

The book of Acts-Intro& the Church in Jerusalem

Code: 7/NT/7

1. General Aims of the unit

Study the main events of the book of Acts (the works of the Holy Spirit) and how the church spread the Apostolic era.

2. Special aims of the lesson

1. Explore the value of the book of Acts among the other books of the NT (the only historical book in the NT), the theme , the writer , suggested timing , to whom it is written.
2. Highlight the main parts of the book of Acts , the main events in the book , the main characters, the main centers of Christianity in the Apostle's era. [use maps for explanation]
3. Detail the characteristics of the Apostle's church , using examples from the events mentioned in the book of Acts.
 - Church of one accord
 - Church of witnessing the Lord Jesus Christ boldly.
 - Church of prayers
 - Church of miracles
 - Church of sufferings and persecution
 - Church of martyrs. (in details in the next lesson)

3.Outcomes

By the end of this lesson the teens are able to:

1. Differentiate between the gospels and the book of Acts concerning the aim .
2. List in chronological order (on a time scale) the main events of the book of Acts
3. Remember by heart the major problems (internally and externally) that faced the Church in the Apostle's era and how it was solved.
4. Discuss each of the features of the Apostle's church , their suitability for that time and are we in need now to these features?

4. Verses :

Acts 2:42 , 2:47 , 4:31, 12:24 , 13:2-3

5. References :

1. Any commentary book about the Book of Acts
2. The attached notes

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*St. Mark's Church
Servants' Meeting*

INTRDUCTION TO THE BOOK OF ACTS

Introduction:

- ❖ It is the second part of two- part work of St Luke addressed to Theophilus .
- ❖ All the Greek manuscripts designate it by the title “Acts” [Praxeis] or by expanded title “Acts of the Apostles”
- ❖ This book summarise the work of “the Holy Spirit who works through the Apostles and disciples “to witness our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” to everyone and nation all over the world.
- ❖ It is the fulfilment of the commission of the Lord to His disciples “You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem , and in all Judea and Samaria , and to the end of the earth”(1:8)

Author and Timing:

- ❖ St. Luke , the physician and very educated gentile from Antioch, a disciple of St Paul and his partner in his trips(16:11 , 20:6,) and imprisonment (2 Tim. 4:11).He was an eyewitness to the account he wrote (chapters 13-28) as a close travelling companion of St. Paul. He also, had opportunities to interview such key witnesses for other events as St. Peter , St John for information in chapters 1-12.
- ❖ St. Luke wrote it to Theophilus who is a prominent Gentile who has received Christian instructions, but otherwise unknown to us.
- ❖ The events recorded by St. Luke ends by the first imprisonment of St. Paul in Rome ~ 62AD. So, the timing of the book is after 62AD .

Major Themes :

- ❖ The establishment of the Church on the day of Pentecost and the spread of the Gospel to all the world(1:8)
- ❖ The great victory of the Christian mission under the guidance of the Holy Spirit -who inflamed the hearts and lives of the Apostles and all the disciples of Christ –in spite of all types of persecutions, sufferings and killings.
- ❖ An insight to the daily life of the apostolic Church, and the sources of her power and growth

Analysis of the book of Acts:

The book of Acts may be divided mainly into those major areas:

1. From the Ascension to the day of Pentecost (Ch.1:1 - 2:41)
2. The witness in Jerusalem (Ch. 1:42 - 8:3)
3. The witness in Judea and Samaria (Ch. 8: 4 -12:25)
4. The witness to the End of the Earth (Ch. 13:1 – 28:31)

The book may also divided to :

1. The work of the Apostles mainly St. Peter (also St. John, St Stephen, and St. Phillip) preaching in Jerusalem , Judea and Samaria .

The headquarter of the Mother Church was Jerusalem. (Ch. 1-12)

2. The work of St. Paul preaching the Gentiles in Asia Minor and Europe .
The headquarter of church was Antioch (Ch. 13-28)

1. From the Ascension to the day of Pentecost (Ch.1:1 - 2:41)

- ❖ The major commandments of the Lord to His disciples are :

“ ” .
“ ”

- ❖ The pre-requisite for the Holy Spirit to descend on the disciples are:

1. (1:14 , 2:1)
2. (1:14)
3. (2:15-26)

- ❖ The descend of the Holy Spirit was in the form of :

1. (2:2)
2. (2:3)

Give reasons for these features.

