

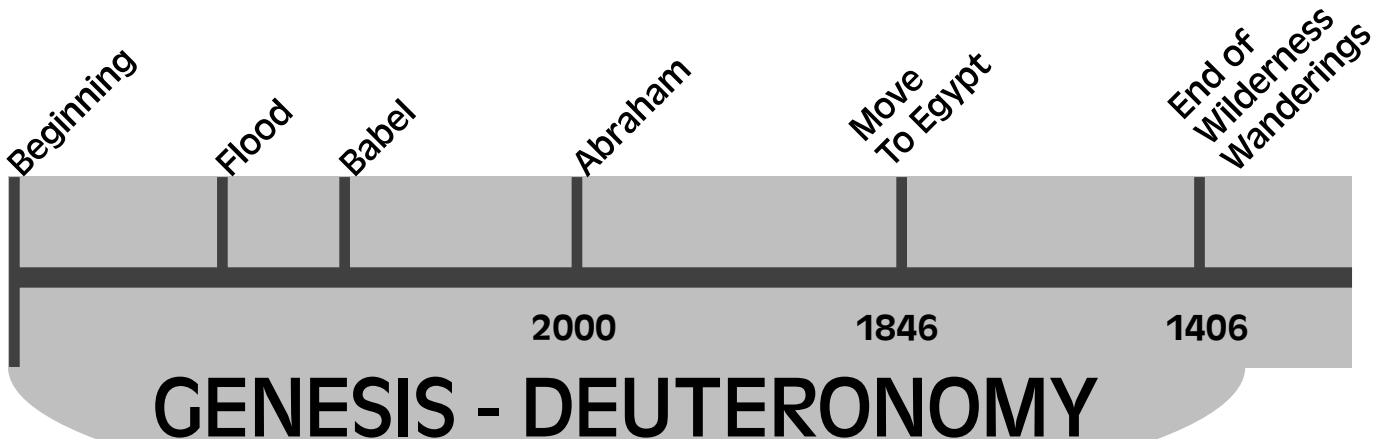
# The Origins of the Bible

## From Creation to the End of the Wilderness Wanderings

- A. The book of Genesis begins with the creation of all things physical.
1. Many scholars have attempted to put a specific date on creation, the best date has already been established in the scriptures: "In the beginning. . ."
- B. Exodus through Deuteronomy covers from around 1446 B.C. to 1406 B.C.
1. The book of Exodus covers from the birth of Moses to the building of the tabernacle at Mount Sinai.
  2. The book of Leviticus, while instructing the Israelites on being holy before the Lord, covers a forty day period between the building of the tabernacle to their departure from Mount Sinai.
  3. The book of Numbers contains a 39 year record of the Israelites wandering in the wilderness.
  4. The book of Deuteronomy records Moses final instructions to the second generation of the Israelite nation.
  5. It is likely these books were written and compiled during the wilderness wandering and completed when Israel was encamped on the plains of Moab due east of Jericho.

Collection of Scrolls

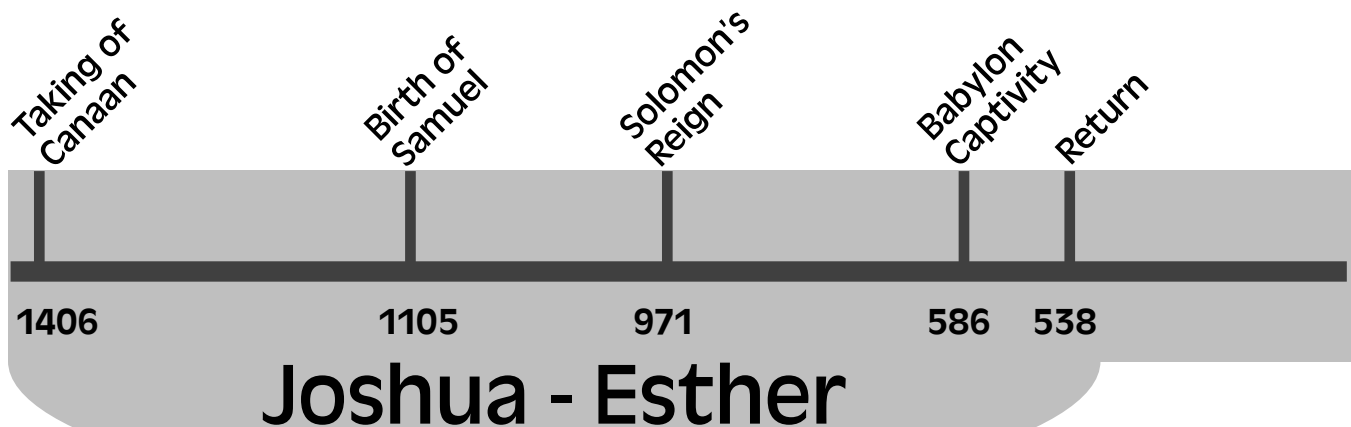
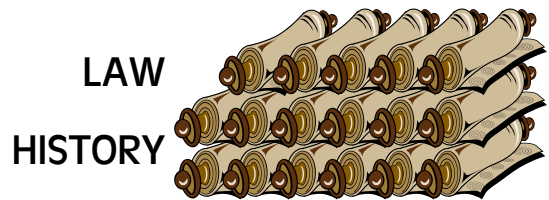
LAW  
(Pentateuch)



