

PAUL

Paul, like many Jews, had both a Hebrew and a Roman name. The Hebrew name was Saul, and the Roman name, Paul. In Acts he is called Saul from 7:52, where he is first mentioned, to 13:9 (on his first missionary journey in the island of Paphos), when he is called Paul the first time. In chapters 8, 9, 11, 12, and 13, he is called Saul. After he began his ministry to the Gentiles, he is called Paul. In all his epistles he refers to himself as Paul.

Paul was born in Tarsus, Cilicia, probably about the year A.D.1, or about five years after the birth of Jesus (Acts 9:11; 21:39; 22:3). He was of the tribe of Benjamin (Romans 11:1; Phil.3:5), and a "Hebrew of the Hebrews" (2 Cor. 11:22; Phil. 3:5). He was a Pharisee (Acts 23:6; 26:5; Phil.3:6)

In his boyhood, he was sent to Jerusalem to study under Gamaliel, a noted Pharisee (Acts 22:3). He himself became a rabbi, and probably a member of the Sanhedrin, for he speaks of giving his voice of vote against the Christians in the days of their persecution by the Jews (Acts 26:10).

Paul was a Roman citizen, and his father before him. This gave him great advantages, as can be seen by referring to Acts 16:37-38, and 22:25-28. His Roman citizenship gave him the right to appeal his case from the decision of Festus and go to Rome for trial before Caesar (Acts 25:3-12); and also to be beheaded instead of being crucified (as was Peter) when he was at last condemned to death (not mentioned in the New Testament).

From Stephen's death, April, A.D. 33, till the summer of the same year when he was converted on his way to Damascus, Paul actively persecuted the Christians, thinking that by this he was serving God (Acts 26:9-11; 1 Cor. 15:9; Gal. 1:13-14; 1 Tim. 1:13).

From his conversion in the summer of 33, he spent three years in Damascus and Arabia (Gal. 1:17-18). Then he made a visit to Jerusalem in the summer of 36 (Acts 9:26-30; Gal. 1:18), and was there two weeks. From Jerusalem he returned to Damascus, his boyhood home (Acts 9:30; Gal. 1:18-21). In and around Tarsus Paul did missionary work (Gal. 1:21) for about nine years, or until the summer of 45, when Barnabas went from Antioch to Tarsus "to seek Saul" (Acts 11:25-26).

When Paul became a Christian at about 34 years of age, it is probable that his parents turned against him, and possibly his wife if he was married (Phil. 3:7-8). Certainly, the Jews turned against him and bitterly opposed him. There is a reference in Acts to Paul's sister and her son (Acts 23:16).

About 14 years after his conversion, Paul set out with Barnabas on what we call his first missionary journey, which extended from the spring of 47 till midsummer of 49. This journey is described in Acts 13 and 14.

Paul and Barnabas attended the council in Jerusalem early in the year 50. They then returned to Antioch, where Paul and Barnabas disagreed about taking John Mark with them. Paul selected Silas as his companion and departed on what we call his second missionary journey. It began in the spring of 50 and lasted till May 53. This journey is described in Acts 15:36 to 18:22. It began with his departure from Antioch, and ended with his arrival in Jerusalem.

On this journey Paul first visited Europe, establishing churches at Philippi, Thessalonica, and Corinth, and probably at other places. It was on this tour that he wrote his first two letters (from Corinth in the fall of the year 51) to the church at Thessalonians.

Paul remained in Corinth for eighteen months (Acts 18:11). He abode with Aquila and Priscilla, fellow weavers of tent cloth (or tent makers), earned his living at his trade, and preached when he did not have to work. He left Corinth in February 53, sailed by Ephesus, and reached Jerusalem in May, his fourth visit since his conversion.

A few weeks later, Paul returned to Antioch, Syria (Acts 18:22). There he must have heard about the danger to the churches in Galatia from Judaizers. Possibly, Timothy had left Paul at Ephesus and visited the Galatian churches and met Paul at Antioch and gave him a report. Anyway, it was at this time that Paul wrote the Epistle to the Galatians (June 53). After a few weeks at Antioch, after the Galatians had had time to receive his letter and react to it, he departed on his third missionary journey, passing through Galatia and Phrygia to strengthen the churches, and no doubt, to discuss with them in person what he had written in the epistle (Acts 18:23).

The third journey is described in Acts 18:23 to 21:17. On this journey which lasted from June 53 till May 57, nearly four years, Paul accomplished much. After visiting the Galatian and Phrygian churches for some two months, Paul went to Ephesus, where he remained from October 53, till January 56. During this time he wrote his two epistles to the church at Corinth. A study of these LETTERS show that Paul kept in intimate contact with the church through the visitors he received and his assistance that he sent on mission to Corinth (Timothy, Titus, and possibly others). He may have made a brief visit to Corinth in the fall of 55; and 2 Cor. shows that he wrote more than two letters (2:1-4; 7:8).

would be no release again. He wrote Timothy again (2 Timothy), his last letter, and urged him to hurry to him. Timothy may or may not have reached him, for Paul was executed (by beheading as a Roman citizen) in late November 67. Thus closed the life of Paul the Apostle at about 68 years of age.

