
CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

ca. 370		Synesius born in Cyrene
390s		Synesius studies in Alexandria under Hypatia
391		destruction of the Serapeum of Alexandria
395	17 January	death of Theodosius I, leaving Roman Empire to Arcadius under Rufinus in the East and to Honorius under Stilicho in the West
	summer	Alaric and Goths ravage Thrace, threaten Constantinople; Stilicho and combined armies engage inconclusively
	27 November	Gaïnas and Eastern armies return to Constantinople, assassinate Rufinus; Caesarius appointed praetorian prefect; Eutropius emerges as power behind Arcadius's throne
396		Alaric and Goths ravage Greece
	summer	Stilicho campaigns inconclusively against Alaric in Greece; Goths continue to ravage Epirus ¹
397	19 January	Arcadius's third quinquennium begins

1. The redating of Stilicho's second expedition to Greece will be argued by Cameron in a forthcoming article.

	13 July– 4 September September	Eutychian praetorian prefect Synesius arrives in Constantinople as Cyrene's ambassador, delivers <i>stephanotikos logos</i> (not extant)
397/98	winter	Synesius solicits interest of Paeonius with astrolabe and <i>De dono</i>
398	?	Alaric appointed MVM <i>per Illyricum</i>
398		Synesius delivers <i>De regno</i> (to restricted audience)
398/99		Fravitta appointed MVM <i>per Orientem</i>
399	summer	Tribigild and Greuthungi revolt in Phrygia; Eutropius sends armies under Leo against Tribigild and under Gaïnas to guard Hellespont; Leo defeated and killed
	ca. 1 August	Gaïnas has Eutropius deposed and exiled; Aurelian appointed praetorian prefect
	autumn	Eutropius recalled from exile, tried before Aurelian, and executed
400	1 January	Aurelian assumes consulate
	9 January	Eudoxia proclaimed Augusta
	early April	Aurelian, Saturninus, and John exiled by Gaïnas; Caesarius reappointed praetorian prefect
	12 July	Gaïnas leaves Constantinople; massacre of Goths remaining in city
	July	Gaïnas and troops remain near Constantinople; Synesius completes book 1 of <i>De providentia</i>
	summer	Gaïnas and troops withdraw into Thrace
	September/ October	Aurelian returns to Constantinople with fellow exiles, receives patriciate, renews consular festivities; Synesius composes book 2 of <i>De providentia</i>
	before mid- November	earthquake shakes Constantinople; Synesius escapes; sails to Alexandria
	autumn	Roman forces under Fravitta defeat Gaïnas in Chersonnese
400/1	December/ January	Huns under Uldin defeat and kill Gaïnas, send head to Constantinople

401	1 January spring	Fravitta assumes consulate Synesius returns to Cyrene, baptized there; <i>Hymn</i> 1
	18 November	Alaric and Goths invade Italy
402–4		Synesius visits Alexandria, marries; <i>Hymn</i> 7
403–4	11 June– 3 February	Eutychian praetorian prefect
404/5		Synesius takes up residence in Cyrene
405	11 June– 10 July	Anthemius praetorian prefect
	?	Hierax secures death of Fravitta
410		Synesius elected bishop of Ptolemais, deliberates six months before accepting, meanwhile travels to Greece
411	after annual paschal letter	Synesius consecrated bishop
413	spring	Synesius dies
414	18 April– 10 May	Monaxius praetorian prefect
	4 July	Pulcheria proclaimed Augusta
	30 November/ 30 December	Aurelian reappointed praetorian prefect
415	March	Alexandrian Christians riot against Jews; Hypatia lynched
ca. 416		Aurelian installs bones of Isaac in martyrion dedicated to Stephen Protomartyr

