

## Paul of Tarsus: a chronology

- I. **PAUL'S EARLY LIFE** [Prior to 32 AD]
  - A. Born at Tarsus, a city of Cilicia - Acts 21,39; 22,3
  - B. Of the House of Israel - 2Cor 11,22
  - C. Of the Tribe of Benjamin - Phil 3,5
  - D. Circumcised on the eighth day - Phil 3,5
  - E. Named Saul ("Asked For") - Gal 1,15  
Known as Saul to the Jews,  
as Paul ("Little") to the Gentiles
  - F. His father had acquired Roman citizenship,  
so Paul was a "Roman-at-Law" - Acts 16,37; 22,25-28
  
- II. **PAUL'S EDUCATION**
  - A. Brought up as a Pharisee - Acts 23,6
  - B. At about age 14, he was sent to Jerusalem to the school of Gamaliel - Acts 5,24; 22,3
  - C. Becomes a self-righteous Pharisee and a patriotic zealot - Acts 22,3
  - D. He becomes a persecutor of Christians - Acts 7,58; 8,3-22; 26,9-11
  - E. By trade a tent-stitcher; every Jew had to teach his son a trade by which he could live - Acts 18,3-20; 1Cor 4,12
  - F. After "graduation," he returns to Tarsus
  
- III. **PAUL'S CONVERSION AND FOLLOWING EVENTS** [31-45 AD]
  - A. Conversion takes place on road to Damascus and in the city - Acts 9,1-19
    1. Paul seeks to arrest Christians - vv. 1-2
    2. Blinded by light from heaven; hears Jesus' voice - vv. 3-9
    3. Paul visited by Ananias; sight restored - vv. 10 - 19
  - B. Paul's account to the Jews - Acts 22,1-16
  - C. Paul's account to Agrippa - Acts 26,12-20
  - D. Preaches in the synagogues - Acts 9,20-22
  - E. Three years in Arabia - Gal 1,11-17
  - F. Return to Damascus - Acts 9,23
  - G. At Jerusalem - Acts 9,26-29
  - H. Flees to Tarsus - Acts 9,30
  - I. One year at Antioch - Acts 11,25
  - J. Second visit to Jerusalem - Acts 11,30
  
- IV. **PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY** [46-August 48 AD]
  - A. Paul and Barnabas are commissioned by the Church in Antioch, Syria as

foreign missionaries; John Mark goes along in the capacity of "vicar" - Acts 13,1-3

- B. Embarks from Seleucia to Cyprus - Acts 13,4-12
  - 1. At Salamis they preach to Jews - Acts 13,4-5
  - 2. At Paphos, Sergius Paulos is converted - Acts 13,6-12
- C. To Perga; desertion of John Mark - Acts 13,13
- D. To Antioch, Pisidia - Acts 13,14-50
  - 1. First recorded sermon of Paul
    - a. Historical part - vv. 16-37
    - b. Doctrinal part - vv. 38-41
  - 2. Disciples made among the Jews - v. 43
  - 3. Disciples made among the Gentiles - v. 48
  - 4. Paul and Barnabas are persecuted and expelled - v. 50
- E. To Iconium - Acts 13,51-14,6
  - 1. Jews and Gentiles converted
  - 2. Because of persecution, they flee to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia
- F. At Lystra, Lyconia - Acts 14,8-20a
  - 1. Healing of the cripple - vv. 8-10
  - 2. Worship refused - vv. 10-18
  - 3. Paul stoned - vv. 19-20a [Timothy, Eunice and Lois acquainted with Paul]
- G. At Derbe - Acts 14,20b-21a
- H. Visiting congregations founded - Acts 14,21b-25a
- I. From Attalia, return to Antioch - Acts 14,26-27
- J. Mission report at Antioch - Acts 14,27-38
- K. Council or Synod at Jerusalem - Acts 15,1-35
  - 1. Mission report - v. 4
  - 2. Doctrinal matters - vv. 5-15
  - 3. Report to the congregations - vv. 22-25

V. **PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY** [Autumn 49-52 AD]

- A. At Antioch - Acts 15,36-41
  - 1. Paul's refusal to take Mark - v. 38
  - 2. Joined by Silas - v. 40
  - 3. Through Syria and Cilicia - v.41
- B. To Derbe and Lystra - Acts 16,1-7
  - 1. Joined by Timothy - vv. 1-4
  - 2. Visits various places - vv. 5-7 [Winter of 49-50 AD]
- C. To Troas - Acts 16,8-11 [Vision and Macedonian call - v.9]
- D. To Philippi - Acts 16,12-40
  - 1. Lydia and others converted - vv. 14-15
  - 2. Healing of damsel possessed - vv. 16-18
  - 3. Paul and Silas imprisoned - vv. 19-24

