

The Gospels are composed approximately 40-60 years after the death of Jesus. Much of what is portrayed reflects the political, religious, and social context of their own communities, and that context influences their interpretation of past events. The chart below offers a timeline comparing historical events to the composition of sources. For additional context, the distance between Jesus' ministry and composition of the Gospels is similar to our present-day distance from the events of WWII, and popular movies that recount its events. Films created in the mid-century will offer a decidedly different take than those created late-century.

FIRST CENTURY CE	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
MAJOR EVENTS	Life of Jesus: 4 CE - 34 CE						Destruction of Jerusalem: 66-70 CE				
				Ministry of Paul: 35 CE - 65 CE							
GOSPELS & LETTERS					Paul's Letters: 48-60 CE		Mark: 65-75 CE		Luke: 80-100 CE		
									Matthew: 85-95 CE		
										John: 95-100 CE	
TWENTIETH CENTURY	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
MAJOR EVENTS				WWII: 1939-1945	Korean War (1950-1953) Vietnam War (1955-1975)						
POPULAR FILMS					Bridge Over the River Kwai: 1957				Schindler's List: 1993		
						The Great Escape: 1963			Saving Private Ryan: 1998		
							Patton: 1970			Letters from Iwo Jima: 2006	