## From Entering Canaan thru the Return from Captivity

- A. The book of Joshua begins what we call the books of history. Joshua led Israel into Canaan around 1406 B.C.
- B. After the death of Joshua, the Israelite nation began a disobedient period. This period recorded in the book of Judges would last approximately 300 years.
- C. Toward the end of the Judges is the time frame for the story of Ruth. Ruth's husband, Boaz, would be the great-grandfather of King David.
- D. 1 and 2 Samuel begins with the birth Samuel and covers the 40 year reign of King Saul to the 40 year reign of King David. 1 and 2 Samuel covers approximately from 1105 B.C. to 971 B.C.
- E. 1 and 2 Kings continues the historical record, picking up with the reign of Solomon, covering the dividing of the nation into two parts and their subsequent histories, ending with the Babylonian captivity for the southern nation of Judah. 971 B.C. to 586 B.C.
- F. 1 and 2 Chronicles contain a record of the events found in 2 Samuel through 2 Kings. However, the Chronicles focus on David and the kings of Judah.
- G. The story of Esther is placed around 478 B.C. to 473 B.C.
- H. Ezra and Nehemiah covers Judah's return to the land of Canaan, from 538 B.C. to 425 B.C.

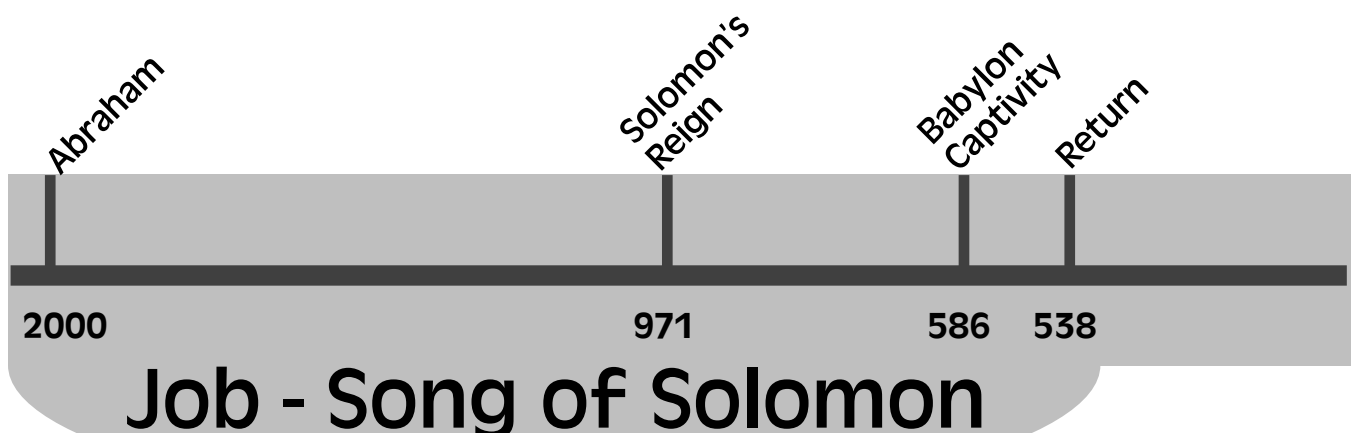
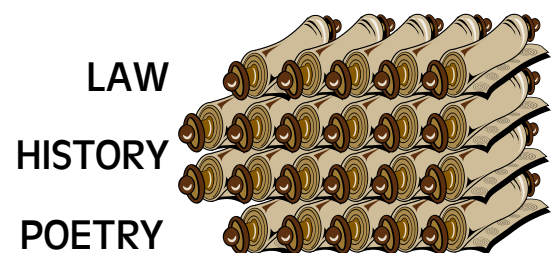
### Collection of Scrolls



