

Acts 22:3

A Timeline of Apostle Paul's Life

Introduction :

A.

1. The question always arises constantly, why do we mention the Apostle Paul in our teachings and studies so often?

The Answer is: _____

2. Most within Christendom hold the view that Paul was the 13th apostle, who replaced Judas. Also, that he was a continuation or extension of the 12's ministry message.
3. The Book of Acts is the bridge or transition from the Jewish Prophetic Kingdom Program to Paul's Mystery Grace Program. This is where we can get Paul's life timeline mainly from Acts.

B.

1. Another question that arises is: Since Christ had called the 12 apostles to His **earthly** ministry, why did He need another apostle?

The answer is: God had not revealed the plan to bless and reach the Gentiles apart from Israel. The Gentiles could only be blessed by going through Israel at that time.

2. Israel's failure to embrace and acknowledge Christ as their Messiah came to a halt with the stoning of Stephen in Acts 7. Israel's importance to the world begins to diminish until they were temporarily set aside in Act 28.

Act 28:27-28 *For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.*

3. God had a hidden plan that no one completely expected. He saved Saul of Tarsus (Paul) and as a result, Saul (Paul) assumed the role as the person to bless the Gentile. Paul was to bring an entirely new program to the world- The Dispensation of Grace.

C.

1. To know about this man named Paul (Saul of Tarsus), here is the timeline of his life-to become the minister to the Gentiles and to all the world today.

9 AD- Paul's Birth

1. Paul was born in the city of Tarsus of Cilicia (southeast modern Turkey), which was a Roman province.
2. As was custom for Jews, his parents had him circumcised on the 8th day after birth.
3. Paul/Saul and Jesus were likely born within several years of each other, within the same decade.
4. It is possible that Paul encountered Jesus before His crucifixion, although there is not any scriptural evidence of that. He could likely have seen Jesus by visiting the same places at some time early in their life.
5. Paul was born of Jewish ancestry, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew and an Israelite of the seed of Abraham.
2 Corinthians 11:22 Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I.
6. Paul was born as a Roman citizen in a Roman province and therefore became a free born citizen.

Acts 22:27-28 Then the chief captain came, and said unto him, Tell me, art thou a Roman? He said, Yea. And the chief captain answered, With a great sum obtained I this freedom. And Paul said, But I was free born.

20 AD- Paul's Education and Studies

1. Paul was taught in Jerusalem by Gamaliel, who was a teacher of the Law of Moses. Gamaliel was a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin- a group of Jews who made decisions regarding the religious and political lives of the Jewish people.

Acts 22:3 I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.

2. Paul was deep in the Jewish religion and became a strict Pharisee upholding the traditions and the Law, even to be found blameless and righteous according to the Law.

Philippines 3:5-6Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee.

*Paul also learned the trade of tentmaking as he grew to a young man.

3. Paul was blameless before man, but not before God. Paul thought that he served God with a pure conscience, but evidently became ignorant and zealous in persecuting the Messianic Church and Jesus Christ's followers.

1 Timothy 1:12-13 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath, enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry. Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

34AD- Paul Watches the Stoning of Stephen

1. At this point, Paul reviewed Christians that followed Jesus Christ as enemies of God. Paul's training and his religious faith in Judaism propelled his zeal in defending his faith- that led to him being a career church persecutor.
2. Stephen was known for being faithful to Christ and being filled with the Holy Spirit. Stephen was challenging the religious leaders and the people of Israel to receive Christ now in faith and as their Messiah that had been prophesied.

Acts 7:51-53 Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost; as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? And they have slain them which showed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.

3. Paul was present at this place where Stephen had accused Israel for their unbelief and Saul was consenting, giving his approval of stoning Stephen to death.

Acts 7:57-58 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord. And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

4. Paul being so angry, went to the chief priest, who gave him permission to chase down these believers in Christ, causing havoc and harm putting them in prison.

Acts 8:3 As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

34 AD – Paul's Conversion

1. Within one year after the stoning of Stephen, Paul was converted by God. Paul's conversion serves as a wonderful example or pattern of salvation by grace for today.
2. Saul's (Paul) conversion marked the beginning of Israel now being temporarily set aside (the Prophetic Program), and the beginning of the unfolding of the Mystery Program that God had hidden for our grace dispensation.
3. Saul is obsessed and marches towards Damascus to further his persecution against these Jesus Christ followers.

Acts 9:3-7 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven. And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless hearing a voice, but seeing no man.

4. Suddenly on the road to Damascus a light caused Saul to fall to the ground. This bright light being the very glory of God meeting Saul. It is amazing that Jesus does not strike down Saul, but instead Christ speaks and reasons with him.
5. Paul now knows the truth at that moment that Jesus Christ was true and alive. Paul was probably converted at the very moment.

34 AD –Paul’s Trip to Damascus

1. At Damascus with Paul’s conversion, we have the beginning of the Dispensation of Grace’s birth- new dispensation. Paul will spend time in the synagogues proving that Jesus is the son of God. Paul’s eyesight had also been restored there.
2. This left the Jewish people confused by the fact that Paul was teaching the message he was so obsessed in getting rid of and harming the people.

