

Evolution of the Word: The New Testament in the Order the Books Were Written

Borg, Marcus J.

Book	Date		Author			Key Logic		Muratori (mid 2nd Century)	Eusebius classification
	Borg	SMM	Borg	Traditional	SMM	Borg	SMM		
1 Thessalonians	50	~51	Paul	Paul	Paul	Timing clues from Acts	Timing clues from Acts	Accepted	Accepted
Galatians	50-54	48-54 ml ~52	Paul	Paul	Paul	Approx same time as 1 Cor	Timing clues from Acts	Accepted	Accepted
1 Corinthians	54-55?	~54	Paul	Paul	Paul	Timing clues from Acts	Timing clues from Acts	Accepted	Accepted
Philemon	mid 50's	~62	Paul	Paul	Paul	A majority think these two letters were written during an imprisonment in Ephesus in the mid-50s.	Timing clues from Acts; written ml during 1st Roman Imprisonment	Accepted	Accepted
Philippians	mid 50's	55-62	Paul	Paul	Paul	"Like Philemon, Philippians was written from a Roman prison, probably from the same imprisonment in Ephesus in the mid-50s."	Timing clues from Acts; written ml during 1st Roman Imprisonment	Accepted	Accepted
2 Corinthians	late 50's ?	~55	Paul	Paul	Paul	Composite of multiple letters	After 1 Cor., before Roman imprisonment; possible composite but no reason to	Accepted	Accepted
Romans	58	~57	Paul	Paul	Paul	"It is probably his last letter. Though a small minority of scholars think that the "prison letters"—Philippians, Philemon, and Colossians—are later, most think Romans is the last of the universally agreed upon seven genuine letters of Paul."	Timing clues from Acts	Accepted	Accepted
Mark	~70	45-70; ml early 50's	unknown	Mark	Mark	? Apparently because it predicts fall of Jerusalem	testimony of early Christians; earliest gospel, dependant on dating of Luke/Acts	Accepted	Accepted
James	80's		Unknown James	James, brother of Jesus	James, brother of Jesus	use of Greek language and grammar is quite sophisticated majority of mainstream scholars do not accept as brother of Jesus	Earliest traditions for author; before James death in early 60s		Disputed
Colossians	prob in 80s.	~60-62	Unknown	Paul	Paul	sentences too long, "conflicts in doctrine" majority of mainstream scholars	Classic Paul, may have used a different "secretary"	Accepted	Accepted
Matthew	80s or perhaps early 90s.	50-85; ml ~55	Unknown	Matthew	Matthew	"its date in the last decades of the first century makes it unlikely that it was written by somebody who knew the historical Jesus. Finally, the author used Mark as his major source. Would an eyewitness have done this? Used a source written by somebody who was not an eyewitness?"	Uniform testimony of early documentation; after Mark; before death of Matthew in ~74	Accepted	Accepted
Hebrews	80s or perhaps very early 90s	~80	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	"The circumstances of the letter—second-generation or later Christians who had experienced persecution, some of whom were tempted to abandon Christianity—suggest a later date."	does not mention the destruction of the temple and the end of sacrifice in the year 70.		Accepted
John	90's	80s-90	Unknown	John	John	Mainline scholars commonly date John around the year 90. Most also think that John has earlier and later layers. (his model of how Christianity developed)	Claims to be a disciple; all early testimony confirms	Accepted	Accepted
Ephesians	around 90	~59	Unknown	Paul	Paul	differences include style and subject matter. Long sentences; refers to "the church" in general,	known by Ignatius	Accepted	Accepted
Revelation	90's	mid -late 90s	John, not the disciple	John	John	because its criticism of Christians in the seven communities sounds as though it is directed to second- or third-generation followers of Jesus	no reason to doubt traditional view that Apostle John wrote it while exiled to Patmos	Accepted	Accepted
Jude	~100	80s-90s	Jude not brother of Jesus	Jude, brother of Jesus	Jude ?	possibly used by Il Peter	Not a lot of clues but seems to fit where the church was in the 80-90s	Accepted	Disputed
1 John	~100	late 80s or early 90s	John not the disciple	John	John	consensus of mainstream biblical scholarship agrees that the author was neither the John who was one of Jesus's twelve disciples nor the same person who wrote the gospel of John.	claims to be an eyewitness, all early testimony confirms	Accepted	Accepted
2 John	~100+	late 80s or early 90s	John not the disciple	John	John	similarities to 1 John with subtle differences	No reason to consider different than other John writings	Accepted	Disputed
3 John	~100+	late 80s or early 90s	John not the disciple	John	John	same as 3 John	No reason to consider different than other John writings	Accepted	Disputed
Luke	110s	60-85; ml ~60	Unknown	Luke	Luke	majority of modern scholars are skeptical or at least very uncertain that Luke-Acts was written by a companion of Paul - Given the consensus conclusion that Mark was written around 70, Luke-Acts must be later than 70. - Some scholars argue that the author knew passages from the works of Josephus, - there is another reason for a date a decade or two later than Matthew, namely, both Luke and Acts emphasize the consistent rejection of Jesus by "the Jews." - But the emphasis upon the rejection of Paul and his mission by "the Jews" suggests that the division into two different religions	Same author as Acts; Written first; follows Mark; probably researched while Paul was in Caesarea prison	Accepted	Accepted

