Use these charts for additional context as you read.

MINOR PROPHETS

Minor Prophet	From	Sent to	Around When?	King	Did the People Respond?	Key Truth
Hosea	Israel	Israel	786–746	Jeroboam II	No	God's love is faithful despite Israel's unfaithfulness.
Joel	Jerusalem	Judah	Likely between 539–331, but we don't know for sure	Unknown	No	God's people should repent because the Day of the Lord (judgment) is coming.
Amos	Tekoa in Judah	Israel (especially Samaria and Bethel)	760–750	Jeroboam II	No	God expects His people to act justly and pursue righteousness.
Obadiah	Jerusalem	Edom, a nation south of Judah	Could be around 580 or later, around 840	Unknown	No	God humbles prideful people to make His kingdom known.
Jonah	Gath-hepher, near Nazareth	Nineveh in Assyria	786–746	Jeroboam II in Israel, Ashur-dan III in Assyria	Yes, but later they returned to their evil ways	God cares for all people, even those far from Him.
Micah	From Moresheth Gath but made his home in Jerusalem	Judah and Israel	735–710	Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah	No	God asks his people to be humble, merciful, and just.
Nahum	Elkosh in Judah	Nineveh	Possibly 640–621, but there is some disagreement	Manasseh	No	God's people can be encouraged that judgment comes to those who oppress them.
Habakkuk	Unknown	Only addresses God	608–598	Unknown	Unclear	God is actively working in the world.
Zephaniah	Jerusalem	Jerusalem	640–621	Josiah	No	God will bring justice forever at the day of the Lord. Those who are humble can have hope.
Haggai	Jerusalem	Jerusalem	Around 520 BC	Persian King Darius	Yes	God's temple is an important place because God dwells with His people there. Haggai wanted the people to rebuild it.
Zechariah	Jerusalem	Jerusalem	520–514	Persian King Darius	Yes	Faithfulness to God will bring about God's rule over everything.
Malachi	Jerusalem	Judah (Jerusalem)	500–450	Persian King Darius	No	God's people should honor Him.

LETTERS OF PAUL

Letter	When was it written?	Where was it written?	To	Reason	Key Themes
Romans	Likely around AD 55–58	Corinth	The church in Rome	The Roman church was divided between Jews and Gentiles.	1. Rightness with God comes through Jesus alone. 2. The law can't condemn us anymore because Jesus fulfilled it perfectly.
1 Corinthians	Around AD 53 or 54	Ephesus	The Church in Corinth	This church was arguing. It was also in an immoral city, where people worshiped idols. Paul was reminding them to follow and worship the true God.	We run the race of life as faithful followers of Jesus.
2 Corinthians	Around AD 56	Macedonia	The church in Corinth	Paul received a good report about the church from Titus. He was writing to encourage and teach them.	1. The new covenant unites (or connects) us to Jesus. 2. Suffering is part of being a Christian.
Galatians	Around AD 48 or 49 (likely Paul's first letter, but the date is disputed)	Possibly Antioch	The church in Galatia	False teachers misled the church after Paul's visit, so Paul reminded the church at Galatia to not be deceived by false teachers, as well as to not be divided within the church.	We can't make ourselves right with God through our works. Being right with God comes from faith in Jesus and through life in the Spirit.
Ephesians	Around AD 60	A prison in Rome	The church in Ephesus	No clear reason. Paul sought to encourage the church to continue growing in their knowledge and love for God.	1. Christians can walk together in strength against spiritual warfare. 2. We can put everything under Jesus's authority.
Philippians	Around AD 50s or early 60s	A prison in Rome	The church in Philippi	Paul wrote to thank the church for their support and to remind them of the joy of life in Christ.	True unity and joy come from Jesus, and we can have it no matter our circumstances.
Colossians	Around AD 60	A prison in Rome	The church in Colossae	False teachers taught the church to doubt Jesus was really God.	1. Jesus is God and Lord of all. 2. Christians are made complete in Jesus.
1 Thessalonians	Around AD 50–51	Corinth	The church in Thessalonica	Paul was responding to Timothy's report about Thessalonica and helping them grow in how to relate to others and how to think about Jesus's return.	1. Hope and peace in suffering come from Jesus. 2. We can point one another to Christ. 3. Christians wait on the future promise of resurrected life.
2 Thessalonians	Around AD 50–51	Corinth	The church in Thessalonica	Paul wrote to give the church strength in persecution and to tell those who thought they had missed Jesus's return that they had not.	Stand firm while waiting for Jesus's return.
1 Timothy	Early to mid-AD 60s	Written between Paul's first imprisonment and his second	Timothy (about the church in Ephesus)	Paul wrote to correct false teaching and leaders who wanted to lead but were not qualified to do so.	God's people, the church, should try to avoid sin for God's glory.
2 Timothy	Around AD 67	A prison in Rome	Timothy (about the church in Ephesus)	Paul was nearing the end of his life and wanted to encourage Timothy to persevere and faithfully teach, even when it was difficult. He also combated false teaching about Jesus's second coming already happening.	1. We can endure suffering because Jesus did. 2. We expect Jesus to come back because He said He would.
Titus	Likely early to mid-AD 60s	Nicopolis	Titus (about the church in Crete)	Titus was finishing the work Paul started in Crete. He needed to appoint elders for the church there.	1. Leaders in the church need God-given qualifications. 2. There is no greater gift than the gift of salvation and the Spirit.
Philemon	Likely around AD 60 or 61	Likely from a prison in either Ephesus or Rome	Philemon (who lived in Colossae)	Paul sent a personal letter (alongside his letter to the Colossians) to ask Philemon to grant freedom to his slave Onesimus.	1. The gospel changes everything. 2. Jesus has set us free from slavery to sin and called us to live a life of love toward others.

