

An Aerial View of the New Testament



Acts 1:8 ~ an Outline

- Jerusalem (1-7)
- Judea and Samaria (8-12)
- The Remotest Part of the Earth (13-28)



Part 1: Witnesses in Jerusalem (2:1-7:60)

- Covers a period of 2-3 years.
- Roughly from Ascension in May of 30 AD to the conversion of Saul in 32-33 AD.
- Pentecost (2)



Peter's Explanation

- 2:14-21
- Joel 2:28-32 – “the last days”
 - started with the 1st Advent
 - will end with the 2nd Advent
- Acts 2:17-18
 - fulfilled at Pentecost
 - at the beginning of the last days
- Acts 2:19-20
 - fulfilled at The Day of the Lord
 - at the end of the last days



Peter's Testimony to Christ

- 2:22-36
 - Jesus' life (2:22)
 - God performed miracles and wonders and signs through Him.
 - Jesus' death (2:23)
 - God delivered Him to death.
 - Jesus' resurrection (2:24-32)
 - God raised Him.
 - Jesus' exaltation (2:33-36)
 - Ps. 110:1
 - 2:36 – Conclusion: Jesus is both Messiah and Lord.

Peter's Invitation (2:38)

- A call to repentance
 - Cf. 3:19; 5:31; 17:30
 - Cf. the Great Commission's message
 - Luke 24:47 –repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Not Baptismal Regeneration!

- 1) Ignores immediate context of Acts
 - 3:19 - "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."
 - 10:44-48 – Cornelius is only baptized after they had the Spirit (salvation).
 - Acts 16:30-31 - after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."
- 2) Analogy of Scripture
 - Hermeneutical principle that no passage, correctly interpreted will contradict the rest of Scripture.
 - Many passages teach that salvation is by faith alone.
- 3) Preposition (*eis* translated as *for*) can mean "because of" not just "for the purpose of"
 - E.g., Matt. 12:41 - "The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at [eis, because of] the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here."

The First Christian Church! (2:41-47)

- A redeemed, identifiable membership (2:41)
- Clear priorities (2:42-47) – "continually devoting themselves"
 - 1) Instruction – "apostles' teaching" (42)
 - 2) Fellowship – "koinonia" (42, 46)
 - 3) Worship at The Lord's Table – "breaking of bread" (42, 46)
 - 4) Prayer – (42)
- 2:47 – 1st progress report: "praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved."

Part 1: Witnesses in Jerusalem (2:1--7:60)

- Growth of the Jerusalem Church amid Opposition (3:1--5:42)
- Persecution and Expansion (6:1--9:31)
 - Stephen (6:1--8:1a)
 - The Apostles choose the seven (6:1-6)
 - Second progress report (v. 7): "And the word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith."
 - Stephen's work brings increasing opposition (8-11)

Stephen's Martyrdom

- False witnesses accuse Stephen (6:12--7:1)
 - 1) He spoke against Moses & the Law of God.
 - 2) He maligned the temple.
- Stephen answers the charges (7:2-53)
- Stephen is stoned (7:54-60)

Part 2: Witnesses in Judea & Samaria (8:1--12:25)

- A period of about 13-14 years
- From Paul's conversion until his missionary journeys (32/33--47 AD).
- Philip (8:4-40)
 - At Samaria (8:4-25)
 - With the Ethiopian (8:26-40)

The Conversion of Paul

- Conversion and Early Ministry of Saul (9:1-31)
 - Vision of Christ on Damascus Road (1-9)
 - The Role of Ananias (10-19a)
 - Early Christian life of Paul (19b-31)
 - Preaching in Damascus (19b-22)
 - Persecution and escape (23-25)
 - In Jerusalem; sent to Tarsus (26-30)
 - Peace and prosperity for the church (31)

Part 2: Witnesses in Judea & Samaria (8:1—12:25)

- The Spread of Christianity to the Gentiles (9:32--11:30)
 - Peter in Western Palestine (9:32-43)
 - Lydda: the healing of Aeneas (32-35)
 - Joppa: the raising of Tabitha (36-43)
 - The Account of Peter & Cornelius (10:1-48)
 - Peter's Defense of His Actions (11:1-18)

Part 2: Witnesses in Judea & Samaria (8:1—12:25)

- Antioch's Development as a Christian Base (11:19-30)
 - 3rd largest city in the 1st century Roman world (Rome = 1st; Alexandria = 2nd)
- Evangelization of the Greeks (19-21)
- Endorsement of Barnabas (22-24)
- Consolidation under Saul and Barnabas (25-26)
- Authentication by famine relief (27-30)