## Wisdom Literature

- A. The books of poetry are comprised of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon. These five books are also considered Wisdom Literature.
1. The story of Job appears to have taken place likely during the patriarchal period, somewhere around 1800 B.C. To 2000 B.C. Determining when the book of Job was written is difficult. Job could have been recorded by any number of writers, including David or Solomon.
  2. The book of Psalms is a collection of songs written over a wide period of time, beginning with the song of Moses (Psalm 90) to Psalm 137 which appears to have been written in Babylon. While many of the psalms were written and compiled by King David, it is likely the collection grew over time, being completed during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah.
  3. The book of Proverbs contains proverbs and wisdom lessons written by Solomon. The collection was completed with additional proverbs by Solomon being added by King Hezekiah about 230 years later.
  4. While many scholars credit Ecclesiastes to Solomon, placing the writing around 971 B.C., others place its origin to the time of Ezra around 450 B.C.
  5. Song of Solomon is credited to Solomon, probably within during his early life as King.

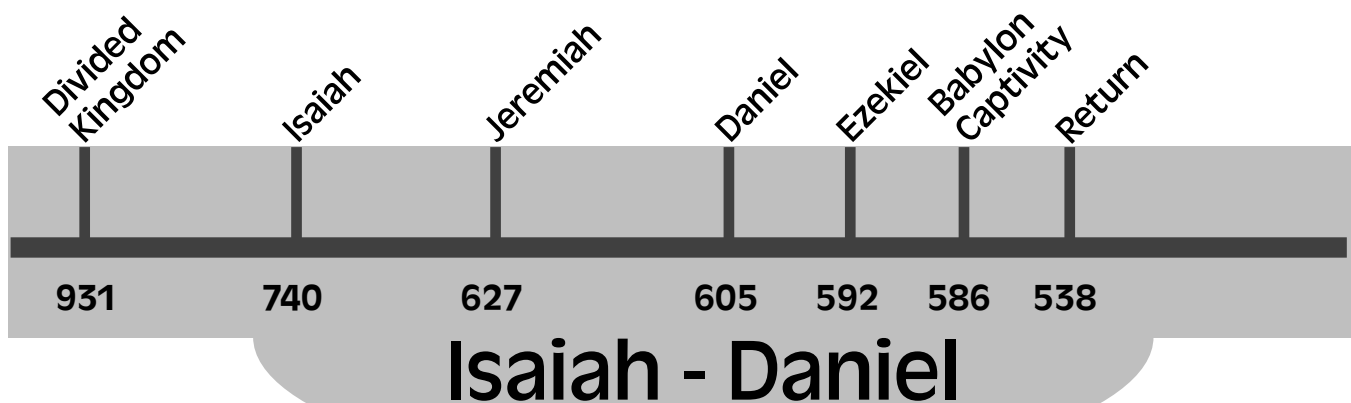
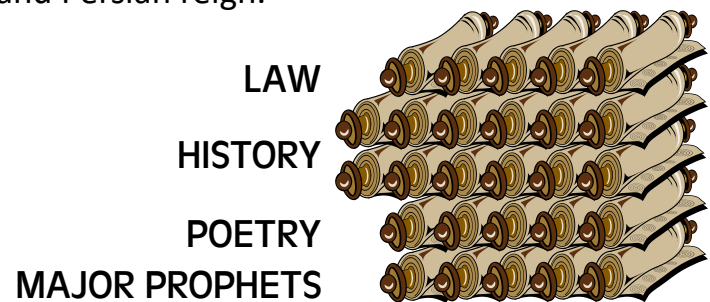
### Collection of Scrolls



## Major Prophets

- A. The section known as the Major Prophets is comprised of the writings of four prophets of God.
1. The first book is Isaiah. Isaiah was written between 740 B.C. To 680 B.C.
  2. The second book is Jeremiah. Jeremiah prophesied during three periods, from 627 to 605 B.C., from 605 to 586 B.C., and from 586 to about 580 B.C.
  3. The third book is Lamentations. Many scholars attribute Lamentations to Jeremiah due to the stylistic similarities. They also place the writing to around 586 B.C., just after Jeremiah would have witnessed the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple.
  4. The fourth book is Ezekiel. Ezekiel was taken captive in Nebuchadnezzar's second attack on Jerusalem, in 592 B.C. Ezekiel's first vision is dated in the year 592 B.C. His latest oracle was likely from 571 to 570 B.C. Ezekiel was a contemporary of Jeremiah and Daniel.
  5. The fifth book is Daniel. Daniel was taken in Nebuchadnezzar's first attack on Jerusalem. Daniel served as a prophet in Babylon from 605 B.C. to 536 B.C. He continued during the Medes and Persian reign.

