THE WORD "CHRISTIAN"

According to the Bible, neither God nor Jesus Christ classified people as Christians. This term came from non-believers or outsiders. They used this term to refer the group of people with the apostles teaching about Christ, and then, they called them "chrestians", with the letter "e" and after 300-year (350AD) this was changed to the Christians (Christi-anos), term which appeared manipulated on the ancient manuscripts in order to justify the idea of creating another religion mixed with other pagan belief for political purposes, under the sarcastic and noble goal to stop the believers persecution, which finally ended at the middle of the 4th century (340-350 AD). Nowadays, this word means one of the most important meaning for a part of the society who believe in the Saviour Jesus Christ the Son of God, the Brethren.

Introduction.

This report has as target to see unbiasedly the evidence on the history based on articles, researching and other reliable sources about the real origin of the word "Christians" and where this comes from. This paper will show and explain the facts around the origin of this name, concerning the environment, timing, context, culture and society utilising academic tools.

In favour of the meaning of this word, this article will show the opinions, opinions that can be accepted, such as the response of the Apostle Paul in front of King Agrippa in Act 26:29 showing his desire on everyone who was being a witness of this appeal; however, He did not repeat the word. To refer to this argument is assumption or presumptions, which are common mistakes on the way through people try to understand and to cover eschatological topics. Apostle Peter used this term and mentioned that as a Christians Suffering in Believers must be replaced for the glorification to God.

Regardless of the feeling of Christian belonging nowadays, he current accepted concept in our society now represents the people who believe in God and His Son Jesus Christ and currently, the term has not a negative connotation.

On the other hand, the evidence that shows this term as a negative connotation to the believers, which was one of the accepted names between the spiritual church. The formal definition of a key words is substantial to find the academic meaning, the bible mentions this word three times in different contexts and meaning, this word comes from an Ancient Greek term and is relevant and transcendental to understand this origin to obtain base and foundational grounds, to allocated our kind in the specific time and context of the people that were familiar with this term is also instrumental for the conclusion, as well as the comprehensive and holistic vision of the concept that how culture and generational changing works will support our deductions.

As a result, the reader will have solid knowledge to establish its own conclusion.

Definition from English Dictionaries.

Let's see the meaning of the words according to English language dictionaries according to www.dictionary.com (2019), en.oxforddictionaries.com (2019) and others.

Culture

group.

Noun: a form or stage of civilization, as that of a certain nation or period; the behaviours and beliefs characteristic of a particular social, ethnic, or age group. Anthropology. the total of ways of living built up by a group of human beings and transmitted from one generation to another.

Noun: The ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society, The attitudes and behaviour characteristic of a particular social

Christian

Adjective: of, relating to, or derived from Jesus Christ or His teachings, of, pertaining to, believing in, or belonging to the religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, of or relating to Christians, exhibiting a spirit proper to a follower of Jesus Christ; Christlike, decent; respectable, human: not brutal; humane.

Noun: a person who believes in Jesus Christ; adherent of Christianity, a person who exemplifies in his or her life the teachings of Christ, a member of any of certain Protestant churches, as the Disciples of Christ and the Plymouth Brethren.

1

Academic Backgrounds

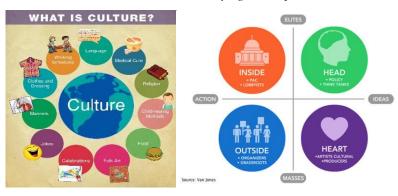
In the culture field, exist many articles about how societies change along the times, factors are varied. The elements of the culture are extensive, however, the most common elements mentioned are Social Organization / Customs and Traditions / Language / Arts and Literature / Religion and Values / Government / Economy System / History.

The culture changes usually through the following factors: Technology, Environment changes, new ideas or innovation, diffusion (movements of the custom from one place to another). On the other hand, "Subculture and Counterculture is a subculture is just as it sounds—a smaller cultural group within a larger culture; people of a subculture are part of the larger culture, but also share a specific

identity within a smaller group" (Little, W, McGivern, R, Chapter 3, 2012); additionally, Culture and Subculture change following the comparable patterns as a result of the **1-**Innovation (discovery or invention) **2-**Diffusion or Globalization.