- ❖ What are the major issues in the speech of St. Peter and the Apostles in the day of Pentecost?
(2:14: 36)

1.
2.
3.

- ❖ What was the outcomes of the first speech of the Apostles? (1:37-41)

1.
2.
3.

2&3: The witness in Jerusalem , Judea and Samaria (Ch. 1:42 – 12:25)

The Church in Jerusalem is the great model of a flourishing Church, where the fiery Spirit filled her and beautified her with all His fruits and gifts to spread the Salvation of Christ to everyone. The following are some features of this Church:

- ❖ Steadfast and continued in (2:42 , 46 ; 4:24 - 31 , 10:9):

1.
2.
3.
4.

- ❖ Witnessing boldly to Christ (4:33) in every occasion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit :

1.(3:11-26 ; 8:4-8)
2. (4:5 - 21 ; 5:26-33 ; 6:9 – 7:53)
3.(8:26-40 ; 10:17:48)

- ❖ Everything in common (2:44-45 ; 4:32-37)
 What are the basis of this life ? Is it possible to practice it ? How? (Refer to 2Cor. 9:6-15).

- ❖ Filled with miracles , wonders , signs , powers and prophecies to convince the multitude to accept Christianity and also to discipline the new converters to Christ. These are some examples :
 1. (3:1-8 ; 5:15-16 ; 8:7 ; 9:17-18 ; 9:32-35)
 2. (5:16 ; 8:7)
 3. (5:18-23 ; 12:3-10)
 4. (9:36)
 5. (5:1-11)
 6. (8:39-40 refer also to 1 Kings 18:12)
 7. (11:27-30)
- ❖ Filled with peace , comfort of the Spirit , edified and multiplied (2:41 , 47 ; 4:4 ; 7:7 ; 9:31 ; 11:19-21)
- ❖ Caring for the needs of the believers
 - ❖ (6:1-6)
 - ❖ (8:14-25)
 - ❖ (11:19-24)
- ❖ Accepting suffering , persecution and martyrdom with great Joy
 - ❖ (4:2 ; 5:18 ; 12:3-5)
 - ❖ (5:40 ; 8:1 ; 9:1-2 ; 9:23-24)
 - ❖ (7:54-60 ; 12:1-2)
- ❖ Accepting the Gentiles through the instructions of the Holy Spirit.(10:1 – 11:18)
 This was a significant event in the life of the Church , because the Holy Spirit dictates it when He descent on Cornelius and his household before they were baptised by water. St. Peter understood the meaning although there were many problems concerning accepting the Gentiles without circumcision till the council of Jerusalem (Ch. 15 about 50AD)and even continued after that (Gal. 2:11-12).
- ❖ There are six great sermons in this part of the book of Acts :
 1. St. Peter to the crowds of Pentecost 2:14-40
 2. St. Peter to the crowds at the temple 3:12-26
 3. St. Peter to the Sanhedrin 4:5-12
 4. St. Stephen to the Sanhedrin 7:2-53
 5. St. Peter to the Gentiles (at Cornelius house) 10:28-47
 6. St. Peter to the church of Jerusalem 11:4-18
- ❖ The harsh persecutor who was converted and accepted the faith is “SAUL” (9:1-22)

4.The witness to the End of the Earth

(Ch. 13:1 – 28:31)

The church at Antioch established by the believers scattered from Jerusalem after the persecution started by the stoning of St. Stephen (11:19-21) . The Mother church in Jerusalem sent St. Barnabas to support the new church. St. Barnabas was rejoiced by the progress of the church. He brought Saul from Tarsus and they preached and served the Lord one year there. (11:22-26). Then they went to Jerusalem carrying the gifts of Antioch to the needy to support them during the famine .As they returned back the Holy Spirit instructed the Church to send them to start the Gentile missions. (13:1-3).

.The church there was very active and full of prophets and teachers (13:1-3). So Antioch considered the headquarter of the missions to the Gentiles outside Jerusalem..

Some common features of the missions:

1. The Holy Spirit is the leader and the guide . He decided the servants and the places to go (13:4 ; 16:6 ,7)
2. They started to preach first to the Jews at synagogues . When they were rejected ,then they went to the Gentiles.(13:14 –16 ; 46)
3. They reported back to the headquarter at Antioch after each mission (14:26-28 , 18:22).The good news of the spread of the Gospel to the Gentiles and establishment of new churches caused a lot of Joy to the whole Church.
4. The Holy Spirit supported them with marvellous miracles , wonders and all the gifts that were needed to witness the Lord Jesus Christ.