### Collection of Scrolls

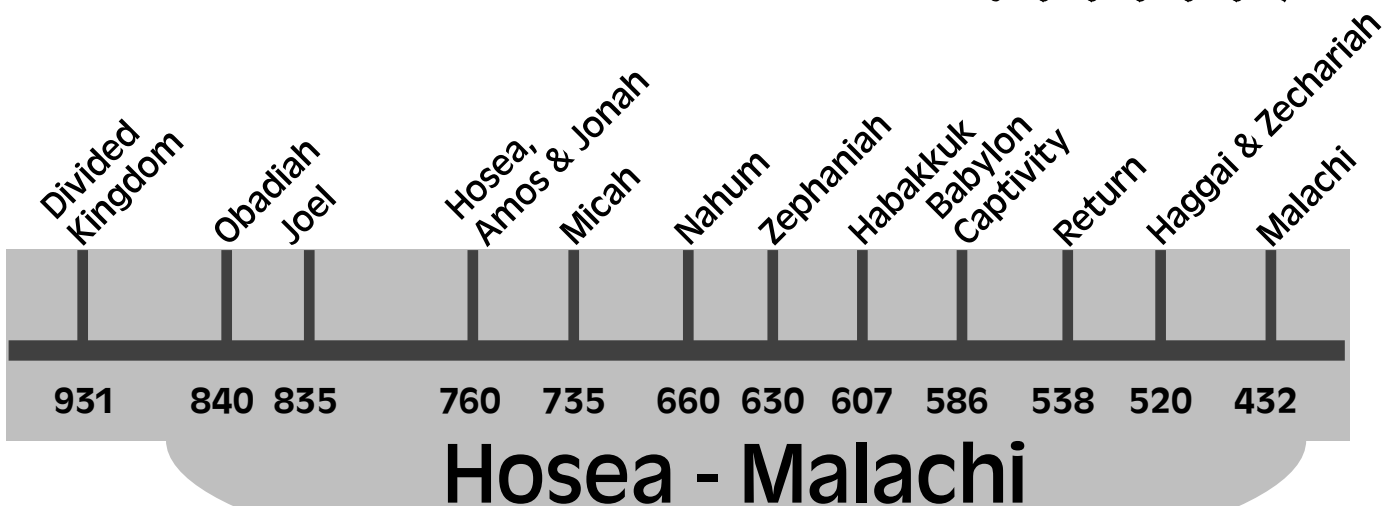


## Minor Prophets

A. The section known as the Minor Prophets is comprised of the writings of ten prophets of God.

1. Obadiah - written to the nation of Edom around 840 B.C.
2. Joel - written to the nation of Judah around 835 B.C.
3. Amos - written to the nation of Israel around 760 B.C.
4. Jonah - written to the city of Nineveh around 760 B.C.
5. Hosea - written to the nation of Israel around 755 B.C.
6. Micah - written to the nation of Judah around 735 B.C.
7. Nahum - written to the city of Nineveh around 660 B.C.
8. Zephaniah - written to the nation of Judah around 630 B.C.
9. Habakkuk - written to the nation of Judah around 607 B.C.
10. Haggai - written to the remnant around 520 B.C.
11. Zechariah - written to the remnant around 520 B.C.
12. Malachi - written to the remnant around 432 B.C.

### Collection of Scrolls



# When Were the Individual Books Written?

A. As history progressed, the collection of scrolls carried by the priests would have grown.

1406	End of Wilderness Wanderings	
	<p><i>Judges was written sometime before David took the city of Jerusalem. Composition dates for Joshua and Ruth are unknown.</i></p>	
1004	David Takes Jerusalem	
	<p><i>Compilation of the Wisdom Literature began with David and his many psalms. Solomon's proverbs, writings, and songs would be added. The Psalms would continue to grow over time.</i></p>	
931	Solomon's Death / Kingdom Divided	
	<p><i>The book of Samuel (later divided into 2 books) was compiled / written shortly after the kingdom divides.</i></p>	
840	Prophet: Obadiah Joel	
760	Prophet: Amos, Jonah, Hosea	
740	Isaiah	
735	Micah	
660	Nahum	
630	Zephaniah	
627	Jeremiah	
607	Habakkuk	
605	Daniel - taken in first wave	
592	Ezekiel - taken in second wave	
586	Lamentation	
586	In Babylonian Captivity	
	Daniel Ezekiel	
538	Return to Jerusalem	
520	Prophets: Haggai Zechariah	
432	Prophet: Malachi	