Other articles establish complementary factors such as environmental changes referring shifts in climate, the introduction of new ideas and perspectives, technological discoveries, customs moving from one place to another, acculturation or the exchange or acceptance of ideas (St. Paul's Lutheran School - Muskego, WI, 2018).

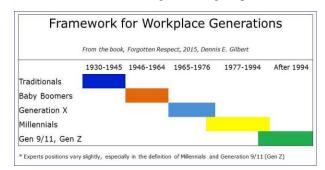
Rodriguez (2013) declares that Social Change (remembering that is not the same as Culture Change) are influenced by power and money, political lobbying or group of people using the following graph map of the political ecosystem and how they use persons, people to lead ideas that can be beneficial or not, often according to their purposes or personal interests, also she states "Think about culture as rain readying the crops".



Profiles Diversity Journal (2012) states the unconsciousness of the values of the people is unperceptive and are confronted whit someone different in values and belief; additionally, mentions that orientations' individuals can be either self or community ones, tending to be adapted to fit in a specific group. Moreover, the values do not change as a group. Is remarkable, Shudson (1989, pg. 57, p 3) said that culture patterns can modify and to change perceptions and analysis, do not endure for long; however, can be the schooling of the new generation.

SHRM Foundation (2015, pg. 30) explains the three features of the culture, suggesting that this is multifaceted, slow but evolving and borderless; Notter (2014) in terms of business and organization sates 8 years as a minimum period time to change culture and ironically mentions that if you Rock Star maybe you can do it in less time. Scott et al. (2003) studied in the Health Care field that cultural change takes 10 years helped by governmental reforms.

Generations, the range between generation is not timing structured, to determine the period is not easy, however the most common way to classify people are shown in the following chart. The number of years in each generation is roughly 15 years, this time is more than enough to change aspects of the culture through generations.



Tradition

<u>Noun</u>: the handing down of statements, beliefs, legends, customs, information, etc., from generation to generation, especially by word of mouth or by practice, a long-established or inherited way of thinking or acting, a continuing pattern of culture beliefs or practices, a customary or characteristic method or manner. (www.dictionary.com)

<u>Noun:</u> The transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation, or the fact of being passed on in this way, A long-established custom or belief that has been passed on from one generation to another. (en.oxforddictionaries.com)

Gilbert, D, Workforce Generations Chart

Custom or Habit

Noun: an acquired behaviour pattern regularly followed until it has become almost involuntary, customary practice or use, a particular practice, custom, or usage, a dominant or regular disposition or tendency; prevailing character or quality, addiction, especially to narcotics, mental character or disposition, characteristic bodily or physical condition. (www.dictionary.com)

Noun: A settled or regular tendency or practise, especially one that is hard to give up, an addictive practice, especially one of taking drugs, Psychology - An automatic reaction to a specific situation. (en.oxforddictionaries.com)

Christianity

Noun: The religion based on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ, or its beliefs and practices, Christian quality or character "who believed that he was the promised Messiah (or 'Christ'), but the Christian Church soon became an independent organization, largely through the missionary efforts of St Paul. In 313 Constantine ended official persecution in the Roman Empire and in 380 Theodosius I recognized it as the state religion."

Christianity means to whom follow or believe Jesus Christ teachings and messages, who teaches, preaches and lives according to Christ's lifestyle. Based on the previous definition we can start to dig into the bible and to see the different scenarios of this word.

How many times was mentioned in the Bible?

Is mentioned in **three times** in the bible, two of them were by non-believers' citizens of Antioch witnesses of the apostles' activities on preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

(Act 11:20 "And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus")

- 1. Acts 11:26; And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.
- **2.** Acts 26:28; Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a **Christian**.

