

# Chronology of Paul's Life

## **Roman Birthright in the Diaspora**

- Born in Tarsus of Cilicia, A.D. 10 (Acts 22:3)
- Schooled in Greco-Roman thought (Acts 17:18,28)
- Privileged by Roman citizenship (Acts 21:39)

## **Jewish Upbringing in Jerusalem**

- Rabbinic education under Gamaliel (Acts 22:3; 26:4)
- A strict Pharisee of Benjamin's tribe (Rom. 11:1; Phil. 3:5)
- Persecutor of the church (Acts 7:58; Gal. 1:14-24)

## **Conversion in Damascus**

- Stoning of Stephen, A.D. 34 (Acts 7:58–8:3)
- Heavenly vision on Damascus Road (Acts 9; 22; 26)
- Baptism by Ananias (Acts 9:18)
- Retreat to Arabia and Damascus preaching (Gal. 1:17; Acts 9; 22; 27)

## **Silent Years in Syria and Cilicia**

- Flees Jews for Tarsus (Acts 9:30)
- 10 unknown years, A.D. 37–46 (2 Cor. 12:2; Gal. 1:21)
- Recalled to Antioch by Barnabas (Acts 11:25; 12:25)

## **Gentile Mission in the Eastern Provinces**

The episodes in Acts can be grouped into three tours that commence and terminate at the church in Antioch.

### **First Missionary Tour (Acts 12:25–15:35)**

- Paul might have written Galatians here before the Jerusalem conference (Acts 14:28; 15:1-2).
- Voyage to the island of Cyprus, A.D. 46
- In the province of Galatia
- The Jerusalem conference, A.D. 48–49 (Acts 15)

### **Second Missionary Tour (Acts 15:36–18:22)**

- In the province of Macedonia, A.D. 50
- In the province of Achaia
- 1–2 Thessalonians written from Corinth
- 18-month stay in Corinth ends, A.D. 52

### **Third Missionary Tour (Acts 18:23–21:16)**

- Two- or three-year Ephesian ministry, A.D. 53–55
- 1 Corinthians written from Ephesus
- Galatians may also have been written here.
- Journey to Jerusalem with offering, A.D. 57
- 2 Corinthians and Romans written in Greece

### **Captivity and Death in Rome**

- Arrest in Jerusalem (Acts 21:27)
- Two-year imprisonment in Caesarea, A.D. 57–59 (Acts 24:27)
- Voyage and shipwreck (Acts 27:1–28:14)
- Roman imprisonments
  - Two-year house arrest in Rome, A.D. 60–62 (Acts 28:30)
  - Prison epistles written from Rome
  - Release and subsequent work
  - Pastoral epistles (1 Tim. and Titus) written
  - Second imprisonment
  - 2 Timothy written
- Martyrdom, A.D. 66 or 67

Preben Vang and Terry Carter, *Telling God's Story* (Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2006), 268–69.