

SIGNIFICANT DATES OF THE FIRST CENTURY

- 3 B.C.E., summer 750th Anniversary of Rome, Silver Jubilee of Caesar Augustus, and the “registration” (Luke 2:1-2, no mention that this was for taxation purposes) of the “pledge of Allegiance” (Josephus, *A.J.* 17.2.4 [41-45]) by “procurator” Quirinius (Justin, *1 Apol.* 34) for Augustus’ upcoming *Pater Patriae* celebration the next year.
- 3 B.C.E., summer Joseph and Mary leave Nazareth to go to Bethlehem for oath of allegiance registration.
- 3 B.C.E., Sept 11 Jesus born in Bethlehem on Day of Trumpets.
- 3 B.C.E., Sept 18 Jesus circumcised.
- 3 B.C.E., Oct 10 Jesus dedicated in the temple.
- 3 B.C.E., Oct Joseph, Mary, and Jesus return to Nazareth (Luke 2:39).
- 2 B.C.E., Feb 5 Caesar Augustus receives “Father of the Country” recognition. He states “while I was administering my thirteenth consulship the senate and the equestrian order and *THE ENTIRE ROMAN PEOPLE* gave me the title Father of my Country” (*Res Gestae* 2.8). The signatures of the entire Roman people were taken at the enrollment of Quirinius (Luke 2:1-2).
- 2 B.C.E., summer Varus becomes governor of Syria for second time.
- 2 B.C.E., Dec 5 Youth tears down eagle from east entrance of temple.
- 2 B.C.E., Dec 25 Joseph, Mary, and Jesus return to Bethlehem for Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah). Magi delegation from Parthian Kingdom visit first Herod in Jerusalem, then Jesus in Bethlehem and bestow expensive gifts to the new born King of the Jews. Jesus is a 14 month toddler at this time and they are in a house – not a manger nor an Inn. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus go to Egypt to escape Herod.
- 1 B.C.E., Jan Herod slays male children of Jerusalem up to 2 years old.
- 1 B.C.E., Jan 10 Total Eclipse of the sun associated with Herod’s death.
- 1 B.C.E., Jan 28 Herod the Great dies.
- 1 B.C.E., Passover 3000 Jewish worshippers lose lives at temple.
- 1 B.C.E., summer The *War of Varus* in Galilee, Judaea, and Idumea.
- 2 C.E. Tiberius returns to Rome from Rhodes.

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- 4 Gaius Caesar dies. Tiberius is adopted by Augustus and returns to Germany to suppress revolts in Pannonia and Dalmatia until 9 C.E.
- 6 Quirinius becomes legate of Syria-Cilicia.
- 6 Herod Archelaus, Ethnarch of Judaea, deposed by Augustus and is exiled to Gaul. Direct Roman rule of Judaea begins. Even the Pharisees preferred this to the rule of a Herod. Caesarea (on the Mediterranean) becomes Rome's capital city for the province of Judaea, Samaria, and Idumea.
- 6 Quirinius conducts Roman Census for taxation purposes.
- 6 Coponius becomes Roman Procurator of Judaea.
- 6 Quirinius appoints Annas ben Seth as high priest, succeeding Joazar.
- 6 Development of Jewish resistance begins with a tax revolt against Rome by Judas of Gamala and Zadok, the Pharisee (Acts 5:37, Josephus, *A.J.* 20.5.2 [102]; 18.1.1 [4-10]; *B.J.* 2.8.1 [118]).
- 9 Marcus Ambibulus becomes Roman Procurator of Judaea, replacing Coponius.
- 9 Jesus, age 12, at Jerusalem temple, astounds Jewish Sages, including most likely Hillel and Shammai.
- 10 Hillel, President of the Sanhedrin, Great Jewish Scholar, Religious teacher, and founder of the Sect of Pharisees, dies. Interestingly, Josephus, the noted first century Jewish historian, never mentions him. His son Simon succeeds the leadership of the Pharisees.
- 12 Birth of Gaius Caesar (Caligula).
- 12 Annas Rufus becomes Roman Procurator of Judaea, replacing Marcus Ambibulus.
- 14, Aug 19 Roman Emperor Augustus Caesar, dies.
- 14 Tiberius becomes second Emperor of Rome.
- 14, Sept 17 Roman Senate decrees Augustus Caesar a "god."
- 15 Valerius Gratus becomes Roman Procurator of Judaea, succeeding Annus Rufus.
- 15 Gratus deposes Annas as High Priest and appoints Ishmael.

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- 16 Gratus deposes Ishmael as High Priest and appoints Eleazar.
- 17 Gratus deposes Eleazar as High Priest and appoints Simon
- 17 Devastating earthquake destroys Ephesus.
- 18 Gratus deposes Simon as High Priest and appoints Joseph Caiaphas, son-in-law to Annas. Annas still holds real power and influence (cf. Luke 2:23, Acts 4:6).
- 19 Expulsion of the Jews from Rome. 4000 Jewish freemen forced to conduct military expedition to Sardinia.
- 21 Quirinius dies.
- 25 Saul, future persecutor of the church and then leading apostle of the church, studies “at the feet of Gamaliel” (Acts 22:3).
- 26 Pontius Pilate becomes Procurator of Judaea, succeeding Valerius Gratus.
- 26 Beginning of a Sabbatical year.
- 26 John the Baptist begins ministry.
- 27 Emperor Tiberius retires to island of Capri leaving control of Rome to Praetorian Prefect Lucius Aelius Sejanus.
- 27, autumn Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist and begins his ministry.
- 27, autumn End of a Sabbatical year.
- 28 John the Baptist is imprisoned and beheaded by Herod Antipas (son of Herod the Great), Tetrarch of Galilee.
- 30, Apr 7 Jesus crucified, Nisan 14.
- 30, Apr 7 Joseph of Arimathea petitions Pontius Pilate for the body of Jesus to be buried in his own tomb.
- 30, Apr 9 Jesus resurrected, Nisan 16.
- 30, June Pentecost, ascension of Jesus.
- 30, June Pentecost, outpouring of Holy Spirit. New Testament Church of God begins.
- 31 Tiberius becomes convinced of Praetorian Prefect Sejanus’ treason and has him executed. Sejanus is replaced by Vitellus.
- 32 Gamaliel warns Sanhedrin about resisting the work of God (Acts 5:34).
- 32 Shortage of grain in Rome leads to public protests.

