



Am I as Paul,
prepared to
be in the
“Gospel
Fight” for the
Lord Jesus?

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.

Phil. 1:12-13

Paul's Three (?) Imprisonments and Two Mission Trips

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Key Themes in the Life of Paul from Acts 19 :21– 28:31

- **The Holy Spirit leads us, but not how we anticipate; remember that filling of the Holy Spirit results in control by the Spirit and not the flesh, others can only warn us not guide us.**
- **God controls external human events to His glory and did so at the end of Paul's life through a “bumpy road” of suffering and uncertainty in ministry; it will be the same for us.**
- **The Pastoral Epistles I Tim, Titus, and II Tim. , along with extra Biblical sources, give strong clues as to what happened after Acts in Paul's life.**
- **Team work will focus on Paul's defence of His life and ministry, by life actions and words, before separate audiences:**
 - **The Church at Ephesus**
 - **The Jewish People**
 - **The Sanhedrin and The Rome Jewish Leaders**
 - **276 people on his boat pf Adramyttium**
 - **The Roman Authorities: Felix, Festus, Agrippa II, Tigelinnius (?)**

❖ **PAUL** Biography mainly auto-biographical (Gal. 1:13 - 2:10 and other noted references)

Born in Tarsus, Cilicia, into privileged status as a Roman citizen and a Benjamite Jew (Acts 21:39; Phil 3:5) ≈AD 6).

As a Teenager, he moved to Jerusalem became a Pharisee and trained under Gamaliel (Acts 22:3), advancing beyond other Jews of his own age (Gal. 1:14). The young “fire-brand”, went contrary to his teacher and mentor, who cautioned peace with “The Way”; he was zealous “with a rage” against the Christian sect (Acts 5:34-39; 8:3; 9:1; 26:11).

He Spoke Aramaic (Hebrew) and Greek (Acts 21:37-40); he was probably married (a requirement of an elder of Israel) but not at the time of writing his contributions to the NT (I Cor. 9:5; I Cor. 7:8,9, 11, and especially vs. 34, comparing unmarried vs. virgins i.e. never married = virgin)

Led to faith and apparently disciplined by the Lord Jesus Christ in Arabia and elsewhere for a total of 14 years (Acts 9; Gal. 1:12,17), he became an apostle “untimely born”.

Even before his missionary service to the church began, he was “chased” by King Aretas (IV) after preaching (?) in Arabia (II Cor. 11:32). He went on at least 3 separate missionary journeys filled with suffering. Further,

He went on the trip to Rome covered today, and perhaps one to Spain, Crete, and Asia Minor, Rom. 15:24 – a desire fulfilled?

First to the Jew, then to the Gentile, and Paul's Ultimatum to the Jews

Paul went to the Synagogue and the "River Banks", where he expected to find people who wanted to know God, or were searching for Him, because of the compelling witness of proselytes and Jewish believers. Why?

- ❖ Acts 1:8 Commanded first Jerusalem and then Samaria,
- ❖ Present Gentiles also found God, so Paul had to tailor his message to them,
 - ❖ 13:16, 14:1, 17:4, 17:12, 17:17, 18:4
- ❖ Jews were given spiritual responsibility by God-
 - ❖ First commissioned to be Light to the World (Deut. 4:5-6, Acts 13:47, Is. 49:6)
 - ❖ Entrusted with God's words (Rom. 3:1-2)
- ❖ Israel is God's chosen people
 - ❖ Israel as God's chosen son (Ex. 4:22-23, Hos. 11:1)
 - ❖ God's covenants, laws, and Character were entrusted to the Jew (Rom. 9:1-5)
- ❖ Jews have a stumbling block (Rom. 9:30-33)
- ❖ Paul's love for the Jews, they outright rejected their Messiah (Rom. 10:1-3), though he gave them many ultimatums (13:46; 18:6; 28:28)