The first Missionary Journey (13:1-14:28)

❖ The missionaries were : St. Barnabas , St. Paul (Saul) and St. Mark (part of the journey)

What is the protocol to send the mission ? (13:2-3)

1.
2.
3.

❖ The mission lasted about 3-4 years (~45-48 AD)

❖ **The outcomes of the journey**

Place of Ministry	Reference	Glories & miracles	Persecutions	Comments
Cyprus: Salamis	13:5	Preached in the Synagogue		St. Mark joined them
Cyprus: Paphos	13:6-12	+ believe of the proconsul Serguis Paulus + Bar-Jesus the sorcerer became blind as he tried to prevent the proconsul from accepting faith		+ St. Paul was filled of the Spirit as he stood defending the spread of faith

Place of Ministry	Reference	Glories & miracles	Persecutions	Comments
Antioch (in Bisidia)	13:14-52	+St. Paul speech to the Jews in the synagogue .in the1st. Sabbath + In the 2 nd . Sabbath ,they preached the whole city. +Many believed , and the word of God spread throughout all the region. +The believers were filled with Joy	+ The prominent women and the chief men of the city persecuted the Apostles and expelled them from the region	+St. Mark departed
Iconium	14:1-5	+ Great multitude of Jews and Greek believed +Many signs and wonders happened.	+Violent attempts by the Jews and Gentiles to abuse and stone the Apostles. So they fled the city	
Lystra	14:6-20	+St. Paul healed the a crippled man. The people considered the Apostles gods and started to offer sacrifices for them. The Apostles directed them to worship the true God.	+Jews from Antioch and Iconium persuaded the multitude , so they stoned St. Paul outside the city.	+Some suggested that St. Paul saw his vision of heaven mentioned in 2Cor.12 during his stoning.
Derbe	14:21	+Preached the gospel and made many disciples		
Return trip - visiting the new churches in Asia Minor	14:21-25	+Strengthen , exhorting the disciples. + Appointed Priests (elders) to serve the new churches. +Prayed with fasting +Continue preaching	+Warn them about the tribulations which is a part of the faith	

The Council in Jerusalem (15:1-35)

❖ The reasons for this council were:

1. (15:1,5)
2. (15:2)

❖ The participants in this council were: (15:6 , 12, 23)

1.
2.
3.

❖ The speakers in the council were : (15:7 , 12 ,13)

1.

2.
3.

❖ The decision of the council was: (15:28-29)

.....

❖ The significant of the decision of the council is that “ **The new covenant of: the belief in the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ is enough for our salvation . The covenant of circumcision in not required**”

The Second Missionary Journey (15:36-18:22)

❖ The missionaries were :St. Paul , St. Silas , St. Timothy (Joined in Lystra) and St.. Luke (Joined in Troas) . The mission lasted about 3 years (~ 52-54 AD)

❖ The dispute between St. Paul and St. Barnabas about St. Mark resulted in:

- 1)
- 2) (15:36-41)

❖ St. Timothy is : (16:1-3 ; 2Tim. 1:4-7)

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

❖ The Holy Spirit did not allow them to establish any new church in Asia Minor , because He planed the beginning of Europe ministry . They encouraged and exhorted the already established churches in Asia (16:4-10). St. Luke Joined them in Troas (notice how the writer of Acts –St. Luke use “we” in verse 16:10 ,11)