## Protecting and Compiling the Scrolls

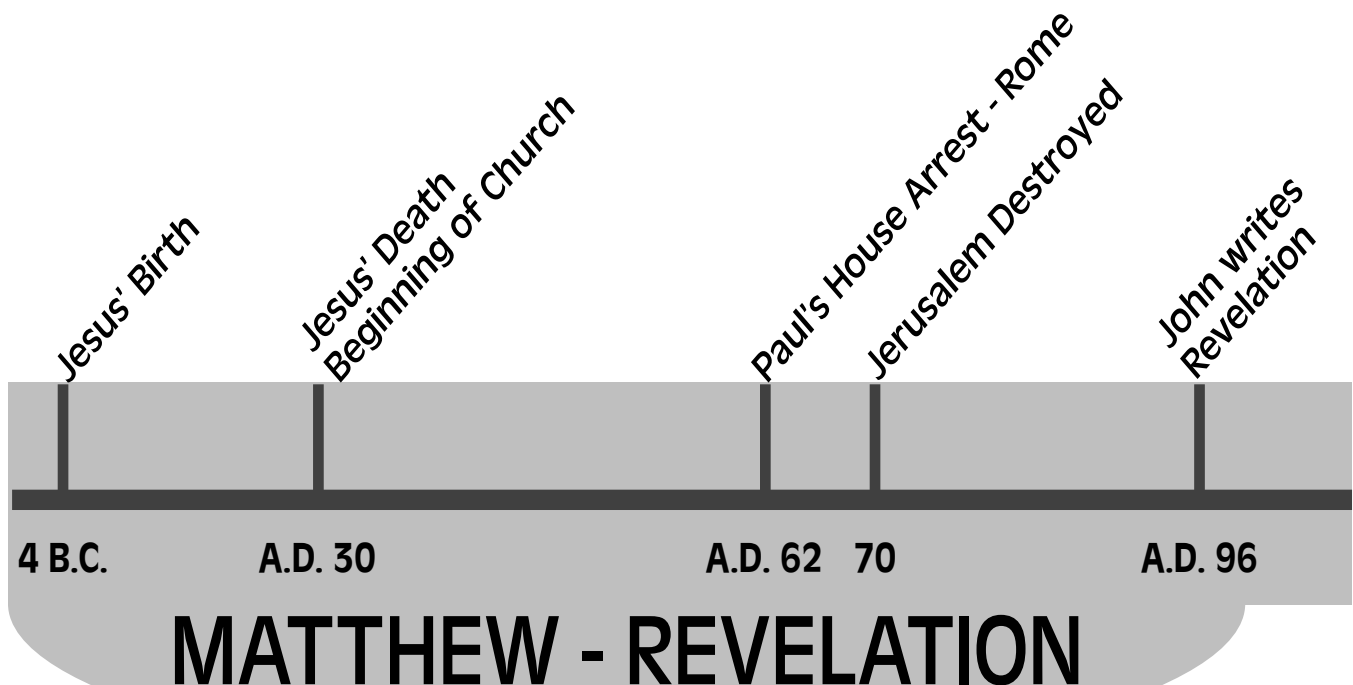
- A. What happened to the scrolls during the Babylonian captivity?
1. It is pretty well accepted that the priests and prophets, such as Daniel, Ezekiel, etc. would have carried a copy of the full compliment of scrolls with them.
    - a. At this stage, the collection would have included Genesis through Lamentation, with the exception of Kings and Chronicles. Kings would be compiled while in captivity while Chronicles was likely compiled after the Israelites return to Jerusalem.
    - b. There were additional scrolls kept and protected. These scrolls were used in compiling Chronicles and possibly Kings. *{See chart on the next page.}*
  2. It is suspected Jeremiah, when taken to Egypt (Jeremiah 43-45), may have carried a set of scrolls with him.
  3. It is also suspected that when Ezra returned, he continued to work on the text using work completed while in captivity along with scrolls left behind in Jerusalem. This work would have included the compiling of Chronicles along with the addition of Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zachariah, and then, about a hundred years later, Malachi.
  4. Throughout the next couple of centuries, different “text-groups” of the scrolls would develop using the various copies of the scrolls in different locations.
  5. At some point around 200 B.C., 70 Jewish scribes in Egypt translated the full set of Hebrew scrolls into Greek, forming the Greek Septuagint. It is very likely Jesus and His apostles would have quoted from the Septuagint as well as the Hebrews scrolls available in the various synagogues at that time.
  6. Sometime during the second century A.D., the Masoretes would standardized their own text-group which would become known as the Masoretic Text. The oldest surviving copy, known as the Leningrad Codex, dates to the 11<sup>th</sup> century and is used in most current translations.