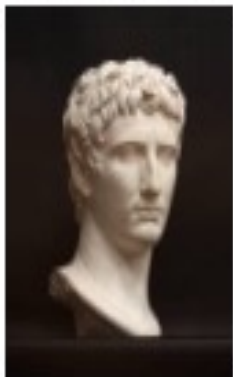
Event	Time (ca.)	Comments
Sails to Caesarea, then to Jerusalem	57	Fixed by Gallio's Proconsul at Achaia (Acts 18)
Imprisoned by Felix in Caesarea	57-60	Could be 57-59
Arrives in Rome	61	Arrives in Spring of 60 or 61
House Arrest in Rome (1 st Imprisonment)	61-63	
Wrote the Prison Epistles, Phil., Eph, Col., Philemon	62	
Released, possibly lapse of charges, or intervention by Josephus/Poppea to Nero	63	Below times are based on Pastoral Epistles and extra-biblical
Visits Spain, Crete, Macedonia, Asia minor, and death in Rome, of Burrus, Seneca, and Poppea	63-68 ?	Paul's Desire (Rom. 15:24,28) mentioned by Clement AD 88
Great Fire of Rome and subsequent blame on Christians by Nero and Tigellinius	64	
Martyred	66-68	As a Roman citizen, he could not be crucified, so he was probably beheaded

Roman Emperors

Augustus

27 BC to 14 AD

- Founded the Roman Empire
- Was the first Emperor that ruled Rome
- He initiated religious reforms to revive belief of his people in traditional Gods
- He was responsible for the two century long Pax Romana



Tiberius

14 AD to 37 AD

- Was later made the adopted son of the old emperor Augustus
- During his rule he made the term ruler be made as God and improved the Roman economy
- Had many military accomplishments during his rule



Claudius

41 AD to 54 AD

- Was the first Roman Emperor that was born outside of Italy
- He began the invasion of Britain
- The Roman Empire saw its first major expansion since its first emperor, Augustus



Nero

37 AD to 68 AD

- Nero was the last ruler in the Julio Claudia Dynasty
- He is best known for his political murders, persecution of Christians and a passion for music
- Nero watched and played music as Rome burned



Nero was an autocratic egotistical Emperor, He had an insane desire for popular applause; to gain this, he was descending step by step to lower and lower depths to a baseless cruel nature, he had already killed his mother, who was cruel herself.

Herod Agrippa II and Bernice –

Son of Agrippa of Acts 12:20-23, last of the heirs of Herod the great. He was 17 when his father died; he gradually received more and more jurisdiction from the Romans, with age. **Bernice** was his sister, and at this time in a relationship with him that caused Paul's message to sink home. **Drusilla** was her sister, married at this time to -

Felix, the procurator of Judea with both military and civil jurisdiction. Highly unpopular with the Jews. He was a freed slave, who grew up in **Caesars** household with **Pallas** his step brother; **Pallas** protected him since he had influence with both **Claudius and Nero**.

Seneca– Stoic philosopher, tutor, advisor to Nero. Tried to keep Nero from his baser tendencies. His older brother, **Gallio** was an acquaintance of Paul Acts 18:12, 14, 17. Whose proconsulship in Achaia, is the best of the known extra-biblical historical anchors to Paul's life. **Burrus** – general and tutor of Nero, to whom Nero owed his elevation to the throne, friend of **Seneca**.

Poppea- concubine/wife of Nero and a proselyte to Judaism, influential protector of Jewish causes to Nero.

Seneca, Burrus, and Poppea were all killed by the emperor, setting up the influence of **Tigellinus** – Who along with **Nero** set up with their wild parties the burning of Rome; they blamed the fire on Christians, all of these events led to Paul's arrest in Nicopolis (Titus 3:12).



Team Work!

Part I Building the Church
Team 1: Primary Ref: Acts 20:17-35

What was Paul's Strategy with the Ephesian church,

-In Attitude (vv. 19A, 26 and 33 - 35)

-In Completeness of the gospel preached and taught to them (vv 20 and 27)?

Where did Paul carry out his mission (v. 20B)?

What did it cost Paul (v. 19B and C)?

What was the message (v. 21)?

What was their responsibility now as overseers, with the church (v. 27)?

