

Writings of the New Testament

Date (A.D.)	Writing	“Author”	Comments
ca 50-52	1 Thessalonians	Paul	Probably written from Corinth, the letter may contain some later additions by other writers.
ca 50-52 or 80s or 90s	2 Thessalonians	[disputed]	If written by Paul, the letter probably was written in the same time frame as 1 Thessalonians. But most scholars say it was written later, by a follower of Paul.
ca 54-57 or 60-61	Philippians	Paul	Written from prison in Ephesus or, less likely, written in 60 or 61 from Rome, the letter apparently is three fragments joined together later by those who were saving the Pauline letters.
54 (or 57)	Galatians	Paul	Typically this letter is dated 54 C.E., as written from Ephesus. If instead it was written from Macedonia, its date would be 57 C.E.
ca 54-55	1 Corinthians	Paul	Written from Ephesus.
57	2 Corinthians	Paul	Sent from Macedonia.
57-58	Romans	Paul	Written from Corinth.
56 61-63	Philemon	Paul	Scholars assign the earlier date if Paul wrote this from Ephesus. But if he wrote it from captivity in Rome, the later date applies.
60-63 80s	Colossians	[disputed]	Written at the earlier date if the letter is actually by Paul from Rome, but the later date (80s) if not. And 60% of critical scholars believe Paul did not write this letter, but that it came from Ephesus.

Date (A.D.)	Writing	“Author”	Comments
61-63 90s	Ephesians	[disputed]	If written by Paul, the earlier date applies. If written by another, the later date (90s) applies. Today, 80% of critical scholars believe the letter was not written by Paul.
ca 60-90	Jude	Jude	The letter claims to be “written by Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ and a brother of James.” He is apparently not the apostle identified as Jude, and nothing else is known about the Jude of this letter.
ca 60-63 70-90	1 Peter	[disputed]	If written by Peter, the earlier dating would apply. But most scholars believe this was not written by Peter.
ca 60-100	James	James	Written by James, “a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,” this writing is usually attributed to the James who was called the brother of Jesus and who led the Jewish Christian community in Jerusalem.
65-75	Gospel of Mark	“Mark”	Written by a Greek-speaking follower and interpreter of Peter, this is the “first” gospel chronologically, and the shortest.
ca 65 90-110	1 Timothy	[disputed]	If written by Paul, the earlier date applies. Otherwise this writing came from the later date (90-110); 85% of critical scholars believe the writing is not by Paul.
ca 65 90-110	2 Timothy	[disputed]	The earlier date would apply if written by Paul, but 85% of critical scholars believe the letter was not written by Paul.
ca 65 90-110	Titus	[disputed]	As with the Timothy letters, the earlier date applies only if written by Paul, but 85% of critical scholars believe it was not written by Paul.
ca 75-90	Gospel of Luke	“Luke”	Written by an educated Greek speaker, not raised as a Jew, but perhaps converted to Judaism.

Date (A.D.)	Writing	“Author”	Comments
51-52 90s	2 Thessalonians	[disputed]	If written by Paul, it’s from the earlier date. Scholars are split as whether Paul wrote this letter.
ca 75-95	Hebrews	[unknown]	A majority of scholars believe the letter was not written by Paul.
ca 80-85	Acts of the Apostles	“Luke”	Same author as the Gospel according to Luke.
ca 80-90	Gospel of Matthew	“Matthew”	Written by a Greek speaker who knew Aramaic and perhaps Hebrew, this gospel by tradition was assumed to be the first written. Most scholars today believe that it was not first. “Matthew” drew his material from Mark and from many other oral and written sources.
ca 90-100	Gospel of John	Beloved Disciple?	Possibly written by a school of Johannine scholars.
ca 90-100	Book of Revelation		Written by someone named John, not the Apostle.
ca 100-125	2 Peter		Definitely not written by Peter.
ca 100	1, 2, 3 John		Writer(s) in the Johannine tradition.
ca 96	1 Clement	Clement?	First mention of apostolic succession.
ca 100	Didache		“Teaching of the Apostles” contains early Christian practices.
110	Letters of Ignatius	Ignatius	Six letters to Bishops of different cities; one to Christians in Rome.
ca 130s	Shepherd of Hermas		Information about early Christian practices.

Sources: *The Denver Catholic Biblical School Program*, Paulist Press, New York, 1995; *Introduction to the New Testament*, Raymond Brown; Anchor Bible Reference Library, Doubleday, 1997.