

# THE EARLY CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

August 22, 2013 – Trial and Witness of Paul

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# Early Church in the Book of Acts (NT4)

1. Introduction To the Book of Acts
2. *No Class*
3. The Birth of the Church
4. Persecution and Expansion
5. Conversion of the Gentiles
6. The Council of Jerusalem
7. Outreach to the West
8. Trials and Witness of Paul; Final Exam

# The Acts of the Apostles

- Author: Luke, companion of Paul
- Date: c. AD 62-69
- Theme: Written by a Gentile, Acts tells the story of the Early Church and its growth, especially through the work of the Holy Spirit & the ministries of Peter and Paul.
- Purpose: To show the Old Testament promises of God are fulfilled, and that Jesus was and is the Messiah, as shown in the miraculous way God blesses and expands the Church.
- Outline:
  - \*Witness in Jerusalem (1:1-8:4)
  - \*Witness in Judea & Samaria (8:5-12:25)
  - \*Witness to Ends of the Earth (13:1- 28:31)

## Paul Is Seized at the Temple

*When the seven days were nearly over, some Jews from the province of Asia saw Paul at the temple. They stirred up the whole crowd and seized him,<sup>28</sup> shouting, “Fellow Israelites, help us! This is the man who teaches everyone everywhere against our people and our law and this place. And besides, he has brought Greeks into the temple and defiled this holy place.”<sup>29</sup> (They had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with Paul and assumed that Paul had brought him into the temple.)*

*<sup>30</sup> The whole city was aroused, and the people came running from all directions. Seizing Paul, they dragged him from the temple, and immediately the gates were shut.*

*Acts 21:27-30*

## Paul Is Seized at the Temple

*While they were trying to kill him, news reached the commander of the Roman troops that the whole city of Jerusalem was in an uproar. <sup>32</sup> He at once took some officers and soldiers and ran down to the crowd. When the rioters saw the commander and his soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.*

*<sup>33</sup> The commander came up and arrested him and ordered him to be bound with two chains. Then he asked who he was and what he had done. <sup>34</sup> Some in the crowd shouted one thing and some another, and since the commander could not get at the truth because of the uproar, he ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks. <sup>35</sup> When Paul reached the steps, the violence of the mob was so great he had to be carried by the soldiers. <sup>36</sup> The crowd that followed kept shouting, "Get rid of him!"*

*Acts 21:31-36*

# Paul Speaks

Then Paul said: <sup>3</sup> “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today. <sup>4</sup> I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, <sup>5</sup> as the high priest and all the Council can themselves testify. I even obtained letters from them to their associates in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

<sup>6</sup> “About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. <sup>7</sup> I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, ‘Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?’

<sup>8</sup> “‘Who are you, Lord?’ I asked.

“‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,’ he replied. <sup>9</sup> My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.

<sup>10</sup> “‘What shall I do, Lord?’ I asked.

“‘Get up,’ the Lord said, ‘and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.’ <sup>11</sup> My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me.

Acts 22:2-11

# Paul the Roman Citizen

*The crowd listened to Paul until he said this. Then they raised their voices and shouted, “Rid the earth of him! He’s not fit to live!”*

*<sup>23</sup> As they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, <sup>24</sup> the commander ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks. He directed that he be flogged and interrogated in order to find out why the people were shouting at him like this. <sup>25</sup> As they stretched him out to flog him, Paul said to the centurion standing there, “Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen who hasn’t even been found guilty?”*

*<sup>26</sup> When the centurion heard this, he went to the commander and reported it. “What are you going to do?” he asked. “This man is a Roman citizen.”*

*<sup>27</sup> The commander went to Paul and asked, “Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?”*

*“Yes, I am,” he answered.*

*<sup>28</sup> Then the commander said, “I had to pay a lot of money for my citizenship.”*

*“But I was born a citizen,” Paul replied.*

*<sup>29</sup> Those who were about to interrogate him withdrew immediately. The commander himself was alarmed when he realized that he had put Paul, a Roman citizen, in chains.*

