

APPROXIMATE TIMELINE: APOSTLE PAUL'S PHYSICAL BIRTH TO FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

- 2 A.D. **His Physical Birth in Tarsus**
Saul's (Paul's) was born in the city of Tarsus to an Israelite family of the tribe of Benjamin (Philippians 3:5). He is circumcised on the eighth day; in compliance with the law of God (Genesis 17:12, Leviticus 12:3, Philippians 3:5).
- 12 to 15 A.D. **Religious Training in Jerusalem**
Saul's family sends him to Jerusalem to be taught in a Pharisaic Rabbinical school. The school is led by the well-respected Rabbi Gamaliel (see Acts 5:34) who personally teaches the future apostle (Acts 22:3).
- 32 A.D. **Martyrdom of Stephen**
Stephen is stoned to death for his testimony about the Lord Jesus (Acts 6-7). He is one of the first servants appointed by the early church (Acts 6:1-6) to minister to the widows. A zealous Saul (Paul) consents to and witnesses Stephen's death (Acts 7:58 - 8:1).
- 33 A.D. **The Conversion of Saul: His Spiritual Birth**
Saul requests and receives, from the High Priest, permission to go to search for those who believe in the Lord Jesus. He is given the authority to arrest anyone who attends a Synagogue and professes belief in "the Way." Those arrested are to be taken back to Jerusalem for trial and punishment (Acts 9:1-2). As Saul approaches the city, a burst of light suddenly appears and causes him to fall to the ground (Acts 9:3-4). He then hears the voice of the Lord Jesus asking why he is persecuting Christ (Acts 9:4). Blinded, he is led to Damascus where his repentance leads to his repentance, as he is healed, baptized, and follows Christ wholeheartedly (Acts 9:4-18).
- 33 to
36 A.D. **Paul is Taught by the Lord Jesus Christ**
After his conversion and then fleeing Damascus due to persecution (Acts 9:20-25), Paul spends 3 years in Nabataean Arabia (modern day Turkey). Some biblical scholars believe that God gave him 3 years there because the original 12 had 3 years with Jesus. Paul was given his 3 years to learn directly from the Lord Jesus (Galatians 1:11-12, 15-18).
- 36 A.D. **Paul's First Visit to Jerusalem after His Conversion to Christ**
After three years in Arabia, Paul journeys back to Damascus (Galatians 1:17). He then travels to Jerusalem and stays almost two weeks (Acts 9:26, Galatians 1:18-19). Paul's preaching angers some Jews to the point where they plot to take his life (Acts 9:29). He is soon sent by church brethren to Caesarea and back home to Tarsus (Acts 9:30).
- 36 to
40 A.D. **Staying Home in Tarsus**
Apostle Paul stays in his hometown of Tarsus for four years.
- 40 to
41 A.D. **Growth in the Antioch Church**
Men from Cyprus and Cyrene travel to Antioch of Syria and to reach out to Gentiles concerning the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God blesses their efforts and a great number of people become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 11:20-21). Barnabas travels to Tarsus to seek Paul's help with teaching the newly converted Syrian Antioch Gentiles. They journey from Tarsus back to Antioch and stay in the city for an entire year (Acts 11:25-26).

42 A.D.

A Famine is Prophesized

God, in Antioch, reveals through the Prophet Agabus that a 3-year famine will occur (Acts 11:27-28).

44 A.D.

Famine relief to Jerusalem

Paul and Barnabas escort food and relief supplies to Jerusalem, after which they return to Antioch (Acts 12:25).

44 to
46 A.D.

Apostle Paul's First Missionary Journey begins

Paul and Barnabas are ordained by the church as two set apart for the work the Lord had for them to accomplish (Acts 13:1-3). From Syrian Antioch Paul, Barnabas and John Mark begin the first missionary journey (Acts 13:4-52, 14:1-25). They travel to Salamis on the island of Cyprus. After preaching the gospel they walk to Paphos on the other side of the island.

In Paphos the evangelistic team meets with the island's governor and his friend Elymas, a sorcerer. Paul, after Elymas tries to prevent the governor from receiving and accepting the gospel message, renders the sorcerer blind through a miracle (Acts 13:6-12).

John Mark Returns to Jerusalem

Paul, Barnabas, and Mark sail to Perga. After docking, John Mark leaves and returns to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13). The two evangelists leave Perga and go to Pisidian Antioch.

Rejected

In Antioch Paul and Barnabas attend a synagogue where the apostle powerfully preaches the gospel (Acts 13:16-41). Although many in the city initially believe what is taught, they are soon turned against the gospel by some Jews who do not believe Jesus is the Messiah (Acts 13:42). The evangelists are thrown out of the area and travel to Iconium. As his custom was Paul preaches in a local synagogue. Once again, sadly, unbelieving Jews stir up many in the city to oppose the truth. After learning of a plot to have them stoned to death, the two preachers flee to Lystra (Acts 14:1-6).

Honored then Stoned

In Lystra Paul heals a crippled man. Those who see the miracle are so amazed that they try to worship the evangelists like gods (Acts 14:6-13)! Soon, however, Jews from other areas come to the city in order to cause trouble for the two apostles. The crowds are stirred up against Paul and attempt to stone him to death. After the stoning, his "dead body" is dragged out of Lystra. He miraculously regains consciousness and re-enters the city. The next day he and Barnabas travel to Derbe (Acts 14:19-20).

A few more cities

Paul and Barnabas preach the gospel in Derbe then retrace their steps back through Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch. They ultimately arrive back at Syrian Antioch (Acts 14:21-26).