

2 Corinthians

Second Corinthians is a deeply personal appeal after a painful period, defending Paul’s ministry, pursuing reconciliation, organizing the Jerusalem collection, and confronting rival claims to authority.



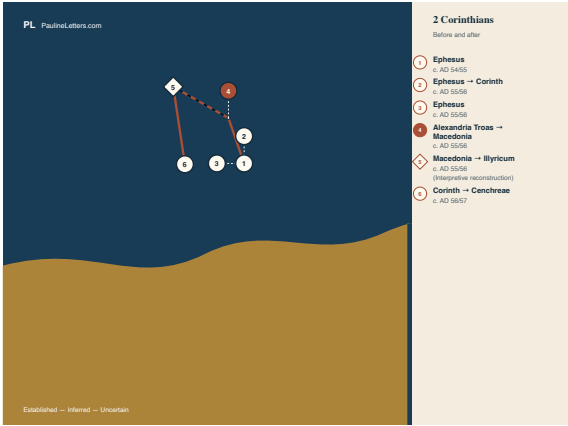
Interpretive reconstruction. This is a visual reconstruction of a meeting inferred from the letter, not a witnessed scene.

Date · Confidence: Inferred
c. AD 55–56
Macedonia is a region, not a securely named city of composition; another major chronology places the same Macedonian setting in AD 57.

Place · Confidence: Inferred
Macedonia
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Before and after

- 1
- c. AD 54/55 Writes 1 Corinthians (Apollus evidently back at Ephesus with Paul, 1 Cor 16:12), answering the Corinthian divisions — Paul/Apollos/Cephas — that "I planted. Apollos watered. But God gave the increase".
Ephesus · Established
- 2
- c. AD 55/56 A painful visit and a severe letter (now lost) to Corinth.
Ephesus → Corinth · Inferred
- 3
- c. AD 55/56 The silversmiths riot over Artemis; Paul leaves for Macedonia.
Ephesus · Established
- 4
- c. AD 55/56 A door opens at Troas; on to Macedonia; Titus brings good news; writes 2 Corinthians — defending his ministry against the intruding rivals he brands "false apostles" and ironically calls the "super-apostles", and glorying in weakness.
Alexandria Troas → Macedonia · Established
- 5
- c. AD 55/56 Encourages Macedonia; organizes the collection; ministry as far as Illyricum.
Macedonia → Illyricum · Inferred
- 6
- c. AD 56/57 Three months in Greece; writes Romans; a plot changes his route home.
Corinth → Cenchreae · Established



What the text establishes

Established
Second Corinthians is a deeply personal appeal after a painful period, defending Paul’s ministry, pursuing reconciliation, organizing the Jerusalem collection, and confronting rival claims to authority.
The letter addresses the church in Corinth together with believers across Achaia after a painful period in their relationship with Paul.

Leading reconstruction
The Pauline Letters chronology places the letter in Macedonia around AD 55–56, after Paul left Ephesus and before his later stay in Greece.
Macedonia is a region, not a securely named city of composition; another major chronology places the same Macedonian setting in AD 57.

Other credible readings
Some scholars read the canonical form as a unified composition; others think it preserves more than one stage of Paul’s correspondence with Corinth.

A ten-minute teaching plan

- Second Corinthians is a deeply personal appeal after a painful period, defending Paul’s ministry, pursuing reconciliation, organizing the Jerusalem collection, and confronting rival claims to authority.
- Second Corinthians follows First Corinthians and the painful exchanges, and it precedes Romans and the journey to Jerusalem with the collection.
- The Pauline Letters chronology places the letter in Macedonia around AD 55–56, after Paul left Ephesus and before his later stay in Greece.
- Some scholars read the canonical form as a unified composition; others think it preserves more than one stage of Paul’s correspondence with Corinth.

Primary texts

Romans through Philemon, World English Bible (public domain).
Acts 7–28, World English Bible (public domain).

Sources

Raymond E. Brown, An Introduction to the New Testament (Doubleday, 1997). — Chapter 23, “Second Letter to the Corinthians,” “General Analysis of the Message”
Brown surveys the letter’s argument and strained relationship with Corinth.
Jerome Murphy-O’Connor, Paul: A Critical Life (Oxford University Press, 1996). — Chapter 1, “The Chronological Framework,” “The Evidence from the Pauline Letters” and “The Evidence from the Acts of the Apostles”
Murphy-O’Connor explains why chronology must weigh the letters and Acts without treating either as a complete timetable.
Scripture references only; no protected Scripture body is included.
<https://paulineletters.com/explore/2-corinthians>