*Acts 22:22-29*

# Paul is Taken to Caesarea

*Then he called two of his centurions and ordered them, “Get ready a detachment of two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at nine tonight. <sup>24</sup> Provide horses for Paul so that he may be taken safely to Governor Felix.”*

*<sup>25</sup> He wrote a letter as follows:*

*<sup>26</sup> Claudius Lysias, To His Excellency, Governor Felix: Greetings.*

*<sup>27</sup> This man was seized by the Jews and they were about to kill him, but I came with my troops and rescued him, for I had learned that he is a Roman citizen.*

*<sup>28</sup> I wanted to know why they were accusing him, so I brought him to their Sanhedrin. <sup>29</sup> I found that the accusation had to do with questions about their law, but there was no charge against him that deserved death or imprisonment. <sup>30</sup> When I was informed of a plot to be carried out against the man, I sent him to you at once. I also ordered his accusers to present to you their case against him.*

*<sup>31</sup> So the soldiers, carrying out their orders, took Paul with them during the night and brought him as far as Antipatris. <sup>32</sup> The next day they let the cavalry go on with him, while they returned to the barracks. <sup>33</sup> When the cavalry arrived in Caesarea, they delivered the letter to the governor and handed Paul over to him. <sup>34</sup> The governor read the letter and asked what province he was from. Learning that he was from Cilicia, <sup>35</sup> he said, “I will hear your case when your accusers get here.” Then he ordered that Paul be kept under guard in Herod’s palace.*

*Acts 23:23-35*



# Paul Before Felix

*Five days later the high priest Ananias went down to Caesarea with some of the elders and a lawyer named Tertullus, and they brought their charges against Paul before the governor.*

*<sup>2</sup> When Paul was called in, Tertullus presented his case before Felix: “We have enjoyed a long period of peace under you, and your foresight has brought about reforms in this nation. <sup>3</sup>*

*Everywhere and in every way, most excellent Felix, we acknowledge this with profound gratitude. <sup>4</sup> But in order not to weary you further, I would request that you be kind enough to hear us briefly.*

*<sup>5</sup> “We have found this man to be a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect <sup>6</sup> and even tried to desecrate the temple; so we seized him. <sup>[7]</sup> <sup>8</sup> By examining him yourself you will be able to learn the truth about all these charges we are bringing against him.”*

*<sup>9</sup> The other Jews joined in the accusation, asserting that these things were true.*

*Acts 24:1-9*

## Paul Before Felix

*Then Felix, who was well acquainted with the Way, adjourned the proceedings. “When Lysias the commander comes,” he said, “I will decide your case.”* <sup>23</sup> *He ordered the centurion to keep Paul under guard but to give him some freedom and permit his friends to take care of his needs.*

<sup>24</sup> *Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus.* <sup>25</sup> *As Paul talked about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and said, “That’s enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you.”* <sup>26</sup> *At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him.*

<sup>27</sup> *When two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, but because Felix wanted to grant a favor to the Jews, he left Paul in prison.*

*Acts 24:22-27*

# Paul Before Festus

*Three days after arriving in the province, Festus went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> where the chief priests and the Jewish leaders appeared before him and presented the charges against Paul. <sup>3</sup> They requested Festus, as a favor to them, to have Paul transferred to Jerusalem, for they were preparing an ambush to kill him along the way. <sup>4</sup> Festus answered, “Paul is being held at Caesarea, and I myself am going there soon. <sup>5</sup> Let some of your leaders come with me, and if the man has done anything wrong, they can press charges against him there.”*

*<sup>6</sup> After spending eight or ten days with them, Festus went down to Caesarea. The next day he convened the court and ordered that Paul be brought before him. <sup>7</sup> When Paul came in, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him. They brought many serious charges against him, but they could not prove them.*

*<sup>8</sup> Then Paul made his defense: “I have done nothing wrong against the Jewish law or against the temple or against Caesar.”*

*Acts 25:1-8*

## Paul Before Festus

*Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, “Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and stand trial before me there on these charges?”*

