



Periods and Major Events:

Focused Details:

Early Life of Paul (1-33 A.D.)

Paul's Upbringing (1)

- Paul was born in Tarsus of Cilicia.
- Paul grew up under the name Saul.
- Paul was raised in a strict Jewish home.

Paul's upbringing included immersion into the Hellenistic culture of the day—racetracks, schools of Greek philosophy, gymnasium, Greek drama at the Amphitheatre.

Rabbinic Training in Jerusalem

- Paul studied under Rabbi Gamaliel.
- Paul learned the traditions of the Pharisees.

Under Gamaliel, Paul learned the Scriptures and the traditional teachings of the Pharisees, including their way of interpreting and applying the Scripture.

Paul's Work With the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem and the Persecution of the Church (30-33 A.D.)

- The Sanhedrin opposed the church as it had opposed Jesus.
- Saul adopted the policies of the Sanhedrin.



Periods and Major Events:

Focused Details:

Paul's Conversion and Early Christian Training and Activity (33-47 A.D.)

Paul's Conversion to Christianity (33 A.D.) (2)

- The risen Christ confronted Paul while he was on his way to persecute Christians in Damascus.
- Paul accepted Jesus as Messiah and Lord.
- Christ commissioned Paul to take the Gospel to the gentiles.

Paul understood that this direct confrontation and commissioning by Christ was the basis for his authority as an apostle (such as Peter, James, or John).

Paul's First Christian Ministry and Training

- Paul preached in Damascus, Jerusalem, and Arabia (desert areas east of Palestine). (3) (4)
- Paul was instructed in the Jesus Traditions in Jerusalem by Peter and other apostles.
- Paul returned to Tarsus to live. (5)
- Barnabas brought Paul to Antioch of Syria as an elder and teacher in the church (45-47 A.D.). (6)



Periods and Major Events:

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Paul's Gentile Missionary Ministry (47-57 A.D.)

The First Missionary Journey (48-49 A.D.)

- Barnabas, Paul, John Mark were the first mission team.
- The mission team evangelized the island of Cyprus (Salamis, Paphos).
- The mission team evangelized the cities of central Asia Minor (Antioch of Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe).
- Paul returned to Antioch.

The mission team developed a strategy for evangelizing a city that included:

- Preaching first in the synagogue to the Jews.
- Using the agora and other locations in the city to reach gentiles.
- Establishing a church (organized and trained groups of believers, made up of Jews and gentiles).
- Reaching the surrounding regions through the flow of commercial and military activity.



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Paul's Gentile Missionary Ministry (47-57 A.D.)

Church Conference in Jerusalem (49 A.D.) (1)

- A conflict arose between Paul and the Judaizers over the admission of gentiles to the church.
- The church counsel affirmed Paul's understanding of the way of salvation.

The theological differences centered on the conditions for admitting gentiles (non-Jews) into the church:

- The Judaizers (some Jewish Christians) held that gentiles must become Jews first to obey the Law and conform to the moral standards of the church.
- Paul held that the Jews were saved only by faith in Jesus Christ, and also that gentiles should be accepted on that basis.



Periods and Major Events:

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The Second Missionary Journey (50-52 A.D.)

- Paul, Silas, and Timothy returned through Galatia to strengthen the new churches.
- The mission team evangelized Troas, Asia.
- The mission team evangelized Philippi in Macedonia, and a church was established.
- Next they evangelized Thessalonica, Macedonia, and a church was established.
- Paul spent some time alone in Athens evangelizing and defending the faith.
- The mission team evangelized Corinth, in Achaia (Greece). Paul wrote two letters to the church at Thessalonica.
- They returned to Jerusalem and then to Antioch, the home base.



Paul's Gentile Missionary Ministry:
Third Missionary Journey

Periods and Major Events:

Focused Details:

The Third Missionary Journey (53-57 A.D.)

- Paul and the mission team moved through Galatia and strengthened the new churches.
- Paul evangelized the city of Ephesus, in Asia. He carried on long distance communications (oral and written) with the church at Corinth. Paul wrote 1 Corinthians.
- Paul traveled to Macedonia to visit and strengthen the new churches. There he wrote a second letter (2 Corinthians) to the church at Corinth.
- Paul traveled to Corinth to visit the church there. While in Corinth, he wrote a letter to the churches in Galatia, and wrote a letter to the church at Rome.
- The mission team returned to Macedonia, Troas, with a stop in Ephesus.
- Paul now traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.



Periods and Major Events:

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Paul's Roman Imprisonment (58-62 A.D.)

Paul's Arrest in Jerusalem

- The Jewish leaders accused Paul of desecrating the Temple.
- The Roman commander arrested Paul to stop a riot, and held Paul for hearings and a trial.
- Paul was transferred to Caesarea Maritima to protect him from the Jewish threats.

The significance of Paul's status as a Roman citizen is seen in these arrests and trials:

- Paul was a citizen by birth.
- Roman citizenship protected him from punishment without a fair hearing.
- A Roman citizen also had the right to appeal his case to higher courts, even to the emperor.

Two Years in Custody in Caesarea Maritima (58-60 A.D.)

- Paul was put on trial before the procurator Festus, but no decision was made.
- Paul next stood trial before the procurator Felix. Paul appealed his case to the emperor, so Felix sent him by ship to Rome as a prisoner.



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Focused Details:

Two Years Under House Arrest in Rome (60-62 A.D.) (1)

- For 2 years, Paul was held in prison while awaiting trial before the emperor Nero.
- While in prison in Rome, Paul received emissaries from several churches who had been sent to help him. He wrote letters to Colossae, Ephesus, Philippi, and to an individual, Philemon.



Periods and Major Events:

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Last Years of Paul (62-67 A.D.)

Subsequent Missionary Work (62-64 A.D.)

- Paul was acquitted by Nero and released. (1)
- Paul went to Spain to evangelize. (2)
- Paul returned to Macedonia and Asia to help Timothy, his successor as leader of the churches. Paul wrote a letter to Timothy (1 Timothy). (3)
- Paul went to Crete to help Titus. Paul wrote a letter to Titus.
- Paul was again arrested and sent to Rome as a prisoner.

The Book of Acts does not indicate whether Paul was executed or released after his first Roman imprisonment. Church tradition indicates that he preached in Spain. The Pastoral Epistles indicate he did missionary work in Macedonia, Asia, and Crete. Tradition has it that he returned to Rome and was executed under Nero.



Periods and Major Events:

Focused Details:

Last Years of Paul (62-67 A.D.)

Paul's Second Trial and Execution (65-67 A.D.)

- Paul stood trial before Nero a second time. (1)
- Paul wrote one final letter to Timothy (2 Timothy).
- Paul was convicted and executed in Rome.