❖ **The outcomes of the journey**

Place of Ministry	Reference	Glories & miracles	Persecutions	Comments

Place of Ministry	Reference	Glories & miracles	Persecutions	Comments
Philippe	16:12-40	<p>+The Lord opened her heart of Lydia to accept faith</p> <p>+Casting out the spirit of divination from the slave girl.</p> <p>+ They were paying and praising the Lord in the prison.</p> <p>+An earthquake happened , the doors of the prison opened, the chains of everyone in the prison loosed. But St. Paul rushed to the Jailer and comforted him. The Jailer was baptised with his family.</p> <p>+They left the city after an apology from the authorities because they carried the Roman citizenship.</p>	<p>+ Dragged in the market -place , beaten with rods , received many stipes and thrown in the jail with their feet fasten in stocks.</p>	<p>+ why St. Paul was annoyed from the spirit ?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>+ Do you think that St. Paul was arrogant when he asked for an apology? And why ?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
Thessalonica	17:1-9	<p>+ St. Paul reasoned the Jews for 3 Sabbaths about Christ.</p> <p>+ Many Jews , devoted Greeks and leading women believed.</p>	<p>+Some Jews , gathered a mob and attacked the house of Jason and dragged him to the rulers.</p>	
Berea	17:10-15	<p>+The Jews were more fair-minded , they searched the scripture . Many accepted the faith.</p>	<p>+ The Jews from Thessalonica came and stirred the crowd</p>	
Athens	17:16-34	<p>+He was preaching the Jews in the synagogue and reasoning with everyone he met in the marketplace.</p> <p>+ He preached in the midst of "Areopagus", and some accepted the faith.</p>		<p>+Highlight the style of St. Paul in dealing with the Pagan philosophers .</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
Corinth	18:1-17	<p>+ He started preaching in the synagogue many Sabbaths</p> <p>+ For 18 months , he preached to everyone from a rented house.</p> <p>+ The Lord comforted St. Paul in a vision and encouraged him to preach as there are many chosen.</p>	<p>+ The Jews brought St. Paul to the judgement seat , but the proconsul dismissed them. But the Greeks took Sosthenes (the converted ruler of the synagogue) and beat him.</p>	
Return to Antioch	18:18-22	<p>+ In the way back ,he visited Ephesus and preach in the synagogue.</p>		

The Third Missionary Journey (18:23-21:16)

- ❖ The missionaries were :St. Paul , St. Timothy and St.. Luke and others. The mission continued for about three years (~56-58 AD)
- ❖ The mission started by visitations to strengthen the established churches in the Galatia and Phrygia (Asia Minor) (18:23)
- ❖ **The outcomes of the journey**

Place of Ministry	Reference	Glories & miracles	Persecutions	Comments
Ephesus	18:24-19:41	+ Apollos, a fervent man spread the good news to the Jews in the synagogue. +St. Paul laid his hands on some disciples to accept the Holy Spirit +He preached in the synagogue three months + He preached for two years in a school of Tyrannus , so all the people of Asia heard about Jesus Christ. + God worked many miracles by the hands of St. Paul. His handkerchiefs and aprons had power of healing. +The evil spirit overpowered the Jewish exorcists who used the name of Jesus in vain. + Many who used magic brought their books and burned them. +Many who believed came and confess their sins. The word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.	+ The devil agitated the silver shrine craftsmen to cause uproar against the “the way”. The mob cried for 2 hours “great is Diana of the Ephesians.	Trace the life of St. Apollos from the book of Acts and the 1 st .letter to the Corinthians.
Macedonia	20:1-5	+He spent there 3 month encouraging the believers.	+The Jews plotted against him. So he changed the plan of travel.	
Troas	20:6-12	+He spent 7 days. +St. Paul gathered with the disciples to “break bread” in the first day of the week . + He extended the talk till midnight		

Place of Ministry	Reference	Glories & miracles	Persecutions	Comments
		+ Eutychus , a youth, slept and fall down and died. But St. Paul embraced him and the youth raised from the dead, and they had great comfort.		
Miletus	20:13-38	+The greatest farewell of a servant to the elders of the church of Ephesus (Bishops and Priests)		+ Apply the words of St. Paul in this letter to his actual service in the churches he established.
Tyre	21:1-6	+St. Paul spent 7 days +The disciples of Tyre advised St. Paul not to go to Jerusalem, but he refused.		
Caesarea	21:1-16	+ they lodged in the house of St. Phillip the deacon. He had 4 virgin daughters who prophesised. + Prophet Agabus prophesised that the Jews will captured St. Paul and delivered him to the Romans. +The brethren asked him not to go to Jerusalem , but he refused and said” I am ready to die for the sake of the Lord”		

The Trip To Rome (21:17-28:31)

- ❖ St. Paul was eager to preach in the capital city of the Roman Empire (Acts 19:21) , and the Lord fulfilled his desire ,but in the way that multiply the fruits of this visit.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit planned his protection during preaching by keeping him a Roman citizen prisoner . He had all the rights of a Roman citizen. He was saved from the killing plots of the Jews , and be able to address and spread the salvation of Christ to the highest Jewish council (Sanhedrin) , Felix the governor , king Agrippe and all the noble persons of Caesarea , and at last the Emperor.
- ❖ Even during his imprisonment , he preached and spread the good news . Onesimus who accepted the faith , converted and became profitable (Phil. 10,11) was a good example of his preaching during this time.
- ❖ The four letters of prison (Ephesus , Philippe , Colossi and Philemon) are another sweet fruit of this period.
- ❖ **Summary of this trip**