*<sup>10</sup> Paul answered: “I am now standing before Caesar’s court, where I ought to be tried. I have not done any wrong to the Jews, as you yourself know very well. <sup>11</sup> If, however, I am guilty of doing anything deserving death, I do not refuse to die. But if the charges brought against me by these Jews are not true, no one has the right to hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar!”*

*<sup>12</sup> After Festus had conferred with his council, he declared: “You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you will go!”*

*Acts 25:9-12*

## Paul Before Festus & Herod Agrippa

*The next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp and entered the audience room with the high-ranking military officers and the prominent men of the city. At the command of Festus, Paul was brought in. <sup>24</sup> Festus said: “King Agrippa, and all who are present with us, you see this man! The whole Jewish community has petitioned me about him in Jerusalem and here in Caesarea, shouting that he ought not to live any longer. <sup>25</sup> I found he had done nothing deserving of death, but because he made his appeal to the Emperor I decided to send him to Rome. <sup>26</sup> But I have nothing definite to write to His Majesty about him. Therefore I have brought him before all of you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that as a result of this investigation I may have something to write. <sup>27</sup> For I think it is unreasonable to send a prisoner on to Rome without specifying the charges against him. Acts 25:23-27*

# Paul Before Festus & Herod Agrippa

*At this point Festus interrupted Paul's defense. "You are out of your mind, Paul!" he shouted. "Your great learning is driving you insane."*

*<sup>25</sup> "I am not insane, most excellent Festus," Paul replied. "What I am saying is true and reasonable. <sup>26</sup> The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner. <sup>27</sup> King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do."*

*<sup>28</sup> Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?"*

*<sup>29</sup> Paul replied, "Short time or long—I pray to God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains."*

*<sup>30</sup> The king rose, and with him the governor and Bernice and those sitting with them. <sup>31</sup> After they left the room, they began saying to one another, "This man is not doing anything that deserves death or imprisonment."*