3. 1 Peter 4:16; Yet if any man suffer as a **Christian**, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

There is not too much to analyse about it, this term was used 3 times, two times by non-believers as Luke states in Act (who wrote Act of Apostles) and Peter (who wrote his book) this was the term used for external people who wanted to point at the specific group of people who preach the gospel or to Jesus. The **first two situations** were mentioned **by people unconverted or unbelievers** when they saw Paul and Peter and other men of God and their lifestyle, and the **third time was by King Agrippa** in front of Apostle Paul in his appealing. One of the main and crucial points is that neither Luke nor Paul, even Jesus never said to call themselves as a "Christian" there are no pieces of evidence in the Bible supporting this. Additionally, there are some points on the table that we need to analyse.

I - Analysis of the Book of Acts

Acts 11:26 & Acts 26:28, according to www.relevantmagazine.com (2018) the Antioch City was a modern hub at that time when many rich people and diversity in cultures gather up on a big place of the marketplace, as well as, divided by race. Like many towns around the world. With the gospel, many barriers or ethnic walls were abolished and that upset the existing social groups. Jews and Gentiles alike were suddenly spending time together, because of that was given a new name for the new group of people, consequently having one thing in common the name were "Christians" for being Christ's teaching followers. Additionally, these two situations were mentioned by outsiders, recognizing a new and distinct group of people with a new and unheard message.

Biblestudytools.com (2018), declares and remarks that **probably the term Christian was given by Greeks and Romans** in reproach of the Jesus 'followers, moreover, the outsider-people such as unbelievers, others religion' followers started to call them like "*Christi-anos*" and was unfortunately accepted. In contrast, between this followers' Christ group being taught by Apostle Peter and Paul, the names used to call themselves are **brother**, **sister**, **brethren**, **the faithful**, **elect**, **saints**, **believers**. These names are registered in **Acts 9:26,30,31**; **11:29**; **15:1,23**; **16:1**; **Rom 8:27**, **15:25**; **1 Cor 7:12,15**; **1 Tim 5:2 and more**; **t**hey never used the term **CHRISTIAN** (*Yah's Elect network*, 2018).

Biblestudytools.com (2018) declares: "...is used contemptuously, could not have been applied by the early disciples to themselves, but was imposed upon them by the Gentile world. There is no reason to suppose that the name "Christian" of itself was intended as a term of scurrility or abuse, though it would naturally be used with contempt". Esword.com, 2019, states through the biblical illustrator digital and electronic file in its section "Act 11:22-26 at the section called "the name "The Christian name" that mentioned that the name comes from gentiles, pagan people which found a pagan nickname for this special group of people.

Contrary, the disciples were known by the following names before and after Jesus Christ physical presence, such as **-1**-Before: Brethren, Disciples, Elect, Saints, Faithful; and **-2**- After: Gnostics, men who had a knowledge of Divine things, they call them —Theophori, Christopheri (God bearers, Christ-bearers), Nazarenes, and at Rome especially, impostors, magicians, Galileans, sophists, atheists, Sarmentitii, desperate men, who were indifferent to death; Parabolani, men who lived only to die, Biathanati, men whose garments smelt of the faggot, etc.

Biblestudytools.com (2018), also affirms that the name could not be given from Brethren themselves, nor would the Jews have named them to the followers of Jesus, whose claim to be a messiah, issue that they (Jews) were the hardest opponents. Is possible that Jews used this term in mockery, due they believed they were a sect (acts 24:5), this term was used possibly by the heathen population of Antioch as the group emerged from the synagogue as well as predominantly gentile believers took a place into the religious world.

Greek terms

Act 11:26, And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians ^{G5546} first in Antioch.

According to Yah's Elect network (2018); It states that the name Christians / Christ-ianos comes from the mockery of the people who saw this group of Jesus' followers expecting the Messiah of Israel, this article also declares "At first the followers of Jesus were called DISCIPLES (Greek Strongs #3101--pupil/learner: men-Acts 9:18, 26; women-Acts 9:35, 36); because of their religious faith they were called "BELIEVERS AND SAINTS." MEN were called BRETHREN-(Acts 9:30, 31; and WOMEN SISTERS -(Acts 16:1, 1Cor 7:15, 1Tim 5:2). In Antioch, a Syrian city (Acts 11:26), the disciples were first called Christianos (christi-anos, christi Strongs #5547 + abrev anosios Strongs #462)".

