

**Dating Acts in AD 62-63:  
The Historical Proof Supporting Early Dating the Gospels & Acts**

**I. Best Studies for Dating the New Testament (including Acts)**

**A. Best Comprehensive Analyses for New Testament**

Due to the interconnected nature of the New Testament, the most reliable analyses assess dates for the New Testament as a whole – *i.e.*, all 27 Books.<sup>1</sup> In the past 50 years, the only two such analyses date the Gospels and Acts within the lifetime of key eyewitnesses.<sup>2</sup>

Gospels	Jonathan Bernier	Dr. John A. T. Robinson
Matthew	AD 45-59	AD 50
Mark	AD 42-45 <sup>3</sup>	AD 45
Luke	AD 59	AD 60
John	AD 60-70	AD 65
Acts	AD 62	AD 62

During these time periods, the key apostles remained alive, including Peter, Paul, James (brother of Jesus), and John.<sup>4</sup>

**B. Best Historical Studies for Acts**

To date Acts, the historical context is critical.<sup>5</sup> In the last forty years, the most comprehensive historical and legal analyses set the writing of Acts between AD 61 and 63.<sup>6</sup>

- Karl Armstrong, *Dating Acts* (2021): Applying multi-factor analysis.
- John Mauck, *Paul on Trial* (2001): Using historical & legal analysis.
- Colin Hemer, *The Book of Acts* (1990): Analyzing 15 different factors.

---

<sup>1</sup> Jonathan Bernier, *Rethinking the Dates of the New Testament*, p. 1 (2022); *see also Arizona v. United States*, 575 F.2d 855, 216 Ct. Cl. 221, 235-6 (1978) (document “must be considered as a whole”).

<sup>2</sup> Jonathan Bernier, *Rethinking the Dates of the New Testament*, pp. 277-78 (2022) (comparing the Bernier and Robinson dating of Gospels).

<sup>3</sup> *See also* Gary Habermas, *On the Resurrection: Evidences*, p.108, n. 41 (citing “two agnostic New Testament scholars who date Mark approximately AD 40 for different reasons.”); Martin Hengel, *Studies in the Gospel of Mark*, p. 5, n. 35 (2003) (ancient chronology, *Chronicon Hieronym*, indicates that “Mark composed his Gospel in Rome ‘ten years after the ascension.’”).

<sup>4</sup> *See* Karl Armstrong, *Dating Acts in Its Jewish and Greco-Roman Contexts*, p. 157 n. 2 (2021) (deaths of Peter around AD 64, Paul around AD 63-64, and James around AD 62).

<sup>5</sup> Two of the three more recent monographs dating Acts (Pervo & Tyson) disregard historical evidence and context. *See* Karl Armstrong, *Dating Acts*, p. 17-18 (2021).

<sup>6</sup> *See* Karl Armstrong, *Dating Acts*, p. 158 (2021); John Mauck, *Paul on Trial*, p. 45 (2001); Colin Hemer, *The Book of Acts in the Setting of Hellenistic History*, p. 376-408 (1990).

## II. Textual Analysis of Ending of Acts

### A. How Does Acts End?

- Paul's Pending Appeal. "forced to appeal to Caesar" (Acts 28:19)
- Paul's House Arrest. "stay by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him" (Acts 28:16)
- Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> Rome Meeting. "leading men of the Jews" (Acts 28:17)
- Paul's Preaching to Jews. "trying to persuade them concerning Jesus (Acts 28:23)
- Paul's Rented Quarters. "stayed two full years in his rented quarters" (Acts 28:30).
- Paul's "Unhindered" Preaching. "preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ **with all openness, unhindered**" (Acts 28:31) (bold added).

### B. What is Missing at End of Acts?<sup>7</sup>

- Great Fire of Rome (AD July 64).
- Jewish Revolt (AD 66).
- Paul's Trial before Caesar.
- Jewish Temple Destroyed (AD 70).
- Christian Martyrdom.
  - Nero's Christian Purge (AD 64)
  - James (Brother of Jesus) stoned (AD 62)
  - Peter crucified (AD mid 60s)
  - Paul beheaded (AD mid 60s)

David Z. Bodenheimer  
Trial Attorney (1982-2022)

---

<sup>7</sup> See generally, John Mauck, *Paul on Trial*, pp. xvii (chronology), 190 (James' death); Karl Armstrong, *Dating Acts*, pp. 157-8, 165-82 (2021); Sean McDowell, *The Fate of the Apostles*, pp. 92 (Peter, AD 64-67), 114 (Paul, AD 64-67), p. 134 (James, brother of Jesus) (2008).