

Roman Emperors and the New Testament
by John Niemelä (January 2016)

Caesar	Dates of Reign	New Testament Events	Date of NT Event
Augustus	Jan 16 27 B.C.–Aug 19 14 A.D.	Jesus born: Twelve-year old Jesus in the Temple at Passover:	5–4 B.C. April 9 A.D.
Tiberius	Sep 18 14–Mar 16, 37 A.D.	Jesus' ministry began: Jesus crucified: Pentecost (the church began: Acts 2)	Fall 29 A.D. April 3, 33 A.D. May 24, 33 A.D.
Caligula	Mar 18, 37–Jan 24, 41 A.D.	Paul's conversion (Acts 9): Cornelius (Acts 10–11) John's Gospel written Matthew written James written	Summer 35 A.D. 40 or 41 Late 30s Late 30s Late 30s
Claudius	Jan 25, 41–Oct 13, 54 A.D.	Galatians written First and Second Thessalonians written	Fall 49 Summer 51
Nero	Oct 13, 54–Jun 9, 68 A.D.	1 and 2 Corinthians written Paul's Caesarean imprisonment began Romans written Luke written Paul's voyage to Rome 1–3 John written Great earthquake in Laodicea Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, Philemon written Paul released from first Roman imprisonment Acts written 1 Timothy written 1 Peter written 2 Peter written Mark written Great fire in Rome Titus written Paul arrested (second Roman imprisonment) 2 Timothy written Paul's death	56 Jun 57 Winter 56/57 Between 58 and 60 Aug 59–Feb 60 In the 60s 60 61 Mar 62 After Mar 62 Fall 62 Early 64 Between 64 and 68 Mid-60s Jun 18, 64 Summer 66 Fall 67 Fall 67 Spring 68
Galba	Jun 8, 68–Jan 15, 69 A.D.	Hebrews written	68 or 69

Caesar	Dates of Reign	New Testament Events	Date of NT Event
Otho	Jan 15–Apr 16, 69 A.D.		
Vitellius	Apr 17–Dec 20, 69 A.D.		
Vespasian	Dec 21, 69–Jun 24, 79 A.D.	Jerusalem destroyed by the Roman general, Titus Revelation written from Patmos	Sep 2, 70 71–72
Titus	Jun 24, 79–Sep 13, 81 A.D.	Mt. Vesuvius erupts, destroying Pompeii	Aug 25, 79
Domitian	Sep 14, 81–Sep 18, 96 A.D.		
Nerva	Sep 18, 96–Jan 27, 98 A.D.		
Trajan	Jan 28, 98–Aug 7, 117 A.D.		
Hadrian	Aug 11, 117–July 10, 138 AD	*Earliest extant manuscript of the New Testament	ca. A.D. 125

*This manuscript of John's Gospel was inscribed after the close of the NT, so it was not a NT event. However, it is only several decades removed from the date that John penned the original manuscript of his Gospel.

As I have often said, my dates for New Testament books are never late and often are early. Revelation is the only NT book I believe was written after the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. However, my date for Revelation (A.D. 71 or 72) is much earlier than how most people date it.