G5546 **Χριστιανός** / Christianos / khris-tee-an-os' / From G5547; a Christian, that is, follower of Christ: - Christian. (Total KJV occurrences: 3)

- *I* the word or term "Khris-tee" G5547 **Χριστός** / Christos / khris-tos' / From G5548; anointed, that is, the Messiah, an epithet of Jesus: Christ. (Total KJV occurrences: 569)
- 2- the word or term "an-os" G462 ἀνόσιος / anosios an-os'-ee-os / From G1 (as a negative particle) and G3741; wicked: unholy. (Total KJV occurrences: 2, in 1Tim 1:9-unholy and 2Tim 3:2-unholy)

Anos/Anosios (Greek).

Anos is an abbreviation of anosios both meaning unholy, impious, and wicked (from Strongs G462). The term is found in the New Testament two times: 1Tim 1:9-unholy and 2Tim 3:2-unholy. Anosios is further defined as "a" (from Strongs G1) a negative particle, set before the Greek term hosios (form Strongs G3741) pure, pious, sacred, holy, consecrated, becomes anosios, not sacred, not holy, and not consecrated. (Jaja Azikiwe, 2011)

1- G5547 Χριστός / Christos / khris-tos' / From G5548

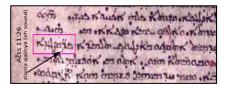
The Jews people considered that word Christos as a sacred word, they could no use it as a mockery to identify the new group of people followers of Jesus. This word must come from other sources and possible to used by Jews to make fun of this group of believers. According to Mountain Man Graphics (2019), states and describes the chronologic changing of this word, the original word on the oldest manuscripts shows the word "Chrestian (χρηστιανος)" which comes from the Greek word "Chrestus - Χρηστός" (Chrest) according to Strong James number 5543 and this was calculatedly transformed into "Christ" and "Chrestna" (Chrestians) purposely changed into "Christians" in a script dated about 115 CE, the original meaning of this word is

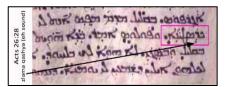
5543. **xpnotós chrēstos**, khrase-tos'; from 5530; employed, i.e. (by impl.) useful (in manner or morals):—better, easy, good (-ness), gracious, kind.

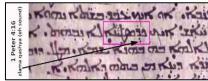
employed, gracious and kind, a few this word was used as a mockery by gentiles and others in Antioch referring to the Jesus disciples. Additionally, this word was used to refers to people from Crete.

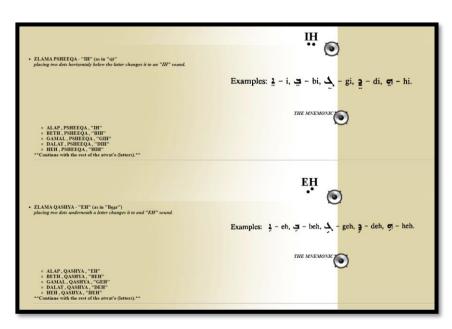
This gives another view because supports the fact that this word was a mockery and a nickname to the believers from external and pagans' ordinary persons from many adjacent areas.

On the other hand, in Acts 26:28 and 1 Peter 4:16, according to messicanic.org the word on the Original Aramaic Translation was Christus as the following picture shows, the article states "The Zlama Qashya vowel produces the "eh" sound and is displayed as two vertical dots below the letter (as seen above). If this word was to produce the "ih" sound (as in Christian), we should see two horizontal dots called Zlama Pseeqa." (messianic.org, n.d.) the sounds are different from both vowels (Learn Assyrian Online, 2020) as well as the Aramaic Peshitta text was manipulated according to the article published by messianic.org, n.d.









