

New Testament Era — Emperors, Rulers of Judea, the Church & When the NT Books Were Written

From the birth of Jesus to the close of the Apostolic Age · dates AD unless marked BC · book dates follow conservative, traditional scholarship — all four Gospels & Acts before AD 70

Date	Roman Emperor	Ruler(s) of Judea	Roman Governor	High Priest	NT Books Written (approx.)	New Testament Events
THE TIME OF JESUS						
c.6–4 BC	Augustus 27 BC–AD 14	Herod the Great 37–4 BC (King of Judea)	—	Simon · Joazar	—	Birth of Jesus (before Herod's death, 4 BC)
4 BC		Herod Archelaus 4 BC–AD 6 · Herod Antipas		Joazar · Eleazar		Holy Family returns from Egypt; settle in Nazareth
AD 6		Archelaus deposed; Judea a Roman province AD 6	Coponius 6–9 (Prefect)	Annas (Ananus) 6–15		Jesus (age 12) at the Temple (c. AD 8)
9–15		Antipas & Philip continue	Ambivulus 9–12 · Annius Rufus 12–15	Annas		
AD 14	Tiberius 14–37		Valerius Gratus 15–26	Ishmael · Eleazar · Simon		
AD 18				Caiaphas 18–36		
AD 26		Antipas (Galilee) · Philip	Pontius Pilate 26–36 (Prefect)	Caiaphas		
c. 28–29			Pilate	Caiaphas · Annas		John the Baptist's ministry; Jesus baptized; ministry begins (Luke 3:1)
c. 30–33			Pilate	Caiaphas	(none yet — events first told orally)	Crucifixion & Resurrection of Jesus; Pentecost; the Church begins
THE TIME OF THE APOSTLES						
AD 34	Tiberius (cont.)	Philip dies; tetrarchy to Syria 34	Pilate	Caiaphas		Stephen martyred; Saul's conversion (c. 33–36)
AD 36			Marcellus 36–37 · Marullus 37–41	Jonathan · Theophilus		
AD 37	Caligula (Gaius) 37–41	Herod Agrippa I 37–44 (King)		Theophilus		
AD 41	Claudius 41–54	Agrippa I rules all Judea 41–44 (Monarchy restored)	(Monarchy restored) 41–44	Simon Cantheras		Peter's ministry; Cornelius converted; church at Antioch
AD 44		Agrippa I dies (Acts 12:23) 44	Cuspius Fadus 44–46 · Tib. J. Alexander 46–48	Matthias · Elioneus	James c. 44–49 (perhaps earliest NT book)	James (son of Zebedee) martyred; Peter imprisoned
c. 46–48		Herod Agrippa II from 48/50	Ventidius Cumanus 48–52	Ananias b. Nedebaeus 47–59		Paul's 1st journey (c. 46–48); proconsul Sergius Paulus, Cyprus (Acts 13)
AD 49				Ananias	Galatians c. 49 (early date, after the 1st journey)	Council of Jerusalem (c. 49–50, Acts 15); Claudius expels Jews from Rome
c. 50–52		Agrippa II	Antonius Felix 52–60 (Procurator)	Ananias	1 & 2 Thessalonians c. 50–51	Paul's 2nd journey; in Corinth before proconsul Gallio (c. 51–52, Acts 18)
AD 54	Nero 54–68	Agrippa II	Felix	Ananias · Ishmael	1 & 2 Corinthians c. 55–56	Paul's 3rd journey (c. 53–57); long stay in Ephesus
c. 57		Agrippa II & Bernice	Felix	Ishmael b. Phabi	Romans c. 57	Paul writes Romans from Corinth before going to Jerusalem
c. 57–59		Agrippa II	Felix	Ishmael	Matthew · Mark c. 55–65	Paul arrested in Jerusalem; tried before Felix at Caesarea (Acts 24)
AD 60		Agrippa II hears Paul	Porcius Festus 60–62	Ishmael · Joseph Cabi		Paul tried before Festus & Agrippa II; appeals to Caesar (Acts 25–26)
c. 60–62		Agrippa II	Festus → Albinus 62–64	Ananus (executes James, 62)	Luke c. 60–61 · Acts c. 62 Prison Epistles: Ephesians · Philippians · Colossians · Philemon, c. 60–62	Paul under house arrest in Rome (Acts 28); James the Just martyred (62)

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c. 62–64			Gessius Florus 64–66	Matthias · Phannias	1 Timothy · Titus · 1 Peter c. 62–64	Paul released & travels (tradition); Peter ministers
c. 64–67			Florus	Phannias	2 Timothy · 2 Peter · Jude c. 64–68	Great Fire of Rome (64); Neronian persecution; Peter & Paul martyred (c. 64–67)
THE JEWISH WAR & AFTER						
AD 66	Nero (cont.)	Agrippa II sides with Rome	Florus → Roman generals	Phannias (last High Priest)	Hebrews c. 67–69 (Temple still standing)	First Jewish–Roman War begins (66)
68–69	Year of Four Emperors Galba · Otho · Vitellius · Vespasian		Vespasian & Titus campaign	—		War across Galilee & Judea
AD 70	Vespasian 69–79	Agrippa II	Titus besieges & takes Jerusalem TEMPLE DESTROYED 70		(Gospels & Acts already in circulation)	FALL OF JERUSALEM — Second Temple destroyed (70)
AD 79	Titus 79–81	Agrippa II (d. c. 92/100)	Roman legates	—	—	
AD 81	Domitian 81–96			—	John · 1-2:3 John · Revelation c. 85–95	Persecution of Christians; Revelation (c. 95, John on Patmos)
AD 96	Nerva 96–98			—		
AD 98	Trajan 98–117			—	(NT canon complete) by c. 100	Death of John the Apostle (c. 100); close of the Apostolic Age

Sources: standard lists of Roman emperors, the Herodian dynasty, Jewish high priests, and Wikipedia “Judaea (Roman province)”. Book dates follow conservative, traditional scholarship (e.g. the MacArthur Study Bible): James (c. 44–49) and Galatians (c. 49) take their early datings; Matthew, Mark, Luke and Acts are all written before AD 70 — Acts closes with Paul's house arrest (c. 62) and nowhere mentions the Neronian persecution, Paul's death, or the Temple's fall; Hebrews is written while Temple sacrifices continue (c. 67–69); and John's Gospel, letters, and Revelation follow the early church's testimony (Irenaeus) of composition late in Domitian's reign (c. 85–95). Dates remain approximate. NT event dates (Nativity c. 6–4 BC; Crucifixion AD 30 or 33) are given with their traditional ranges.