



# Paul's Post-Acts Epistles

# **NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS**

**MATTHEW**

**ROMANS**

**1 TIMOTHY**

**JAMES**

**MARK**

**1 CORINTHIANS**

**2 TIMOTHY**

**1 PETER**

**LUKE**

**2 CORINTHIANS**

**TITUS**

**2 PETER**

**JOHN**

**GALATIANS**

**PHILEMON**

**1 JOHN**

**EPHESIANS**

**2 JOHN**

**THE ACTS**

**PHILIPPIANS**

**HEBREWS**

**3 JOHN**

**COLOSSIANS**

**JUDE**

**1 THESSALONIANS**

**2 THESSALONIANS**

**REVELATION**

JOHN

ACTS

ROMANS

1 CORINTHIANS

1 CORINTHIANS

ROMANS

ACTS

JOHN

**NT BOOKS NOT IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER**

**There were no NT books written  
while Jesus was alive on the earth**

They are all written **FOR** us

But they are not all written **TO** us

**ISRAEL**

**GENTILES**



**Read the address on  
the envelope !**

**What OT Scriptures are quoted !**

**Look at the context !**



## **A Prologue: Miles Coverdale to the Christian Reader (excerpt)**

Now will I exhort thee (whosoever thou be that readest scripture) if thou find ought therein that thou understandest not, or that appeareth to be repugnant, give no temeritous nor hasty judgment thereof: but ascribe it to thine own ignorance, not to the scripture, think that thou understandest it not, or that it hath some other meaning, or that it is happily overseen of the interpreters, or wrongly printed.

**Again, it shall greatly help thee to understand scripture, if thou mark not only what is spoken or written, but of whom, and unto whom, with what words, at what time, where, to what intent, with what circumstance, considering what goeth before, and what followeth after.**



**Those who ascribe to the principle of right division of the word of truth understand that the Apostle Paul was appointed as the apostle to the Gentiles while the twelve Apostles were appointed to Israel.**

**And the Apostle Paul was given two distinct and separate ministries: one pertaining to Gentiles associated with Israel's hope and another pertaining to Gentiles not associated with Israel's hope.**

**“The Acts” Period**

**A.D. 29 to A.D. 64**

**35 Years (7x5)**

**18 Books**

**Written**

**Many believe that the Book of the Revelation was  
The only Scripture written after the end of the Acts.**

**Many believe that the apostle Paul was beheaded  
At the end of his two years in prison at Rome.**

**Since the books of the Bible have not dates,  
many take no account of the order and time  
when the NT books were written.**

**Many Christians ask the question:**

**What pertains to us today?**

**The Bible seems to end abruptly at the end of The Acts, and then jumps to the future in Revelation.**

**What about the present time?**

**The order and times in which each  
book of the NT was written**

**Is important to the understanding of its  
context and teaching.**

**Howbeit, it is partly left to personal opinion  
and conjecture,**

**and relative to the depth of spiritual  
study that the student undertakes.**

**A major consideration is to understand what happened at the end of The Acts.**

**God set aside all His dealings with Israel and declared Israel to become Lo-Ammi according to prophecies of Hosea.**

**The kingdom ministry of the Twelve Apostles ended**

**All the nations of the world are now included in the salvation message of God.**

**A secret dispensation that was never before revealed was revealed to the apostle Paul to complete the Word of God.**

**NEW TESTAMENT**

**Acts Period**

**Post-Acts Period**



## ACTS PERIOD

**Matthew**

**Galatians**

**James**

**Acts**

**Mark**

**1 Thessalonians**

**Jude**

**Luke**

**2 Thessalonians**

**1 John**

**Hebrews**

**2 John**

**Revelation**

**1 Corinthians**

**3 John**

**2 Corinthians**

**1 Peter**

**Romans**

**2 Peter**

# POST-ACTS PERIOD

**John**

**1 Timothy**

**Philippians**

**Titus**

**Philemon**

**Ephesians**

**Colossians**

**2 Timothy**

I believe the **Book of The Acts** was completed shortly after the end of the Acts.

