

1st and 2nd Thessalonians

Background:

- Authorship:

- First of Paul's letters, written from Corinth, 52AD
- Beaten in Philippi, Review Acts 16:12-40, 17:1-15, 18:1-3
- Wrote it to quell misunderstanding of certain topics, errors in doctrine and comfort during persecution
- 2nd epistle most likely written just months after the first

- Timeframe: 40 -52 AD

- Emperors:

Gaius "Caligula" (37 – 41 AD)

- Nicknamed "Little Sandal" by Roman Soldiers when he was younger
- Ordered a statue of himself to be erected in the temple
- Reversed order after being talked out of it by Herod Agrippa
- Took his own divinity too far, went insane, assassinated

Claudius (41 – 54 AD)

- Reigned during the famine in Acts 11:28
- Very paranoid, distrusted everyone
- Expelled the Jews from Rome due to rioting (Acts 17:6)
- Drought, bad harvests drove food prices high
- Drunk, poisoned by Agrippina his wife (and niece)/Nero's mother

Thessalonica:

- Original name was Therma
- Popular port city, very prosperous, populous, approx. 200,000 people
- Renamed by Cassander after his wife Thessalonica, half-sister of Alexander the Great
- Lots of trade, lots of wealth, lots of false gods