

The years in the New Testament timeline are approximate because, contrary to what logic would tell us, Jesus was not born at the fulcrum of B.C./A.D. It has been established that Herod died in 4 B.C., so Jesus must have been born before. The year of the beginning of His ministry is taken from Luke 3:1-2, which describes John the Baptist's debut in relation to current political leaders, and Luke 3:23, which says Jesus was "about thirty."

The Early Church

Pentecost: 30 A.D. (Acts 2)

First Persecutions: 35 A.D. (Acts 3-4)

Paul on the Road to Damascus: 36 A.D. (Acts 9)

Writing of the Book of Matthew: 43 A.D.

Execution of James (brother of John): 44-45 A.D. (Acts 12:2)

Execution of Philip: 54 A.D.

Nero Emperor of Rome: 54 A.D. – 68 A.D.

Writing of Book of Romans: 58 A.D.

Execution of Matthew: 60 A.D.

Writing of Book of James: 62 A.D.

Writing of 1 Peter: 63 A.D.

Writing of Acts: 63 A.D.

Writing of Book of Mark: 64 A.D.

Writing of 2 Peter: 65 A.D.

Execution of Peter: 64-67 A.D.

Jerusalem falls to Rome: 70 A.D.

Execution of Thomas, possibly in India: 72 A.D.

Writing of Jude: 75 A.D.

Writing of John's Gospel: 85 A.D.

Writing of John's Letters: 90 A.D.

John on Patmos: 96 A.D.

Writing of Book of Revelation: 97 A.D.

Apostle John Dies: 100 A.D.

Unfortunately, the New Testament does not give a precise timeline for these significant events—apparently God doesn't think we need them. The dates regarding the writings of the Gospels, especially, may be off by as much as 15 years. The dates of the deaths of the apostles are through church

tradition, as the only death mentioned in the Bible is that of James the brother of the Apostle John in Acts 12:2.

The Ministry of Paul

Paul on the Road to Damascus: 36 A.D. (Acts 9)

First Missionary Trip Begins: 48 A.D. (Acts 13-14)

Second Missionary Trip Begins: 51 A.D. (Acts 15:36-18:22)

Writing of 1 & 2 Thessalonians: 52-53 A.D.

Third Missionary Trip Begins: 54 A.D. (Acts 18-21)

Writing of 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Romans: 57-58 A.D.

Arrested in Jerusalem: 58 A.D. (Acts 21:26-22:29)

Travels to Rome: 60-61 A.D. (Acts 27:1-28:16)

First Roman Imprisonment: 62-63 A.D. (Acts 28:16-31)

Writing of Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon: 62 A.D.

Writing of Hebrews, 1 Timothy, Titus: 63 A.D.

Second Roman Imprisonment: 65-66 A.D.

Writing of 2 Timothy: 66 A.D.

Execution of Paul: 66 A.D.

Since Paul's journeys are chronicled in the book of Acts, and his dense ministry lasted only about twenty years, the New Testament gives us a few more clues as to the timeline of Paul. It's important to note that Paul's first imprisonment in Rome was a kind of house arrest, but his second was a brutal stay in a Roman prison. Ignatius (who served as the third Bishop of Antioch and likely knew Paul) recorded around 110 A.D. that Paul was killed by Nero in the mid-60s. Since he was a Roman citizen, he was not crucified (as tradition says Peter was), but beheaded.

EventReference Year (AD)

Descent of the Holy Spirit Acts 2:1-13 30

Setting Up of the Church Acts 2:40-47 30

First Persecutions (Illustration) Acts 4:1-22; 5:21-42; 7:1-60 35

Philip at Samaria Acts 8:4-13 35

Conversion of Saul (Illustration) Acts 9:1-9 36

First Gentile Converted Acts 10:1-48 40

Founding of Church at Antioch Acts 11:19-30 43

Writing of Matthew's Gospel	Matthew	43	
James Killed by Herod	Acts 12:1-25	45	
Paul's Call	Acts 13:1-347		
His First Missionary Journey Begun (Map)	Acts 13:4-14:28	48	
Council at Jerusalem	Acts 15:6-35	50	
Second Missionary Journey Begun (Map)	Acts 15:39-18:22	51	
Writing of I Thessalonians	I Thessalonians	52	
Writing of II Thessalonians	II Thessalonians	53	
Third Missionary Journey Begun (Map)	Acts 18:23-21:17	54	
Writing of I Corinthians	I Corinthians	57	
Writing of Galatians	Galatians	57	
Writing of II Corinthians	II Corinthians	58	
Writing of Romans	Romans	58	
Writing of Luke's Gospel	Luke	59	
Paul's Arrest at Jerusalem	Acts 21:26-22:29	58	
Paul at Caesarea	Acts 23:23-26:32	59	
Paul Starts for Rome	Acts 27:1-260		
Paul Reaches Rome	Acts 28:11-16a	61	
Paul's Imprisonment at Rome	Acts 28:16-31	62	
Paul Writes Ephesians	Ephesians	62	
Paul Writes Philippians	Philippians	62	
Paul Writes Colossians	Colossians	62	
Paul Writes Philemon	Philemon	62	
James Writes his Epistle	James	62	
I Peter Written	I Peter	63	
Acts Written	Acts	63	
Paul is Acquitted -		63	
Paul Visits Various Places	-	63	
Paul Writes Hebrews	Hebrews	63	
Paul Writes I Timothy	I Timothy	63	
Paul Writes Titus	Titus	63	
Writing of Mark's Gospel	Mark	64	
II Peter Written	II Peter	65	
Paul's Second Imprisonment at Rome	-	65	
II Timothy Written	II Timothy	66	
Martyrdom of Paul	-	66	
Destruction of Jerusalem	-	71	
Jude's Epistle Written	Jude	75	

Writing of John's Gospel	John	85
Writing of John's Three Epistles	I John; II John; III John	90
John's Visions at Patmos	Revelation 1:9	96
Revelation Written	Revelation	97
Death of John	-	100