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- 33 Calling of the seven evangelists, Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, Nicolas of Antioch (Acts 6:5).
- 34 A great number of the Priesthood become followers of the faith (Acts 6:7).
- 34 Stephen disputes with some of the synagogues of the Libertines, Cyrenians, Alexandrians, Cilicians, and Asians (Acts 6:9).
- 34 Philip, Ethnarch of Ituraea, dies. His province becomes part of Syria.
- 35, spring Stephen stoned to death at the feet of Saul (Acts 7:58).
- 35, summer Philip the evangelist goes to Samaria to preach the Gospel and there meets Simon Magus, who had a long history there of sorcery (Acts 8:5-11).
- 35, summer Saulian persecution begins in earnest against the “Way” (Acts 9:2). Closest friends and relatives of Jesus forced to flee. Banished in a boat without oars to the Mediterranean are Joseph of Arimathea, Lazarus, Nicodemus, Mary, mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene and others. They finally land on the shores of Gaul and migrate to Britain.
- 35, summer Conversion of Saul on the road to Damascus, Syria, 14 years before going to Jerusalem [Conference] (Gal 2:1). Saul then leaves for Arabia for a 3 year period (Gal 1:15-18).
- 36 High Priest Caiaphas deposed, replaced by Jonathan.
- 36 Philip baptizes Simon Magus and Simon works with Philip among the Samaritans (Acts 8:13).
- 36 Samaritans complain about Pontius Pilate’s brutal severity and he is ordered to return to Rome.
- 36 Artabanus, King of Parthia, makes peace with Rome.
- 36 Apostles at Jerusalem send Peter and John to Samaria.
- 36 Simon Magus attempts to bribe Peter for power of Holy Spirit.
- 36 Apostles preach to many cities in Samaria.
- 36 Imprisonment of Herod Agrippa I.
- 37, Mar 16 Emperor Tiberius dies.
- 37, Mar 18 Gaius Caesar (Caligula), age 25, becomes third Roman Emperor.

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- 37 Marcellus becomes Procurator of Judaea, succeeding Pontius Pilate.
- 37 Pontius Pilate is exiled to Vienne, Gaul.
- 37 Philip preaches in Gaza (Acts 8:26) and baptizes first Gentile, the Ethiopian eunuch. He then goes to Azotus and finally ends up in Caesarea (Acts 8:26-40).
- 37 Caligula releases Herod Agrippa from prison. He is restored to power as tetrarch of Judaea, upper Galilee, Abilene, and parts of Lebanon, thus ending Roman direct rule, and re-establishing Jewish self-rule in these regions. Roman Procurator Marcellus is then recalled to Rome.
- 37, summer King Aretas of Nabataea (Petra), a client King of Rome is given some jurisdiction over Damascus around this time.
- 37, summer Saul appears before the ethnarch Aretas (2 Cor 11:33), then escapes Damascus through a window in a basket (3 years after his conversion, Gal 1:18).
- 37, summer Saul arrives in Jerusalem for the first time since his conversion. Apostles were afraid of Saul and disbelieved that he could be a disciple of Jesus (Acts 9:26). Barnabas vouchsafes Saul's preaching in Damascus before the "pillar" Apostles, James, Peter, and John (Acts 9:37). Saul then stays with Peter for 15 days (Gal 1:18). Saul sees no other Apostles at this time, except the Apostle James, the Lord's brother (Gal 1:18-19).
- 37 Tradition places Joseph of Arimathea and his entourage (including Mary, mother of Jesus) as arriving in Britain at this time.
- 37, autumn Saul leaves Jerusalem, goes to Caesarea, then Tarsus (Acts 9:30).
- 37, Dec Birth of Nero, future emperor of Rome.
- 38 Anti-Jewish riot in Alexandria.
- 38 British Prince Adminius rebels against British King Cymbeline.
- 38 Churches in Judaea, Galilee, and Samaria enjoy a period of peace (Acts 9:31).
- 38 Saul is still unknown by face to the churches in Judaea (Gal 1:22).
- 38 Peter passing through all quarters comes to Lydda and heals Aeneas (Acts 9:32).

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- 38 Peter goes to Joppa where he raises Dorcas from the dead (Acts 9:39).
- 38 Peter stays in Joppa by the sea in the home of Simon the tanner for many days, until he is sent for by the apostles to return to Jerusalem (Acts 9:43; 10:5). Interestingly, a Gentile from Caesarea by the name of Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian cohort (body-guards to Vitellius?), sends his delegates to request Peter's presence in Caesarea (Acts 10:9).
- 38 Peter's vision prepares him to receive Cornelius and his Gentile companions at Caesarea (Acts 10:26). Cornelius, and his family are baptized.
- 38 Peter returns to Jerusalem to defend his actions before the Jewish believers (Acts 11:1-11:18).
- 39 Banishment of Agrippina and her son Nero by Caligula.
- 39 Herod Antipas, murderer of John the Baptist, exiled to the Pyrenees in Gaul by Caligula for alliance with Parthians.
- 39 Aretas IV, Ethnarch of Nabataea, dies (Acts 9:23-5; 2 Cor 11:32) and is succeeded by Malichus II.
- 39 Emperor Caligula leads the Roman army to the Rhine, then diverts it to the coast of Gaul with intentions of invading Britain. He then cancels plans to invade Britain.
- 40 Jews in Jamnia destroy an altar erected by pagan Greek minority.
- 40 Caligula orders statue of himself to be set up in the temple at Jerusalem.
- 40 Philo of Alexandria leads an embassy of Jews from Alexandria to Emperor Caligula in Rome. The Jews of Alexandria then become the subject of a Roman pogrom, which Philo and his companions hoped to end. Caligula, however, cut Philo off as he spoke. Philo later told his fellow ambassadors that God would punish Caligula.
- 40 Jerusalem Church sends Barnabas to Antioch (Acts 11:22).
- 40 Barnabas leaves Antioch and goes to Tarsus to seek out Saul (Acts 11:25).
- 40 Saul and Barnabas return together to Antioch, and remain there for a period of a year. It was then and there that the new term "Christian" (derogatory?) was invented by the