I believe the **Gospel of John** was written shortly after the end of Acts

After the end of The Acts, I believe that Paul wrote **two epistles** while being free from prison and **five epistles** while in later and final prison.

**What do Paul's writings after The Acts tell us about his post-Acts journey and ministry?**

**The order and place of Paul's post-Acts writings have no affect on the doctrine he teaches.**

**A whole new dimension is added to your bible studies if you have an order in mind when studying these books and their doctrine.**

**Scriptures do not directly tell us what happened to the apostle Paul at the end of The Acts**

**Again, it is left to personal opinion and conjecture as to when and where Paul's post-Acts epistles were written.**

One scenario followed by Welch, Baker, and others is that **four Prison Epistles** were written by Paul while in Rome,

**two** epistles were written after release from prison,

and **one Prison Epistle** was written in prison after Paul's reappréhension.

**Are there any other post-Acts scenarios that are allowed by the scriptures?**

**In 2018 I embarked on a detailed study of my own to see what the Holy Spirit had to say to me about that question.**



**At the time Paul wrote these later epistles, his addressees had already heard the mystery preached.**

**The use of the Greek aorist tense is a Key factor that favors this second Scenario.**

**That's another study in itself.**



**In order to develop a scenario, one must consider all the places and all the people that Paul mentions in these seven epistles.**

**A study of Roman history during this time period is Very helpful.**

**Also, there are things that Paul plans or experiences that give clues to an order of his writings.**

# Roman History

Poppeaea was Nero's second wife A.D. 62-65

Paul was in Rome A.D. 61-63

A.D. 62 Agrippa wanted a wall tore down that blocked his view of the Temple

A Jewish delegation of priests went to Rome on appeal.

Poppeaea advocated for the Jews and convinced Nero to save the wall.

Poppeaea's favor could have been the reason Paul was released in A.D. 63

While Paul was free, treatment of Jews changed in Rome.

The great fire of Rome was in 64 A.D. for which the Jews were blamed.

Looking at the cities Paul mentions in his post-Acts epistles, one could simply draw a route on the map: from **Rome**, to **Crete**, to **Ephesus**, to **Philippi**, to **Thessalonica**, to **Corinth**, and back to **Troas**, while intending to go back to **Philippi** and to **Ephesus** and to **Nicopolis**. Any number of routes are possible.



**Titus 1:5 For this cause I left thee in Crete...**

**Titus 3:12-13 be diligent to come unto me to Nicopolis..**

**1 Tim 1:3 As I besought thee to abide still in Ephesus**

**1 Tim 1:3 when I went into Macedonia (Philippi)**

**1 Tim 3:14 ...hoping to come unto thee shortly**

**1 Tim 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading...**

**Phil 1:26 by my coming to you again**

**Phil 1:27 whether I come and see you or else be absent**

**Phil 2:19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send timothy  
shortly unto you**

**Phil 2:24 But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall  
come shortly**

**2 Tim 4:13 The cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus...**

**Bishops, deacons, elders  
Are common to:**

**1 Timothy, Titus, and Philippians**

**1 Tim 3:1 bishop 3:8 deacons**

**Titus 1:5 elders 1:7 bishop**

**Phil 1:1 bishops and deacons**

**1 Timothy and Titus contain very little about the dispensation of the mystery and are transitional.**

**Keep in mind the major paradigm shift that took place at the end of The Acts.**

**Paul was trying to keep things in order under a new dispensation of God that included all people alike and without all the history and hopes of Israel.**



**When Paul writes back to the Philippians  
he has been apprehended again**

**Phil 1:7 ...in my **bonds**...**

**Phil 1:12 ...that the **things which happened** to me...**

**Phil 1:13 ...so that in my **bonds** in Christ**

**Phil 1:14 ...waxing confident in my **bonds****

**Phil 1:16 ...supposing to add affliction to my **bonds**...**

**Phil 3:12 ...if that I may apprehend that for which also  
I am **apprehended** of Christ Jesus**

**Philippians lays the foundation on which  
Ephesians and Colossians are built.**

**2 Timothy puts the finishing touches on  
the building.**

**Phil 1:5**

for your fellowship in the **gospel** from the **first day** until now

**Phil 4:15**

Now ye Philippians know also, that in the **beginning of the**  
(proclamation of the) **gospel**, when I departed Macedonia...

