

The Book of Acts

“You Shall Be My Witnesses”

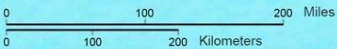
**The Establishment and Growth
of the Lord’s Church**

Approximate Chronology of Acts

Date	Chapter in Acts	Event	NT Books Written
A.D. 45-49	13-14	Paul's 1st preaching trip from Antioch	Galatians (?)
A.D. 50	15	Jerusalem meeting	
A.D. 50-54	15:36 – 18:22	Paul's 2nd preaching trip from Antioch	1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians (from Corinth)
A.D. 54-58	18:23 – 21:17	Paul's 3rd preaching trip from Antioch	1 Corinthians (from Ephesus) 2 Corinthians (from Macedonia) Romans, Galatians (?) (from Corinth)



c. A.D. 54-58



PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Acts 19:1 - 21:14

- City
- One of the "Seven Churches of Asia" - Rev. 2-3
- Paul's Route

Practical Lessons from Paul's Vow

- Know the difference in matters of faith and matters of opinion (1 Cor. 8; 10; Rom. 14)
- Be willing to become “all things to all men” without violating scripture (1 Cor. 9:20-22)
- Know when the same act is expedient or not (Acts 16:3; Gal. 2:3)

Practical Lessons from Paul's Vow

- Be willing to sacrifice and do something to work with others' consciences besides your own (1 Cor. 10:29)
- Do not observe the Old Law when it stands in conflict with the New (Acts 15; Gal. 2:18)

Acts 21

Lessons for Today

1. Praying together with our brethren for their future safety is a good practice (21:5; Rom. 15:30).
2. Let us, like Paul, always be ready to sacrifice our lives for the name of the Lord Jesus (21:13; Rom. 12:1; Phil. 2:17; 4:18; Heb. 13:15).

Acts 21

Lessons for Today

3. Let us always resign our will to the Lord's will (21:14; Jas. 4:15).
4. God is to be glorified for the great things he does for the salvation of others through the ministry of godly Christians (21:19-20; Acts 11:18; Gal. 1:24).

Acts 21

Lessons for Today

5. When possible, be willing to do things within the realm of good judgment to make peace with others as long as it does not violate plain principles of scripture (21:23-26; 1 Cor. 10:23-33).

Acts 21

Lessons for Today

6. Just because someone charges you with an accusation doesn't make it true (21:28; Mk. 15:3-4).
7. Just because someone supposes something about you doesn't make it true (21:29; Jn. 7:24; 1 Tim. 6:4).

Acts 21

Lessons for Today

8. Be respectful even in the face of mistreatment (21:37-40; Rom. 12:17-21; 1 Pet. 2:23).

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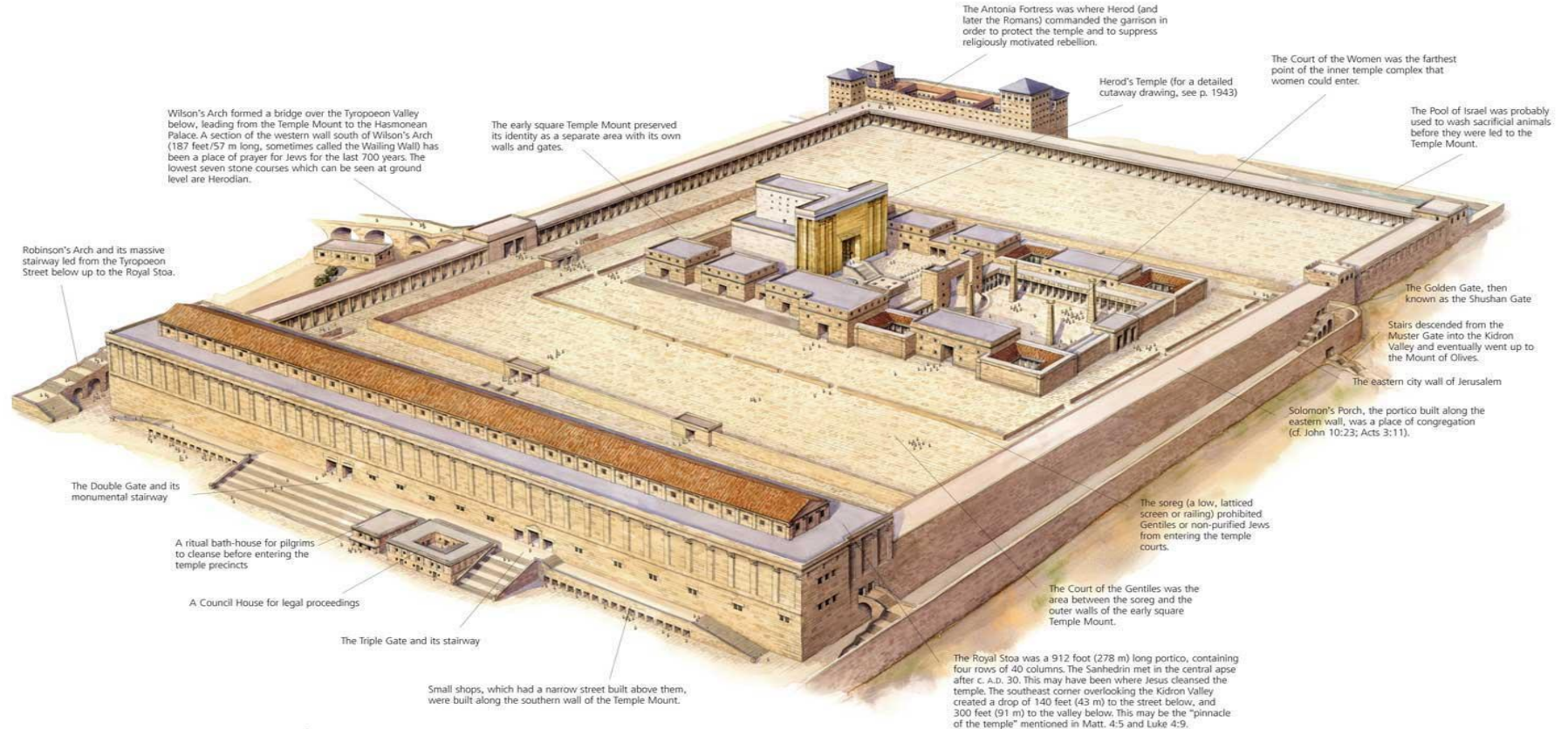
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Paul's Travels in Acts

