

All of the events described in the New Testament took place within about a 250 mile circle, centered on modern-day Jerusalem. In that circle, successive empires had ruled, and God's Chosen People had experienced times of national unity and blessing, as well as times of civil war, captivity and judgment.

The twelve tribes of Israel had been split, with only the tribes of Judah and Benjamin returning after their years in exile. In the four hundred years since the time of the last prophet, Jewish culture was influenced by Greek philosophy and language. As the Roman empire expanded, it occupied the Holy Land, including the city of Jerusalem.

But, around 5BC, God fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies and sent Jesus the Messiah into that complex cultural mix. Once again, God used the family of Abraham to bring salvation to all the families of the earth. The books of the New Testament tell the incredible story about what God did through Jesus and how it changed the world.

This Timeline is provided as a Bible study aid. Feel free to copy and distribute to help others better understand the Scriptures.

What Did They Know and When Did They Know It?

When the first disciples of Christ lived, Jewish religious life varied greatly. Pious sects, like the Pharisees and Essenes, claimed to have pure doctrine. But common people, like Peter the fisherman, just wanted a savior to help them survive under the Roman occupation.

When Jesus came, He spent more time with the common people than the pious Jews. The religious leaders had access to the Old Testament, and Jesus said they should know the truth. But they did not know God's Word, and they changed its meaning and even added their own laws.

Jesus taught the truth about God, and many people, like Peter, followed Christ and learned many of these truths through Jesus' teaching and example.

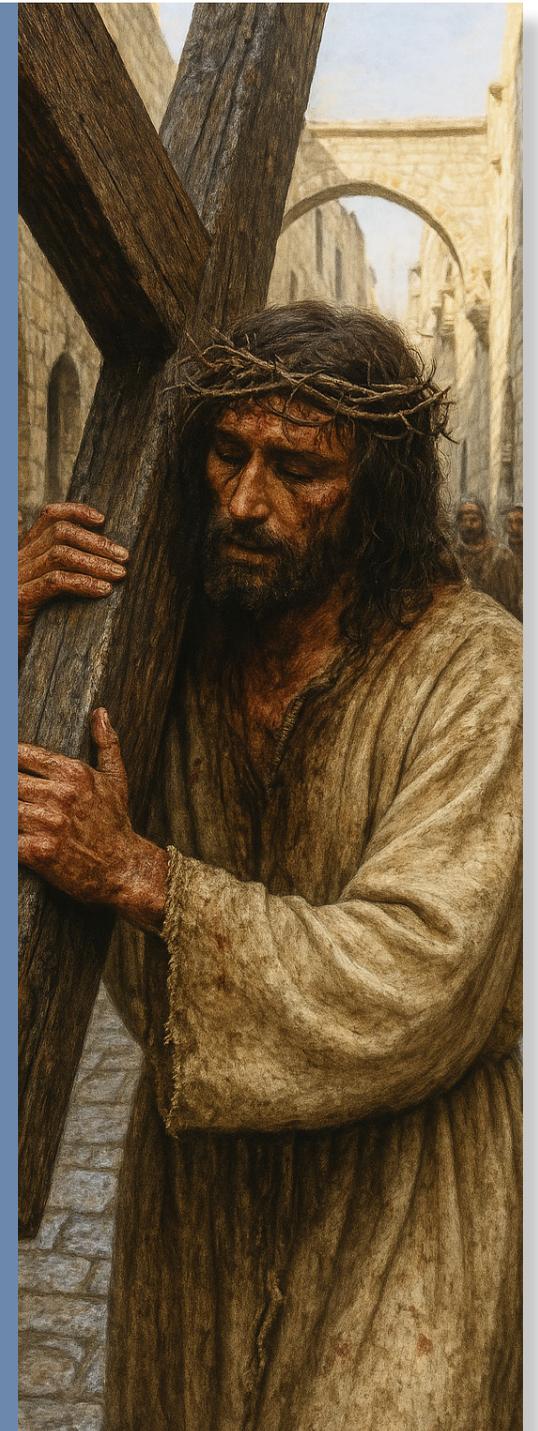
Jesus commissioned His closest disciples, the Apostles, to lead His followers. The apostles taught the truths of God to both Jews and gentile communities. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they eventually wrote what they had learned into the books of the New Testament.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16, 17

