

- 62 Paul released from custody, travels to Spain
63 Paul arrives in Philippi

I TIMOTHY, Paul (Philippi, 63)

TITUS, Paul (Philippi, 63)

- 64 Fire devastates Rome, Nero blames Christians
Paul arrives in Rome and is arrested

II TIMOTHY, Paul (Rome, 64)

Paul executed in Rome
Peter the Apostle arrives in Rome

I PETER by Peter the Apostle with Silas (Rome, 64)

Peter arrested in Rome

II PETER, Peter (Rome, 64)

Peter executed in Rome

HEBREWS by Paul's associate [Silas?] (Rome, 64)

MARK by Paul's associate Mark (Rome, 65)

- 66 Judea revolts against Rome
John the Apostle relocates to Ephesus
68 Nero commits suicide
69 Vespasian emperor of Rome (69 - 79)
70 Jerusalem falls

MATTHEW by Matthew the Apostle (Damascus, 75)

- 79 Titus emperor of Rome (79 - 81)

JOHN by John the Apostle (Ephesus, 80)

- 81 Domitian emperor of Rome (81 - 96)

I JOHN, John (Ephesus, 85)

II JOHN, John (Ephesus, 85)

III JOHN, John (Ephesus, 85)

John exiled to Patmos

LUKE & ACTS by Paul's associate Luke (Antioch, 85)

REVELATION, John (Patmos, 95)

- 96 Nerva emperor of Rome (96 - 98)
John freed from exile, returns to Ephesus
98 Trajan emperor of Rome (98 - 117)

THE BIBLE IN ITS HISTORICAL SETTING

In 1446 B.C., God delivered the people of Israel from slavery out of the land of Egypt. He made a covenant with them. He would be their God, and they would be his people.

Eight and a half centuries later, 600 years before Christ, the prophet Jeremiah spoke of a New Covenant. The New Covenant was established between God and Jesus Christ in A.D. 30.

A covenant is a blood pact—a solemn promise to lay down your life for another. It is a declaration of loyalty. It is a testament.

The books of the Old Testament are documents relating to the Old Covenant of 1446 B.C. They were composed and collected in the many centuries before Christ.

The books of the New Testament are documents relating to the New Covenant of A.D. 30. They were composed and collected after the birth of Christ, in the second half of the First Century.

BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

THE ORIGIN & GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

(Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)

These five books comprise a single set, known as the Torah (Hebrew for Direction, Instruction, Law). The Torah provides practical guidance for keeping the covenant of 1446 B.C.

THE RISE & FALL OF ISRAEL: CONFEDERATION & KINGDOM

(Joshua, Judges, I & II Samuel, I & II Kings)

The history of Israel from 1400 to 587 B.C. Israel's first king was Saul son of Kish, anointed under protest by the prophet Samuel around the year 1025 B.C. Before Saul, Israel had no king but God.

THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH: RISE, FALL & RESTORATION

(I & II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah)

The history of Judah from 1000 to 423 B.C. Judah was one of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Around 1000 B.C., God chose a Judean, David son of Jesse, to replace King Saul.

God promised David a dynasty that would never end, and an heir who one day would bring a new age of peace, justice, and prosperity. At the death of Israel's second Judean king, Solomon son of David, the Ten Northern Tribes broke with Judah and established a rival government under a rival king.

WORDS OF WARNING, WORDS OF HOPE

Before the Fall of Samaria

(Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah)

Samaria, the capital of the Northern Tribes, fell to Assyria in 722 B.C.

From the Fall of Samaria to the Fall of Jerusalem

(Zephaniah, Jeremiah, Nahum, Habakkuk)

Jerusalem, the capital of Judah, fell to Babylon in 587 B.C.

During the Judean Exile

(Daniel [prob. written after 167 B.C.], Ezekiel, Obadiah [?])

In 587 B.C., Judah had suffered Babylonian domination for 17 years, beginning in 604. In 597, 587, and 582, Judeans were deported to Mesopotamia.

After the Restoration of Jerusalem

(Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Joel [?])

Babylon was conquered by Persia in 539 B.C. In 538, the Judean exiles were allowed to return to their homeland.

WARRIOR SONGS

(Psalms, Lamentations)

The battlefield is the setting for many of the psalms. For Israel, the battlefield was never far away. The psalms include hymns of sweet victory and laments of bitter defeat. The Book of Lamentations commemorates the fall of Jerusalem in 587 B.C. There are psalms from all the epochs of Israel's history prior to 332 B.C., when Judah was conquered by Alexander the Great.

THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON

(Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon)

Three books attributed to King Solomon, renowned for his great wisdom. Read together, and in reference to God's covenant with Israel, there is a movement from conventional wisdom to cynicism to passionate devotion.

FOUR SERVANTS OF GOD

(Job, Ruth, Jonah, Esther)

Four character studies which challenge conventional views of Judean nationalism. The setting for Job is around 2000 B.C. For Ruth, 1100. For Jonah, 760. For Esther, 480.

BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are four accounts of the mission of Jesus Christ. Acts is a continuation of Luke's account. Revelation is the record of a series of prophetic visions. All the other New Testament documents are letters written by Christian leaders. The setting for the books of the New Testament is the early years of the Roman Empire.

Anno Domini

- 1 Jesus Christ is born in Judea [6 B.C.?]
 - Caesar Augustus emperor of Rome (27 B.C. - A.D. 14)
- 14 Tiberius emperor of Rome (14 - 37)
- 30 Jesus Christ declared Lord of Heaven and Earth [A.D. 27?]
- 33 Saul of Tarsus [Paul the Apostle] meets Jesus Christ
- 37 Caligula emperor of Rome (37 - 41)
- 41 Claudius emperor of Rome (41 - 54)

Paul's first missionary journey (46 - 48)

GALATIANS by Paul the Apostle (Antioch, 48)

- 49 Apostles agree on terms of Christian fellowship

Paul's second missionary journey (49 - 52)

JAMES by James, brother of Jesus (Jerusalem, 49)

I THESSALONIANS, Paul (Corinth, 50)

II THESSALONIANS, Paul (Corinth, 50)

Paul's third missionary journey (53 - 57)

- 54 Nero emperor of Rome (54 - 68)

I CORINTHIANS, Paul (Ephesus, 55)

II CORINTHIANS, Paul (Philippi, 56)

ROMANS, Paul (Corinth, 57)

- 57 Paul arrested in Jerusalem, taken to Caesarea

- 59 Paul is granted an appeal to Caesar [Nero]

Paul's journey to Rome (59 - 60)

- 60 Paul arrives in Rome, held under house arrest

PHILIPPIANS, Paul (Rome, 62)

COLOSSIANS & PHILEMON, Paul (Rome, 62)

EPHESIANS, Paul (Rome, 62)

- 62 James executed in Jerusalem

JUDE by Jude, brother of Jesus (Jerusalem, 62)