Evolution of the Word: The New Testament in the Order the Books Were Written

Borg, Marcus J.

Book	Date		Author			Key Logic		Muratori (mid 2nd Century)	Eusebius classification
	Borg	SMM	Borg	Traditional	SMM	Borg	SMM		
Acts	110s	ml 62	Unknown	Luke	Luke	was occurring. Hence the relatively late date for Acts and thus also for Luke. Most likely, they are from the first two decades of the second century.	Claims to be a companion on some of Paul's journeys; When the letter ends is not in question, most natural dating is then; Luke died in 84 in Greece;	Accepted	Accepted
2 Thessalonians	110s	~52	Unknown	Paul	Paul	majority of mainstream scholars do not think it was written by Paul, The letter addresses two questions that belong to a time period later than Paul: the delay of the second coming of Jesus and the issue of "freeloaders"	Objection to Paul or early date not compelling	Accepted	Accepted
1 Peter	110s	63-65	Unknown	Peter	Peter	letters reflect a later historical context. Moreover, they were not written by the same person. - Some of its themes, especially its endorsement of Roman authority and imperial conventions about slavery, suggest a date early in the second century.	Clement of Rome, Peter's disciple apparently accepted it		Accepted
1 Timothy	110s	~64-66	Unknown	Paul	Paul	Scholars see them as written long after his death in the first decades of the second century. There is a consensus that they were all written by the same person. The vocabulary and style are very different from those in the seven letters we are sure that Paul wrote. The "tone" is very different. The passion that marks Paul's genuine letters is absent. Not just the passion of conflict, but the passion of insight, brilliance, and radiance. There are echoes of Paul's language in the pastorals, but they are just echoes. The issues addressed in the pastorals seem to belong to a later generation of early Christianity, the beginning of the process of "institutionalization."	Letters claim to be written by Paul; Implies his release from prison from 1st imprisonment (no problem); Subject matter and purpose is different from the other letters and hence the terminology is somewhat different.	Accepted	Accepted
2 Timothy	110s	~65-67	Unknown	Paul	Paul			Accepted	Accepted
Titus	110s	~64-66	Unknown	Paul	Paul			Accepted	Accepted
2 Peter	120s	65-67	Unknown	Peter	Peter	strong scholarly consensus that 2 Peter is the last New Testament document to be written. Some date it as late as 150, and most date it between 120 and 150.	the author identifies himself as "Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ" (1.1). He refers to Peter's impending death (1.3-15). He refers to himself as an eyewitness to the transfiguration of Jesus (1.17-18). As narrated in Mark 9:2-8 (and in Matthew and Luke), only Peter, James, and John were with Jesus on that occasion.		Disputed

Gospels + Acts
Letters of Paul
Letters of John
Letters of Peter

Abbreviation used:

ml = most likely