Date	Chapter in Acts	Event	Approximate Miles Traveled
A.D. 48-49 (2 years)	13-14	Paul's 1st preaching trip from Antioch	1,235 miles
A.D. 50	15	Jerusalem meeting	600 miles
A.D. 51-54 (3 years)	15:36 – 18:22	Paul's 2nd preaching trip from Antioch	2,700 miles (1,290 sea, 1,410 land)
A.D. 54-58 (4 years)	18:23 – 21:17	Paul's 3rd preaching trip from Antioch	2,515 miles (1,190 sea, 1,325 land)
A.D. 60-61 (6 months)	27:1 – 28:14	Paul's voyage to Rome	2,130 miles (1,920 sea, 210 land)

Herod's Temple in Jerusalem



Fortress Antonia



Parallel Accounts of Paul's Conversion

Acts 9: background	Acts 22: background	Acts 26: background
<p>But Saul, yet breathing threatening and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, ² and asked of him letters to Damascus unto the synagogues, that if he found any that were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.</p>	<p>³ I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, at the feet of Gamaliel, instructed according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God, even as ye all are this day: ⁴ and I persecuted this Way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women. ⁵ As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and journeyed to Damascus to bring them also that were there unto Jerusalem in bonds to be punished.</p>	<p>⁴ My manner of life then from my youth up, which was from the beginning among mine own nation and at Jerusalem, know all the Jews; ⁵ having knowledge of me from the first, if they be willing to testify, that after the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee. ⁶ And now I stand <i>here</i> to be judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers; ⁷ unto which <i>promise</i> our twelve tribes, earnestly serving God night and day, hope to attain. And concerning this hope I am accused by the Jews, O king! ⁸ Why is it judged incredible with you, if God doth raise the dead? ⁹ I verily thought with myself that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰ And this I also did in Jerusalem: and I both shut up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, and when they were put to death I gave my vote against them. ¹¹ And punishing them oftentimes in all the synagogues, I strove to make them blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto foreign cities.</p>

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Parallel Accounts of Paul's Conversion

Acts 9: encounter	Acts 22: encounter	Acts 26: encounter
<p>³And as he journeyed, it came to pass that he drew nigh unto Damascus: and suddenly there shone round about him a light out of heaven: ⁴and he fell upon the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? ⁵And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And he <i>said</i>, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: ⁶but rise, and enter into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. ⁷And the men that journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing the voice, but beholding no man. ⁸And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw nothing; and they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. ⁹And he was three days without sight, and did neither eat nor drink.</p>	<p>⁶And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and drew nigh unto Damascus, about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me. ⁷And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? ⁸And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest. ⁹And they that were with me beheld indeed the light, but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me. ¹⁰And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do. ¹¹And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me I came into Damascus.</p>	<p>¹²Whereupon as I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, ¹³at midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them that journeyed with me. ¹⁴And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice saying unto me in the Hebrew language, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the goad. ¹⁵And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. ¹⁶But arise, and stand upon thy feet: for to this end have I appeared unto thee, to appoint thee a minister and a witness both of the things wherein thou hast seen me, and of the things wherein I will appear unto thee; ¹⁷delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom I send thee, ¹⁸to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive remission of sins and an inheritance among them that are sanctified by faith in me. ¹⁹Wherefore, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: ²⁰but declared both to them of Damascus first, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the country of Judaea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, doing works worthy of repentance.</p>