Herod Agrippa I and the Church (12:1-24)

- Herod's Plot (1-4)
- Herod's Defeat (5-19)
- Peter's Escape from Prison (5-11)
- Peter's Report (12-17)
- Herod's Reaction (18-19)
- Herod's Death (20-23)
- Continued Progress of the Gospel (24)

James (the 1st inspired letter)

- From James, the half brother of Christ, from Jerusalem
- To those scattered as a result of the persecution in Acts 12 (44 AD); but no mention of Jerusalem Council (49 AD)
- 44-49 AD (between Acts 12 and 15)
- Purpose: The effects of true saving faith

Part 3: Witnesses to the remotest parts of the earth (13:1—28:31)

- Paul – before the missionary journeys
- **32-35 AD**
 - Early evangelistic ministry in Damascus and Nabatean Arabia (unknown how much of these 3 years were spent where)
 - Gal. 1:17
- **35-36 AD**
 - 1st post-conversion visit to Jerusalem
 - Gal. 1:18-20
- **36-45 AD**
 - Paul's nine silent years of ministry in Syria/Cilicia
 - Gal. 1:21; cf. Acts 9:30

Three Glimpses of Paul's Silent Nine Years

- 1) Planting churches in Syria & Cilicia (his home region)
 - Cf. Acts 15:23 - they sent this letter by them, "The apostles and the brethren who are elders, to the brethren in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia who are from the Gentiles, greetings.
- 2) Suffering persecution
 - 2 Cor. 11:22-33 – list of Paul's sufferings
 - "frequent imprisonments" – cf. one in Philippi (Acts 16:25-30).
 - "3x beaten with rods" – cf. only in Philippi (Acts 16:23).
 - "three shipwrecks" – only 1 in Acts, after Paul wrote 2 Corinthians (Acts 27).
 - "5x from the Jews 39 lashes" – none in Acts.
- 3) A vision of heaven (2 Cor. 12:1-10)
 - He mentions that it occurred 14 years before he wrote 2 Corinthians.
 - ca. 42-43 AD

The Missionary Journeys of Paul



The Three Trips

- Occur 15-16 years after his conversion
- Before this, his ministry was primarily Jewish in Syria & Cilicia.
- After this primarily Gentile.

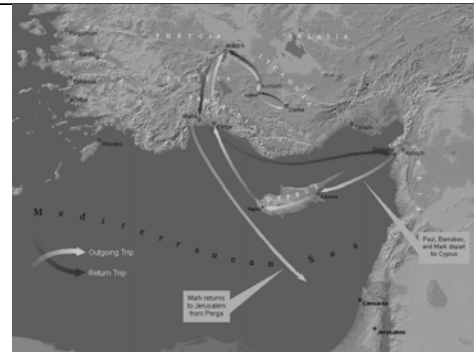


First Missionary Journey Overview

- Acts 13-14
- Missionaries: Paul & Barnabas
- Region: Cyprus and southern Asia Minor
- Distances covered: 1200 miles
- Date: 47-48 A.D.
- Major cities:
 - Antioch
 - Paphos in Cyprus (13:4-12)
 - Antioch of Pisidia (13:13-52)
 - Iconium (14:1-7)
 - Lystra (14:8-18)
 - Derbe (14:19-20)



The First Missionary Journey



The Jerusalem Council

- Acts 15:1-35
- Date: 49 A.D.
- The Theological Issue (1-5)
- A Lengthy Debate (6-21)
 - James' Summary (13-21)
 - Acts 15:19 - "Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles."
 - So they 1) safeguard the gospel; 2) urge the sacrifice of personal liberty out of love for others.
 - In consideration of the Jews worshipping with them, they ask the Gentile Xns...
 - 1) No food sacrificed to idols
 - 2) No fornication
 - 3) No meat from animals killed by strangling
 - 4) Blood (probably drinking)
- The Council's Letter (22-29)
- The Letter's Arrival in Antioch (30-35)

