

Chronology of the New Testament Era

ROMAN YEAR	MODERN DATE	EVENT	
746–748	7–5 B.C.	<i>Birth of Christ</i>	Certain Dates
747	6 B.C.	Quintilius Governor of Syria	Likely Dates
748	5 B.C.	<i>Slaughter of Innocents</i>	<i>Conjectural Dates</i>
749	4 B.C.	Death of King Herod Herod Antipas becomes Tetrarch of Galilee Archelaus becomes Ethnarch of Judea	
758	A.D. 6	Quirinius Governor of Syria Archelaus is removed as Judean ethnarch Coponius first prefect of Judea	
766	14	Death of Augustus, accession of Tiberius	
778	26	Pilate prefect of Judea	
780	28	John the Baptist begins ministry in fourteenth year of Tiberius's reign	
782	30	Christ begins his ministry	
783	31	John the Baptist is beheaded by Herod Antipas	
785	33	Crucifixion Peter and John testify and perform miracles in Jerusalem	
786	34	Caiaphas is removed as High Priest	
786–787	34–35	Paul witnesses Stephen's stoning	
787	35	Paul is converted on road to Damascus	
789	37	Death of Tiberius, accession of Gaius Caligula, Marullus replaces Pilate as prefect of Judea	
791	39	Herod Agrippa becomes tetrarch of Galilee	

793	41	Gaius is assassinated, Claudius is proclaimed emperor Claudius appoints Herod Agrippa king of Judea
795	43	James is executed in Herod Agrippa's persecution of Christians in Judea Paul's Antioch mission
797–799	45–47	Paul's first missionary journey
801	49	Council of Jerusalem; Peter moves to Antioch James, "the Brother of the Lord" leads church in Jerusalem <i>Andrew begins mission to Black Sea region</i> <i>Thomas begins mission to the East</i> <i>Philip begins mission to Asia Minor</i> Claudius's expulsion of Jews from Rome
801–804	49–52	Paul's second missionary journey
803–804	51–52	Gallio governor at Corinth Paul at Corinth
804	52	Felix appointed procurator of Judea
804–805	52–53	Paul labors at Antioch
805–810	53–58	Paul's third missionary journey
806	54	Death of Claudius, accession of Nero
807	55	<i>Peter at Corinth</i>
806–808	54–56	Paul at Ephesus
808	56	Peter arrives at Rome
809–810	57–58	Paul in Macedonia and Greece
811–812	59–60	Paul arrested by Jews at Jerusalem, held in custody at governor's palace in Caesarea Festus replaces Felix as procurator of Judea
813	60	Paul's voyage to Rome
813–814	61–62	Paul lives in his own house at Rome awaiting hearing before Nero
814	62	James, "the Brother of the Lord," is executed at Jerusalem by the high priest Ananus.

815	63	<i>Paul's ministry in Italy</i>
816–818	64–66	<i>Paul's possible missionary journey through Spain and the other western provinces</i>
816	64	The Great Fire at Rome Nero's prosecution of Christians Death of Peter
818	66	Revolt of Jewish Zealots against Rome, Jewish persecution of Christians at Jerusalem, departure of Christians from Jerusalem
818–819	66–67	<i>Paul writes Pastoral Epistles from Rome</i>
819	67	<i>John arrives at Ephesus</i>
820	68	<i>Paul's death</i>
820	68	Nero is overthrown
821	69	Year of the Four Emperors; ends with Vespasian as sole emperor
822	70	Titus destroys Jerusalem
831	79	Death of Vespasian, accession of Titus; Eruption of Vesuvius
832	80	Colosseum constructed
833	81	Death of Titus, accession of Domitian
846–847	94–95	<i>John resides on Patmos; Revelation is received</i>
847	95	Domitian executes Christians at Rome
848	96	Death of Domitian, accession of Nerva John returns to Ephesus
850	98	Nerva's death, accession of Trajan
852–862	100–110	<i>John writes the Epistles and the Gospel of John at Ephesus</i>
862–864	110–112	Pliny is governor of Bithynia-Pontus, Trajan-Pliny correspondence about conduct of judicial proceedings involving Christians
865	113	<i>Departure of John, removal of apostolic keys</i>

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Explanation

The timeline of the apostolic era on chart 13-1 encompasses events from the time of Christ until the departure of the last of the apostles, John the Beloved. About half of the events noted are of certain date. Most relate to Roman governance and are documented in Roman historical records, official transcripts, or monuments. Some of the notations (in italics) are of conjectural date, based on careful reconstruction of the activities of leading individuals and the most likely chronological sequencing of events. The remaining items listed very likely occurred as dated, since they fit into a sequence of related happenings, or are confirmed by strong, though not certain, evidence. These dates are listed in accordance with the dating system of the time, that of the Roman year, with the modern date equivalent also provided. Events listed are either of particular importance to early Christian history or of empire-wide importance.

References

- M. Cary and H. H. Scullard, *A History of Rome* (New York: St. Martin's, 1975).
F. E. Peters, *The Harvest of Hellenism* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1970).