

TIMELINE

General History & Literature

Jewish & Christian History

Jewish & Christian Literature*

B.C.E.

<p>c. 530–500 Pythagoras</p>	<p>c. 1000–587 Time of the monarchy in Judah 587 Jerusalem destroyed by the Babylonians; Exile 539 Fall of Babylon to Cyrus of Persia; Exiles permitted to return 539–331 Persian (Achaemenid) period</p>	
	<p>520–515? Rebuilding of the temple</p>	<p>c. 500–400? Deuteronomistic history edited and completed</p>
<p>c. 483–423 Empedocles</p>	<p>c. 450 Ezra in Jerusalem</p>	
<p>427–347 Plato</p>		
<p>c. 400–320 Diogenes of Sinope, founder of Cynicism</p>		<p>c. 400–300? Main parts of Jewish scripture (the Hebrew Bible) completed</p>
<p>341–270 Epicurus</p>		
<p>337–323 Alexander the Great</p>		
	<p>332 Conquest of Palestine by Alexander c. 300–200 Palestine under the Ptolemies of Egypt</p>	<p>c. 250– Beginnings of the Septuagint translation before 200 early parts of <i>1 Enoch</i></p>
	<p>c. 200–140 Palestine under the Seleucids of Syria</p>	<p>c. 180 Ben Sira</p>
	<p>175–164 Antiochus IV Epiphanes rules Syria</p>	<p>c. 170–140? <i>Jubilees</i></p>
	<p>167 Desecration of the temple by Antiochus; Maccabean uprising</p>	<p>c. 165 Book of Daniel</p>
	<p>164 Reconsecration of the temple</p>	
	<p>140–63 Hasmonean rule</p>	

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*Many of the dates in this column are tentative. Jewish writings and authors are marked with shaded boxes.

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<p>63 Augustus born 63–43 Cicero 58–50 Julius Caesar’s Gallic campaigns 55 Caesar invades Britain</p> <p>49 Civil War between Pompey and Caesar 48 Pompey killed 44 Caesar assassinated (15 March) 42 Caesar included among Gods of Rome 40 Virgil, <i>Fourth Eclogue</i></p> <p>31 Battle of Actium</p> <p>31 B.C.E.–14 C.E. Octavian (Augustus) rules Rome 30 Tribunician power for life bestowed on Octavian 27 Octavian receives title of Augustus</p>	<p>135–104 John Hyrcanus (conquers Samaria) c. 100–50 First settlement of Qumran</p> <p>63 Jerusalem falls to Pompey</p> <p>40 Parthians invade Syria 37 Herod captures Jerusalem; installed as client king of Judea 31 First abandonment of Qumran settlement, due to earthquake</p> <p>20 Herod begins Second Temple c. 6? Jesus of Nazareth born 4 Herod dies</p>	<p>c. 100 Wisdom of Solomon c. 100? <i>Rule of Community</i> (1 QS), <i>Damascus Document</i> (CD) and other writings from Qumran</p> <p>c. 50 <i>Psalms of Solomon</i> c. 50? <i>War Scroll</i> (1 QM)</p>
B.C.E.  C.E.		
<p>c. 4–96 Apollonius of Tyana</p>	<p>4 B.C.E.–6 C.E. Archelaus, ethnarch of Judea Reoccupation of Qumran 4 B.C.E.–34 C.E. Philip, tetrarch of Northeastern Palestine 4 B.C.E.–39 C.E. Herod Antipas, tetrarch of Galilee</p> <p>6 Judea becomes Roman province; the Census; Judas the Gaulanite revolts</p>	<p>c. 10–30? <i>Testament of Moses</i></p>