Place	Events	Results
Jerusalem (21:17-23:30)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. St. Paul reported to the mother church the glory of the mission to the Gentiles and caused great joy. 2. He accepted the advice of St. James to purified himself and take a vow according the law of Moses, to comfort the brethren in Jerusalem as they were very zealous to the law of Moses. (check why St. Paul contradicted himself. ? while he teaches that faith in Jesus Christ is enough for salvation without any practices of the Law of Moses , he did vows according to the law.) 3. Jews from Asia ,stirred the crowd , claming that he defiled the temple and teaches against the law and tried to kill him. 4. The commander came and saved him, chained him and took him to the barracks. 5. Before going to the barracks, the commander allowed him to address the Jerusalem mob. He talk about his religious education, his zeal to the law, the appearance of Jesus to him and the order of the Lord to go to the Gentiles. 6. The mob started to riot , so the commander quickly brought him to the barracks and ordered to scourge him. But St. Paul claimed the rights of his Roman citizenship, so the punishment stopped. 7. Next day , he addressed the council , and through the heavenly wisdom , he was able to cause a dissention between the members of the council. 8. 40 zealous Jews plotted to kill St. Paul in the way to face the council of Sanhedrin . St. Paul’s nephew informed the commander about the plot. So, in the same night St. Paul was guarded to Caesarea (the headquarter of the Roman power) . 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. St. Paul witnessed the name of Jesus before the Jews in Jerusalem 2. He also witness the name of Jesus to the council of Sanhedrin. 3. The Roman authority was obliged to protect his safety as he is a Roman citizen. 4. As a result of witnessing ,the Lord appeared to him promising him to fulfil his dream to witness in Rome.
Caesarea (23:31-26:32)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Felix the governor trailed St. Paul in the presence of the high priest and the elders. St. Paul denied all the charges , but profess clearly his faith . 2. The fiery words of St. Paul about righteousness, self control and judgement terrified the adulterous , dishonest Felix who was expecting bribe from St. Paul to release him. 3.After 2 years Felix was replaced by Festus. 4. St. Paul was trailed before Festus and although it was clear his innocence , yet he appealed to Caesar because he noticed that Festus wanted to favour the Jews. 5. St. Paul witnessed before King Herd Agrippa II and all the prominent men of the city (King Herd Agrippa II was the ruler of Galilee , the son of Herod Agrippa I who killed St. James and prison St. Peter and the grandson of King Herod Agrippa the Great who killed the children of Bethlehem) 6. The reaction at the end of the meeting was that St. Paul is innocent. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. St. Paul witnessed the Lord before Felix , King Herd Agrippa II , and the prominent people of Caesarea.
The voyage to Rome (<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. St. Luke , Aristarchus accompanied St. Paul in the journey to Rome. 2. They sailed from Caesarea to Myra, then went into another 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. St. Paul the prisoner saved all the passengers of the

Place	Events	Results
27:1-28:14)	<p>ship heading to Italy.</p> <p>3. They faced a great storm and lost direction in the sea . For 14 days they were totally lost and they were carried. St. Paul comfort all the passengers (276 persons)through his trust in the message of the angel. The ship was wrecked ,but every one reached the island of Mata safely .</p> <p>4. The natives welcomed them, kindled fire for them. While St. Paul collecting sticks to put in the fire, a viper fastened in his hand. Every one was sure that he would swell and die soon .But as he suffered no harm , they said that he is god. St. Paul healed the father of the leading citizen from fever , and many others from their diseases.</p> <p>5. They sailed towards Rome, spending 7 days with the brethren in Puteoli.</p>	<p>ship from drowning.</p> <p>2. He healed many sick people in Malta.</p>
In Rome (28:16-31)	<p>1. St. Paul was permitted to dwell by himself with his guard. He rented a house and spent 2 years till his case was heard by Caesar.</p> <p>2. He gathered the Jews and reasoned with them about the faith in Jesus Christ. But they went with a great dispute among themselves.</p> <p>3. He continued preaching with boldness and without hindrance.</p>	<p>1. St. Paul under house arrest preached the good news , and comfort the churches by the 4 epistles of the prison</p>