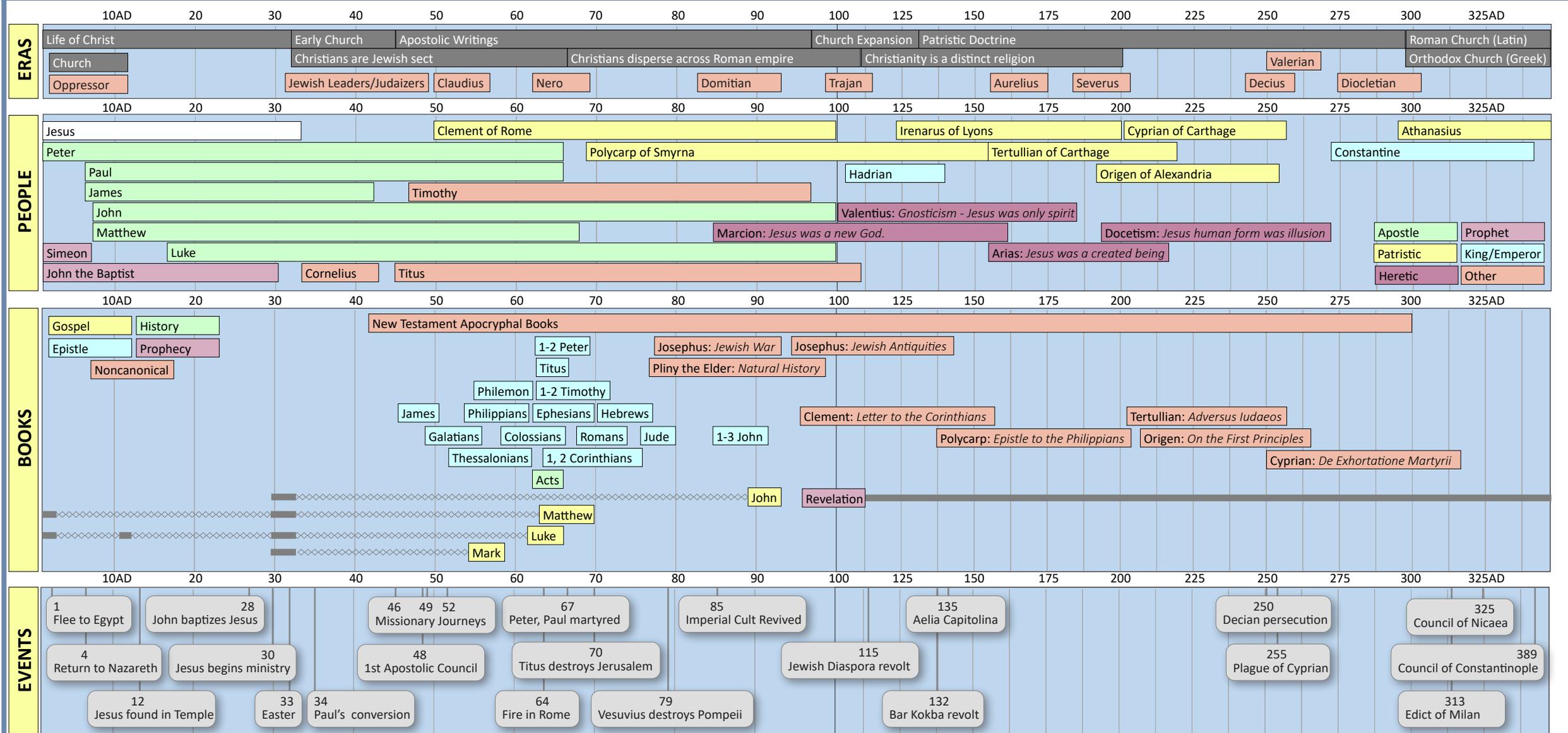
This New Testament Timeline will help you better understand the scriptures, the cultural backgrounds of those who lived during those years, and the sequence of historical events that influenced thought and culture. You will learn what God's people knew about Him, and when they came to know Him more fully.

NEW TESTAMENT TIMELINE



New Testament Timeline

WHAT DID THEY KNOW AND WHEN DID THEY KNOW IT?



Book Timeline Symbols:

- When activity described in the book took place.
- ◇◇◇◇◇ The time between the activity and the writing of the book.
- Luke The time when the book was written.

Notes:

- The timeline includes details related to the birth of Christ to the Council of Nicaea.
- All dates are AD, after the birth of Christ.
- Dates estimates based on scripture and archaeological findings.
- New Testament books are shown on the timeline when they were written.
- Eras, People and Books areas include keys showing the meanings of the colors.
- Books names may reflect the main character or recipient, and not the author. (ex. Timothy, Jude)
- The timeline scale is compressed after 100AD.