

A Proposed Chronology of Paul's Life

Harmonizing the Book of Acts with the Epistles of Paul

Date	Age	Event	References
c. 2 AD		Saul born as a Greek citizen of Tarsus, a Roman citizen, and a Jew	Acts 22:3, 25-29; Phil. 3:5
c. 15-20 AD	13-18	Saul goes to Jerusalem; taught by Gamaliel; eventually becomes a Pharisee	Acts 22:3; 23:6; 26:4-5; Phil. 3:5
c. 26 AD	24	Titus born of Gentile parents; in Antioch?	Gal. 2:1-3
c. 30 AD	28	Crucifixion, Death, Resurrection, & Ascension of Jesus Christ Foundation of the Church; gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost Timothy born in Lystra to Jewish mother Eunice and a Greek father	Gospels Acts 2 2 Tim. 1:5
32 AD	30	Martyrdom of Stephen; Saul leads persecution against Christians Saul of Tarsus' conversion on the Damascus Road	Acts 7:58-8:4 Acts 9:1-18
32-35 AD	30-33	Saul spends three years in Damascus & Arabia; escapes Damascus by night This requires reading 'after many days' (Acts 9:23) as being the 'three years' of Gal. 1:18	Gal. 1:17-18; Acts 9:19-25; 2 Cor. 11:32-33
35 AD	33	Saul's first visit to Jerusalem after his conversion lasts fifteen days Saul's vision in the Temple – leave Jerusalem and go "to the Gentiles"	Gal. 1:18-19; Acts 9:26-29 Acts 22:17-21
35-43 AD	33-41	Saul returns to Tarsus; ministers in Syria & Cilicia; the so-called "hidden years"; suffered beatings and shipwrecks?	Acts 9:30; Gal. 1:21-24; 2 Cor. 11:24-27?
42 AD	40	Saul's vision of the Lord in the third heaven	2 Cor. 12:1-6
43-44 AD	41-42	Barnabas seeks Saul's help in Antioch; Saul moves to Antioch and ministers there for one year	Acts 11:20-26
44 AD	42	Agabus prophesies a famine; the church at Antioch begins famine relief preparations	Acts 11:27-29

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Fall-46 AD	44	Saul and Barnabas deliver famine relief to Jerusalem; they meet privately with Peter, James, and John, bringing Titus with them (about age 20); they return to Antioch with John Mark	Acts 11:30; Gal. 2:1-10; Acts 12:25
Mar-47 to Aug-48 AD	45-46	Paul's first missionary journey with Barnabas Mar-47: Salamis & Paphos, Cyprus; called Paul Summer-47: John Mark leaves, Pisidian Antioch Fall-47: Iconium & Lystra Winter-47: Derbe Spring/Summer-48: Return via Galatian churches to Perga Aug-48: Sail from Attalia to Antioch	Acts 13:1-14:26 Acts 13:1-12 Acts 13:13-52 Acts 14:1-20 Acts 14:20-21 Acts 14:21-25 Acts 14:25-26
Fall-48 to Spring-49 AD	46-47	Paul and Barnabas stay in Antioch; Peter visits them • Galatians written from Antioch 49 AD	Acts 14:26-28; Gal. 2:11-16
c. May-49 AD	47	Jerusalem Council, attended by Paul and Barnabas	Acts 15:1-29
Summer-49 AD	47	Paul and Barnabas in Antioch; they disagree over John Mark and split up; Barnabas and Mark go to Cyprus	Acts 15:30-39
Aug-49 to Mar-52 AD	47-50	Paul's second missionary journey with Silas Fall-49: Syria & Cilicia (including Tarsus) Winter-49: Galatia, including Derbe and Lystra; Timothy (about age 19) joins the team in Lystra May-50: Travel through Galatia to Troas and over to Philippi Jul-50: Thessalonica Aug-50: Berea Sep-50: Timothy/Silas remain in Berea while Paul goes to Athens	Acts 15:40-18:22 Acts 15:40-41 Acts 16:1-5 Acts 16:6-40 Acts 17:1-9 Acts 17:10-14 Acts 17:15-34