*<sup>32</sup> Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."*

*Acts 26:24-29*

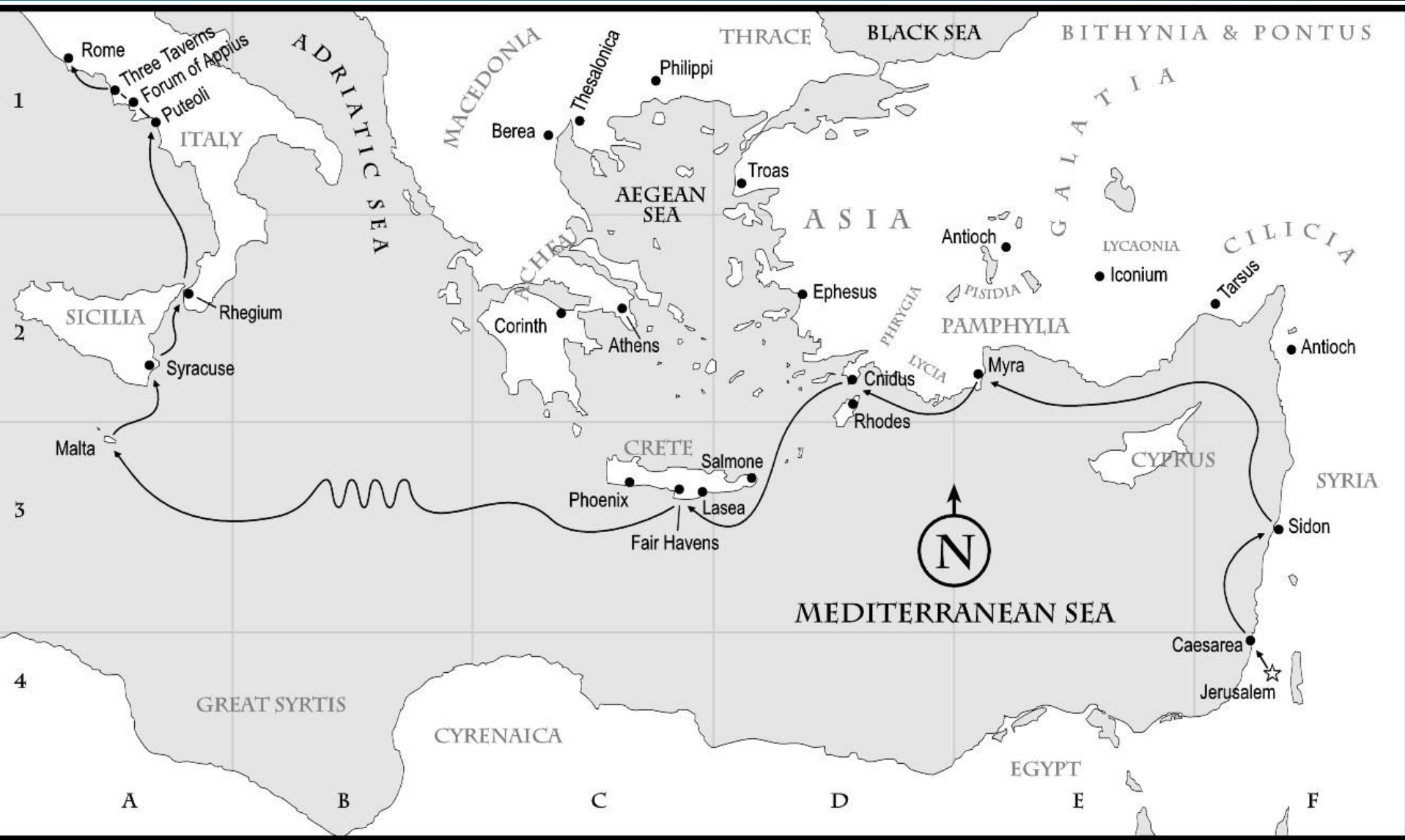
# Paul Travels by Ship to Rome

*When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, Paul and some other prisoners were handed over to a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Imperial Regiment. <sup>2</sup> We boarded a ship from Adramyttium about to sail for ports along the coast of the province of Asia, and we put out to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was with us.*

*Acts 27:1-2*

*After three months we put out to sea in a ship that had wintered in the island—it was an Alexandrian ship with the figurehead of the twin gods Castor and Pollux. <sup>12</sup> We put in at Syracuse and stayed there three days. <sup>13</sup> From there we set sail and arrived at Rhegium. The next day the south wind came up, and on the following day we reached Puteoli. <sup>14</sup> There we found some brothers and sisters who invited us to spend a week with them. And so we came to Rome. <sup>15</sup> The brothers and sisters there had heard that we were coming, and they traveled as far as the Forum of Appius and the Three Taverns to meet us. At the sight of these people Paul thanked God and was encouraged. <sup>16</sup> When we got to Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with a soldier to guard him.*

*Acts 28:11-16*





## Paul Preaches in Rome

*Three days later he called together the local Jewish leaders. When they had assembled, Paul said to them: “My brothers, although I have done nothing against our people or against the customs of our ancestors, I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans. <sup>18</sup> They examined me and wanted to release me, because I was not guilty of any crime deserving death. <sup>19</sup> The Jews objected, so I was compelled to make an appeal to Caesar. I certainly did not intend to bring any charge against my own people. <sup>20</sup> For this reason I have asked to see you and talk with you. It is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain.”*

*<sup>21</sup> They replied, “We have not received any letters from Judea concerning you, and none of our people who have come from there has reported or said anything bad about you. <sup>22</sup> But we want to hear what your views are, for we know that people everywhere are talking against this sect.”*

*Acts 28:17-22*

## Paul Preaches in Rome

*Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. <sup>25</sup> They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: “The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your ancestors when he said through Isaiah the prophet:*

*<sup>26</sup> “Go to this people and say, “You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.” <sup>27</sup> 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.’*

*<sup>28</sup> “Therefore I want you to know that God’s salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!” <sup>30</sup> For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. <sup>31</sup> He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!*