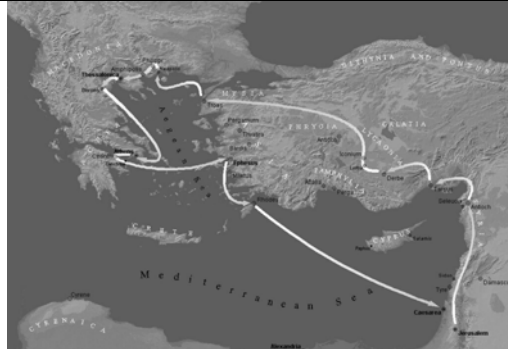
Galatians

- Paul's 1st letter
- Written shortly after the Jerusalem council in about 49 or 50 AD.
- To churches in the southern Roman region of Galatia that he founded on his 1st missionary journey.
- Apparently the Judaizers had spread there after leaving Antioch.
- Purpose: Justification by Faith Alone

Second Missionary Journey Overview

- Acts 15:36--18:22
- Missionaries: Paul & Silas (& Luke at Philippi)
- Region: Asia Minor and Europe
- Distances covered: 2,800 miles
- Date: 49-52 A.D.
- Major cities:
 - Antioch
 - Derbe
 - Lystra
 - Iconium
 - Antioch of Pisidia
 - Philippi
 - Thessalonica
 - Berea
 - Athens
 - Corinth (18 months)
 - Ephesus
 - Jerusalem
 - Antioch

The Second Missionary Journey



Second Missionary Journey

- South Galatia (16:1-5)
- Macedonia (16:6--17:15)
 - God's Call to Macedonia (16:6-10)
 - 1) Philippi (16:11-40)
 - Lydia (11-15)
 - The Roman Jailor (16-40)
 - 2) Thessalonica (17:1-9)
 - 3) Berea (17:10-15)
 - 4) Athens (17:16-34)
 - 5) Corinth (18:1-17)
 - Aquila and Priscilla (1-4)
 - Eighteen months in the city (5-11)



1 & 2 Thessalonians

- From Corinth
- 51-52 AD
- Purposes:
 - 1 Thessalonians: instructions for a new church
 - 2 Thessalonians: corrections about the 2nd Coming and The Day of the Lord

Third Missionary Journey Overview

- Acts 18:23--21:16
- Missionaries: Paul, Timothy (cf. Acts 19:22), and Luke
- Region: Asia Minor, Europe, and Palestine
- Distances covered: 1,600 miles
- Date: 52-57 A.D.
- Major cities:
 - [Asia Minor]
 - Ephesus (almost 3 years)
 - [Macedonia]
 - [Greece]
 - Troas
 - Miletus
 - Caesarea
 - Jerusalem



Third Missionary Journey



1 Corinthians

- From Ephesus (1 Cor. 16:8-9)
- 55 AD
- Near the end of his 3 year stay (Acts 20:31; 1 Cor. 16:8)
- Purpose: correction of various problems in the church

Third Missionary Journey

- The Riot at Ephesus (19:23-41)
 - Silversmiths' concern (23-27)
 - Crowd's demonstration in the theater (28-34)
 - Town clerk's call to reason (35-41)
- Return to Macedonia and Greece (20:1-6)

2 Corinthians

- From Macedonia (possibly Philippi; cf. 2 Cor. 11:9; Phil. 4:15)
- Late 55 AD or early 56 AD
- Purpose: Defense of his apostleship

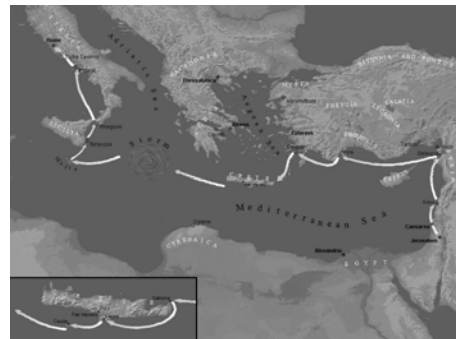
Romans

- From Corinth (Rom. 16:1, 23)
- 56 AD
- Purpose: the Righteousness from God

Journey to Rome

- Acts 21:17--28:31
- Date:
 - 57 AD – Sails for Jerusalem (April)
 - 57-59 AD – Paul in custody at Caesarea
 - 60-62 AD – Paul's 1st Roman imprisonment
- The 2 years end with an innocent verdict from Caesar to whom Paul had appealed.
- Major cities:
 - Jerusalem
 - Caesarea (2 years; 57-59 A.D.)
 - Malta
 - Rome

Journey to Rome



Journey to Rome

- Journey to Jerusalem (20:7--21:16)
- Arrest and Trial of Paul in Jerusalem (21:17--23:30)
- Paul on Trial in Caesarea (23:31--26:32)