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- Antiochenes and applied to the followers of the Way (Acts 11:26).
- 40 Prophets from Jerusalem go to Antioch. One of them, Agabus, predicts a severe famine (Acts 11:28).
- 40 Publius Petronius becomes legate of Syria, succeeding Vitellius.
- 40 Matthew writes his Gospel in preparation for worldwide evangelistic campaign. It is the Gospel endorsed by James, the brother of Jesus. James writes his Epistle as a cover letter to Matthew's Gospel specifically addressed to the "twelve tribes" of Israel.
- 40 British prince Aminius, son of Cunobelinus, flees to Rome. Caligula confirms him as King of Britain.
- 40, autumn Beginning of Sabbatical year.
- 41, Jan 24 Roman Emperor Caligula murdered by soldiers of the Praetorian guard.
- 41, Jan 25 Tiberius Claudius Drusus (Claudius) becomes fourth Emperor of Rome.
- 41 Claudius restores Herod Agrippa I as King of the Jews, thus restoring Jewish self-rule. This Herod is the son of Herod Antipas who killed John the Baptist (Mark 6:14-29) and mocked Christ (Luke 23:7-12).
- 41 Birth of Claudius Tiberius Germanicus, son of Emperor Claudius and his third wife Messallina.
- 41, Feb 8 Herod Agrippa I sails from Rome to Caesarea.
- 41, Mar Herod Agrippa enters city of Jerusalem triumphantly as King and Savior of the Jews. He immediately initiates a pogrom against the disciples.
- 41, Mar James, son of Zebedee and the brother of the Apostle John, is rounded up and beheaded by Herod Agrippa during the days of Unleavened Bread (Acts 12:1-2).
- 41, Apr Herod Agrippa imprisons Peter during days of Unleavened Bread (Acts 12:3). Peter is delivered out of prison by an angel and stays a while at the home of Mary, mother of John Mark (Acts 12:3-11).
- 41, Apr Herod Agrippa, realizing that he was robbed of his chance to publicly execute Peter, has all of the prison guards executed (Acts 12:18-19).

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- 41, May Peter leaves Jerusalem for “another place” (Acts 12:17). The text of *Acts* here was most likely edited by Peter later on to read “another place” in order to conceal the fact that Peter went to Antioch (where he ordains Euodius as bishop), then Rome, and finally Britain.
- 41 During year in Antioch, Saul and Barnabas amass a collection of food relief for the people in Judaea during a Sabbatical year (Acts 11:27-30; *A.J.* 20:49-55). This is Saul’s second trip to Jerusalem, which is unmentioned later on in the letter to the Galatians.
- 42 Peter leaves Antioch, then goes to Rome with John Mark.
- 42 Roman senator Rufus Pudens Pudentius receives the Apostle Peter into his home located on Via Urbana, the *Palatium Britannicum*, on the Viminal Hill (one of the “Seven Hills of Rome.” The Viminal is a smaller ridge between the Quirinal Hill and the Esquiline Hill). Rufus was baptized by Peter at this time and he is the Rufus mentioned by Paul in Romans 16:13 and Pudens of 2 Timothy 4:21.
- 42 Peter leaves Rome for Britain and he is there during the coming Roman invasion.
- 42 Jerusalem apostles spread out on a worldwide evangelistic campaign, 12 years after church was established.
- 42 John Mark remains in Rome, while Peter goes on to Britain. Mark is urged by the small Roman congregation to write a gospel account according to what Peter had preached there in Rome. Mark writes his Gospel there in Rome, then returns to Jerusalem.
- 43 Rome invades south-east Britain under Aulus Plautius. Romans defeat Caractacus (Caradoc) and Togodumnus decisively at Medway and declare southern Britain as the Roman Province of Britannia. Claudius visits Britain briefly, receives submission of many local chieftains, then returns to Rome.
- 43 Beginning of the expedition of Saul and Barnabas through Antioch, Cyprus, Pamphylia, and southern Galatia (Acts 13-14). John Mark accompanies them. They sail from Seleucia to Cyprus (Acts 13:4-5).
- 44, Mar 10 Herod Agrippa I, King of Judaea and Samaria, wearing a brilliant silver robe that sparkled in the sun, is called a god by the people of Caesarea, and is immediately consumed

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- by stomach pains. 5 days later, at age 44, he dies (cf. Acts 12:20-23; Josephus, *A.J.* 19.8.2 [343-52]).
- 44 Cuspus Fadus becomes Procurator of Judaea, succeeding the death of Herod Agrippa I. Roman rule is again restored in Judaea.
- 44 Saul before Cypriot proconsul Lucius Sergius Paulus (Acts 13:7). Interestingly, he now takes on the name of “Paulus.”
- 44 “Then Saul, (who also is called Paul)” rebukes Elymas the magician (Acts 13:9).
- 44 Paul goes to Paphos, then to Perga in Pamphylia. John Mark returns to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13). Mark’s return did not set well with Paul, who later viewed his return as a desertion and a reason not to take him along on the second of Paul’s apostolic campaigns (Acts 15:38-39).
- 44 Many Jews and proselytes follow Paul and Barnabas at Antioch in Pisidia (Acts 13:43).
- 44 Paul and Barnabas go on to Iconium (Acts 13:50).
- 44, summer Second Roman campaign in Britain. Claudius returns to Rome for his British triumph. Roman senate votes to give Emperor Claudius son’s name, the prince Claudius Tiberius Germanicus, the additional title of Britannicus in honor of the conquest of Britain.
- 44 Peter returns to Jerusalem from Britain with Mary, mother of Jesus. Apostle John hereafter becomes guardian of Mary (John 19:27).
- 45 Vardanes I, king of Parthia, dies and is succeeded by his brother Gotarzes II.
- 45 Paul and Barnabas remain at Iconium for a long time (Acts 14:3).
- 45 At Lycaonia, Paul is called Mercury and Barnabas, Jupiter (Acts 14:3).
- 45 Paul is stoned in Iconium (Acts 14:19; 2 Tim 3:11; 2 Cor 11:25).
- 45 Paul and Barnabas go to Derbe, then to Lystra, and return to Iconium and Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 14:20). They spend most of the year ordaining elders “in every city.”
- 46 Tiberius Julius Alexander becomes Procurator in Judaea, succeeding Cuspus Fadus.
- 46 Thrace made Roman province.