Where Paul's body was buried nobody knows; else for 2,000 years millions would have made pilgrimages to his tomb. However, they have done better than that. They have read, studied, and prized the epistles he wrote in the midst of a busy and hard-pressed life both to churches and individuals that needed advice, instruction and encouragement.

We can never know what Paul himself would have considered his greatest effort in behalf of mankind. He carried the gospel to the Gentiles and made it a world gospel. He opened Europe to the gospel in much the same way that . . . centuries later, Livingstone opened Africa, the dark continent. These or some other of his activities he might have put first. Perhaps most of us would put his epistles first. He may have thought of them as primarily local and temporal; but after he died someone, certainly led by the Holy Spirit, took the time and the pains to collect them and make them available for all future generations. In them, in a special way, "he, being dead, yet speaketh".

(The dates and facts above are those of David Smith in The Life and Letters of St. Paul.)

A list of the names of PAUL'S COMPANIONS are: Apollos, Aquilla and Priscilla, Aristarchus, Barnabas, Demas, Epaphras, Epaphroditus, Gaius, Luke, Mark, Silas, Timothy, Titus, Tychicus.

would be no release again. He wrote Timothy again (2 Timothy), his last letter, and urged him to hurry to him. Timothy may or may not have reached him, for Paul was executed (by beheading as a Roman citizen) in late November 67. Thus closed the life of Paul the Apostle at about 68 years of age.

Where Paul's body was buried nobody knows; else for 2,000 years millions would have made pilgrimages to his tomb. However, they have done better than that. They have read, studied, and prized the epistles he wrote in the midst of a busy and hard-pressed life both to churches and individuals that needed advice, instruction and encouragement.

We can never know what Paul himself would have considered his greatest effort in behalf of mankind. He carried the gospel to the Gentiles and made it a world gospel. He opened Europe to the gospel in much the same way that . . . centuries later, Livingstone opened Africa, the dark continent. These or some other of his activities he might have put first. Perhaps most of us would put his epistles first. He may have thought of them as primarily local and temporal; but after he died someone, certainly led by the Holy Spirit, took the time and the pains to collect them and make them available for all future generations. In them, in a special way, "he, being dead, yet speaketh".

(The dates and facts above are those of David Smith in The Life and Letters of St. Paul.)

A list of the names of PAUL'S COMPANIONS are: Apollos, Aquilla and Priscilla, Aristarchus, Barnabas, Demas, Epaphras, Epaphroditus, Gaius, Luke, Mark, Silas, Timothy, Titus, Tychicus.



