

## Chronological Order in which the books of the Bible were written and why

James--A.D. 44-49	1 Timothy--A.D. 62-64
Galatians--A.D. 49-50	Titus--A.D. 62-64
Matthew--A.D. 50-60	1 Peter--A.D. 64-65
Mark--A.D. 50-60	2 Timothy--A.D. 66-67
1 Thessalonians--A.D. 51	2 Peter--A.D. 67-68
2 Thessalonians--A.D. 51-52	Hebrews--A.D. 67-69
1 Corinthians--A.D. 55	Jude--A.D. 68-70
2 Corinthians--A.D. 55-56	John--A.D. 80-90
Romans-- A.D. 56	1 John--A.D. 90-95
Luke--A.D. 60-61	2 John--A.D. 90-95
Ephesians--A.D. 60-62	3 John--A.D. 90-95
Philippians--A.D. 60-62	Revelation--A.D. 94-96
Philemon--A.D. 60-62	
Colossians--A.D. 60-62	
Acts--A.D. 62	

Why would you do things in this order?

Well the principle is that the Gospels are filled with references to the Old Testament. By reading two Gospels first and then reading the Old Testament you are more likely to notice elements in the Old Testament writing which are referenced in the Gospels, but then by the time you return to the Gospels you'll potentially notice more things you've picked up along the way.

The concept behind reading the New Testament in chronological order is that you get more of a sense of how the different letters relate to each other and can see the development of certain theological ideas as the early Church grows in her understanding of who Jesus is and what his life and death and resurrection means for us.

I'm not advocating this method as being the 'correct' way to read the Bible. I do however advocate for people to feel able to read the Bible in a way that helps them actually engage with it rather than feeling like they have to simply go from Genesis to Revelation. The Bible is a Library of Books with different topics and genres and so it's important not to treat it as 'just a book'.

That said, there is an underlying consistent reality which grounds all the books of the Bible and that's the living god to whom the Scriptures testify; there is a sense of revelation which permeates the entire collection, a revelation which occurs not strictly in each word as printed on the page but by the presence of the Holy Spirit who takes these human words which have

been written by faithful believers and enables them to be sanctified and presented to us afresh in such a way as to open our hearts and minds to the reality of God.

The presence of God is the other reason why we should be mindful of our reading of the Bible. Every time we sit down with our Bibles, we take the risk that God might speak to us powerfully in such a way that who we are as ourselves can be fundamentally transformed.

### **Different Plans of reading the Bible**

**Just Read**

**The Bible in a Year**

**M'Cheyne Reading Plan**

**Through the Bible, Through the Year**

**Daily Bread**

**Audio Bibles**

**Dwell**

**Podcasts**

**The Church of England – Daily Prayer either in Book or as Prayer App form**

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