Tacitus was a Roman statesman and historian. In 115 CE he wrote in the Annals: "Nero blamed on a group that was hated for their abominations, the mass of Christians [in the earliest manuscript originally "Chrestians"] called, as he is also subjected to the most intense torture. Christ ['Krestus' i.e. "Chrest"], as the name came by, suffered the most severe penalty under Tiberius government for one of our prokuratorers hand, Pontius and a verv Pilate. mischievous superstition, which thus temporarily halted, broke out again not only in Judea, which was the source of the evil but even in Rome" (www.steemit.com, 2017)

2- G462 ἀνόσιος / anosios an-os'-ee-os / From G1 (as a negative particle) and G3741

Technically the word "an-os" has a negative connotation, and this word was used to remarked undervaluation as a specific feature, in this case, this group of followers of second class. Agrippa said in Acts 26:28 CHRISTIANOS meaning "unholy Christ, impious Messiah or impure Christ".

"The disciples and believers were suffering indignity and disrespect of their faith. Peter encourages them that if they suffer as one who is accused of following Jesus as an unholy, impious, and wicked Christ impostor, to not be ashamed. The implication was, to be accused of something false was not a reason to be ashamed. In their hearts, the disciples believed Jesus was the Messiah prince and King of Israel. For this and the salvation he ushered into the world, they were willing to suffer the name Christi-anos" (Yah's Elect network, 2018)

The name Christian was never used by a disciple or early believer to identify themselves but was coined by those who hated the followers of Jesus. The enemies of Jesus considered him to be an unholy, impious, and wicked Christ impostor: thus, those who believed in him as Messiah was called "Christi-anos" or followers of an impious Christ first in Antioch. This scenario is not hard to be understood, due nowadays we use words negatively and sarcastically to mock someone or to remark a wrong or complex concept.

There is no verse in the bible where any believer or disciple called themselves as a "Christianos Χριστιανός". Additionally, Dr Bullinger (2005, pg. 1606) states that this term or name was given by gentiles in mockery, the Jews could not have given or assigned the name of Christ (*Christos*) as a sacred mention.

Timing and Context of these mentions

Technically speaking we can speak about "to be a Christian" from Jesus Christ started his ministry on the earth and till our times. The believers of the Messiah's coming on the Old Testament (Jesus Christ first coming) cannot be called a Christian, due they did not know about Christ's message, some of them knew that one Messiah will arrive, and this will provide freedom and salvation to all nations.

Esword.com, 2019, states through *the biblical illustrator* digital and electronic file in its section "Act 11:22-26 at the section called "the name "The Name Christian" this name came on the stage at the deepest and bloody persecution of these believers, as a consequence, the name "Christians" became popular and long-lasting, the place Antioch is crucial to embrace the context, this area was the third richest capital in the world, located in Syria was beautifully positioned between Lebanon and Taurus decorated with gardens and groves, as well as, was recalled as a pleasure-loving city trending the advantage of the enjoyment; however, all those features were blurred by its depravity, corruption and wicked. Let's have a look when is the exact time.

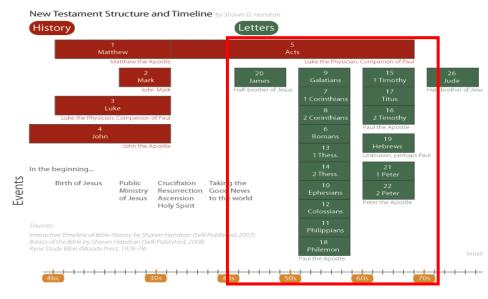
Acts 11:26, And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church and taught much people. And the disciples were called **Christians** first in Antioch.

According to Basics of the Bible (2018) shows the timeline of the books and the time of those were released, in the picture we can see that the events in the book of Acts occurred between the year 33 and 67 roughly.

According to Personal Bible Study Assistant (2018, pg. 4) mentions that the Book of Acts covers the years 33-C to 61 C.E. and was written by Apostle Luke in Rome finished at 61 C., other researchers say the period Acts 'book writing was between 56-58 C.E. On the other hand, on the same article, Basics of the Bible (2018) establishes an interesting table of times according to the time of each event, in which states that the event the chapter 11 in Acts took place at the year 36 C.E.