*Acts 28:24-31*





# Outline of the Book of Acts

## I. The Witness in Jerusalem (1:1-8:4)

### A. The Power of the Church (1:1-2:47)

1. Prologue to Acts (1:1,2)
2. Appearance of the Resurrected Christ (1:3-8)
3. Ascension of Christ (1:9-11)
4. Anticipation of the Spirit (1:12-14)
5. Appointment of Matthias (1:15-26)
6. Filling With the Holy Spirit (2:1-4)
7. Speaking With Other Tongues (2:5-13)
8. Peter Explains Pentecost (2:14-41)
9. Practices of the Early Church (2:42-47)

# Outline of the Book of Acts

## I. The Witness in Jerusalem (3:1-8:4)

### B. The Progress of the Church (3:1-8:4)

1. Peter Heals the Lame Man (3:1-11)
2. Peter's Second Sermon (3:12-26)
3. Peter and John Are Arrested (4:1-4)
4. Peter Preaches to the Sanhedrin (4:5-12)
5. Sanhedrin Commands Peter Not to Preach (4:13-22)
6. Apostles' Prayer for Boldness (4:23-31)
7. Early Church Voluntarily Shares (4:32-37)
8. Ananias and Sapphira Lie (5:1-11)
9. Apostles Mighty Miracles (5:12-16)
10. Apostles' Persecution (5:17-42)
11. Deacons Are Appointed (6:1-8)
12. Stephen is Martyred (6:9-7:60)
13. Saul Persecutes the Church (8:1-4)

# Outline of the Book of Acts

## II. The Witness in Judea and Samaria (8:5-12:25)

A. The Witness of Philip (8:5-40)

B. The Conversion of Saul (9:1-31)

1. Saul is Converted and Blinded (9:1-9)

2. Saul is Filled with the Spirit (9:10-19)

3. Saul Preaches at Damascus (9:20-22)

4. Saul Witnesses in Jerusalem (9:23-31)

C. The Witness of Peter (9:32-11:18)

D. The Witness of the Early Church (11:19-12:25)

1. The Witness of the Antioch Church (11:19-30)

2. The Persecution of Herod (12:1-25)

# Outline of the Book of Acts

## III. The Witness to the Ends of the Earth (13:1-28:31)

### A. Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> Missionary Journey (13:1-14:28)

1. Barnabas and Paul Sent from Antioch (13:1-3)
2. Ministry at Cyprus (13:4-13)
3. Ministry at Antioch (13:14-50)
4. Ministry at Iconium (13:51-14:5)
5. Ministry at Lystra (14:6-20)
6. Ministry on the Return Trip (14:21-25)
7. Report on the 1<sup>st</sup> Journey (14:26-28)

### B. The Jerusalem Council (15:1-35)

### C. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey (15:36-18:22)

1. Contention Over John Mark (15:36-41)
2. Derbe and Lystra (16:1-5)
3. Troas: Macedonian Call (16:6-10)
4. Philippi: Extensive Ministry (16:11-40)
5. Thessalonica (17:1-9)
6. Berea: Many Receive the Word (17:10-15)
7. Athens (17:16-34)
8. Corinth (18:1-17)
9. Return Trip to Antioch (18:18-22)



# Outline of the Book of Acts

## III. The Witness to the Ends of the Earth (13:1-28:31)

### D. Paul's 3<sup>rd</sup> Missionary Journey (18:23-21:16)

1. Galatia and Phrygia (18:23)
2. Ephesus: Three Years of Ministry (18:24-19:41)
3. Macedonia (20:1-5)
4. Troas: Eutychus Falls from Loft (20:6-12)
5. Miletus: Paul Bids Farewell (20:13-38)
6. Tyre: Paul is Warned (21:1-6)
7. Caesarea: Agabus Prediction (21:7-16)

### E. The Trip to Rome (21:17-28:31)

1. Paul Witness in Jerusalem (21:17-23:33)
2. Paul Witnesses in Caesarea (23:34-26:32)
3. Paul Witnesses in Rome (27:1-28:31)