Revision questions:

1. Summarise the outcomes of each of the three missionary trips of St. Paul.
2. Prophecy is a gift of the Holy Spirit.
3. What are the two meanings of “prophecy”, and what was the role of the prophets in the Apostle Church ?
Give examples of prophets of the Apostolic era .
Do you think that this gifts is still in our church now.?
4. Portrait a picture of St. Barnabas as it recorded in the book of Acts.
5. Identify the characteristics of the service of St. Paul as shown in the book of Acts and specially in Ch.20.
6. What we can learn –as servants – from the farewell address of St. Paul to the elders of Ephesus.?
7. How the Apostle’s church practice the sacramental life (use verses and events)?

8. The Lord instructed His disciples (the 12, and the 70) when He sent them (refer to Matthew 10:1-42 , Luke 9:1-6) and also, before His ascension to heaven (refer to Mark 16:14-18 , Acts 1:8). Do you think that St. Paul abided with these instructions .? explain.
Do you think that you abide with these instructions in your service?
9. Explain why “meeting the Lord in the way to Damascus” was so dear to the heart of St. Paul that he mentioned whenever he defended his faith (Acts 22, 26 ; 1Cor. 9:1)
10. Please answer all the questions in the comments column.

Appendix -1

A Summary of the life of Saint Paul

- ❖ Saint Paul represents a unique personality among the apostles . His conversion , the depth of his knowledge and understanding of the O.T , his zeal to spread the Good News to everyone Jews and Gentiles , his continuous battle with the false teachers and hard converted Jews who insisted on Judaism (circumcision and other ritual Jewish traditions) as a gate to Christianity , his teaching about Christ and his fourteen epistles which he wrote , his long sufferings for Christ and His Church , and his fervent life which was empowered and inflamed by the Holy Spirit give him a special place in the Church.
- ❖ He was born to a Jewish family in Tarsus of Cilicia (Acts 22:3) . He received the Roman citizenship (Acts 22:38) as a citizen of Tarsus. (Tarsus is a city in Asia Minor).
- ❖ He was given the name of Saul (Hebrew) and Paul (Roman) [as suggested by Origin]
- ❖ He was from the tribe of Benjamin , circumcised on the 8th. day according to the Law of Moses , a Hebrew , and Pharisee (Phil. 3:5) .

- ❖ He started to read the books of the O.T in Tarsus . At the age of 15 , his father sent him to Jerusalem to be educated at the feet of Gamaliel the teacher of the Law (Acts 22:3).
- ❖ According to the Jewish traditions , each one have to have a trade . The trade of Saul was tent making (Acts 18:3)
- ❖ He was very zealous to the religion of his fathers and the traditions of his nation (Gal. 1:13-14) , so he proudly guarded the clothes of the fanatics who stoned St. Stephen.(Acts 7:58) . But beyond any doubt the last words of St. Stephen touched deeply in his heart and prepared him to accept the message of Jesus when he appeared to him.
- ❖ He seek orders from the High Priest to kill and torture the believers in Damascus . In his way the Lord of glory appeared to him and touched his heart . He was converted and received his sight when St. Ananias put his hand on him . He was baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit.(Acts 9: 1-22) [Saul was ~ 22 years old , the date was ~35 AD] { the events of his conversion was mentioned also in Acts 22:1-16 , 26:12:18 }
- ❖ He stayed ~ 3 years in Arabia (Gal. 1:17-18)

The LIFE OF SAINT PAUL

Yr. AD	Age	Activities	Reference	Notes
35	~20-22	Conversion	Acts 9:1-18	
36		3 years in the Solitude in Arabia then returned to Damascus, and then the 1st. visit to Jerusalem	Acts 9 :19-29 Gal 1: 17-20	(2 wks in Jerusalem)
37				
38				
39		In Tarsus	Acts 9:30	
40				
41				
42				
43	~28-30	Barnabas & Saul in Antioch (Head quarter of the mission for the Gentiles)	Acts 11:26	(1 year - Disciples called Christians)
44		2nd . visit to Jerusalem Barnabas & Saul. St. Mark returned with them	Acts 11:27-30 Acts 12:25	To carry relief for the brethrens
45	~30-32	First Mission (Barnabas, Saul, Mark) Antioch- Cyprus-Salamis-Paphos-Perga- Antioch Pisidia- Iconium- Lystra- Derba- (Then reverse the way back to Antioch)	Acts 13-14:26	
46				
47				
48				
49		Antioch	Acts 14:26-28	Reporting Back

