

Timeline For Life and Ministry of Apostle Paul

AD 5 – AD 67

Various timelines may have slightly different dates, but the general sequence of events in Paul's life is well established, and aligns with the New Testament scriptures, particularly the book of Acts and Paul's own letters.

This timeline combines various reputable biblical resources, and lines up with the general consensus among scholars. Key Sources in the New Testament:

- Book of Acts: provides the primary historical narrative of Paul's conversion, missionary journeys, arrests, and travel to Rome.
- Paul's Epistles (Letters): offer autobiographical details, insights into his ministry, and help confirm the order of certain events and the timing of his writings.
- Galatians 1-2: particularly important for understanding Paul's early post-conversion years and his visits to Jerusalem.

- AD 5-10: Birth in Tarsus
 - Born a Roman citizen to Jewish parents in Tarsus of Cilicia (Acts 22:3).
 - Named Saul, after the first king of Israel from the tribe of Benjamin (Philippians 3:5).
- AD 20-30: Education in Jerusalem
 - Trained as a Pharisee under the renowned Rabbi Gamaliel in Jerusalem (Acts 22:3, 26:5).
 - Became intensely zealous for the Law and a persecutor of Christians (Philippians 3:6, Galatians 1:13-14).
- AD 33-34: Persecution and Conversion
 - Present at the stoning of Stephen, consenting to his death (Acts 7:58, 8:1).
 - Actively persecuted followers of Jesus in Jerusalem and Judea, obtaining letters to bring Christians from Damascus back to Jerusalem for trial (Acts 8:3, 9:1-2).
 - Conversion on the road to Damascus: Encountered the resurrected Jesus, leading to his blindness and subsequent healing by Ananias (Acts 9:3-19).
 - Began preaching Christ immediately in Damascus (Acts 9:20-22).
- AD 34-37: Time in Arabia and Damascus
 - After his conversion, Paul went into Arabia and then returned to Damascus (Galatians 1:17). This period is often seen as a time of reflection, revelation, and preparation.
 - Escaped from Damascus after plots by the Jews to kill him (Acts 9:23-25; 2 Corinthians 11:32-33).
- AD 37: First Visit to Jerusalem (after conversion)
 - Three years after his conversion, he went to Jerusalem and met with Peter and James (Galatians 1:18-19).
 - The disciples in Jerusalem were initially afraid of him, but Barnabas vouched for him (Acts 9:26-27).
 - Preached boldly in Jerusalem, but faced threats, leading to his return to Tarsus (Acts 9:28-30).
- AD 37-46: Ministry in Tarsus and Syria/Cilicia

- Spent several years in his home region, preaching the gospel (Galatians 1:21-24).
- Barnabas sought him out and brought him to Antioch to assist in the growing church there (Acts 11:25-26).
- AD 46: Famine Relief Visit to Jerusalem
 - Paul and Barnabas brought a relief offering from Antioch to Jerusalem for the famine-stricken believers (Acts 11:27-30).
- AD 47-48: First Missionary Journey
 - Commissioned by the Holy Spirit and sent out from Antioch with Barnabas and John Mark (Acts 13:1-3).
 - Traveled to Cyprus, then to Pamphylia (Perga, where John Mark left), Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe (Acts 13:4-14:23).
 - Preached the gospel, faced persecution, and established churches.
 - Returned to Antioch of Syria (Acts 14:24-28).
- Galatians: first letter written by Paul, some believe it was written during the first mission trip (before the Jerusalem Council), others think slightly later, but was written around AD 49
- AD 49: Jerusalem Council
 - Paul and Barnabas went to Jerusalem to address the dispute over whether Gentile converts needed to be circumcised and follow the Mosaic Law (Acts 15:1-29).
 - The council affirmed that Gentiles were saved by grace through faith, not by adherence to the Law.
- Paul confronted Peter in Antioch regarding his hypocrisy concerning Gentile believers (Galatians 2:11-14).
- AD 49-52: Second Missionary Journey
 - Paul and Silas set out after a disagreement with Barnabas (Acts 15:36-41). Barnabas takes John Mark, goes to Cyprus, now there are two mission teams
 - Paul and Silas pick up Timothy in Lystra, and he joins the mission team (Acts 16:1-5).
 - Guided by the Holy Spirit through Asia, then Paul receives a vision, crosses over into Macedonia (Europe). Visits Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea (Acts 16:6-17:15).
 - Traveled to Achaia (Athens, Corinth) (Acts 17:16-18:17).
 - Stayed in Corinth for 18 months, preaching and establishing the church.
 - 1 & 2 Thessalonians: Written from Corinth during this journey.
 - Briefly visited Ephesus, then sailed to Caesarea, went up to Jerusalem, and returned to Antioch (Acts 18:18-22).
- AD 52-57: Third Missionary Journey
 - Paul traveled through Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening the disciples (Acts 18:23).
 - Spent about three years in Ephesus, where he had a powerful and effective ministry, including teaching in the hall of Tyrannus and facing a riot (Acts 19).
 - 1 Corinthians: Written from Ephesus.
 - Traveled through Macedonia (Acts 20:1-2).
 - 2 Corinthians: Written from Macedonia.
 - Spent three months in Greece (likely Corinth) (Acts 20:2-3).
 - Romans: Written from Corinth during this time, preparing for his future mission to Rome and Spain.
 - Traveled back through Macedonia and Asia Minor, making farewell stops (Acts 20:3-38).
- AD 57: Arrest in Jerusalem

- Paul arrived in Jerusalem, where he was falsely accused and arrested in the temple courts (Acts 21).
- Spoke before the crowd, the Sanhedrin, and various Roman officials, including Felix and Festus (Acts 22-26).
- Appealed to Caesar (Acts 25:11-12).
- AD 59-60: Journey to Rome and Shipwreck
 - Paul was sent to Rome under guard (Acts 27).
 - Experienced a severe storm and shipwreck on the island of Malta (Acts 27-28:10).
- AD 60-62: First Roman Imprisonment (House Arrest)
 - Lived under house arrest in Rome for two years, having the freedom to preach the gospel to all who came to him (Acts 28:30-31).
 - Prison Epistles: Wrote Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, and Philippians during this imprisonment.
- AD 62-64: Release and Further Ministry (Post-Acts)
 - Many scholars believe Paul was released from his first Roman imprisonment.
 - He likely engaged in further missionary travels, possibly to Spain (Romans 15:24, 28) and other regions.
 - Pastoral Epistles: Wrote 1 Timothy and Titus during this period, offering guidance for church leadership.
- AD 64-67: Second Roman Imprisonment and Martyrdom
 - Arrested again, likely during the time of Nero's persecution of Christians.
 - His second imprisonment was more severe, and he anticipated his death.
 - 2 Timothy: His final letter, written from prison, urging Timothy to remain faithful.
 - Martyrdom: Tradition holds that Paul was martyred by beheading in Rome under Emperor Nero.

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