

# Original Writings of the New Testament

Book	Approximate Year Range	Assumed Author	Key References from Acts and other Books	Notes
James	AD 40	James, brother of Christ	Probably written immediately after the scattering of the Jewish believers after the stoning of Stephen and the initial persecutions of Saul (Acts 8:1).	Written to the early church which had just been scattered by persecution, addressed to the scattered Jews (James 1:1, Acts 8:1, 11:19) because this is at a time when the church was still Jewish and meeting in synagogues, and prior to Peter, Paul, and Barnabas reaching out to the Gentiles, so, around AD 40. Note that James has no content which is specifically Jewish in nature, but all of it applies equally to Gentiles.
Galatians	AD 41-50	Paul	Direct response to Jerusalem Council of Acts 15.	Written after Paul's 1st missionary journey, in direct response to Acts 15, the Jerusalem Council, during his stay in Antioch (Acts 15:35, Galatians 2:11), before 2nd Missionary journey which started April AD 50.
Matthew	AD 42-48	Matthew	Prior to Paul's first Missionary Journey Acts 13:1.	All church tradition holds to the primacy of Matthew, written before Mark and Luke, and written by Matthew, the Apostle. There is no dissent among the Church Fathers in either regard. Clement of Alexandria has Matthew departing Jerusalem around AD 45 (later killed in Ethiopia by AD 60). In terms of the similar content in the 3 synoptics, it is known that Mark and Luke were both with Paul during his first (AD 60-62) imprisonment - they would have had Matthew's Gospel and would have collaborated together on their works during this time.
I Thessalonians	AD 51-53	Paul	Acts 17:1-4, I Thessalonians 1:9	Written from Corinth (2nd Missionary Journey) after having been driven from Thessalonica.
II Thessalonians	AD 51-53	Paul	See I Thessalonians	Written in succession while still in Corinth.
I Corinthians	AD 53-56	Paul	Acts 20:31	Written from Ephesus (3rd Missionary Journey).
II Corinthians	AD 54-56	Paul	Acts 20:31	Written from somewhere in Macedonia (3rd Missionary Journey).
Romans	AD 56-57	Paul	Acts 20:2, Romans 15:25-27	Written during 3 month stay in Greece (3rd Missionary Journey).
Ephesians	AD 60-61	Paul	Acts 28:30-31, Ephesians 6:21	A "prison epistle" of Paul - written during 2 years of house-arrest in Rome.
Colossians	AD 60-62	Paul	Acts 28:30-31, Colossians 4:3	A "prison epistle" of Paul - written during 2 years of house-arrest in Rome.
Philemon	AD 60-62	Paul	Acts 28:30-31, Philemon 1:9	A "prison epistle" of Paul - written during 2 years of house-arrest in Rome.
Philippians	AD 60-62	Paul	Acts 28:30-31, Philippians 2:17, 19, 4:14	A "prison epistle" of Paul - written during 2 years of house-arrest in Rome.
Mark	AD 47-67 (Likely 60-65)	Mark	Acts 12:12	Traditionally written under the apostolic authority of Peter, Mark is with Peter in Acts 12, when Peter comes to his mother's house on escape from prison (AD 44). Since Mark's Gospel targets the Gentiles, it can be assumed that his Gospel was written not written before his first missionary journey about a year later (AD 46), but could have been written any time afterwards, but before the destruction of the temple in AD 70. Presumably, Mark collaborated with Luke while both were with Paul during his 2-year house arrest (AD 60-62), but Mark's Gospel could have already been completed by that time. Finally, Mark is again seen with Peter and Silas in "Babylon" (assumed Rome) in I Peter 5:13, AD 64, at which time it is possible that Peter and Mark worked together on Mark's Gospel. This line of reckoning gives the Gospel of Mark an earliest date of around AD 47 and a latest date of around AD 64-65.
Luke	AD 60-62	Luke	Acts 1:1	Luke is from Troas and met Paul on his second missionary journey around AD 50. Interviews of "eyewitnesses" in Jerusalem could not have happened before the missionary journey concluded there in September, AD 52. Since the third journey was started in early AD 53, that would mark the earliest conceivable completion date, more likely a completion of interview notes. Because of the nature of Luke and Acts, and the formal salutation, it is assumed that both Books were written to support Paul in his trail. If we assume that both Luke and Acts were written in collaboration with Mark in AD 60-62, then we only need to state that Luke would be completed sequentially before Acts, which is a continuation from the end of Luke. Rather than allow for an early completion in AD 53, I believe there is enough evidence to date Luke from AD 60-62.
Acts	AD 62	Luke	Acts 28:30-31	Acts ends before Paul goes to trial (AD 62), No mention of Nero's persecution (AD 64), Paul's death (AD 68), or the destruction of the temple (AD 70).
Hebrews	AD 62-64	Unknown, likely Barnabas or Silas	After the Close of the Book of Acts. Hebrews 13:23 aligns to Paul's imprisonment in Acts 28:30, AD 62-64 release.	Dating is based on release of Timothy (Hebrews 13:23) who was with Paul during his first imprisonment and traveling towards the Writer of Hebrews, somewhere else in Italy. Authorship: Catholic and KJV tradition ascribe Hebrews to Paul, but this is contradicted by Hebrews 2:3 compared to Acts 9:3-5, as Paul was not saved by the testimony of others. Most likely candidates are Barnabas or Silas. See <a href="https://biblesanctuary.org/docs/Hebrews_Authorship.pdf">biblesanctuary.org/docs/Hebrews_Authorship.pdf</a> .
I Timothy	AD 65 to 67	Paul	Paul is in Macedonia, Timothy is in Ephesus (I Timothy 1:3)	Timothy must have traveled to Ephesus from Italy before Paul could have written this. There may or may not be a gap between Hebrews and I Timothy of up to a few years, during which Paul may have made his planned trip to Spain (Romans 15:24), but if so, we have no epistles from that trip, so the intent was probably not realized.
Titus	AD 65 to 67	Paul	Titus 3:12, decided to winter in Nicopolis (N. of Achaia, Greece, S. from Macedonia).	Similar in nature to I Timothy, road-trip notes indicate I Timothy than Titus in the same general period.
I Peter	AD 65 to 67	Peter	I Peter 5:12-15	Written from "Babylon" (most likely Rome) in company of Silvanus (Silas), who scribed the Book, and Mark.
II Peter	AD 65 to 67	Peter	II Peter 3:15	Mentions Paul, does not mention his death, likely written before AD 68.
II Timothy	AD 67	Paul	II Timothy 4:9-22	Paul's last epistle, written from Rome. Paul was then executed in Rome in AD 67-68.
Jude	AD 75 (AD 66-80)	Jude (Judas, brother of Christ)		Jude the Brother of James, bondservant of Christ is universally identified as Jude (known as Judas in Matthew and Mark), a brother of Jesus Christ, but not one of the 12 apostles. Dating estimate is based on content.
John	AD 62-81	John	John 21:24	The Gospel of John was presumably written after the synoptic Gospels (AD 62) and before his other Books (AD 81-96). John is thought to have come to Ephesus around AD 70 (Sack of Jerusalem, destruction of the Temple), and traveled between cities listed in Revelation 2:1-3:22 for a significant time period, during which time he wrote his epistles, then was exiled to the island/ithmus of Patmos where he penned Revelation.
I John	AD 81-96	John		
II John	AD 81-96	John	II John 1:1	
III John	AD 81-96	John	III John 1:1	
Revelation	AD 82-96	John	Revelation 2:1-3:21	