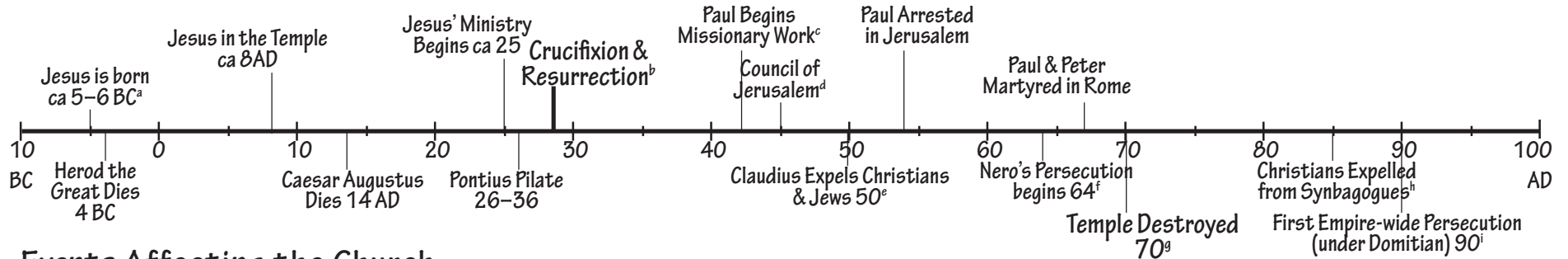


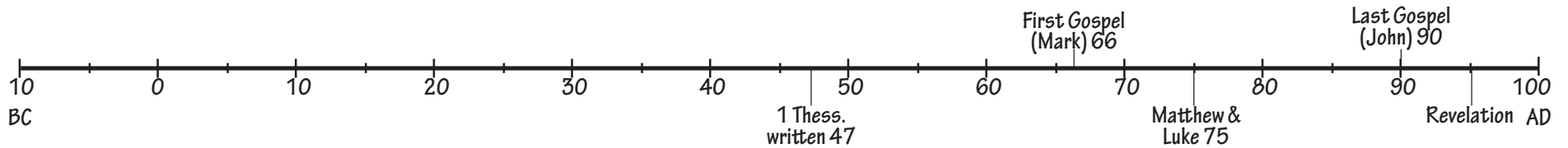
First Century Timeline

Jesus and the Church



Events Affecting the Church

Writing of the New Testament



Notes:

- a Jesus' birth (5-6 BC). Where you set this date affects everything else in the Christian timeline.
- b Followers of The Way (that's what Christians first called themselves) are persecuted by the Jews of Jerusalem. Stephen is the first Christian to die for his faith. Christianity still seen as a "denomination" of Judaism.
- c Missionary journeys (31-54 AD) — Many of Jesus' disciples travel abroad, starting churches as they go. One of the greatest of these missionaries (or at least the most published) is a former Jew who had persecuted Christians who became known as Paul. When Christian missionaries first came to a city or town, they would often go to a synagogue and preach there. Since Jews already knew what a Messiah was, the missionaries had a much easier time of convincing them that the Messiah had come.
- d Council of Jerusalem (45 AD) — Conflict over whether non-Jews (Gentiles) can be Christians is mostly resolved. This is a major difference between Christianity and Judaism.

- e Expulsion of Jews from Rome (50 AD) — Emperor Claudius is tired of the troubles caused by anti-Christian rioting by Jews and expels all Jews (including Christians). Essentially, Claudius meant: "If you can't play nicely, go outside to fight. When you can behave yourselves, you can come back."
- f Nero's persecution (64 AD) — Emperor Nero witnesses the burning of Rome (some believe he arranged to start the fires; certainly he benefited from them.) He blames the fires on the Christians and stirs people's hatred of them by spreading rumors that they were "atheists" (they did after all refuse to worship the gods, worshipping only their God), cannibals (they ate the body of Christ and drank Christ's blood every time they got together), and immoral sexual behavior (they called their worship "love feasts" and were accused of orgies and incest). Peter and Paul likely perished in this persecution.
- g Destruction of Jerusalem (70 AD) — After Jesus' death and resurrection, this is probably the single most important event of the first century where Jews and Christians are concerned. For Christians, the burning of Jerusalem was proof of how wrong the Jews had been to ignore Jesus' teachings and put him to death. The anti-Jewish

- sentiment of this time is found in Matthew, Luke and John (Mark was probably written before this time and does not have the anti-Jewish sentiment of the others.) With the temple destroyed, Judaism and Christianity lost their center of worship.
- h Council of Jamnia (85 AD) — This Jewish "council" (more like an ongoing debating society or school) meets to figure out a basis for Judaism to continue now that the temple is destroyed. They expel Christians from synagogues, and put in final form the books of the Old Testament. Christianity and Judaism are now formally separated.
- i First Empire-wide Persecution (90s AD) — Emperor Domitian demands that all people who are not Jewish (Jews were exempted by long tradition) must bow down, worship the emperor (who was considered a god) and offer a simple sacrifice to him. Christians refuse and are persecuted.

How Is the New Testament Organized?

Four Kinds of Books

Gospels

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

History

Acts

Letters

Romans
1&2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Colossians
Philippians
1&2 Thessalonians
1&2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
1&2 Peter
1-3 John
Jude

Apocalypse

Revelation