

Chronological Order of Books

BOOK	AUTHOR	DATE OF COMPOSITION	PLACE OF COMPOSITION
1 Thessalonians	Paul	51	Corinth
2 Thessalonians	Paul	51	Corinth
1 Corinthians	Paul	54	Ephesus
2 Corinthians	Paul	57	Macedonia (Philippi?)
Galatians	Paul	57	Macedonia (Philippi?)
Romans	Paul	57	Corinth
Hebrews	Paul	60	Caesarea
Colossians	Paul	61	Rome
Ephesians	Paul	61	Rome
Philippians	Paul	62	Rome
1 Peter	Peter	63	Rome
2 Peter	Peter	64	Rome
James	James, brother of the Lord	early 60s	Jerusalem
Matthew	Matthew	60s	Antioch
Mark	Mark	60s	Rome
Philemon	Paul	66–67	Rome
1 Timothy	Paul	66–67	Rome
Titus	Paul	66–67	Rome
2 Timothy	Paul	66–67	Rome
Luke	Luke	70s	Rome?
Acts	Luke	70s	Rome?
Jude	Jude	80s	?
1 John	John	80s	Ephesus
2 John	John	80s	Ephesus
3 John	John	80s	Ephesus
Revelation	John	96–98	Patmos, Ephesus
John	John	98–110	Ephesus

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Explanation

Chart 13-2 lists the books of the New Testament in the likely chronological order of their composition. The probable place of composition is also listed. In some cases, these dates and places are conjectural, but in a few cases the dates are quite certain. An awareness of the time and place of composition helps readers today to appreciate the situations and the audiences addressed in these compositions.

Although in recent years some scholars have argued against accepting traditional authorship, we remain unconvinced. Sufficient evidence has not been produced to prove that the books of the New Testament were not written by the traditionally claimed authors. Indeed, early Christian sources corroborate that, during the generations immediately following their composition, the apostolic and evangelistic authority of these books was unchallenged. Only later, in a changed Christian church, did various clerics and scholastics raise questions of legitimacy as the New Testament canon evolved. (See chart 18-6).

References

- Raymond E. Brown, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (New York: Doubleday, 1997).
Henry C. Thiessen, *Introduction to the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1955).
L. M. McDonald, *The Formation of the Christian Biblical Canon* (Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1995).