

III. The Apostle Paul

His Journeys

By Land and By Sea



Paul' s Journeys

- Set apart by the Church at Antioch and sent by the Holy Spirit
- Traveled 13,000 miles over the course of 29 years (35 – 64 A. D.)
- Cyprus, various regions of Asia Minor, mainland Greece, Rome and Spain

The First Journey: 46-48 A. D.

- Traveled 2,000 miles by land and sea
- Accompanied by Barnabas and John Mark
- Retraced their steps thereby strengthening the new converts



Paul Sets Sail from Seleucia



Paul at Salamis (Cyprus)



Early Strategy

- Proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews
- Established as a pattern in their mission to the Gentiles
- Accompanied by fellow workers
- Trained young Christians (John Mark)

Paul at Paphos (Cyprus)



- Confronted and blinded a magician and false prophet named Elymas
- Preached to the proconsul Sergius Paulus who converts

Paul in Galatia (Gaul)



- Sailed to Perga and moved 100 miles inland
- Deserted by Mark
- Pamphylia, Pisidia, and Lycaonia (central Turkey)

Pisidian Antioch



Paul's First Sermon of Record

- Acts 13: 13 – 52
- Began with the “Shema”
- Recounted God's “salvation history”
- Declared its fulfillment in Jesus as the “Messiah”
- Unrecognized and rejected in Jerusalem
- Killed him but raised by God

The Good News Promised to Our Ancestors

- **Acts 13:38-39 (New International Version)**
- ³⁸ “Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. ³⁹ Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.

Paul As Preacher

- “Untrained in speech” (2 Cor. 11:6)
- Yet knew and spoke to his audience
- Identified with their deepest longings
- Focused on what was central to faith
- Retold the story but applied to new context
- Concluded with the power of transformation in the crucified and risen Lord

Paul in Iconium

- Preached in the synagogues
- Convinced Jews and Gentiles to believe
- Did signs and wonders
- Ministered long and boldly



Paul in Lystra



- Healed a man crippled from birth
- Acclaimed as gods, Hermes (Paul) and Zeus
- Connected with Timothy and family
- Stoned and left for dead

Paul in Derbe



Paul' s Closing Strategy

- Retraced their steps
- Strengthened and encouraged the disciples to continue in the faith and stand firm
- Appointed elders through prayer and fasting
- Pattern continued along with Paul' s Letters

Evaluation of First Journey

- Styled more as a “Paul and Barnabas” mission
- Method of city-hopping on major Roman roads
- Visited synagogues to convert Jews to Messianic Jews
- Greater success among Gentile God-fearers and prominent Greek women
- Paul watched, learned and changed strategy

First Missionary Conference in Antioch

- Called the church together
- Related all that God had done
- “How he had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles” (Acts 14:27)

In the Words of T. W. Manson

- The disciples in Acts were:

“Completely fearless”

“Absurdly happy”

“Constantly in trouble”

Journey to Jerusalem

- First Missionary Journey brought results but also problems
- Burning issue became the relationship between Gentiles and Jews
- Must Christian converts first become Jews
- Paul and Barnabas sent to an Apostolic Council (50 A. D.)

Questions Discussed

- Are Gentiles to be circumcised?
- Must Gentiles obey the Mosaic Law?
- Should Gentiles adhere to Pharisaic dietary customs?

Acts 15 and Galatians 2

- Two accounts differ in details and tone
- Paul and Peter were at odds and James mediated
- New Christians were free except for abstention from idols, sexual immorality, and “kosher” issues (Acts 15)
- Sole stipulation to remember the poor of Jerusalem (Galatians 2)
- Decree was tested but in the end it withstood the challenges

The Second Journey: 50-52



Paul's Itinerary (Acts 15:36-18:22)

- Crossed Asia Minor (Turkey) overland
- Sailed across the Aegean Sea to Greece
- Visited Philippi, Thessalonica, Athens and Corinth
- Sailed across the Aegean Sea to Ephesus
- Made a lengthy sea voyage to Judea and Jerusalem

Paul's New Companions

- Revisited the believers to “see how they are doing”
- Disagreed with Barnabas about John Mark and parted ways
- Accompanied by Silas and recruited Timothy along the way

Ministry in Asia Minor



- Revisited Derbe, Lystra and Iconium
- Went out of his way to connect with the Jews - Timothy's circumcision
- Well received and the numbers increased

Paul's Vision

- Forbidden by the Holy Spirit to enter Asia
- Waited opposite Mysia for instructions
- Journeyed through ancient Troy
- Called to Macedonia



Paul in Europe (West)