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14 Augustus dies; accepted among Gods of the state		
14–37 Tiberius, emperor	18–37 Caiaphas, high priest	
	19 Expulsion of Jews from Rome	
	26–28? John the Baptist’s ministry	
	26–36 Pontius Pilate prefect of Judea	c. 20–50 Philo, writings
	c. 28 Jesus baptized by John John executed by Antipas	
	c. 28–30(?) Jesus’ mission	
	c. 30 Jesus’ crucifixion	
	c. 30 Followers of Jesus regather in Jerusalem	
	c. 32–35(?) “Hebrews” and “Hellenists” in Jerusalem	
	Stephen killed	
	“Hellenists” in Antioch	
	Conversion of Paul	
	36 Pilate recalled to face charges of maladministration	
	37 Caiaphas deposed	
	38 Anti-Jewish riot in Alexandria	
	c. 30–50? Simon Magus, in Samaria, <i>flor.</i>	
	40 Caligula’s anti-Jewish policy provokes unrest in Palestine	
37–41 Caligula, emperor	c. 40–62 James, brother of Jesus, in control in the congregation of Jerusalem	
	41–44 Agrippa I king of Judea and Samaria	
	42(?) James, son of Zebedee, martyred	
	44 Agrippa dies Judea becomes a province	
40–65 Seneca, <i>flor.</i>	c. 45 Theudas attempts an unarmed rebellion	
	c. 46–48 Paul and Barnabas’s missionary journey	
41–54 Claudius, emperor	c. 49 Apostolic conference in Jerusalem	
43 Rome invades Britain		
c. 45–125 Plutarch		

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	c. 49 "Antiochian incident" (Paul's conflict with Peter and others) 49 Expulsion of Jews from Rome 49–58 Paul's missionary journeys	c. 50(?) <i>Book of Enoch</i> compiled c. 50–56 Paul, letters to the churches: 1 Thessalonians (c. 50), 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philemon, Philippians, Romans (c. 56)
51–52 Gallio, proconsul of Achaia	c. 53–56 Paul in Ephesus	
54–68 Nero, emperor	c. 56–57 "The Egyptian" attempts rebellion c. 58 Paul taken prisoner in Jerusalem	c. 60–70? Sayings Gospel (Q)
	c. 60–80? Menander, <i>flor.</i>	c. 60–80? 4 Maccabees
64 Great fire in Rome	c. 62 Paul martyred in Rome	
68 Nero commits suicide	62 James of Jerusalem murdered	
69–79 Vespasian, emperor; policy of Romanization and urbanization in provinces	63(?) Peter in Rome(?)	
	64 Neronian persecution	
69–79 Vespasian, emperor; policy of Romanization and urbanization in provinces	66–74 First Jewish War	
	68 Qumran settlement destroyed	
	70 Jerusalem falls to Titus	c. 70 Gospel of Mark
	after 70 Establishment of Academy at Javneh under Johanan ben Zakkai	c. 70–80 Colossians
	74 Masada captured	
79 Vesuvius erupts, destroys Pompeii and Herculaneum	c. 75 Imposition of "Fiscus Judaicus"	c. 75–79 Josephus, <i>Jewish War</i>
79–81 Titus, emperor		c. 75–100 2 Thessalonians
		c. 80–90 Gospel of Matthew
80 Colosseum dedicated		c. 80–95 1 Peter
80–120 Epictetus, <i>flor.</i>		c. 80–100? Epistle of James

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81–96 Domitian, emperor		c. 85–95 Ephesians
89 Philosophers and astrologers banished from Rome		c. 90 Gospel of John c. 90–100 Gospel of Luke c. 90–100 Epistle to the Hebrews
96–98 Nerva, emperor	c. 95–115? harassments of Christians in Asia Minor	c. 93 Josephus, <i>Antiquities of the Jews</i>
98–117 Trajan, emperor	112–113 Pliny-Trajan correspondence	c. 95 Revelation of John
114–17 Roman war against Parthia; Roman Empire reaches maximum extent		c. 100 <i>1 Clement</i> c. 100? Epistle of Jude c. 100 <i>4 Ezra</i> c. 100 <i>Odes of Solomon</i> c. 100 <i>Didache; Gospel of Thomas</i> (final form) c. 100–110? Acts of the Apostles c. 100–150 <i>Gospel of Peter, Apocalypse of Peter</i> c. 100–120? Christian editing of the Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs c. 100–150? <i>Gospel of the Ebionites, Gospel of the Hebrews, Dialogue of the Savior, Gospel of Mary; Christian editing of Ascension of Isaiah</i>
c. 115–120? Tacitus, <i>Annals</i>	115–17 Jewish uprisings in Cyprus, Egypt, Cyrenaica, and Mesopotamia	c. 115? <i>Letters of Ignatius</i>
117–38 Hadrian, emperor		c. 120? <i>1 John</i>
c. 120? Suetonius, <i>Lives of the Caesars</i>		c. 120? Epistle of <i>Barnabas</i> Possible date of earliest Gospel fragments found in Egypt Papias (fragments)
		c. 120–130? <i>Letter of Polycarp to the Philippians</i>
		c. 120–130? <i>2–3 John</i>