M A C E D O N I A

B L A C K S E A

A C H A I A

M E D I T E R R A N E A N S E A

PAULS TRAVELS

Philippi Neapolis

Amphipolis Thessalonica Apollonia

Berea

Assos Troas

Pessinus

Mitylene

Antioch

Iconium

Tarsus

Puteoli

Rhegium

SICILY

Syracuse

Athens

Ephesus

Lystra Derbe

Corinth

Miletus

Seleucia

Cenchrea

Attalia

Perga

Antioch

Chidus

Patara Myra

CYPRUS

Salamia

CRETE

Salmone

Sidon

DAMASCUS

Clauda

Tyre

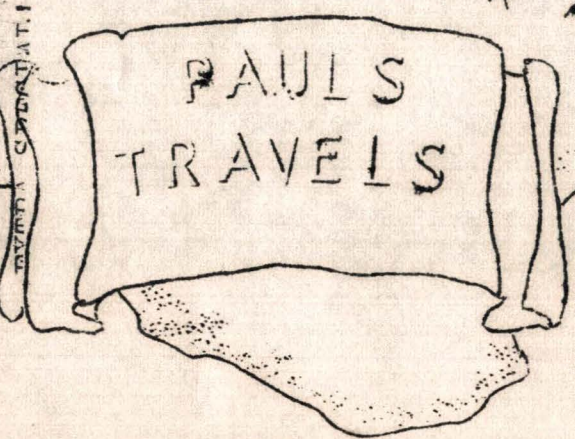
Ptolemais

Caesarea

JOPPA

JERUSALEM *

Three Taverns Appii Forum





INTERESTING PASSAGES TO LOCATE IN PAUL'S EPISTLES

1. Where does Paul discuss the Lord's Supper? (1 Cor. 11)
2. Where does Paul discuss baptism? (Rom. 6:1-5; Col. 2:12-13,
1 Cor. 12:12-13)
3. What does Paul suggest about making offerings? (1 Cor. 16:1-2)
4. Where does Paul discuss the greatest spiritual gift? (1 Cor. 12:8-10)
5. Where does Paul state the Christian's security? (Rom. 8:35-39)
6. Where does Paul write of bearing others' burdens as well as our own? (Gal. 6:1-5)
7. Where does Paul most fully set forth the doctrine of the resurrection? (1 Cor. 15)
8. Where does Paul contrast the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Holy Spirit? (Gal. 5:17-25)
9. Where does Paul describe the Christian's armor? (Eph. 6:11-18)
10. Where does Paul remind children of their duties to their parents? (Eph. 6:1-3; Col. 3:20)
11. Where does Paul set forth the relationship of husband and wife? (Eph. 5:22-25; Col. 3:18-19)
12. Where does Paul list the things that Christians should think about or on? (Phil. 4:8-9)
13. Where does Paul set forth most fully the doctrine of the second coming of Christ? (1 Thess.; 2 Thess.)
14. Where does Paul set forth the duties of pastors or elders? (1 Tim. 3:1-7)
15. Where does Paul define the duties of deacons? (1 Tim. 3:8-12)
16. Where does Paul write about his approaching death? (2 Tim. 4:6-8)
17. Where does Paul last mention his helpers or companions? (2 Tim. 4:11-12)

A C T S

THE AUTHOR - LUKE

The name of the author does not appear. Like the Four Gospels, it is anonymous. It is clear that the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts were written by the same man, for they are similar in form and literary style and are dedicated to the same man, Theophilus. ("Theophilus" is a Greek word that means "god-lover" or "lover of God".) From very early times the authorship of the book has been ascribed to Luke, a physician, and a traveling companion of Paul.

THE TITLE

The title of the Authorized Version is "The Acts of the Apostles". The American Standard Version calls it "The Acts". Neither name was on the original copy. There are at least four other names that might have been given this historical book.

1. "The Acts of Peter and Paul". Certainly, the book does not contain the acts of all the Apostles. We have mainly the acts of only one of the original apostles (Peter), and by no means all of his. Some have suggested that the book contains "The Acts of Peter and Paul". Taken as a whole, the first twelve chapters record the acts of Peter; and the last sixteen, the acts of Paul.

2. "The Acts of the Glorified Christ". Luke said that his first book (the Gospel of Luke) was "concerning all that Jesus began both to do and to teach, until the day in which he was received up" (Acts 1:1). He may have meant by this that in his second book (Acts) he would write about what Jesus continued to do and teach after his ascension. Indeed, it is helpful to think of Acts as the acts of the glorified Lord. Such passages as Acts 3:16; 7:55-56; 9:3-6; 10:13-16; 16:14; and 18:9 help us to see why the book is a record of the acts of Christ himself.

3. "The Acts of the Holy Spirit". The book may be regarded as the acts of the Holy Spirit. The following references are to passages that illustrate this: Acts 6:5,10; 9:17; 11:24; 13:2,4; 15:28; 19:6; 20:28. In chapter two we have an account of the coming of the Holy Spirit in power upon the disciples.

4. "The Acts of Missionaries and Missionary Churches". Acts is saturated with the spirit of missions. It is pre-eminently a missionary book. It gives at considerable length the activities of the greatest Christian missionary who ever lived. It also tells much about the activities of other missionaries.

THE DIVISIONS

1. Acts 1:1-14 - the commission to the disciples.
2. Acts 1:15 to 6:7 - the witness of the disciples in Jerusalem.
3. Acts 6:8 to 12:24 - the witness of the disciples in Judea and Samaria.
4. Acts 12:25 to 19:20 - the witness of the disciples to the "uttermost part of the earth".
5. Acts 19:21 to 26:32 - the witness of Paul to the Jews.
6. Acts 27:1 to 28:31 - the witness of Paul in Rome.

THE KEY WORD - WITNESS

The commission to the disciples was to witness or be witnesses to the "uttermost part of the earth".

PAUL'S MISSIONARY LETTERS

PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS:

	Scripture	Dates
<u>First Journey</u>	Acts 13:1 to 14:28	Spring 47 till summer
<u>Second Journey</u>	Acts 15:36 to 18:22	Spring 50 till May 53
<u>Third Journey</u>	Acts 18:22 to 21:16	June 53 till May 57
<u>Fourth Journey</u> (to Rome)	Acts 23:23 to 28:31	June 57 till March 60

PAUL'S MISSIONARY EPISTLES:

	<u>Book</u>	<u>Date written</u>
Group One	1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians	October 51 November 51
Group Two	Galatians 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Remans	June 53 Fall of 54 Spring of 55 Early in 57
Group Three	The Prison Epistles: Philippians Ephesians Colossians Philemon	November 60 Early in 62 just Early in 62 before Early in 62 Paul's release

Group Four

The Pastoral Epistles:

1 Timothy

Early in 63

Titus

Fall of 66

2 Timothy

Late in 67

(The first two were written while Paul was at liberty but the last one while he was in prison the second time and shortly before his execution)

SPECIAL BOOK LIST ON PAUL AND HIS EPISTLES:

Epochs in the Life of Paul by A. T. Robertson

Life of St. Paul by James Stalker

The Cyclopedic Handbook to the Bible by Angus-Green, esp. ch. 20
on "The Epistles").

Studies in the New Testament by A. T. Robertson. esp. chs. 10-13.

Introducing the New Testament by W. E. Denham. esp. chs. 12-14.

Plus many study and training course books on the New Testament published by the Broadman Press.