

## Chronology of Gospel Composition

<i>Approximate Date CE</i>	<i>Event</i>
30	Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection
34	Paul's conversion
49 - 64	Paul's letters
50	Reconstruction of the Temple in Jerusalem completed
July 64	Burning of Rome – Nero is emperor
Autumn 64 into 65	Execution of Christians in Rome
64 or 65	Execution of Peter and Paul in Rome
Autumn 64 into 65	<b>Gospel of Mark</b> Composed in Rome
August 70	Destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem & massacre of Jewish priests and their families by Romans. Titus is emperor.
Mid 70s	<b>Gospel of Matthew</b> Composed in Great Antioch on the Orontes
80s	Pharisees begin to advocate that all who believe the Messiah has already come must no longer be welcome in Judaism. Roman Empire begins to set legal prescriptions against Christians.
Mid 80s	<b>Gospel of Luke/Acts</b> Composed in Great Antioch on the Orontes
Late 90s	<b>Gospel of John</b> Composed in Ephesus

*Written by Alexander J. Shaia, PhD and available under resources at [www.quadratos.com](http://www.quadratos.com)*



## Chronology of Lectionary Composition

<i>Date CE</i>	<i>Event</i>
First Century	Judaism uses the Palestinian reading cycle. 154 sequential segments of Torah are read over a three-year cycle of Sabbaths.
180	Irenaeus writes <i>Against Heresies</i> : naming quadriform as a principle to use in the search for four gospels.
200 – 300s	Rites of Initiation developed—often a three-year cycle tied to hearing/praying the gospels.  Early development of Lent and Easter, and the Gospel of John as the text for these seasons.
325	Council of Nicea affirms Matthew, Mark, John and Luke as the four canonical gospels.
361	Council of Laodicea affirms reading gospels as essential in Sunday worship.
Late 300s	Three-year cycles of the gospels are formally created in: Milan, Spain, Gaul, Rome and the Byzantine churches. The gospel reading is sequential but there is no uniform pattern across these church cycles, except all use John for Lent and Easter.
600s	Judaism changes to the Babylonian Cycle: 52 sequential segments of Torah are read over a one-year cycle of Sabbaths.
600s	Christianity develops its first official/uniform lectionary: 52 segments— not sequential— from the four gospels read over one year of Sundays.

1440	Gutenberg press is invented.
1517	Reformation (Protestant) begins.
1522	Martin Luther's German translation of the Bible is printed. Common people now have direct access to reading the Bible.
1570	Following the Council of Trent, Pope Pius V issues a missal for Roman Catholics worldwide— <i>Missale Romanum</i> .
December 1963	Vatican II issues its <i>Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy</i> . Notably, it calls for the composition of a new lectionary.
March 1964	Coetus XI (Study Group 11) begins work on a new lectionary for Roman Catholics.
May 1969	Pope Paul VI issues the <i>Lectionary for Mass</i> . It has a three-year Sunday gospel cycle: Year 1 – Matthew; Year 2 – Mark; Year 3 – Luke. John is reserved for Lent and Easter each year.
	Advent, 1971 (November) is the date by which all Roman Catholics must have changed to the new lectionary.
1970	Three-year lectionary is adopted by Presbyterian, Episcopal and Lutheran churches in the United States.
1976	Three-year lectionary is adopted by Methodist and Disciples of Christ churches in the United States.
1980	Three-year lectionary is adopted by Anglican Church and United Church in Canada.
1983	North American Committee on Calendar and Lectionary (NACCL), with representatives from thirteen churches in the U.S. and Canada, releases the Common Lectionary—a working document.

1992

NACCL issues the Revised Common  
Lectionary.

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