Yr. AD	Age	Activities	Reference	Notes
50	-35-37	Third Visit to Jerusalem (The Council of Jerusalem)	Acts 15 , Gal.2	Acceptance of Gentiles without circumcision
51		Antioch	Acts 15:30-35	
52	-37-39	Second Mission (Paul & Silas)	Acts 15:40-18:21	St. Paul wrote 1 st . 2 nd . Thessalonians from Corinth - 53 AD
53		Derbe- Lystra(Timothy joined them)- Troas(Luke joined them)- Philippi(first city in Europe)-		
54		Thessalonica- Berea- Athens- Corinth(for 18 months)- Ephesus- Jerusalem -Antioch		
55		Antioch	Acts 18:22	
56	~41-43	Third Mission (Paul and partially Timothy)	Acts 18:33-21:17	St Paul wrote: 1st Corinthians from Ephesus 2nd Corinthians from Macedonia Romans from Corinth Galatians from Corinth
57		Galatia - Ephesus- Macedonia- Corinth (3 months)- Troas- Miletus- Tyre (7 days)- Caesarea	Acts 21:18-3:35	
58		Jerusalem (Paul's arrest) (last visit to Jerusalem)		
59	~44-46	Caesarea (2 years waiting for trial)-	Acts 24: 1 - 26:32	Witnessing before the governor Felix ,and King Agrippa
60				
61		The Journey to Rome and waiting to the court of Caesar	Acts 27: 1 - 28:16	
62	~49-51	In Rome as a prisoner under house arrest	Acts 28:17-31	St Paul wrote the four letters of imprisonment 1. Ephesians, 2. Philippians 3. Colossians 4. Philemon
63				
64	~51-53	Freed from the prison May be he went to Spain to preach		St. Paul wrote the three Pastoral epistles 1. 1 st . Timothy 2. Titus 3. 2 nd . Timothy
65				
66				
67	~54-56	Rearrested , trailed , and		In Rome

Yr. AD	Age	Activities	Reference	Notes
		beheaded at the time of Emperor Nero		

Appendix –2

An Introduction to the Epistles of Saint Paul

+ The epistles of Saint Paul represents a treasure in the N.T and ~ 50% of all the books of the NT. (14 epistles)

+ The epistles were written to defend the true faith against some heresies in the Church , or to solve some problems there , or to instruct the co-servants of Saint Paul (the Bishops) how to oversee the church .

+ The normal feature of the epistles : The epistle is divided into two major parts . The first part is doctrinal which deals with Faith or Dogma , and the second part is practical which reflect the outcomes of the first part on the life of the believers .

+ The epistles may be divided into groups according to :

A) the time of writing.

Group 1 : written about 52-53 AD

1. 1 Thessalonians
2. 2 Thessalonians

Group 2 : written about 57-58 AD

1. Galatians
2. 1 Corinthians
3. 2 Corinthians
4. Romans

Group 3 : written about 61-63 AD (the prison epistles)

1. Ephesians
2. Philippians
3. Colossians
4. Philemon

Group 4 : written about 64-67AD

1. 1 Timothy
2. 2 Timothy
3. Titus

Group 5 : not definite , but

before the martyrdom of Saint Paul

67AD

1. Hebrews

the type of the epistle

Group 1 : To a Church or group of Churches

1. 1 Thessalonians
2. 2 Thessalonians
3. Galatians
4. 1 Corinthians
5. 2 Corinthians
6. Romans
7. Ephesians
8. Philippians
9. Colossians
10. Hebrews

