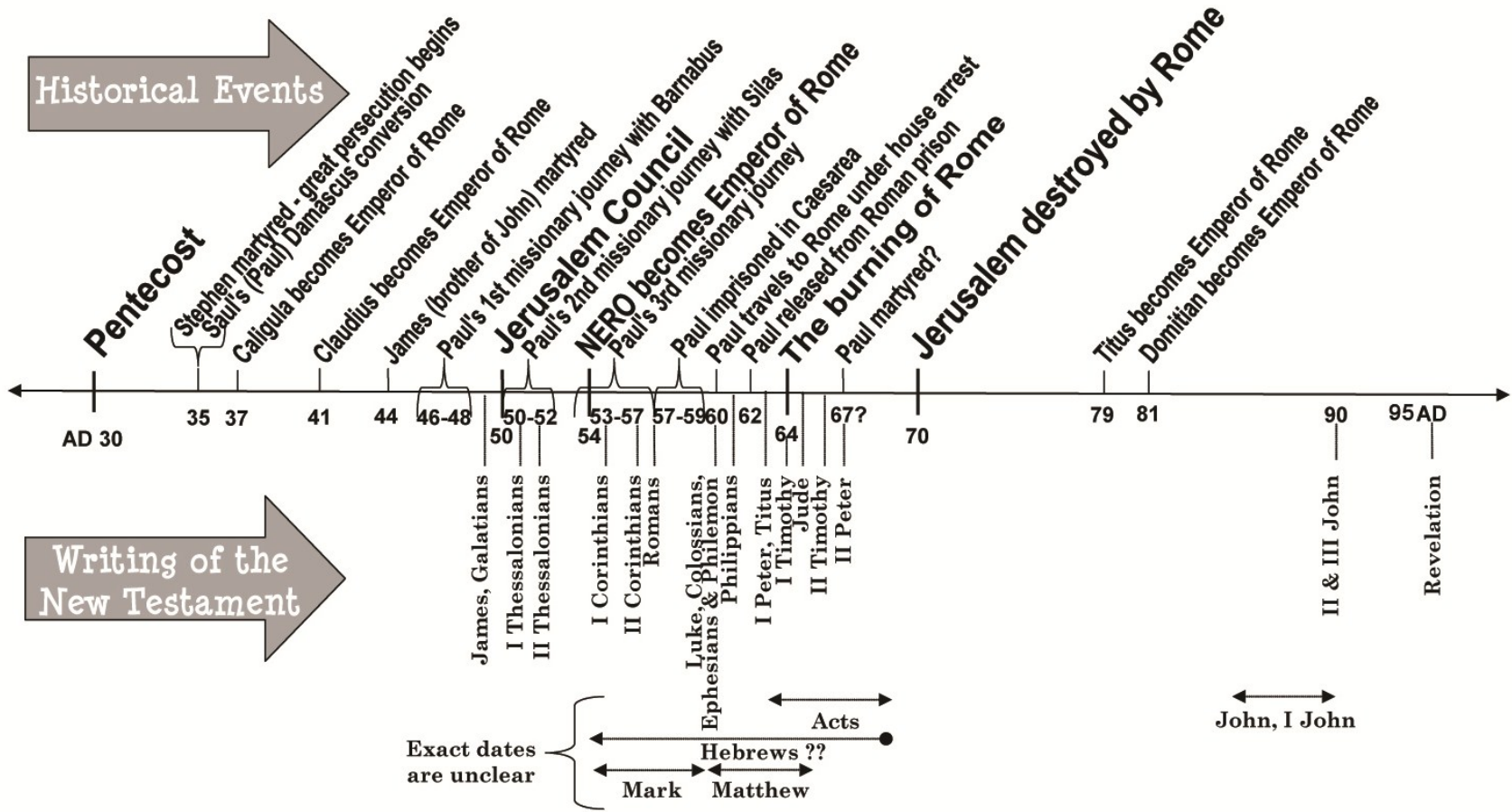


# New Testament Timeline



This timeline is not intended to be exactly to scale. ©  
 It is provided to give you an idea of what was happening in the world during the time the books of the New Testament were being written.

# Digging Deeper

[Use these readings to prepare you for worship next week!]

**Monday:** 08.27.2012

**Prayer Focus:** Our church leadership

**Passage:** Exodus 20

**Insight:** We believe the work of the Holy Spirit is powerful in our lives today. I hope you are able to reflect on Sunday's message from Julie about that available gift for this day. Our focus this coming weekend will be rest ... seems fitting for Labor Day weekend.

What are the rhythms of life that you find most comforting?

Talking to a close friend. Sharing a meal with someone. Reading. Running. Working. Praying. God established a rhythm was designed for our good in Exodus 20.

**Tuesday:** 08.28.2012

**Prayer Focus:** The Flushing Community

**Passage:** Psalm 23

**Insight:** This is likely the most quoted and recognizable passage from the entire Bible. It is often read as we lay someone to rest and place their soul in the hands of the shepherd. We trust God to lead this loved one to the eternal rest we long for in Heaven.

How about here and now—for you and for me? Can we trust the great Shepherd to lead us, to comfort us, and to protect us? Why do we strive so hard to bring all those things by our own strength when God has promised to provide it?

**Wednesday:** 08.29.2012

**Prayer Focus:** Our nation and political climate

**Passage:** Hebrews 4

**Insight:** The writer of Hebrews draws an interesting comparison to the rest God was giving the people of Israel in the Canaan to the Sabbath rest God desires we take each week. The comparison goes deeper and connects that rest to our own salvation and obedience to God.

God designed us for rest. He modeled the need for rest. If we do not take time to discover rest, we could be walking in direct disobedience to the Will of God. How can you change your habits and find rest this day? This week?

**Thursday:** 08.30.2012

**Prayer Focus:** Our schools (teachers, admin, students, etc)

**Passage:** Matthew 11:25-30

**Insight:** Jesus understand the religious climate of His day is one of great burden. There are so many things we just don't know (nor will we) and that reality caused ancient religious leaders to fill in the blanks and create unnecessary rules to keep the people holy.

Jesus has come to offer you rest from the burden of religious rule. Jesus has come to be a gentle presence in a harsh and demanding world. Jesus has come to give you rest.

**Friday:** 08.31.2012

**Prayer Focus:** Our upcoming service (9/2)

**Passage:**

**Insight:** No reading today. Just close your eyes, and find some rest ... even for just a few minutes. Pray that God would reveal Himself to you in this moment.

Turn off the noise (the radio, computer, tv and phone).

Concentrate on the rhythm of rest and quiet in your life this day. When you are done, thank God for the gift of rest.

iPray

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