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- 46 Herod of Chalcis appoints Joseph, son of Kami, as High Priest (*J.A.* 20.16; 20.103).
- 46 Paul and Barnabas set sail from Attalia to Antioch and remained for some time there (*Acts* 14:24-28).
- 47 Plautius, conqueror of Britain, is recalled to Rome and marries Gladys, sister of Silurian opponent, Caractacus (*Tacitus, Annals* 13:32). Her name is later changed to Pomponia.
- 47 800th anniversary of Rome. Claudius holds secular games to mark anniversary.
- 47 Herod of Chalcis appoints Ananias, son of Nedebaeus, as high Priest (*J.A.* 20.5.2 [103]).
- 47 James and Simon, rebel sons of Judas of Gamala, are crucified.
- 47 Ostorius Scapula appointed first Roman governor of Britain.
- 47 Peter and other Jewish Christians from Jerusalem come to Antioch causing dissension about Gentile men in the church having to be circumcised (*Acts* 15:1-2). Paul stands up to Peter (*Gal* 2:11). Barnabas sides with Peter (*Gal* 2:12-13).
- 47 It was decided that Paul and Barnabas were to go to Jerusalem to bring the matter before a council of apostles and elders (*Acts* 15:2).
- 47, autumn Beginning of Sabbatical year.
- 48, early spring Paul, Barnabas, and Titus (a Greek) arrive in Jerusalem to attend the first council within the church (*Acts* 15:4). This occurred 14 years after Paul's conversion (*Gal* 2:1) and is his third recorded visit to Jerusalem.
- 48, Passover The **Council of Jerusalem** held (*Acts* 15). James, Peter, and John are the pillar apostles deliberating (*Gal* 2:9). James renders the decision "not to trouble the Gentiles who are turning to God" (*Acts* 15:19).
- 48, spring The Jerusalem church sends Paul and Barnabas back to Antioch, with Silas (Sylvanus) and Judas Barsabas, along with a letter to the Antioch church that the only requirements that Gentiles are to observe is to 1) abstain from meat sacrificed to idols; 2) do not drink blood, nor eat

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- anything that has been strangled; 3) avoid fornication (Acts 15:23-29).
- 48 Ventidius Cumanus becomes Roman Procurator of Judaea, succeeding Tiberius Julius Alexander.
- 48 Claudius invests the 21 year old Herod Agrippa II, son of Agrippa I, who died in 44 C.E., with the office of superintendent of the temple of Jerusalem.
- 48, summer Paul and Barnabas decide on a second campaign to revisit the churches of Asia (Acts 15:36). Paul does not want to take Mark with them, Barnabas disagrees (Acts 15:37). Barnabas decides to go separately from Paul, taking John Mark with him to Cyprus (Acts 15:39). Paul chooses Silas to go with him to Syria and Cilicia (Acts 15:40-41).
- 48, summer Paul goes to Derbe and Lystra and recruits Timothy (Acts 16:1). As Paul goes through the cities of Phrygia and Galatia, he delivers the message of the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 16:4). They are prevented to go to Asia by the Holy Spirit. They bypass Mysia and go to Troas where the vision of Macedonia beckons them (Acts 16:6-10).
- 48, autumn End of Sabbatical year.
- 49, spring Paul sets sail from Troas to Samothrace, then Neapolis, then Philippi, where they stay for “some days” (Acts 16:11-12). He spends Pentecost in Philippi (1 Thess 2:2). Luke may be with them since this the beginning of the “we” sections in Acts.
- 49 At Philippi Paul performs an exorcism (Acts 16:13-40) which lands him and Silas in jail. Their chains are loosened and doors are opened by an earthquake, they chose not to escape the prison. This is **Paul’s first imprisonment**. Officials release them due to the fact that they are Roman citizens.
- 49, summer Paul and Silas come to Thessalonica (Acts 17:1). Paul argues with the Jews in a synagogue three Sabbaths in a row from the scriptures (Acts 17:2-3). Thessalonians attack Jason’s house, where Paul had stayed (Acts 17:4-9).
- 49, summer Paul and Silas sent to Berea by night (Acts 17:10). Thessalonians follow Paul to Berea (Acts 17:13). Paul sent to Athens and Silas and Timothy remain in Berea (Acts 17:14; 1 Thess 3:1).

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- 49, summer Paul requests Silas and Timothy to join up with him in Athens (Acts 17:15). In the meantime, Paul preaches to the philosophers (Acts 17:16-34).
- 49 Execution of Empress Messallina, wife of Claudius. Claudius then marries Agrippina.
- 49 Claudius expels Jewish Septuagint missionaries from Rome because of riots instigated by their leader, Chrestus (Suetonius, *Claudius*, 25). This occurred in the 9th year of Claudius (Orosius, *Adv. Pag.* 7.6.15).
- 49 Roman philosopher, Seneca, is recalled from Corsica and is appointed tutor to Nero.
- 49 The Romans begin to exploit the Mendip Tin mines in Britain, the legendary source of wealth of Joseph of Arimathea. The British tribe known as the Iceni were then cut off from their source of wealth. The Iceni were thus obliged to borrow money. Seneca advances a huge sum of money to Prasutagus, the King of the Iceni, on the security of their public buildings. Upon the death of Prasutagus, Seneca called in the loan. This was the prelude to the Boudiccan war in 62.
- 49, autumn Paul leaves Athens for Corinth (Acts 18:1).
- 49, Nov Paul arrives at Corinth, where he stays for a year and a half (Acts 18:1).
- 49, Nov Aquila, a Jew originally from Pontus, and his wife Priscilla arrive at Corinth after being exiled from Rome (Acts 18:1-2).
- 49, Dec Silas and Timothy rejoin Paul at Corinth (Acts 18:5).
- 50, Jan Paul sends Timothy to the Thessalonians (1 Thess 3:1-2).
- 50, early spring Paul's *Epistle to the Galatians* written from Corinth before Passover.
- 50, Passover A Roman soldier exposes his genitals to Passover celebrants in Jerusalem and antagonizes a riot thereby. Some 10-20,000 celebrants end up dead.
- 50, spring Timothy returns to Corinth, bringing good news about the Thessalonians (1 Thess 3:6).
- 50, late spring Paul writes *First Thessalonians* from Corinth.
- 50 A Roman soldier destroys a Torah scroll. Jews complain to Cumanus. Soldier is beheaded.

