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Edited by Susan M. Felch

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LITERATURE AND
RELIGION

SUSAN M. FELCH
Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan



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Revelation characterizes the world
just as much as natural laws do.
(M.M. Bakhtin)

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CHRONOLOGY OF RELIGIOUS FOUNDERS AND TEXTS

B.C.E.

ca. 1500–700	Vedas composed
ca. 800–600	Brahmanas composed
ca. 800–150	Hebrew sacred writings composed
ca. 600–400	Early Upanishads composed
ca. 500–150 C.E.	Sutras composed
566	Birth of the Buddha (long chronology)
448	Birth of the Buddha (short chronology)
ca. 400–100	Later Upanishads composed
ca. 300–300 C. E.	Mahabharata composed
ca. 280–130	Hebrew writings translated into Greek (the Septuagint)
ca. 200–200 C. E.	Ramayana composed
ca. 150–68	Creation of the Dead Sea Scrolls

C.E.

4	Birth of Jesus of Nazareth
ca. 50–125	New Testament writings composed
ca. 100	Bhagavad Gita composed
ca. 200	The Mishnah composed
ca. 350–1350	Puranas composed
ca. 400	Bible translated into Latin by Jerome (the Vulgate)
ca. 500	The Gemara composed
ca. 500–700	Tevaram collection compiled
ca. 500–900	Early Tantras composed
ca. 570	Birth of Muhammad
610–632	Revelations of the Qur'an
983	First printing of Chinese Buddhist canon
1054	Great Schism marks permanent split between Church of Rome and Church of Constantinople
1517	Luther posts the 95 theses; beginning of the Protestant Reformation