Gathering many resources, most of the researches propose a range of the year when Barnabas and Paul were from 40AD to 46AD; evidently, it is not accurate. Additionally, the same articles admit that the year of the first journey of Apostol Paul was immediately after the year in Syrian Antioch. For instance, Mayer (2018) mentions the years 44-46AD was the most precise time. In contrast, McGee (2018) affirms that year was one between 41-44AD. On the other hand, a few websites such as www.conformingtojesus.com and sharinhislove.wordpress.com establish the year 46AD as the one year in Antioch. Moreover, www.blueletterbible.org (2018) presents a chronology of the timeline of the Apostol Paul confirming that the closest year was 46AD to 47AD, just one year in Antioch.

II - Analysis of Book of Peter



Acts 26:28, Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

1 Peter 4:16, Yet if any man suffer as a **Christian**, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

Graphic: Basics of the Bible, 2018, "Old and New Testament Structure and Timeline"

Sharinhislove.wordpress.com, Sharon & Erick (2011) show in a timeline picture that the year was 59AD to 60AD in which this part of the scripture was written; surprisingly, the researches mentioned previously have a close coincidence in this information. McGee (2018) presents the table in which pints at year 59 when Apostle Paul suffer the

Shipwreck and was appealing after Agrippa. The gap in years between Act 11(46 AD) and Act 26 (56 AD) is about 10 years, this period is enough to mark a feature un a culture concerning an impacting word or concept, the new Jesus Christ follower's lifestyle was marking the difference in this society. Everybody called them "**Christians** (**Christ-ianos**)" as a result, Apostol Peter uses this term, from unbelievers' persons' point of view and Romans oppressor, in his first letter **4 years after**, in **64 AD**.

Between 36 AD to 64 AD almost 30 years, enough time to form a new culture with different habits and customs. In 1 Peter 4:16, the third situation, Peter mentioned this term to comfort believers in that area due they were persecuted and murdered. He used the word, but he never said, "from now on we will be called or named Christians". From the first two situations until the third the usage of this word was rooted and became a normal usage. Understandably, Peter uses this term. However, this term was not mentioned by Peter as an emblematic term, was mentioned as an insulting term from Greeks, Romans and Gentiles community and ordinary people against believers and disciples, in respond of that He mentioned do not pay attention to that persecution and contrary to turn the eyes to the Glorification to God. The persecutions started strongly at the final of the first century and continued for 250 and 300 years more when the

"Nicaean Councils" stopped this situation under agreements

and the born of new creed and concept of church distant to the concept provided for Jesus Christ.

Basics of the Bible (2018) establishes the writing time for the first book of peter was between 62AD to 64AD in Babylon. Other researchers agree with the year 64AD ass was mentioned. In addition, the term was enforced due to people in the high level of power and government into the Roman Empire trying to unify all religions, including pagans' ones, in order to control them and to exercise pressure and power upon them. Nicaean Council (300-400 AD), concreted the deal and was the establishment of the mixed pagan religions and alteration of a few portions of the original manuscripts to fix or change the word of God to this new religious era; the noble reason was to stop the Christians persecution in 340 AD. Along with the time and generations, this usage was part of the culture until our times, unfortunately.

Conclusion.

The logic and simple analyse suggests that there are no pieces of evidence of the word Christians was an accepted inside the Believers Group, they used names like Believers and other as a proper term, based on the Bible, neither disciple nor apostle called themselves as a Christians or even did not establish as an official name.

The word was used two times for external persons, were cited by outsiders of the faith, non-believers. There no probes to deduct that this was a recognized term. In the fourth century, the term was manipulated to support the general agreement among religions, denominations and pagan cults in the Nicaean Council; finally, the culture and traditions played a transcendental role in the cultural penetration of this word.

The term was created to mock the believers or disciples, and into the secular word and ordinary people, the disciples and believers or saints' men of god were underestimated and minimised under the name or title: The "Christians".

