

## [A Hard Look at the Book of Acts \(2\) Roman Background](#)



Here's a brief Roman chronology for the same period as the book of Acts, taken from **H. Scullard**, *From the Gracchi to Nero* (5th ed. 1982):

- 30 A.D.** Publications of the History of Velleius Paterculus
- 31** Tiberius, consul v, with Sejanus. Gaius receives toga virilis. Sejanus put to death. Marco appointed Praetorian Prefect
- 33** Death of Agrippina on island of Pandateria. Gaius quaestor. Financial difficulties in Rome. *Possible date for the Crucifixion of Christ.*
- 34** Palestinian Tetrarchy of Philip incorporated into Syria
- 36** *Pontius Pilate sent to Rome* by L. Vitellius governor of Syria
- 37** **Death of Tiberius Caesar** (16 March) Accession of **Gaius ('Caligula')** he is consul with **Claudius**. Commagene re-established as a client kingdom
- 38** Death and deification of Drusilla. *Jewish disturbances in Alexandria*. Polemo II receives Pontus and Coty's Armenia Minor
- 39** Gaius goes to the Rhine. Julia and Agrippina exiled
- 40** Gaius expedition to the Channel, returns to Rome. Ptolemy of Mauretania murdered in Rome, revolt in Mauretania. Jewish embassy from Alexandria to Rome. Agrippa I receives kingdom of Antipas. Judaea restless
- 41** Gaius murdered (24 Jan) **Claudius made emperor**. The Chauci defeated. Claudius settles Alexandrian trouble. Agrippa I receives Judaea and Samaria. Exile of Seneca to Corsica
- 42** Revolt of Scribonianus in Dalmatia: his suicide. Mauretania organized as two provinces
- 43** Expedition to Britain. Lycia made an imperial province
- 44** Claudius' triumph over Britain. Achaia and Macedonia transferred to Senate. **Death of Herod Agrippa I**. Judaea reverts to provincial status
- 46** Thrace made a province
- 47** Triumph of Aulus Plautius for conquest of Britain. Claudius and L. Vitellius censors. Ludi Saeculares. Corbulo campaigns against Frisii. Ostorius Scapula in Britain
- 48** Messalina killed
- 49** Seneca recalled from Corsica and made praetor and Nero's tutor
- 50** Claudius adopts Nero as Guardian for Britannicus. Agrippa II rules in Chalcis

- 51** Burrus made Praetorian prefect, Vespasian consul. Caratactus defeated in Wales Vologeses king of Parthia (or in 52) Gallio proconsul in Achaea (51-52)
- 53** Nero marries Octavia . Parthians occupy Armenia and Tiridates recovers the throne
- 54** Death of Claudius. **Accession of Nero.** Caldius deified
- 55** Britannicus poisoned. Pallus dismissed . Corbulo goes to the East
- 56** *Praefecti aerarii* replace *quaestores aerrarii*
- 57** Nero orders senators and knights to take part in Games
- 58** Nero refuses perpetual consulship. Corbulo captures Artaxata
- 59** Nero Murders Agrippina: establishes Greek Games. Cobulo takes Tigranocerta
- 60** Neronia establishes Corulo settles Armenia governor of Syria. ***Festus succeeds Felix as governor of Judaea***
- 61** Revolt of Boudicca and Iceni in Britain
- 62** Death of Burras. Tigellinus made Praetorian Prefect. Seneca disgraced. Nero divorces Octavia and marries Poppaea. Octavia murdered. Paetus surrenders to the Parthians at Rhandeia
- 64** ***Great fire at Rome. Persecution of the Christians.*** Domus Aurea begun. Mission to Ethiopia. Cottian Alps made a province (64-65) Pontus incorporated into Galatia
- 65** Conspiracy of Piso. Suicides of Seneca and Lucan. Death of Poppaea. Musonius Rufus exiled
- 66** Nero crowns Tiridates king of Armenia in Rome and goes to Greece. Thrasea Paetus condemned. Conspiracy of Vinicius at Beneventum. Nero marries Statilia Messalina. Temple of Janus closed. Suicide of Petronius ***Rebellion in Palestine.***
- 67** Nero at Corinthian canal. Corbulo ordered to commit suicide. ***Vespasian in command in Judaea: Josephus surrenders to him***
- 68** Nero returns to Italy. **Death of Nero** (6 June) Galba, accepted by Senate and Praetorians, enters Rome (autumn) Verginius Rufus opposes Vindex's rebellion in Gaul. Defeat and death of Vindex. ***Vespasian attacks Jerusalem***
- 69** After the death of Galba and brief reigns of Otho and Vitellius, Vespasian becomes emperor and reaches Rome in summer of 70
- 70** Jerusalem sieged and burned by Titus, temple destroyed.