

PAUL THE APOSTLE

AT-A-GLANCE

BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

13: Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians. 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon

TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Pauline Epistles (Paul wrote 13 of the New Testament epistles, and hence their name, Pauline)

PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

The first book Paul wrote was likely 1 Thessalonians, around 51 AD. The last book was probably 2 Timothy, around 66 AD. (The books in the New Testament are not presented in the order in which they are written!)



AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

Entire books have been written on the life of Apostle Paul, and he was not even one of the original 12 disciples. He did not meet Jesus until after the Crucifixion. Paul was born Saul of Tarsus, a very well-educated Jew, who was persecuting believers after the Crucifixion. He met Christ on the road to Damascus when he saw a bright light in the sky that blinded him, and Christ asked him, “Why are you persecuting me?”

Paul received his sight after three days spent with believers. Then he began traveling to preach the gospel. He completed three missionary journeys that covered most of the known western world of the time. He was imprisoned several times, including spending two years under house arrest in Rome, when he wrote several epistles mentioned above.

In all, he wrote 13 Epistles before being martyred in Rome.



UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Paul wrote four of the New Testament epistles when he was under house arrest for two years in Rome. They include Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. This two-year house arrest is thought to have been 60–62 AD.



UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Paul was an enemy of believers after Christ’s death and helped put them to death. This makes his testimony about seeing a vision of Jesus on the road to Damascus twice as meaningful. If Jesus could forgive a person who tried to kill his followers—and if Jesus could make that person one of his foremost witnesses--that shows the love of God for the rest of us!