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- 50 Claudius adopts Lucius Dominitius (Nero) as his son, which effectively excludes his own real son, Britannicus, from succession.
- 50 Paul, Timothy, and Silas preach to the Corinthians (2 Cor 1:19). Crispus, leader of the Synagogue, his household, Justus, Gaius, and many other believers are baptized (Acts 18:8). Paul later remarks that only Crispus, Gaius, and the household of Stephanus, were baptized by him (1 Cor 1:14-16).
- 50 Roman city of Londinium in Britain is founded on the banks of the Thames river.
- 50, summer Paul writes *Second Thessalonians* from Corinth.
- 51, June Roman Proconsul Gallio arrives in Corinth.
- 51, July Paul brought before Gallio at completion of 18 month stay in Corinth (Acts 18:11-17). This is **Paul's second imprisonment**. Sosthenes, chief ruler of the synagogue, is beaten. Gallio ignores disturbance.
- 51, July Paul departs Corinth and sets sail for Ephesus with Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18:18-21). At Cenchrea, Paul takes a vow, then shaves his head. He stays in Ephesus for a while, then sails back to Caesarea.
- 51, autumn Paul goes to Jerusalem for possibly the fall Holydays (Acts 18:22). This is Paul's fourth recorded visit to Jerusalem. He then goes back to Antioch, where he spends "some time" which possibly means that he wintered there until next spring.
- 51 Burrus becomes Praetorian Prefect.
- 51 Famine in Rome.
- 51 British King Caractacus of Siluria, seeking refuge with the Queen of the Brigantes, Cartismandua, is betrayed, captured, and sent to Rome. Because of his noble fame and dignified demeanor, he and his family are allowed to freely reside as British war captives in Rome.
- 52, spring Paul leaves Antioch to go on his third evangelizing campaign. He goes to Galatia and Phrygia (Acts 18:23).
- 52, spring Alexandrian Jew Apollos, comes to Ephesus, is baptized by Priscilla and Aquila, then goes to Corinth (Acts 18:24-28; 19:1).

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- 52, May Paul arrives at Ephesus. He stays there for a period of 3 months (Acts 19:8) and 2 years (Acts 19:9-10).
- 52, Aug Paul completes three month preaching in an Ephesian Synagogue (Acts 19:8), then teaches in the Hall of Tyrannus for two years (Acts 19:10). During this time Paul performs miracles, magicians burn their books, Paul fights beasts [literal or figurative?] (1 Cor 15:32).
- 52, autumn Paul sends Titus to Corinth, Timothy and Erastus to Macedonia (Acts 19:22).
- 52, autumn Paul is apprehended by a mob at Ephesus initiated by Demetrius the Silversmith This is **Paul's third imprisonment** (Acts 19:37] cf. 2 Cor 11:23; Rom 16:7).
- 53, March Paul writes *First Corinthians* in Ephesus before Passover (1 Cor 4:6-8). He therein mentions the influence of Apollos and Cephas before him (1 Cor 1:12, 16:12). He also mentions that other apostles, and Cephas, travel with their "wife" also (1 Cor 9:5). He refers to Barnabas and himself as workaholics (1 Cor 9:6).
- 53, March Paul sends Timothy from Ephesus to Corinth before Passover (1 Cor 5:17).
- 53, Apr Paul receives Timothy back at Ephesus after Passover (1 Cor 4:17).
- 53, May Paul stays in Ephesus until Pentecost (1 Cor 16:8).
- 53, July 1 Marcus Antonius Felix becomes Procurator of Judaea, succeeding Cumanus.
- 53, summer Stephanus, Fortunatus, and Achaicus (Gaius?) come to Ephesus from Corinth to see Paul (1 Cor 16:17). Sosthenes also with Paul (1 Cor 1:1).
- 53 Nero marries his step-sister, Claudius' daughter Octavia.
- 53 Roman senator Rufus Pudens Pudentius, a Christian who had been baptized by Peter in 42 C.E., marries Gladys, daughter of British King Caractacus and brother of Linus, future bishop of Rome.³⁸⁷
- 53, Sept 18 Trajan, future emperor of Rome, born.
- 54, March Paul leaves Ephesus after the riot of Demetrius and travels through Macedonia (Acts 20:1-3), passes through Troas (Acts 20:7-12), keeps Passover at Philippi (Acts 20:9).
- 54 Agrippina, with the help of the Prefect of the Praetorian Guard, Burrus, assured herself the title of Augusta.

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- 54 British King Caractacus dies in Rome.
- 54, autumn Paul in Greece (Acts 20:1-3), stays there for 3 months, meets Titus and writes *Second Corinthians*. where he writes that he will come to Corinth a third time (2 Cor 13:1).
- 54, autumn Beginning of Sabbatical Year.
- 54, autumn Paul, at the end of his three month stay in Corinth, writes *Epistle to the Romans* (Acts 20:2-3).
- 54, Oct 13 Emperor Claudius is murdered. Having now secured the throne for her son, Agrippina poisons her husband with a plate of mushrooms, thus elevating her seventeen year old son, Nero, to the throne as the fifth Emperor of Rome.
- 55, Apr Luke and others sail to Assos, but Paul travels by land. There they rejoin and sail to the island of Mytelene (Lesbos), then to Chios, Samos, and Miletus (Acts 20:13-16). Paul by-passes Ephesus, but had previously summoned the Ephesian elders to meet him in Miletus, where he delivers a farewell address (Acts 20:18-35). The two years and three months that he stayed in Ephesus is here referred to by Paul as being “three years” (Acts 20:31), another confirmation of inclusive reckoning in biblical time references.
- 55, May Paul and company sail for Cos, Rhodes, Patara and land in Tyre (Acts 21:1-3). They look up disciples and stay seven days there who tell Paul not to go to Jerusalem (vv. 4-6). They set sail from Tyre to Ptolemais, then travel to Caesarea where they stay at the home of Philip the evangelist (vv. 7-10). There, the prophet Agabus foretells Paul’s incarceration in Jerusalem (vv. 8-14). They go to Jerusalem and stay at the home of Mnason.