Group 2: Pastoral Epistles

1. 1 Timothy
2. 2 Timothy
3. Titus

Group 3 : Personal

Philemon

	The Epistle	To whom it was sent	Date & place of writing the epistle	Problems need to be solved	The theme of the epistle
1	Romans	Paul did not visit the Church in Rome yet. But he sent this epistle to the Christian there either from Jewish origin or Gentile origin to prepare them to the faith he preach.	~57 AD from Corinth in the third mission.	Christian from Jewish origin felt that they are better than the others from Gentile origin and vise versa	God's RIGHEOUSNESS revealed in CHRIST for our SALVATION
2	1st. Corinthians	To the Church in Corinth which St. Paul established in the 2 nd . mission(Acts 18:1-11)	~55 from Ephesus during St. Paul 3 rd . mission	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Church disunity 2. Moral failure 3. Dealing with Pagan religion 4. Wrong teaching about Spiritual gifts , Eucharist and resurrection of the bodies 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Application of Christian principles to the problems occurring in Corinth . 2. Establish the theology of : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Spiritual gifts + Eucharist + Resurrection of the bodies
3	2nd. Corinthians	” ” ”	~56 AD from Macedonia after St. Paul received a report from Titus about the effect of the 1 st . epistle on the church at Corinth	1. Some attacked the Apostleship of St. Paul , and his equality to the other Apostles.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reconciliation to the Corinthian church . 2. St. Paul defense of his apostolic credentials and authority.
4	Galatians	To the Churches in the province of Galatia in Asia Minor. He visited these Churches in the 2 nd . mission	~56 AD from Ephesus or Macedonia	The Galatians churches were taken over by Jewish teaching of returning back to the	The true gospel vs. the false gospel . [Sufficiency of the true faith in Christ for salvation.]

	The Epistle	To whom it was sent	Date & place of writing the epistle	Problems need to be solved	The theme of the epistle
		(Acts 16:6) and also on the 3 rd . mission (Acts18:23)		law of Moses for salvation.	
5	Ephesians	To the Church of Ephesus in Asia Minor ,where he spent about 3 years (Acts 18:19-20 ; 19:8,10 ; 20:17,31) in his 2 nd and 3 rd . missions.	~61-63 AD from his first imprisonment in Rome		.The riches of Christ in the Church. [The Church is the Body of Christ. This Body is the center and life of all.]
6	Philippians	To the Church of Philippe which is the 1 st . city St. Paul preached in Europe in his 2 nd . mission (Acts 16:11-40) . He visited again in his 3 rd . mission (Acts 20:1-6)	~61-63 AD from his first imprisonment in Rome		The dynamic of our life in Christ [JOY]
7	Colossians	To the Church of Colossi. Colossi was a minor city near Ephesus. The Church- most probably- was found by Epaphras , a native of Colossi, Philemon was its largest financial supporter and the church was in his home.	~61-63 AD from his first imprisonment in Rome	Heresy which was a blend of Jewish and Oriental ideas. 1. Christ is not unique. 2. Angels was super than Christ 3. Sin resulted from lack of knowledge 4. Salvation can be gained through ritual and ascetic practices.	Living by the will of God vs. dying by false human schemes. [Preeminence of Christ in all things.]

	The Epistle	To whom it was sent	Date & place of writing the epistle	Problems need to be solved	The theme of the epistle
8	1st Thessalonians	To the Church in Thessalonica . Thessalonica was the most prominent city of the province of Macedonia. St. Paul established the Church in his 2 nd . mission (Acts17: 1-8)	~50-51AD from Corinth as a response to St. Timothy's report.		A holy life leads to eternal life. [Jesus next coming]
9	2nd. Thessalonians	” ” ” ”	~ 51AD from Corinth ,few months after the 1 st . epistle.	False speculations about the next coming of the Lord.	Stand fast through Apostolic teaching [Understand the day of the Lord]
10	1st. Timothy	St. Timothy ,the beloved son of St. Paul and the Bishop of Ephesus	~64-65 from Macedonia		Pastoral care of the faithful
11	2nd. Timothy	” ” ” ”	~65-67 from Roman prison near his execution		Overcoming hardship in the ministry
12	Titus	Titus was a gentile converted by St. Paul , received an approval of the Apostles in Jerusalem to remain uncircumcised (Gal. 2:1-5). Appointed by St. Paul to be the Bishop of Crete.	~63-65 from Corinth		Overseeing the Church according to the true faith.
13	Philemon	Philemon had been converted by St. Paul, and was a member of the Church in Colossi	~61-63 AD from his first imprisonment in Rome	Onesimus was a slave of Philemon , stole from his master and run away. He was then	Our brotherhood in Christ

	The Epistle	To whom it was sent	Date & place of writing the epistle	Problems need to be solved	The theme of the epistle
				captured . Somehow, reached St. Paul and was converted to Christ. St. Paul returned him back to his master with this letter.	
14	Hebrews	The Greek speaking Jewish Christian mainly in Palestine .	~ 64-68 AD	As Jewish Christians were dismissed from the Temple , they started to feel the sense of loss of the Jewish customs and traditions. They started to have a low view of Christ and Christianity	The superiority of Christ