

NT Timeline

Introduction

It is important to get a grasp of the basic dates of the early church history, if for no other reason than to disprove the claims that the NT was written decades after Christ lived and is filled with legends.

The schedule below is copied from John Wenham's book, *Redating Matthew, Mark and Luke* (1991), which in turn is based upon (with slight differences) FF Bruce's, *Acts of the Apostles*. To this I have added some other historical details to put matters in context and made some very slight changes.

Wenham's research dates the Gospels and some other books earlier than traditionally held.

30	Crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, of Christ; Pentecost.
c.33	Conversion of Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:1-22; Gal 1:15-17).
c.35	Paul's first post-conversion visit to Jerusalem (Acts 9:26-30; Gal 1:18-20).
37-41	Caligula emperor.
c.40	GOSPEL OF MATTHEW.
41-54	Claudius emperor.
42	Accession of Herod Agrippa I. Death of James son of Zebedee. Peter's imprisonment and escape to Rome (Acts 12:1-17).
42	Death of British chieftan Cunobelinus (i.e Shakespeare's Cymbeline).
43	Emperor Claudius conquers Britain (41-54).
43	British chief Caratacus (son of Cunobelinus) led resistance to Roman invasion. He was defeated and fled to Yorkshire.
March 44	Death of Herod Agrippa I (Acts 12:20-23).
44	Peter goes to Antioch.
c.45	GOSPEL OF MARK.
45-48	Famine in Judaea (Acts 11:28).
c.46	Barnabas and Paul visit Jerusalem (Acts 11:30; Gal 2:1).
c. 47-48	Barnabas and Paul evangelise Cyprus and South Galatia (Acts 13:4-14:26). First missionary journey.
c.48	LETTER TO THE GALATIANS.
48	Herod Agrippa II appointed King of the Jews by Claudius, seventh and last of the Herodians.
49	Expulsion of Jews from Rome by Claudius.
c.49	Apostolic council at Jerusalem (Acts 15:6-29).
c.49-50	Paul, Silas and Timothy take the Gospel to Macedonia (Acts 16:9-17:14; 1 Thess 1:5-2:2). Second missionary journey.
50-52	Paul in Corinth (Acts 18:1-18; 1 Cor 2:1-5).
50	LETTER TO THE THESSALONIANS (written from Corinth).
51	Gallio becomes proconsul of Achaia (Acts 18:12).
51	Caratacus handed over to the Romans.
52	Thomas evangelises India. Establishes many churches.

52	Paul's hasty visit to Judaea and Syria (Acts 18:22).
52-55	Paul in Ephesus (Acts 19:1-20:1).
54-68	Claudius poisoned, Nero becomes emperor.
c.54	GOSPEL OF LUKE.
55	FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS.
55-56	Paul in Macedonia and Illyricum (Acts 20:1ff; Rm 15:19). Third missionary journey.
56	SECOND LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS.
56-57	Paul in Achaia (Corinth; Acts 20:2ff).
57	LETTER TO THE ROMANS.
57	Paul's arrival and arrest in Jerusalem (Acts 21:17-33).
57-59	Paul detained at Caesarea (Acts 23:23-26:32),
57-59	LETTERS TO 1 TIMOTHY AND TITUS.
59	Paul sets sail for Italy (Acts 27:1ff).
60	Paul arrives in Rome (Acts 28:14-16).
c.60	1 PETER.
c.60-62	LETTERS TO THE PHILIPPIANS, PHILEMON, COLOSSIANS, EPHESIANS AND 2 TIMOTHY.
62	ACTS OF THE APOSTLES (cf. Acts 28:30).
62	James, elder of Jerusalem, killed in temple by a mob with a hammer.
63	Bartholomew killed in India; flayed and crucified.
63-66	Paul travelled to Macedonia, Asia Minor, Crete and perhaps Spain.
July 64	The great fire of Rome.
64	Church in Alexandria founded by Mark.
64	Temple in Jerusalem completed.
64	Hebrews written.
c.64-67	Neronian persecution of Roman Christians. Death of Peter.
66	Outbreak of the Jewish War.
c.67	Death of Paul.
69	Ignatius becomes bishop of Antioch in Syria.
70	Destruction of Jerusalem.

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