What warnings did he have for the church leadership in particular (vv. 29-31)?

Where would the heresies come from (vv. 29-30)?

Is an opponent to the true gospel of Jesus Christ more dangerous from inside or outside the church? Why?

Part II Paul's Ministry Choices - Team 2

Paul would write from a Roman prison later, that death was gain to him (Phil. 1:21); Paul's life was of no value to him, except to finish his "course" (Acts 20:24); life and ministry was an upward goal for a prize (Phil 3:14).

Why did Paul compare this challenge in ministry to the Olympic Games and the runners and boxing events (I Cor. 9:24-27)? What training was required for Paul's life of ministry? How did Paul feel the hand of the Holy Spirit on him (vv. 26A)?

In this life of ministry, how did Paul's follow the Holy Spirit?

Look at his compelling to go to Jerusalem and testifying from the Holy Spirit to go there (Acts 20:22-23). Other's in joint ministry with him, gave him warnings not to go to Jerusalem (Acts 21:4B; 10-12)? How did Paul react (vv. 13)? How did those closest to him in ministry react (v. 14)?

Read Acts 23:11, how does The Lord confirm His earlier message to Paul through the Holy Spirit, that he is on the right track?

What do we learn from Paul in this conundrum?

Ministry Challenges Part III - Team 3: Primary Reference Acts 21:17-32

Toward which ethnic group of believers was James (brother of our Lord and leader of the Jerusalem church) of necessity focused (verses 20-21)? Why must he do this?

How aware was James of what was going on in Paul's world?

Verse 25 reiterates the decision of the Jerusalem council of Acts 15; what is James purpose in bringing this up at this time?

How did Paul react to James and the other elders counsel (21:26)? I Corinthians 9:22-23 talks about Paul's strategy in evangelism, how does he reenforce that by his actions in Acts 21:26?

What does this mean to us in our daily decisions in ministry?

Part IV Team 4: Reference Acts 23:1-11; 28:17-28 Paul Before the Sanhedrin (chapter 23) and Roman Jewish Leaders (chapter 28)

Paul Before the Sanhedrin (Chapter 23)

- I. Why does Paul Simply seem to start a fight (vv. 6-8)?
- II. If you recall from our study of the gospels, that our Lord Jesus Christ had issues with the Pharisees, were then these Pharisees serious about supporting Paul going forward (v. 9)?
- III. If you have time, compare Steven's sermon reaction of Acts 7:51-53 (which Saul/Paul witnessed) to this reaction 23:9 - 10 to Paul; had anything changed in the Sanhedrin's attitude in 25 years to Jesus Christ?

If you have time, consider Paul Before the Roman Jewish Leaders in Acts Chapter 28.

What is Paul's main point of summary of his case against the Sanhedrin (vv. 17-18)?

Paul's Life and Ministry to Those "thrown in a boat with him" Acts 27:1-28:9 with Special emphasis on 27:10-12, 21-26, 33-35; 28:1-9 to answer your questions.

First, In The Adramyttium boat (27:2)

- I. Here we see Paul with a different crowd, not interested in the finer points of Judaism nor even particularly in Christianity, mostly what are called pagans in scripture they are called "*barbaroi*" in Acts 28: 2, 4 (it literally means non-Greek speakers, from which we get the term barbarian); we will find they are not outside Paul's "ministry comfort zone".
- II. What do we see Paul do in this audience to exalt and honor his God?
- III. Same question as question II with The People of Malta?
- IV. How did this whole process accomplish God's purpose for Paul's life (cf. 23:11)?
- V. If you have time, consider the encouragement Paul experienced on his long lasting desire to visit Rome (Rom. 1: 8-15; 15:22-29); what do you learn from Paul in this respect?

Team 6: Primary Reference Acts 24-26 (Questions I and II)
Paul Before Secular Authorities Having both Military and Civilian Authority

Paul Before the Romans and Roman Appointed Leaders of Herod's lineage-

- I. What did the group led by Tertullus really want (23:12-35; 25:1-3)?
- II. Knowing Felix and Festus background, who was the more honest with Paul?