Parallel Accounts of Paul's Conversion

Acts 9: Ananias	Acts 22: Ananias	Acts 26: Ananias
<p>¹⁰ Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and the Lord said unto him in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I <i>am here</i>, Lord. ¹¹ And the Lord <i>said</i> unto him, Arise, and go to the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one named Saul, a man of Tarsus: for behold, he prayeth; ¹² and he hath seen a man named Ananias coming in, and laying his hands on him, that he might receive his sight. ¹³ But Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard from many of this man, how much evil he did to thy saints at Jerusalem: ¹⁴ and here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call upon thy name. ¹⁵ But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles and kings, and the children of Israel: ¹⁶ for I will show him how many things he must suffer for my name's sake.</p>		

Parallel Accounts of Paul's Conversion

Acts 9: conversion	Acts 22: conversion	Acts 26: conversion
<p>¹⁷ And Ananias departed, and entered into the house; and laying his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, <i>even Jesus</i>, who appeared unto thee in the way which thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mayest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ And straightway there fell from his eyes as it were scales, and he received his sight; and he arose and was baptized; ¹⁹ and he took food and was strengthened.</p>	<p>¹² And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well reported of by all the Jews that dwelt there, ¹³ came unto me, and standing by me said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And in that very hour I looked up on him. ¹⁴ And he said, The God of our fathers hath appointed thee to know his will, and to see the Righteous One, and to hear a voice from his mouth. ¹⁵ For thou shalt be a witness for him unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard. ¹⁶ And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on his name.</p>	

Acts 22

Lessons for Today

1. Paul went from being zealous for God in the wrong way to being zealous for God in the right way (22:3; Gal. 2:10).
2. Christians are “the Way” because they follow Jesus the Way (22:4; Jn. 14:6).

Acts 22

Lessons for Today

3. How you treat Christians is how you treat Christ himself (22:7-8; Mt. 25:34-45).
4. Contrary to erroneous religious teaching today, one must “do” something to be saved (22:10; Acts 2:37; 16:30; Mt. 19:16).

Acts 22

Lessons for Today

5. God's will can be known (22:14; Eph. 5:17).

6. Jesus is the Righteous One (22:14; Acts 3:14; 7:52).

7. Do not wait to be baptized and saved (22:16; Acts 16:33).

Acts 22

Lessons for Today

8. Baptism washes away sins (22:16; 1 Cor. 6:11; Eph. 5:26; Tit. 3:5; Heb. 10:22).
9. You can consent to wrong-doing by standing by and approving of it without actually doing it (22:20; Rom. 1:32).

Acts 22

Lessons for Today

10. Some people will listen to you until you say a word they disagree with and then they will stop listening (22:22; Zech. 7:11-13; Acts 7:57).

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High Priests in the Testament

- Joazar ben Boethus (? - 6 CE)
- Ananus ben Seth (6-15 CE)
- Ishmael ben Fabus (15-16)
- Eleazar ben Ananus (16-17)
- Simon ben Camithus (17-18)
- Joseph Caiaphas (18-36)
- Jonathan ben Ananus (36-37)
- Theophilus ben Ananus (37-41)
- Simon Cantatheras ben Boethus (41-43)
- Matthias ben Ananus (43)
- Elioneus ben Simon Cantatheras (43-44)
- Jonathan ben Ananus (44)
- Josephus ben Camydus (44-46)
- Ananias ben Nebedeus (46-58)
- Jonathan (58)
- Ishmael ben Fabus (58-62)
- Joseph Cabi ben Simon (62-63)
- Ananus ben Ananus (63)
- Joshua ben Damneus (63)
- Joshua ben Gamaliel (63-64)
- Mattathias ben Theophilus (65-66)
- Phannias ben Samuel (67-70)

Two Jewish Sects

Pharisees	Sadducees (Acts 5:17)
General: strict conservatives	General: loose liberals
World: live separate from it	World: fully embrace it
Law: accepted oral and written law	Law: written law only (Gen. – Deut.)
Interpretation: accurate, precise	Interpretation: pragmatic, accommodating
God: works within his evil world	God: removed from his evil world
Society: generally nice to others	Society: generally rude to others
Lifestyle: rural, simple	Lifestyle: urban, extravagant
Gentiles: partially accepted	Gentiles: openly accepted
Resurrection: souls raised to eternal reward	Resurrection: no afterlife, no eternal reward

Paul's Journey to Caesarea



Acts 23

Lessons for Today

1. Let us live each day with a good conscience before God (23:1; 1 Pet. 3:16).
2. Live a life that is controlled each day by the principles of God's law (23:5; Mt. 4:10; Rom. 12:19).

Acts 23

Lessons for Today

3. Don't ever be afraid to speak up for the truth (23:6; Eph. 6:14).
4. We live with the hope of a resurrection from the dead (23:6; 1 Pet. 1:3).

Acts 23

Lessons for Today

5. Let the Lord comfort you through his word (23:11; Rom. 15:4).
6. No matter who you are, you can do what you can to protect the innocent (23:16; Prov. 1:10-11).