

Dating of the New Testament Books

Last Updated 9/3/2022

<i>Order</i>	<i>Book</i>	<i>Date (AD/CE)</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Notes</i>
1	James	44-45	James	James died in 62. There is no mention of the Jerusalem Council. Simple church organization of teachers and elders. The assembly is referred to as a synagogue (not an ecclesia).
2	Galatians	48-49	Paul	Paul makes no mention of the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15) indicating that Galatians was written before the Jerusalem Council, likely just before the Jerusalem Council and is the basis of Paul's argument at the Council.
3	1 Thessalonians	Spring 50	Paul	Written shortly after Paul's arrival in Corinth. Second NT book Paul wrote (after Galatians).
4	2 Thessalonians	Spring-Summer 50	Paul	Written shortly after 1 Thessalonians (content and style very similar).
5	1 Corinthians	Spring 54	Paul	Written in Ephesus while Paul is on his 3 rd Missionary Journey.
6	2 Corinthians	Fall 55	Paul	Written while in Macedonia.
7	Mark	Mid 50s	Mark	Peter was the source (cf. Papias noting that Mark wrote down Peter's sermons). Had to be written before Peter's death.
8	Romans	56-57	Paul	Written after collecting funds for poor in Jerusalem and after visiting Macedonia and Achaia (Acts 20:1-2).
9	Ephesians	60	Paul	Prison Epistle (first Roman imprisonment). Written at same time as Colossians and Philemon.
9	Colossians	60	Paul	Prison Epistle (first Roman imprisonment). Written at same time as Ephesians and Philemon.
9	Philemon	60	Paul	Prison Epistle (first Roman imprisonment). Written at same time as Ephesians and Colossians.
10	Philippians	61	Paul	Prison Epistle (first Roman imprisonment). Paul was confident of his imminent release (Phil 1:25; 2:24) indicating it was near the end of his imprisonment. Hence, it is written after the other Prison Epistles.
11	Luke	61-62	Luke	Assumes Mark was written first and was a source for Luke. Written before Acts.
11	Matthew	61-62	Matthew	Assumes Mark was written first and was a source for Matthew. Written while Peter and Paul were both in Rome (cf. Irenaeus).

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12	Acts	62	Luke	Written after Luke.
13	1 Timothy	63	Paul	After the first Roman imprisonment but before final imprisonment. Paul died in the summer 64.
13	Titus	63	Paul	Written before Paul's release from Paul's first Roman imprisonment.
14	2 Timothy	Summer 64	Paul	Written shortly (within weeks?) before Paul's death in the summer of 64 during his second (final) Roman imprisonment. Paul's last will and testament.
15	1 Peter	64	Peter	Written during the end of Nero's reign and after the execution of Paul. This would explain why Peter is writing to Gentiles.
16	2 Peter	Late 64-Early 65	Peter	Written shortly before Peter's death.
17	Hebrews	Spring-Summer 65	Unknown – Dual Authorship by Barnabas & Apollos?	The Levitical system is talked about in the present tense and the fall of Jerusalem is nowhere mentioned, which would infer a date before the fall of Jerusalem in 70.
18	John	65-66	John	The lack of an Olivet Discourse in John indicates it was written before the fall of Jerusalem.
19	Jude	66-67	Jude	Jude likely used 2 Peter for some of his content. Many of the apostles had died (i.e. James, Peter, and Paul).
20	2 John	66-68	John	Written close in time to John, 1 John, 3 John. The false teachers in 2 John were still part of the church.
20	3 John	66-68	John	Written near or at the same time as 2 John (similar styles).
21	1 John	68-69	John	Written during the Jewish War and after 2 John. The false teachers in 1 John had separated from the church.
22	Revelation	95-96	John	Written during the reign of Domitian. There are significant linguistic differences from the Gospel of John indicating a separation of time between John and Revelation.

Sources

- Wallace, Daniel. "Introduction, Argument, and Outline" for each NT book available from bible.org.