## Additional Source Books Referenced in Scripture

SOURCE BOOK	REFERENCE
Book of the Wars of the Lord	NUMBERS 21:14
Book of Yashar (the Upright)	Joshua 10:13; 2 Samuel 1:18
The Records of the Chronicles of King David	1 Chronicles 27:24
The Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah The Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel	2 Chronicles 27:7; 35:27; 36:8 2 Chronicles 16:11; 25:26; 28:26; 32:32
The Book of the Kings of Israel	1 Chronicles 9:1; 2 Chronicles 20:34
The Commentary on the Book of Kings	2 Chronicles 24:27
The Words of the Kings of Israel	2 Chronicles 33:18
The Decree of David the King of Israel and the Decree of Solomon his son	2 Chronicles 35:4
The Words of Samuel the Seer	1 Chronicles 29:29
The Words of Nathan the Prophet	1 Chronicles 29:29; 2 Chronicles 9:29
The Words of Gad the Seer	1 Chronicles 29:29
The Prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite	2 Chronicles 9:29
The Visions of Iddo the Seer	2 Chronicles 9:29; 12:15; 13:22
The Words of Shemaiah the Prophet	2 Chronicles 12:15
The Words of Jehu the son of Hanani	2 Chronicles 20:34
The Deeds of Uzziah by Isaiah the Prophet	2 Chronicles 26:22; 32:32
The Chronicles of Hozai (Seers)	2 Chronicles 33:19

## Development of the New Testament Books and Letters

- A. The four gospels cover a time from of nearly thirty-four years, beginning with the announcement of the birth of Jesus to His death, burial, and resurrection, approximately 4 B.C to A.D. 30.
1. Matthew, Mark and Luke are referred to as the synoptic Gospels because they all cover Jesus' story from a similar point of view.
  2. The Gospel of John takes a different approach to the life of Jesus, focusing more upon His deity and His relationship to the heavenly Father.
- B. Following the gospels, we have the record of the establishment and growth of the early church, the book of Acts. The Acts record covers from A.D. 30 to A.D. 62, the year of Paul's house arrest in Rome.
- C. The Pauline epistles, Romans through Philemon, span from Galatians (A.D. 48 - A.D. 49) to his second letter to Timothy (A.D. 66-67).
- D. The general epistles, Hebrews through Jude, appears to have been written just prior to the destruction of Jerusalem.
- E. The final book, Revelation was written around A.D. 68. (Some scholars assign a later date of A.D. 95 or 96 for the writing of Revelation.)



## When Were the Individual Books / Letters Written?

- A. The New Testament developed in an approximate span of 60 years. Many of these dates are speculative based upon internal evidence as well as statements by “church fathers” in the second century.

4 B.C.	Birth of Jesus	
A.D. 30	Church Established	
A.D. 55	Gospel of Matthew (A.D. 58-68) Gospel of Mark (A.D. 55-68) Gospel of Luke (A.D. 58-63) Record of Acts (A.D. 63-64)	James (A.D. 46-49) Galatians (A.D. 48-49) 1 & 2 Thessalonians (A.D. 51-52) 1 & 2 Corinthians (A.D. 56-57) Romans (A.D. 57) Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, Philippians (A.D. 60-63) 1 Timothy, Titus (A.D. 60-63) 1 Peter (A.D. 63-64)
A.D. 64	<i>Nero's Persecution Begins</i>	Hebrews (A.D. 64-68) 2 Peter (A.D. 64-66)) 2 Timothy (A.D. 66-67)
A.D. 70	Revelation (A.D. 68) <i>Jerusalem Destroyed</i>	Jude (A.D. 64 - 80) 2 & 3 John (A.D. 90) 1 John (Prior to A.D. 94)
A.D. 95	<i>Domitian's Persecution Begins</i>	Revelation (A.D. 95-96??*)
A.D. 98	Gospel of John (A.D. 66-98)	* <i>Alternative date for the writing of Revelation</i>