³⁸⁷ Upon their marriage Gladys adopts the Roman name of Claudia in compliment to Emperor Claudius, who had treated the British royal family in Rome with dignity and respect. Their children are Timotheus, Novatus (martyred 137), Pudentiana (martyred 107), and Praxedes. The home of Pudens became known as the Palatium Britannicum, and later as the Hospitium Apostolorum, and finally, the Titulus – which probably served as the only church building in Rome until the time of Constantine. This house is most likely the home where Paul was kept under house arrest for two years (56-58 C.E.). Its baths were named after Timothy and Novatus, two of the children of Rufus and Claudia. It later became the place where Praxedes hid martyrs, then a hospice for pilgrims from the East, and under bishop Evaristus (100-109 C.E.), a church. It then was called Pastor’s (probably after Pastor Hermas, who wrote to them). Baronius says that Timotheus was a disciple of Peter and Paul (Baronius, 2.56.47). Pastor Hermas says that all four children, Timotheus, Novatus, Praxedes and Pudentiana, were instructed by preaching of the Apostles (Baronius, 2.8-148). In the second century the Basilica of St. Pudentiana was built over the house.

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- 55, spring Alexandrian Jew known as the “Egyptian” attempts to take Jerusalem with some 4000 followers, but is defeated by Felix.
- 55, May 19 Paul arrives in Jerusalem, the day before Pentecost.
- 55, May 20 Paul meets with James, Peter, and John (the pillar apostles) at an assembly of all the elders, on the day of Pentecost. James requires Paul to go through a seven day purification ritual (Acts 21:26-7).
- 55, May 21-27 Paul begins his purification.
- 55, May 28 Paul is arrested in Jerusalem (Acts 21:28-33). This is **Paul’s fourth imprisonment**.
- 55, May 29 Paul before Sanhedrin (Acts 22:30). Over 40 Jews take an oath not to eat nor drink until Paul is executed (Acts 23:12-15).
- 55, May 30 Paul taken to Antipatris, then to Caesarea (Acts 23:16).
- 55, June 4 High Priest Ananias arrives in Caesarea (Acts 24:1).
- 55, June 9 Felix and his Jewish wife, Drusila, have private audience with Paul (Acts 24:24).
- 55, July 1 Porcius Festus arrives in Caesarea, replacing Felix as Procurator of Judaea.
- 55, July 4 Paul appears before Festus and appeals his case to Caesar.
- 55, summer Felix arrives back in Rome.
- 55, autumn End of Sabbatical Year in Judaea.
- 55, Oct Paul, under custody, begins voyage to Rome after Day of Atonement.
- 55, Nov Paul and Luke ship-wrecked on the isle of Malta, where they winter (Acts 28:11).
- 56, late winter Nero has Britannicus, son of Claudius, a pretender to the throne, poisoned. Titus, Nero’s friend and later Emperor, drinks from same beverage and nearly dies as well.
- 56, Apr Paul arrives in Rome, spends two years in house arrest (Acts 28:30). This is **Paul’s fifth imprisonment**. There he preaches before kings, fulfilling his second commission (Acts 9:15). The kings that he specifically witnesses to are the British war captives in Rome.
- 56 Apostle John, in Jerusalem, initially receives a vision of the *Revelation* of the end times. It is addressed to seven churches in Asia.

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- 56 Paul ordains the British Prince Linus, son of British war captive King Caractacus, as first Bishop at Rome.
- 57 Pomponia, British wife of Plautius, is accused of superstitious beliefs (Christian?) but is exonerated (Tacitus, *Annals*, 13:32).
- 58, early Paul, in prison at Rome, writes Epistle to the *Philippians*.
- 58, Apr Paul released from Roman prison.
- 58 Paul baptizes the British arch-druid, Bran, father of Caractacus.
- 58, spring *Book of Acts* ends. The period of “**Beyond Acts**” begins.
- 58, June Paul departs from Rome and goes possibly to Spain (no record of such), but most definitely to Britain (numerous traditions testify to such).
- 58 Rome renews hostilities with Parthia. Vardanes II is defeated, executed, and replaced by Vologases I.
- 59 Nero murders his mother, Agrippina.
- 60 Icenian British king, Prasatugas, dies. Romans seize his property. His wife, Queen Boudica, and his daughters are raped.
- 61 Queen Boudica amasses an army of 100,000 troops to revolt against Rome. She burns the city of Londinium, center of Roman pride and imperial dominance, to the ground.
- 61 Laodicea suffers Earthquake (Tacitus, *Ann* 14.27).
- 61, autumn Beginning of a Sabbatical year.
- 62, spring Festus dies in office, causing a vacuum in Roman rule in Judaea. Jewish leaders seize this opportunity and plan a public debate with James, brother of Jesus.
- 62, Passover James the “Just,” half brother of Jesus, is thrown off the pinnacle of the temple and bludgeoned to death with a soap maker’s club (Eusebius, *Hist. eccl.* 2.23).
- 62, summer Luceius Albinus becomes Procurator Judaea, succeeding Festus. He drives the Sicarii out of Jerusalem.
- 62, summer Soon after James’ death, Apostles were driven out of Jerusalem (Eusebius, *Hist. eccl.* 3.5).
- 62 Agrippa II replaces High Priest Ananus with Jesus son of Damneus (Josephus, *A.J.* 20.9.1 [203], *B.J.* 6.2.2 [114]).