Acts 9:20-22 And straightway he [reached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.

3. Paul proceeded to preach to Israel how their now rejected Messiah had gone to the Gentiles and doing something separate from their Prophetic program.
4. After several days there, Paul learned the Jews were plotting to kill him. Some of the disciples there helped Paul escape from them by putting him in a basket and lowering him down the outside wall.

Acts 9:23-25 And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him. But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him. Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket.

34-36 AD- Paul in Arabia

1. Paul goes now and spends three years in Arabia to receive further revelation from the Lord. Then he returns back to Damascus.
2. There Paul was going to be given a whole new body of truth from Christ using blocks of time. This is similar to how God did much of the same thing with Moses in the wilderness when He gave Moses the Law.

Galatians 1:16-17 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostle before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.

3. When Paul left Arabia, he knew his mission was to deliver this new gospel message to the Gentiles.

36-46 AD – Paul’s Visit Back to Jerusalem and Time in Tarsus

1. Paul goes from Damascus to visit Jerusalem to see Peter and James for 15 days, to establish a relationship with the leaders of the church and proclaim this new gospel message from God Himself.

Galatians 1:18-19 *Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter and abode with him fifteen days. But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord’s brother.*

2. From Jerusalem, Paul goes home to the city of Tarsus that is in the regions of Syria and Cilicia. Paul spent some time in a somewhat seclusion there, mainly focusing on the beginning of establishing new Body Churches in Christ.

Galatians 1:21-22 *Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judea which were in Christ.*

3. Paul was physically unknown in Judea to the Jewish congregation of Palestine. Paul now had no ministry to the Jews there because his ministry was to Gentile territories.

47-48 AD- Paul’s First Missionary Journey

1. Acts chapters 13 and 14 describes Paul and Barnabas first missionary journey from the church at Antioch. They journeyed to the island of Cyprus, into Galatia (southern Turkey) and then back to Antioch.

49 AD- Jerusalem Council

1. After Paul’s first missionary journey he wrote Galatians – his first epistle. Galatians tells about several of these churches he planted in that area. Paul wrote this letter

to defend his new revealed gospel given to him by Christ, because false teachers had already invaded these churches Paul had established.

2. Later, Paul and Barnabas met with the church elders and leaders in Jerusalem to discuss Jewish traditions such as circumcision required for the Gentiles. By the time the meeting ended, the church and Paul were in agreement.

Acts 15:4 *And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them.*

3. It was agreed that Paul would go to the Gentiles and the Jewish elders and apostles would stay with their Jewish brethren.

49-52 AD – Paul’s Second Missionary Journey

1. Paul and Barnabas leave Jerusalem and go back to Antioch to begin their second missionary journey. Paul wanted to go back to some of the same towns in Galatia, Asia Minor, over into Macedonia and Achaia (Northern and Southern Greece).
2. These included towns like Derbe, Lystra, Phillipi, Berea, Athens, Corinth, and Ephesus. Here Paul had proclaimed this new grace saving gospel to many people mentioned in Acts 16-20.

52-57 AD – Paul’s Third Missionary Journey

1. Paul went a third time into Galatia and Asia Minor. Paul also landed in the port city of Ephesus, where he wrote 1 Corinthians.
2. From there Paul went back to Macedonia, where he wrote 2 Corinthians. From there Paul went down to Corinth where he wrote his letter to the Romans.

57 AD – Paul’s Arrest in Jerusalem

1. Acts 21 to 26 gives us Paul’s arrest, and plots to kill him. Finally King Agrippa sends Paul to Caesar in Rome to be dealt with. Before Paul was sent by ship to Caesar in Rome, he shared his gospel to King Agrippa and almost persuaded him.

Acts 26:27-28 King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest. Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

59-62 AD- Paul's Trip To Rome and His House Arrest

1. Acts 27-28 gives us the details of this trip to sail for Rome. These details include tempest storms, ship wrecks, another miracle by Paul surviving a deadly snake bite, and curing several people on the way.
2. In Rome, they allowed Paul to live under house arrest for two years. It was at this time he wrote the prison epistles of Ephesians, Philippians,, Colossians, and Philemon.

62-64 AD - Paul is Released

1. Since Acts ends with Paul under house arrest we know little about this period. It is likely that Paul wrote his pastoral epistles of 1 Timothy and Titus.
2. Paul at this time felt confident of being able to go see his saints at Philippi if everything fell in place.

Philippians 2:23-24 Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me. But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly.

65 AD - Paul's Final Imprisonment and Death

1. Nero became emperor at this time and Paul was imprisoned for a second time. This was when Paul wrote his last epistle (2 Timothy).
2. Paul realized his end was near because of Nero's hatred of the Christian believers in Rome. Paul most likely was beheaded by execution at the age of 56 years old.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished by course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.