- Entered through the port at Neapolis
- Planted the first church in Philippi
- Gathered “down by the riverside”

Philippi



Paul in Philippi

- Women led the work in Philippi (Lydia)
- Paul and Silas jailed for exorcism of slave girl
- Turned economy upside down
- Freed by converted jailer



Paul in Thessalonica

- Went through Amphipolis and Apollonia to Thessalonica
- Persuaded many devout Greeks and leading women
- Entered the synagogue and encountered Jewish hostility
- “These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here” – Acts 17: 6b

Paul in Beroea

- Jews welcomed and heard Paul eagerly
- Men of high standing and a few Greek women believed
- Jews from Thessalonica stirred the crowds
- Conducted Paul to Athens

Athens



Paul in Athens



- Troubled by the city full of idols
- Focused on the altar to the unknown God
- Proclaimed God who created all things
- Mocked Paul especially the idea of resurrection
- Left for Corinth not to return

Corinth



- Left the intellectual and cultural center
- Arrived in the Roman capital of Achaia and the commercial center
- Experienced greater success

Paul in Corinth

- Teamed with Aquila and Priscilla
- Set up his tentmaking shop
- Infuriated the Jewish leaders who brought him before Gallio, the proconsul
- Refused to hear the case and judge
- Emboldened by a vision and remained 18 months

The Second Journey Ends



- Sailed for Ephesus
- Left Aquila and Priscilla to serve
- Prepared for Pentecost with Nazirite vow
- Sailed for Jerusalem before returning to Antioch

Paul's Second Journey



Mission Strategy of Paul

- Changed the pattern of the 1st journey
- Turned more and more to the Gentiles (God-fearers), thus the uproar among the Jews of the synagogues,
- Met in house-churches and shop-churches
- Chose major cities on strategic roads and with major ports (Corinth and Ephesus) and remained there
- Wrote first letter to the Thessalonians

The Third Missionary Journey: 53-58 A. D.



Paul's Itinerary

- Acts 18:23 – 21:4
- Journeyed by land through Galatia to Ephesus and the coast
- Remained in Ephesus for three years
- Crisscrossed Macedonia and returned to Corinth
- Returned to Macedonia and sailed to Miletus
- Sailed for Tyre and reached Jerusalem for the final time

Paul in Ephesus

- Ministered long and tirelessly
- Chose carefully Ephesus as the base for the third mission – 250,000 residents
- Left the synagogue and set up in Hall of Tyrannus
- Spread the gospel to Colossae and the 7 churches – “all the residents of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word...”
- God did extraordinary miracles through Paul (handkerchiefs)
- Wrote first of his letters to the Corinthians

Paul's Rousing Conclusion to the Ministry in Ephesus

- Riot ensued led by Demetrius and the silversmiths
- Blamed Paul for decline in business – “not gods”
- Gathered 25,000 in great theatre – “Great is Artemis”
- Convinced Paul to leave and not speak



Paul in Macedonia

- Crisscrossed Macedonia and Greece for three months
- Went not as a missionary but a pastor to strengthen and encourage believers
- Wrote 2nd Corinthians from Macedonia
- Wrote Epistles to the Galatians and the Romans from Corinth
- Stopped at numerous places along the way to Miletus (Troas and Euthychus)

Farewell to Ephesian Elders



- Acts 20: 17-38
- Passionate defense of himself and the mission
- Sailed for Jerusalem, never to return
- Passed Cos, Rhodes and Cyprus

In His Own Words

- **Acts 20:18-35 (New International Version)**

- ¹⁸ When they arrived, he said to them: “You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. ¹⁹ I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. ²⁰ You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. ²¹ I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.
- ²² “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. ²³ I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. ²⁴ However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.
- ²⁵ “Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. ²⁶ Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. ²⁷ For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. ²⁸ Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God,^[a] which he bought with his own blood.^[b] ²⁹ I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰ Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹ So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.
- ³² “Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing. ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. ³⁵ In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

The Journeys of Paul



- Concluded the three journeys
- Journeyed to Jerusalem
- Set heart on Rome and Spain

Fourth and Fifth Journeys?

- Appealed to Caesar while imprisoned in Caesarea Maritima
- Sailed for Rome and placed under house arrest for two years
- Two alternative endings of Paul's life
- Released and proclaimed the gospel in Spain (Clement)
- Executed by Nero before ever realizing all his missionary goals (Eusebius)

Debriefing



- Words that capture Paul the missionary for you?
- Strategies that Paul used in accomplishing his mission?
- Applications for the Church's mission today?



<http://www.bible-history.com/maps/romanempire/>