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		<p>Sep-50: Paul arrives in Corinth where he is rejoined by Timothy and Silas and stays for 18 months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Thessalonians written from Corinth 50 AD • 2 Thessalonians written from Corinth 51 AD <p>Mar-52: Paul sails with Priscilla and Aquila from Cenchrea to Ephesus, leaving them there after a short time to return to Caesarea, Jerusalem, and Antioch</p>	<p>Acts 18:1-18</p> <p>1 Th. 1:1; 3:1-6</p> <p>2 Th. 1:1; 2:15</p> <p>Acts 18:18-22</p>
<p>Aug-52 to May-57 AD</p>	<p>50-55</p>	<p>Paul's third missionary journey</p> <p>Fall-52 to Spring-53: travel to Galatia & Phrygia</p> <p>May-53 to May 56: Paul's arrival in Ephesus; he stays for three years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Corinthians written in Ephesus Spring-56 AD <p>Complex interactions with the Corinthian church during this period (involvement of Titus); while in Ephesus, Paul sends Timothy and Erastus to Macedonia</p> <p>May-56 to Nov-56: Paul travels to Troas and then on to Macedonia where he meets Titus returning from Corinth; he stays in Macedonia for a while (and goes to Illyricum?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Corinthians written in Macedonia Fall-56 AD <p>Dec-56 to Feb-57: Three months in Corinth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romans written from Corinth early 57 AD <p>Mar-57 to Apr-57: Paul and his large company (including Timothy and Titus?) travel through Macedonia and Philippi to Troas and Miletus, where Paul addresses the Ephesian elders</p> <p>Apr-57 to May-57: Paul completes his journey by ship to Caesarea and travels up to Jerusalem to deliver the Great Collection</p>	<p>Acts 18:23-21:26</p> <p>Acts 18:23</p> <p>Acts 19:1-40; 20:31</p> <p>1 Cor. 16:8</p> <p>see 2 Cor. 2 & 7</p> <p>Acts 19:22</p> <p>Acts 20:1-2; 2 Cor. 2:12-13; 7:5-7; cp. Rom 15:19</p> <p>2 Cor. 7:5-7</p> <p>Acts 20:3</p> <p>Rom. 16:1, 23</p> <p>Acts 20:4-38</p> <p>Acts 20:4-21:26; cp. 1 Cor. 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8 & 9; Rom. 15:25-31</p>
<p>May-57 to Aug-59 AD</p>	<p>55-57</p>	<p>Paul is arrested in Jerusalem and defends himself three times during his two years of imprisonment in Caesarea before Felix, Festus, and Herod Agrippa II; appeals to Caesar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luke does research in Judea; writes his gospel? 	<p>Acts 21:27-26:32</p>

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Aug-59 to Feb-60 AD	57-58	<p>Paul travels to Rome</p> <p>Aug-59 to mid-Oct-59: Paul sails from Caesarea to Fair Havens in Crete</p> <p>Late-Oct-59: The storm drives the ship for 14 days</p> <p>Nov-59: Shipwrecked on Malta for three months</p> <p>Feb-60: Paul leaves Malta, arrives in Puteoli, and walks to Rome</p>	<p>Acts 27:1-28:15</p> <p>Acts 27:1-12</p> <p>Acts 27:12-38</p> <p>Acts 27:39-28:10</p> <p>Acts 28:11-15</p>
60-62 AD	58-60	<p>Paul arrives in Rome and lives for two years in a rented house with his Roman guard, able to preach the gospel to all who would visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philemon, Colossians, and Ephesians written from Rome 61 AD • Philippians written from Rome 62 AD • Luke finishes the book of Acts? 	<p>Acts 28:16-31</p> <p>Phm. 23;</p> <p>Col. 4:3, 10, 18;</p> <p>Eph. 3:1; 6:20</p> <p>Phil. 1:13; 4:22</p>
c. 62-66 AD	60-64	<p>Paul is set free from prison; his movements are uncertain, although Paul may very well have fulfilled his desire to go to Spain; he travels to the island of Crete, to Ephesus, and to Nicopolis in Macedonia; he travels through Miletus and leaves a cloak and parchments in Troas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Timothy written from Macedonia c. 65 AD (Timothy is about 35 years old) • Titus written from Nicopolis c. 65 AD (Titus is about 39 years old) 	<p>Romans 15:28;</p> <p>Titus 1:5; 3:12;</p> <p>1 Tim. 1:3</p> <p>2 Tim. 4:13, 20</p> <p>1 Tim. 1:3</p> <p>Titus 3:12</p>
c. 66-67 AD	64-65	<p>Paul once again is a prisoner in Rome, where he dies a martyr's death</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Timothy written from Rome c. 66 AD (Timothy is about 36 years old) 	<p>2 Tim. 1:16-17;</p> <p>2 Tim. 4:16</p> <p>2 Tim. 1:8; 2:9</p>