Paul on Trial in Caesarea

- Paul's Arrival in Caesarea (23:31-35)
- Paul before Felix (24:1-27)
- Paul before Festus (25:1-12)
 - Festus in Jerusalem (1-5)
 - Paul's Appeal to Caesar (6-12)
- Paul before Agrippa (25:13--26:32)
 - Agrippa and Bernice's visit with Festus (25:13-22)
 - Festus' Summary of the Case (25:23-27)
 - Paul's Defense before Agrippa (26:1-23)
 - The Judges' Reactions (24-32)
 - Festus' personal opinion (24-25) – Paul is mad!
 - Agrippa's personal opinion (26-29) – Paul is very persuasive.
 - Mutual legal agreement on Paul's innocence (30-32)

The Journey to Rome (27:1--28:31)

- From Caesarea to Crete (27:1-12)
 - A Difficult voyage (1-8)
 - Paul's Advice and the Centurion's Decision (9-12)
- Storm and Shipwreck (27:13-44)
- Winter in Malta (28:1-10)
- Rome at Last! (28:11-31)
 - The Last Lap (11-15)
 - Paul under guard (16)
 - The Roman Jews (17-28)
 - First meeting (17-22)
 - A full day's discussion (23-29)
 - **An Unhindered Message!** (30-31)

The Prison Letters

- Colossians, Philemon, Ephesians, Philippians
- From Rome, during the 1st imprisonment
- 60-62 AD
- Purpose:
 - Colossians – All Sufficiency of Christ
 - Philemon – Manual on Forgiveness (Onesimus)
 - Ephesians – The Eternal Plan of God
 - Philippians – Basic Christian Living

From Paul's 1st Roman Imprisonment to His Death

- **62-65 AD**
 - Return to Crete, Nicopolis, Ephesus, Macedonia, Troas, Corinth, Miletus, and possibly Spain
 - Titus 3:12; Rom. 15:24, 28; 2 Tim. 4:19-20

Titus (pastoral letter)

- From Paul at an unknown location
- 62-64 AD
- To Titus on Crete
- Purpose: Adorning the doctrine of God

1 Timothy (pastoral letter)

- From Paul at an unknown location
- 62-64 AD
- To Timothy in Ephesus
- Purpose: A manual for church life

1 Peter

- From Peter in Rome (using the codename "Babylon")
- 64-65 AD (probably shortly after the city of Rome burned in July 64 AD)
- To Christians in Asia Minor
- Purpose: Standing firm through suffering



From Paul's 1st Roman Imprisonment to His Death

- **65-67 AD** – Paul's 2nd Roman imprisonment
- **2 Timothy (pastoral letter)**
 - From Paul in Rome
 - 66-67 AD
 - To Timothy (in Ephesus?)
 - Purpose: Ministry as spiritual combat
- **67 AD** – Paul's death

The Rest of NT History (67-95 AD)

- **67-68 AD** – Peter's death
- **2 Peter**
 - From Peter in Rome
 - 67-68 AD
 - To believers scattered in Asia Minor
 - Purpose: Genuine & false Christianity
- **Hebrews**
 - From an unknown author (Apollo?)
 - To primarily Jewish believers
 - 67-69 AD (no mention of 70 AD destruction of the Temple)
 - Purpose: The superiority of Christ
- **Jude**
 - From Jude, the half brother of Christ
 - Probably written from Jerusalem
 - To primarily Jewish believers, possibly those scattered from the Jerusalem church through various persecutions.
 - 68-70 AD (before the destruction of Jerusalem)
 - Purpose: Beware the pretenders
- **70 AD** – Destruction of Jerusalem by Titus & the Romans

The Rest of NT History

- **80's AD**
- **Gospel of John**
 - From Ephesus
 - To the entire world
 - 80-90 AD
 - Purpose: Jesus as the Son of God
- **1st, 2nd, & 3rd John**
 - From Ephesus
 - To churches in Asia Minor
 - 90-95 AD (before persecution under Domitian that began about 95 AD)
 - Purposes:
 - 1 John – Tests of Eternal Life
 - 2 John – Hospitality & False Teachers
 - 3 John – Hospitality & Faithful Servants
- **Mid-90's AD** – John the Apostle imprisoned on Patmos.
- **Revelation**
 - From island of Patmos
 - To 7 churches of Asia Minor
 - 94-96 AD (near the end of Domitian's reign)
 - Purpose: The Revelation of Jesus Christ