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- 62, summer First wave of Christians begin to disperse to other parts of the Empire (Eusebius, *Hist eccl.* 3.1).
- 62 Tradition has it that the Apostle Bartholomew was skinned alive and crucified in Kalyana, a city state on the west coast of India, near modern-day Bombay.
- 62 Joshua ben Ananias pronounces prophetic dirge against Jerusalem and the temple (Josephus, *B.J.* 6.5.3 [300-9]).
- 62 Suetonius Paulinus is sent to Britain with 10,000 troops to squash the rebellion of Queen Boudicea. She takes poison rather than being taken as captive.
- 62 Death of Pallas, brother of Festus.
- 62 Nero kills his wife, Octavia, and marries Poppaea Sabina, a proselyte to Judaism.
- 62 Afranius Burrus, Prefect of the Praetorian Guard, is murdered by Nero's wife, Poppaea Sabina.
- 62, autumn End of Sabbatical year.
- 63, Feb. 5 Mount Vesuvius erupts, causing a great earthquake.
- 63, summer Paul returns from Spain and Britain, goes to Crete.
- 63 Under the rule of Procurator Albinus, "the seeds of coming destruction were being sown in the city" (Josephus, *B.J.* 2.14.1 [276]).
- 63, autumn Paul stays at Nicopolis for winter and writes the *Epistle of Titus*.
- 64, spring Gessius Florus becomes Roman Procurator in Judaea, succeeding Albinus.
- 64, spring Paul goes to Ephesus to see Timothy (1 Tim 1:3).
- 64, summer Paul writes *First Timothy* from Macedonia requesting John Mark to perform a "useful service".
- 64, summer Temple in Jerusalem completed.
- 64, summer Paul returns to Ephesus and is imprisoned there (sixth imprisonment). This is **Paul's sixth imprisonment**.
- 64 Paul receives his "revelation" of the "Mystery," which completely changes his outlook in the plan of God.
- 64 Paul writes *Colossians*, *Philemon*, and *Ephesians* from an Ephesian prison to explain his revelation of the "Mystery."
- 64, summer Peter writes *Epistle of First Peter* from Jerusalem to "alien residents" in Asia Minor. He sends greetings from John

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- Mark, who just arrived from Rome, and the sister church at Rome, referred to as “Babylon.”
- 64, July 19 Fire at Rome – blamed on the Christians.
- 64 Beginning of Christian persecution.
- 64 Mass exodus of Jews and Christians out of Judaea to other parts of Empire (Josephus, *B.J.* 2.14.2 [279]).
- 65, spring Paul released from prison in Ephesus, goes to Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra (2 Tim 4:20). At Antioch Paul ordains Ignatius as bishop, succeeding Euodius.
- 65, summer Paul receives stiff opposition and persecution in Galatia.
- 65 Nero kicks his pregnant wife, Poppaea, to death because she complained that he came home too late from the circus.
- 65 Matthias becomes high priest.
- 65 Seneca and Lucan commit suicide.
- 65 Rome is inflicted with epidemic.
- 65 Agrippa returns from Alexandria to Jerusalem. He delivers a speech to dissuade a revolt against Rome, but to no avail.
- 66, summer Last remnants of “Nazarenes” flee Jerusalem to Pella (Eusebius, *Hist eccl.* 3.5). **This is Paul’s seventh imprisonment.**
- 66 Paul arrested in Rome. *Second Timothy* written from Mamertine prison.
- 66 Tiridates of Armenia goes to Rome to receive throne of Parthia.
- 66 Nero marries Statilia Messalina and travels to Greece to enter Olympic games.
- 66 Paul in prison at Rome, edits his epistles for posterity.
- 66 A riot is provoked in Caesarea because of an upturned chamber pot in front of a Synagogue, defiling holy ground. Greek citizens bribe Florus not to interfere. This incident escalates into a revolt. Vespasian appointed commander in Palestine to put down revolt.
- 66 Tradition has Thaddeus, who was in possession of the lance which pierced Jesus’ side, establishing churches in Armenia.
- 66, summer Peter leaves Jerusalem via Corinth to Rome to see Paul.

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- 66, autumn Peter arrives in Rome and visits Paul in the Mamertine prison. Paul delivers to Peter his 14 letter collection for the preservation for the future of the church.
- 67, Jan 18 Paul is released from his (seventh) imprisonment in Rome, but is beheaded on the road from Rome to Ostia.
- 67 Linus, first bishop of Rome, is martyred, maybe at the same time as the Apostle Paul. Peter then ordains Clement (67-79 C.E.) as the second bishop of the Church at Rome.
- 67, summer Peter writes his *Epistle of Second Peter*, explaining his intention to leave a body of apostolic writings for the future church.
- 67 Nero enters several Olympic contests, accompanied by 5000 bodyguards, and takes all the events.
- 67 Vespasian begins conquering Galilee and Judaea. Romans win a naval battle on Sea of Galilee. 37,000 captured Jewish prisoners are sold as slaves in a stadium in Caesarea.
- 67 The Galilean general, Joseph ben Mattathias, surrenders to the Romans at Jotapata.
- 67 Jude writes his Epistle saying that what Peter had predicted was then happening.
- 68, Feb 22 A year after Paul's death, Peter also martyred in Rome, crucified upside down.
- 68, spring Praetorian Guard recognize Servius Sulpicius as emperor. Roman senate declares Nero a public enemy.
- 68, June 9 Nero flees his villa outside of Rome – the House of Freedom – and is pursued by the Praetorian Guard, who surround him, leaving no choice but suicide. His dying words are reportedly: “what an artist I perish.” Thus ends the Julio/Claudian dynasty. Galba is named Emperor by Senate.
- 68 The church in Alexandria, Egypt, is founded by John Mark, the disciple of Peter.
- 69 Clement, bishop of Rome, writes a letter to the Corinthian congregation. He states that attention to the dispute at Corinth had been delayed by “sudden and repeated misfortunes and hindrances which have befallen us” (1:1). He also writes: “Not in every place, brethren, ARE the daily sacrifices offered, or the peace-offerings, or the sin-offerings and the trespass-offerings, but in Jerusalem only”

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- (41:2). Obviously, the temple is still in operation. The Corinthians had deposed its old clergy and replaced them with new men. Clement, acting in near apostolic authority, asks that they retain the former clergy on the grounds that these stood in due succession from the apostles, thus establishing the primacy of the apostolic succession.
- 69 Birth of Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna (d. 155). Irenaeus stated that Polycarp had known St. John at Ephesus.
- 69, Jan 15 Galba assassinated by Otho. Civil war breaks out as Otho and Vitellius seek throne.
- 69, Apr 16 Otho, defeated by Vitellius, commits suicide.
- 69, July 1 Vitellius enters Rome to take the throne. On same day, Roman army in Egypt declares Vespasian emperor.
- 69 According to tradition, the Apostle Andrew was crucified in Patrae, on the Peloponnese peninsula.
- 69, Dec 20 Senate confirms Titus Flavius Vespasianus (Vespasian) and on the same day Vitellius' own troops drag his murdered body through the streets of Rome.
- 70, spring Titus lays siege to Jerusalem.
- 70, summer Rabbi Jochanan ben Zacchai is smuggled out of Jerusalem.
- 70, August On the same day that the ancient Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the first temple (Tisha B'Av, 587 B.C.E.), Titus razes the temple of Herod.
- 70, Sept 7 After a 139 day siege on Jerusalem, Titus takes out last defenders of upper city of Jerusalem. 97,000 Jews are slain.
- 70, autumn The temple is torn apart, stone by stone, by Roman soldiers, to extract melted gold, fulfilling the words of Jesus 40 years previously that not one temple stone would be left upon another (Matt 24:2).
- 70 After the fall of Jerusalem, Rabbi Jochanan ben Zacchai founds a rabbinical school in Jamnia (Javneh). He is the guiding force to reconstruct a new kind of Judaism that is not centered around temple worship. Some temple rituals are retained outside the temple precincts, such as the blowing of the shofar on Rosh Hashanah and the carrying of the lulav (palm branches) on Sukkoth (Feast of Tabernacles).

