

# Acts and Intro to Paul

## Class 3 Notes

### Acts Backgrounds

- Genre:
  - Historical Monograph
  - Greco-Roman History. Luke is a history, says Joel Green, but since the historiography genre in the first century was flexible Luke adapts his writing with OT and Jewish historiography. Luke has a variety of material he uses and this is a feature of Greco-Roman historiography.
- Author: Luke: doctor (Col. 4:14); coworker of Paul (Philem. 24; 2 Tim. 4:11); travel companion of Paul (Acts 16:11; 20:5–8; 13–15; 21:1)
- Audience: Same as Luke: Theophilus (Acts 1:1)—a Hellenistic Jewish convert or a literary construct?; also written with a Roman audience (or Caesarean audience) in mind because "most excellent" was used of Roman officials in Acts 24:3 and 26:25
- Date: Just after AD 62; 2 Timothy and Clement write about Paul being set free and on trial again after the two-year Acts 28 stint.
- Narrative Criticism: Study of individual gospels according to narrative features of plot development, structure, characterization, protagonist, antagonist, repetition of themes, climax, etc.
- Structure:
  - Acts 1:8
  - Jerusalem: Acts 1–7
  - Judea and Samaria: Acts 8–12
  - Jerusalem: Acts 10–12
  - The Ends of the Earth: Acts 13–28
  - Acts 28:23–31 (as follows)

Acts 28:23 They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. From morning till evening he explained and declared to them the kingdom of God and tried to convince them about Jesus from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. 24 Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. 25 They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: "The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your forefathers when he said through Isaiah the prophet: 26 " 'Go to this people and say, // "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; // you will be ever seeing but never perceiving." 27 For this people's heart has become calloused; // they hardly hear with their ears, // and they have closed their eyes. // Otherwise they might see with their eyes, // hear with their ears, // understand with their hearts // and turn, and I would heal them.' // 28 "Therefore I want you to know that God's salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!"

- Main Point:
  - Formal: To explain the growth of the church.

- Informal: Hey everybody, the Gentiles are now fully “in” the people of God, and here’s the story to prove it.

## Acts as a framework for major NT documents

% Paul's Life and Acts Together

- Dennis McCallum, "A Chronological Study of Paul's Ministry," <https://dwellcc.org/learning/essays/chronological-study-pauls-ministry>

## Paul's Conversion to Missionary Timeline (AD 30–33)

- AD 33–34: Paul converted (Acts 9)
- Paul stopped for several days in Damascus to be with the disciples (Acts 9:19).
- Then, he went into Arabia for some time (Galatians 1:17).
- After that, he returned to Damascus and began preaching there that Jesus is the Son of God (Acts 9:20). After about three years of preaching, the Jews had enough and tried to kill him.
- He left Damascus for Jerusalem (Acts 9:26).

## Paul goes to Jerusalem the first time after his conversion (AD 33–37)

- Paul goes to Jerusalem to fit in as a disciple there, but they struggled to accept him (Acts 9:26–29). So Barnabas introduced him to the apostles and defended Paul's story. Paul stayed with Peter for for fifteen days (Galatians 1:18).
- Saul stayed in Jerusalem with the apostles, spoke for the Lord, and debated the Grecian Jews (Acts 9:29).
- When the Grecian Jews tried to kill him, Paul was sent off from Caesarea to Tarsus.
- From Tarsus, he traveled to Syria and Cilicia (Galatians 1:21).

## Fourteen years

- He spent 14 years in Syria and Cilicia (Galatians 1:21–2:1)
- 13 years in to this 14 year stay in the region, Barnabus went to Tarsus, found Paul, and they went to Antioch together (Acts 11:25–26).

## Paul goes to Jerusalem the second time after his conversion (AD 46)

- Then—14 years after he landed in Tarsus (Galatians 2:1, 2)—Paul and Barnabas went up to Jerusalem privately, along with Titus (see Galatians 2:3 for Titus mention). He did this because of a revelation and preached the gospel he had preached among the Gentiles (Galatians 2:2). A prophet named Agabus prophecied a famine across the

Roman Empire, so Paul and Barnabas took from the offering from the Antioch disciples to the elders in Judea (Acts 11:27–30).

- This famine "took place in approximately 46 A.D. according to Tacitus. Josephus and Sentonius say it was between 44 and 48 A.D" (Dennis McCallum).
- Herod died in AD 44 (Acts 12).
- During Paul's trip to Jerusalem this time, James, Peter, and John gave Paul and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship (Galatians 2:9).
- Paul then returns from Judea to Antioch (Galatians 2:11).

### **Paul's Journey #1: Acts 13–14 (AD 48–49)**

- Paul goes from Antioch to Seleucia, where he sets sail for Cyprus (Acts 13:1–4).
- Mark Moore: Acts 13:1–14:8 Estimated: 1200 miles, approximately 2–3 years in duration. Planted at least 6 churches.
- AD 48: Galatians

### **Paul's Journey #2: Acts 15–18 (AD 49–51)**

- Mark Moore: Acts 15:36–18:22 Estimated: 2600 miles, approximately 3 years in duration. Planted at least 6 churches. AD 51: 1 Thessalonians: during second missionary journey at Corinth AD 51: 2 Thessalonians: during second missionary journey at Corinth; 6 months after 1 Thess.; Silas and Timothy probably rejoined Paul at Corinth and related further questions that they had about the sequence of eschatological events
- Anchor: Summer of AD 51 Paul was brought before Gallio in Acts 18:11–12.

### **Paul's Journey #3: Acts 18–21 (AD 52–55)**

- Mark Moore: Acts 18:23–21:17. Estimated: 2700 miles, approximately 4 years in duration. Planted no new churches as the record goes.

AD 55: 1 Corinthians: AD 55 AD 55–59: Romans: N. T. Wright, Romans commentary in The New Interpreter's Bible commentary series, p. 396)

### **Paul's Journey #4 to Rome: Acts 22–28 (AD 55–61)**

- Mark Moore: Acts 2:17–28:31. Estimated: 1850 miles, approximately 3–4 years in duration. Planted no new churches but won several soldiers and visited many brethren. AD 55–56: 2 Corinthians AD 55: Paul's arrested and taken to Caesarea for 2 years (Acts 24:27). AD 57–59: Philippians: written in Caesarea, where he was imprisoned for 2 years. AD 60–61: Ephesians: during his first Roman imprisonment of Act 28:16–31 AD 60–61: Colossians: during his first Roman imprisonment of Act 28:16–31 AD 60–61: Philemon: during his first Roman imprisonment of Act 28:16–31

## Paul's Final Years (AD 61–64)

AD 62 – *Acts written* – AD 63–64: 1 Timothy: after his release from two years in AD 62 (see Acts 28) AD 63–64: Titus: after 1 Timothy was written AD 63–64: 2 Timothy: after Titus was written while he was awaiting his trial in Rome (2 Tim. 4:6, 9–18). - AD 64–64: "He then returned to Rome, where he was martyred in the summer of 64 A.D., in connection with the persecution instituted by Nero (II Tim. 4:6)." - Nero died in AD 68

## Intro to Pauline Epistles

- Genre: Letter-Epistle. Some place a difference between letters and epistles, but this is not accepted by all. The difference between letters and epistles is that 1) a letter is not meant to be read out loud, 2) while an epistle was meant to be read to an audience.
- Theology
- Romans and Galatians (+ religious dynamics: Jewish-Gentile vs. Religious-Secular: That is, everyone's religious vs. some religious, some not) and Galatians (+ Intertextuality)