**Phil 1:6**

Being confident of this very thing, that He that **began**  
**a good** work in you will perform it **to the day of Jesus Christ**  
(Col 3:4)

**Phil 1:10** ...that we may be sincere and without offence  
Till the **day of Christ**

**Phil 2:16** ...Holding forth the word of life: that I may rejoice  
in the **day of Christ**, that I have not run in vain...

**Paul was optimistic that he would be released from bonds.**

**As time went on it became apparent to Paul that he was not going to be released this time.**

**Paul's preference was to teach and preach this new message in person.**

**Paul was forced by his circumstances to put it down in writing.**

**So he wrote two letters to expound the doctrine and practice of the mystery of the body of Christ. (Ephesians and Colossians)**

# People that Paul mentions post-Acts

Epaphroditus

Onesimus

Demas

Onesiphorus

Trophimus

Carpus

Artemas

Epaphras

Nymphas

Crescens

Eubulus

Tychicus

Aristarchus

Jesus

Prisca

Prudens

Zenas

Marcus

Archippus

Aquila

Linus

Apollos

Luke

Apphia

Erastus

Claudia

Many were others ministering with Paul.

**Four** are important to the scenario

# Epaphras

Was a minister in Colosse (Col 1:7, 4:12)

Came to visit Paul in prison.

Was imprisoned with Paul (Philemon 1:23)

Passed through Ephesus and met with Timothy on the way to visit Paul.  
(2 Tim 1:15)

Told Paul that all those in Asia were being turned away from Paul's teaching.

Told Paul that Timothy was struggling in Ephesus.

# Tychicus and Onesimus

The epistles to the Ephesians, Colossians and Philemon were delivered by Tychicus and Onesimus

Eph 6:21-22 Tychicus

Col 4:7-9 Tychicus and Onesimus

Philemon delivered by Onesimus

**Luke was the only one with Paul  
at the end of 2 Timothy (4:11)**

**Therefore, Luke must have written 2 Timothy**



# Paul's Prison Epistles

Philippians: 1:7 ...inasmuch as both in **my bonds**, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel

Philippians: 1:13 ...so that **my bonds** in Christ are manifest in all the palace and in all other places

Philippians: 1:16 ...supposing to add affliction to **my bonds**

Ephesians: 3:1 For this cause I Paul, the **prisoner** of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles...

Ephesians: 4:1 I therefore, the **prisoner** of the Lord, beseech you...

Colossians: 4:3 ...to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also **in bonds**...

Colossians: 4:18 Remember **my bonds**

Philemon: 1 Paul, a **prisoner** of Jesus Christ...

Philemon: 9 Paul the aged, and now also a **prisoner** of Jesus Christ

Philemon: 10 Onesimus, whom I have begotten **in my bonds**

Philemon: 13 unto me in **the bonds** of the gospel

2Timothy 1:8 nor me His **prisoner**

2Timothy 2:9 Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even **unto bonds**;

**The last books of the Bible that were penned were dictated by the Apostle Paul from prison.**

**Philippians 1:26 by my coming to you again  
1:27 whether I come and see you**

**Philemon 1:22 prepare me also a lodging**

**Ephesians 6:19 I am an ambassador in bonds**

**Colossians 1:25 to complete the word of God**

**2 Timothy 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered  
and the time of my departure is at  
hand.**

## What I learned:

Another scenario that is allowed by scriptures is that Paul was released from Roman confinement and returned to his old stomping grounds. While free, he wrote **1 Timothy** and **Titus** from Macedonia. He was apprehended again after he visited the **Philippians** and before he wrote his epistle to the **Philippians**. When Paul realized he was not going to be released from prison this time, Paul was compelled to write **Philemon**, **Ephesians**, **Colossians**, **2 Timothy**.

**The parts of the Bible that so important to the truth of the present time are the last books of the bible written by Paul after the end of the Acts:**

## **Paul's post-Acts Epistles**

**1 Timothy**

**Ephesians**

**Titus**

**Colossians**

**Philippians**

**2 Timothy**

**Philemon**