The Concordance James Strong is based in ancients' manuscripts; however, this book or tool is not apart from errors. The Origin of this word must come from the Number G5543 instead of G5548.

Currently, many people are dying or are being murdered just for proclaiming themselves as a Christian, a non-biblical name, which is wrongly believed that is was established by God, Apostles or Disciples. The evil-designed plan in super long-terms to kill and minimize the Believers. (1 Peter 5:8).

We (spiritually born-again people) are brother and sisters and we just name ourselves as a Believer of God and his Son Jesus Christ, which is the simplest way to do it. But Christians is questionable.

Currently, that is the all information about it possibly in the future we will find more sources and academics reports.



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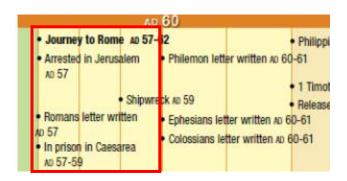
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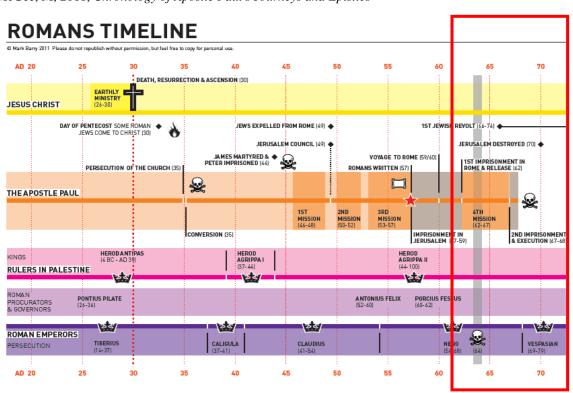
Appendixes.



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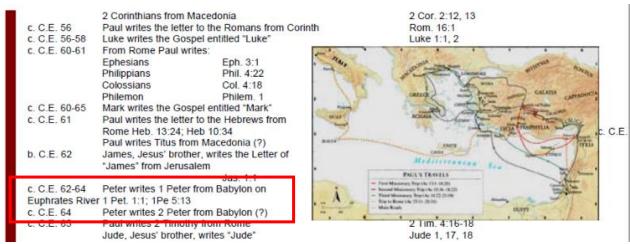


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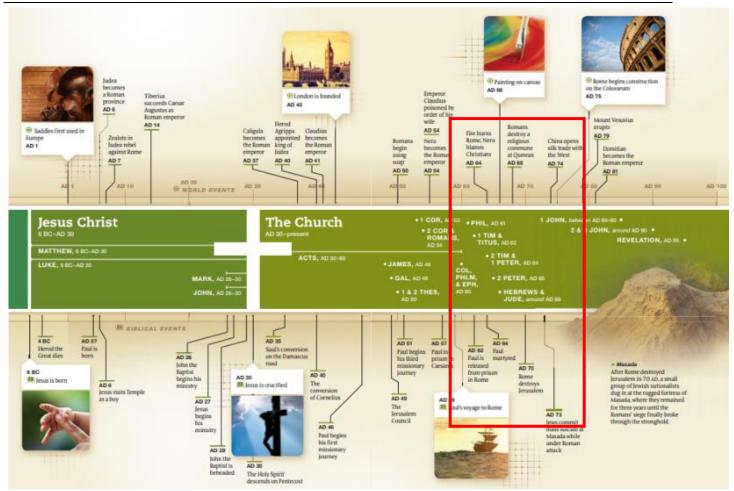
Visualunit.me, 2018, Romans timeline

Titus	Paul	Macedonia (?)	c. 61- 64	
Philemon	Paul	Rome	c. 60- 61	
Hebrews	Paul	Rome	c. 61	
James	dames (desus' bro)	derasalem	b. 02	_
1 Peter	Peter	Babylon	c. 62- 64	
2 Peter	reter	babyion (?)	C. 04	
1 John	Apostle John	Ephesus, or near	c. 98	



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