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<p>138–61 Antoninus Pius, emperor</p>	<p>c. 130 Justin Martyr converts</p> <p>132–35 Second Jewish War: Bar Kokhba revolts</p> <p>Aelia Capitolina founded</p> <p>144 Marcion expelled from Roman community; begins missionary activity.</p> <p>Marcionite congregations flourish until early third century</p> <p>c. 150– “monarchic episcopate” emerges</p> <p>155/156 Polycarp martyred</p>	<p>c. 120–140? 2 Peter</p> <p>c. 120–140 Pastoral epistles (1–2 Timothy, Titus)</p> <p>c. 120–150 Basilides, <i>flor.</i></p> <p>c. 125 Quadratus, earliest Apologist</p> <p>c. 130 Aristides, <i>Apology</i></p> <p>c. 140 <i>Shepherd of Hermas</i></p> <p>c. 140–60 Valentinus, <i>flor.</i></p> <p>c. 143 Marcion, <i>Contradictions</i></p> <p>c. 150? <i>Acts of Thecla</i></p> <p>c. 150 Ptolemy, <i>Letter to Flora</i></p> <p>150–160 Justin Martyr, <i>Apologies</i> and <i>Dialogue with Trypho</i></p> <p>c. 150–170 Heracleon, <i>Commentary on John</i></p> <p>c. 150–200 <i>Epistle to Diognetus</i></p> <p>c. 150–200 “Ebionite History” (Rec. 1.27-71, within the <i>Pseudoclementines</i>)</p> <p>c. 150–200? <i>Gospel of Truth</i>, the <i>Apocryphon of John</i>, and many other documents from the Nag Hammadi Library</p> <p>c. 150–200? <i>Protevangelium of James</i></p> <p>160–70 Melito of Sardis, <i>flor.</i></p>
<p>161–80 Marcus Aurelius, emperor</p> <p>165 Plague spreads from Mesopotamia</p> <p>165–66 Lucian, <i>On the Death of Peregrinus</i></p> <p>c. 170 Apuleius, <i>Golden Ass</i></p> <p>171–80 Marcus Aurelius, <i>Meditations</i></p>	<p>165 Justin martyred</p> <p>165–70 Sporadic persecutions in province of Asia</p> <p>c. 170 Montanist movement starts in Phrygia</p>	<p>c. 170–85 Tatian, <i>flor.</i></p> <p>c. 175 Hegesippus, <i>Memoirs</i></p>

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178 Celsus, <i>True Reason</i> against Christians	177 Persecution at Lyons	177–80 Athenagoras, <i>Supplication for the Christians</i>
180–92 Commodus, emperor	178 Irenaeus, bishop of Lyons 180 Scillitan Martyrs at Carthage c. 180 Catechetical School at Alexandria (Pantaenus) c. 180 Marcus the “Magician”	180 Theophilus of Antioch; <i>To Autolyclus</i> c. 180 Irenaeus, <i>Against Heresies</i>
c. 222 Philostratus, <i>Life of Apollonius</i> 249–51 Decius, emperor	c. 200– position of women declines	c. 180–200 Clement of Alexandria, <i>flor.</i> c. 185–254 Origen c. 195–220 Tertullian, <i>flor.</i> c. 200–235 Hippolytus, <i>flor.</i> c. 200 Mishna c. 200? <i>Acts of Paul, Acts of Peter, Infancy Gospel of Thomas</i> c. 220 “ <i>Circuits of Peter</i> ” (within the <i>Pseudoclementines</i>)
306 (324)–337 Constantine the Great, emperor	249–51 General persecution of Christians 256–336 Arius 295–373 Athanasius 303–11 Persecution of Christians	c. 250? <i>Gospel of Philip</i> after 300 <i>Pseudoclementines</i> (Homilies, Recognitions)
	313 Christianity officially tolerated, then favored by Constantine 325 Council of Nicaea	c. 350-420 Jerome 354–430 Augustine c. 375 Epiphanius, <i>Refutation of All Heresies</i>
	381 Council of Constantinople	c. 380–410 Pelagius, <i>flor.</i> c. 450? Palestinian Talmud completed
	451 Council of Chalcedon	c. 550? Babylonian Talmud completed