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- 71 Jerusalem becomes the barracks for the Roman 10th Legion. Remaining Jews became slaves to the Roman army.
- 71 Rome imposes a tax on all Jews throughout the empire to support the temple of Jupiter Capitolina in Rome, the god who defeated the god of the Jews, Yahweh.
- 71, Mar. 20 Total solar eclipse in middle East.
- 71 Many Christians who fled to Pella, return and build church on the Mount of Olives.
- 71 Returning to Rome in Triumph, Titus appoints Lucilius Bassus to defeat the remaining Jewish rebel fortresses at Herodian and Masada.
- 71 Joseph ben Mattathias, captured Galilean general, becomes a patron of the Flavian rulers in Rome, changing his name to the Roman name of Flavius Josephus. He publishes his account of *Jewish Wars* from the time of the Maccabean revolt to the recent Jewish war with Rome. Josephus had been a leader of troops against the Romans in Galilee during the war (66-70). When captured, he predicted that Vespasian would become emperor, a move that saved his life. Josephus wrote a history of the war, and because of the favoritism he received from the Roman emperors, was detested by his fellow Jews as a traitor.
- 72 Tradition has it that Thomas was stabbed to death by Brahman priests in Mylapore, India.
- 72 Roman general Bassus dies following his capture of the Herodian and Machaerus. Next, Flavius Silva is appointed to go in and wrap-up resistance at the final Jewish resistant holdout, Masada.
- 73 Romans, in a sweep up operation, eliminate resistance in Dead Sea outposts, such as Qumran. The Qumran community, anticipating this, hide their valuable sacred library in caves, not to be discovered until 1947.
- 73 Last remnant of resistance assembles at the fortress on top of Mount Masada under the leadership of Galilean rebel, Eleazar ben Yair.
- 73 Romans begin siege of Masada.
- 74 When the Romans finally assemble a ramp which allows them to break into the fortress, they find the defenders all

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- dead, having taken their lives rather than face Roman captivity or slaughter.
- 74 A Syrian jail prisoner, Mara Bar Serapion, writes to his son, Serapion, mentioning the “wise king” that was executed by the Jews sometime in the recent past.
- 75, June A triumphal procession in Rome exhibits sacred temple objects from Jerusalem.
- 76, Jan 24 Hadrian, future Roman emperor, is born.
- 77 Pliny the Elder completes his *Natural History* in 37 books.
- 77 The second Roman bishop, Clement, dies and is succeeded by Cletus.
- 78 Roman historian Tacitus marries his own daughter.
- 79 According to tradition, Jude and Simon were torn apart by a Persian mob after this date. Simon had joined forces with Jude after a trip to Britain. Jude had been in Armenia.
- 79, June 23 Roman Emperor Vespasian dies of diarrhea and is succeeded by his son, the victor of Judaea, Titus Flavius Vespasianus (Titus).
- 79, Aug 24 Mt. Vesuvius again erupts, this time submerging the cities of Pompey, Stabiae, and Herculaneum in lava, claiming Pliny the Elder as a victim. Pliny the Younger survives and writes an eyewitness account to Tacitus. Titus does what he can to repair the damage.
- 79 Fire in Rome.
- 80 The Colosseum, which was begun during the reign of Vespasian, is completed by his son Titus. It seats 87,000 people. It is named for a colossal statue of Nero.
- 81, Sept 13 Emperor Titus dies and is succeeded by his brother, Titus Flavius Domitianus (Domitian).
- 81 Arch of Titus completed in Circus Maximus in Rome. It depicts plunder of the Jewish temple.
- 83 The third Roman bishop, Cletus, dies and is succeeded by Anacletus.
- 85 Rome finally completes conquest of Britain.
- 85 Jews adopt an anathema against all “Nazarenes” in their Synagogue liturgy.

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- 89 Domitian has astrologers and philosophers expelled from Rome.
- 90 The Jewish Synod of Jamnia reaffirms the 22 book Hebrew Canon (TaNaK) of Ezra.
- 90 According to tradition, Philip was crucified upside down (like Peter) in Hierapolis, Asia Minor.
- 90 According to Hippolytus, Matthew died a natural death, in Hieres, Persia.
- 93 Alleged persecution (doubtful) of Christians under Domitian.
- 95 Flavius Josephus publishes his *Antiquities of the Jews*. Book 18 refers to Jesus Christ. Scholars believe the statement was tampered with by Christians at a later date because it refers to Christ as divine.
- 95 The fourth Roman bishop, Anacletus, dies and is succeeded by Evaristus.
- 95 Domitian executes his cousin Flavius Clemens for practicing Judaism.
- 96 The Apostle John banished to the Greek Island of Patmos, off the coast from Ephesus. He there receives a renewal of the Apocalyptic vision that he received in the 50's.
- 96, Sept 18 Domitian is executed by the Senate and is replaced by Senator Marcus Cocceius Nerva. Domitian's name and statues are obliterated. Thus ends the Flavian dynasty.
- 97 The Apostle John finalizes the New Testament canon. The Elders of John commit the canon to the archives at the Libraries at Jerusalem and Caesarea for protection and future dissemination. A decade later, Ignatius refers to these "archives" (Ignatius, *Epistle to the Philadelphians*, 8:2).
- 98, Jan Roman Emperor Nerva dies of a stroke. Marcus Ulpius Traianus (Trajan), son of Nerva, becomes emperor.
- 100 The Apostle John is martyred. The apostolic era comes to an end.