A Disobedient Prophet vs. an Obedient Prophet at Sea with Troubles

- III. The obedient prophet Paul reacted to the pending disaster seen at sea in a certain way (Acts 27:10). The dis-obedient prophet, Jonah behaved another way (Jonah 1:8-16). How are the two similar in what we must do with our lives as believers led by the Holy Spirit? How did Paul's life in ministry prepare him for his reaction?

“God is about getting as many people to heaven as possible,; I’m about being faithful to my individual calling, to make that possible.”

Terry Thomson

Quenching the Spirit Can be Done by an Entire Church....

Thessalonian

Frowned on
any
manifestation of
the Spirit and
Anything out of
the ordinary.

I Thes. 5:19-22

The church was
quenching the
Spirit

Corinthian

Over-manifestation
and dis-orderliness in
relation to the gifts of
the Spirit

I Cor. 14:26-33

The church was
quenching the Spirit
by being carnal

Galatian

Lack of Liberty because
of bondage to legalism.

Galatians 1:6;3:27;4:9

The church was
quenching the Spirit by
turning away from the
true gospel

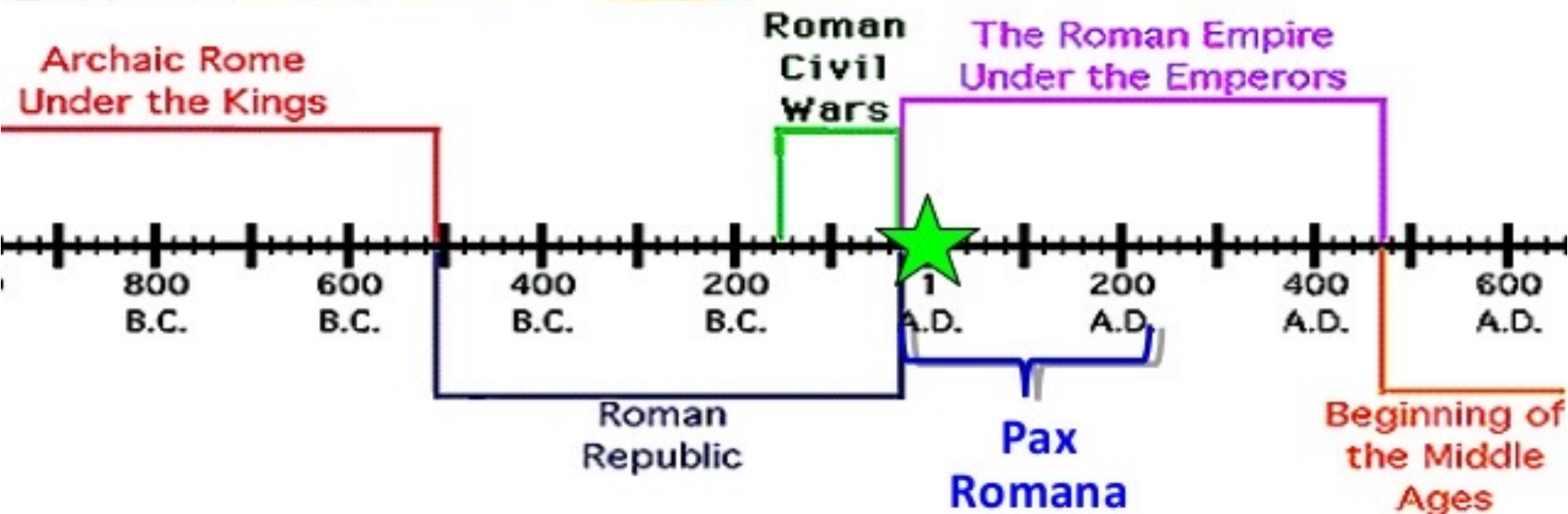
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The Roman Empire



Under Augustus, Rome entered an era of peace & prosperity known as the Pax Romana



The Roman Empire

in 117 AD, at its greatest extent

