, all the years that elapsed were 5,579 years.