4. Philippian jailor and others converted - vv. 25-34
5. Release - vv. 35-40
- E. To Thessalonica - Acts 17,1-9
  1. Disciples made - v. 4
  2. Persecution, arrest, and release of Jason - vv. 5-9
- F. To Berea - Acts 17,10-14
  1. Disciples made - v. 12
  2. Persecution - vv. 13-14
- G. To Athens - Acts 17,15-34
  1. Altar to "the unknown god" - vv. 23-31
  2. Certain men and women believe - vv. 32-34
- H. To Corinth - Acts 18,1-18
  1. Aquila and Priscilla - vv. 2-3
  2. Disciples made - v. 8
  3. Paul is strengthened by the Lord - vv. 9-10
  4. Insurrection against Paul - vv. 12-18
- I. To Ephesus and Caesarea during return home - Acts 18,19-23
- J. To Jerusalem, report on work - Acts 18,22a
- K. To Antioch - Acts 18,22b-23a

## VI. PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY [Acts 18,23-21,17]

- A. Paul begins his third missionary journey - Acts 18,23
- B. Meets Apollos - Acts 18,24-25
- C. Paul spends about three years at Ephesus - Acts 19,1-41
  1. Preaching the Gospel and working miracles - vv. 1-12
  2. Sons of Sceva (exorcists); burning of magic books - vv. 13-20
  3. Timothy and Erastus sent to Macedonia - vv. 21-22
  4. Demetrius, shrines of Diana, the mob - vv. 23-41
- D. Paul revisits Macedonia - Acts 20,1-5
- E. Paul at Troas; Eutycus restored to life - Acts 20,6-12
- F. Paul to Miletus - Acts 20,13-38
  1. Paul to Miletus - vv. 13-35
  2. Bids them farewell - vv. 36-38
- G. Journey to Jerusalem - Acts 21,1-16
- H. Reception at Jerusalem - Acts 21,17

## VII. LAST YEARS OF PAUL'S LIFE [58-66 AD]

- A. At Jerusalem - Acts 21,18-23,22
  1. Paul's vow and the mob in the Temple 21,18-31
  2. Rescued by the Roman army - 21,31-40
  3. Paul addresses the mob - 22,1-21
  4. Paul a prisoner - 22,22-30

5. Paul's defense - 23,1-10
  6. A vision of good cheer - 23,11
  7. Conspiracy against Paul's life - 23,12-22
- B. To Caesarea - Acts 23,23-26,32
1. Paul sent to Felix - 23,23-35
  2. Trial before Felix - 24,1-22
  3. Two years in prison - 24,23-27
  4. Accused before Festus - 25,1-9
  5. Paul's appeal to Caesar - 25,10-12
  6. Consultation with King Agrippa II - 25,13-27
  7. Paul's defense before Festus - 26,1-32
- C. To Rome - Acts 27,1-28,31
1. Voyage and shipwreck on Malta - 27,1-44
  2. On the island of Malta - 28,1-10
  3. From Malta to Rome - 28,11-14
  4. Reception at Rome - 28,15-16
  5. Conference with the Jews at Rome - 28,17-29
  6. Two years a prisoner - 28,30-31
- D. Paul's release, missionary journey to Europe, second imprisonment and martyrdom - Romans 15; 1 Timothy; Titus; 2 Timothy; Writings of the Early Church Fathers and Church tradition
1. Paul expresses wish to go to Spain - Rom 15,24-28
  2. Reference to Timothy speaks of being freed - 2Tim 4,17
  3. Church tradition speaks of his Spanish trip - Muratorian Canon; Clement of Rome
  4. Some historians have him also visit Great Britain
  5. From Spain [and England?] Paul returns to Ephesus
  6. From Ephesus visits churches in Greece
  7. From Greece Paul writes first letter to Timothy - 1Tim 1,3 [63 AD]
  8. From Greece, takes ship to Crete
  9. Return to Ephesus, where he writes to Titus - Tit 1,5
  10. Paul tells Titus he intends to winter in Nicopolis - Tit 3,12
  11. Paul taken prisoner by Romans in Troas - 2Tim 4,13
  12. Leaves some belongings behind in Troas - 2Tim 4,13
  13. This imprisonment much harder - 2Tim 1,15; 4,11
  14. The execution of Paul by decapitation is supported by various traditions of the early Church