OTHER LETTERS

Letter	When and where was it written?	Who wrote it?	To	Reason	Key Themes
Hebrews	Possibly between AD 49 and 65; unknown location	Unknown	Persecuted Jewish Christians in Rome or possibly in Palestine	Hebrews warned Jewish Christians not to go back to their old way of life under the law.	1. Jesus fulfills the old covenant and is powerful over everything. 2. Jesus is better than any other way of life.
James	Around AD 45; Jerusalem	James, the brother of Jesus, and a key leader in the church at Jerusalem	Jewish Christians of the diaspora, or those who were outside of Jerusalem	James told Christians they were not saved because of their works but that their good works would come out of true faith	Don't just hear God's Word—do what it says.
1 Peter	Around AD 62–63; likely Rome (which he referred to as Babylon)	Simon Peter	Persecuted non-Jews	Peter wrote to encourage the Gentiles while they were persecuted and struggling to stay hopeful.	God makes Gentiles part of His family and gives living, resurrected hope.
2 Peter	Around AD 64–66; likely Rome	Simon Peter	The churches in Asia Minor	Peter addressed false teachings about Jesus's return and the coming judgment.	1. Knowing God's Word helps Christians avoid false teaching. 2. God calls His people to holiness.
1 John	Around AD 90–95; unknown; likely Ephesus	John, the son of Zebedee	Churches in and around Ephesus	John addressed false teaching that created doubt about God's promise of eternal life.	1. Love God and others. 2. God made Christians to be different from the world.
2 John	Around AD 90–95; unknown, likely Ephesus	John, the son of Zebedee	"The chosen lady and her children," which could be a metaphor for the church or a specific family	John addresses false teaching about who Jesus is and how we know God.	1. Jesus is God the Son, equal to God the Father and God the Spirit. 2. It is through God that Christians can love others. 3. Keep lying teachers out of the church.
3 John	Likely around AD 90; unknown, likely Ephesus	Unknown, possibly Ephesus John, the son of Zebedee	Gaius	John wrote to thank Gaius for welcoming good teachers like Demetrius and to ask him to rebuke Diotrephes, who was a false teacher.	1. Show hospitality toward believers. 2. The gospel is worth defending because it is true. 3. Christians can love others and love the truth.
Jude	Likely between AD 67 and 80; unknown location	Jude, likely the brother of Jesus, who came to faith after Jesus's resurrection (1 Cor. 9:5)	General Christian audience or possibly Jewish Christians	Jude addressed false teaching that claimed special knowledge and taught freedom in Christ as being free to sin however you choose.	1. Remove false teaching quickly so that no one believes lies about the gospel. 2. Being a Christian doesn't mean freedom to sin; it means freedom from sin.