

Handout 1: Acts Lesson 7

The Acts of Paul c. 160AD: *Paul was a man of small stature with a bald head and bowed legs and of good carriage. His eyebrows met in the middle and his nose was rather large and he was full of grace for at times he seemed a man and at times he had the face of an angel.*

Rachetti's summary of descriptions of Paul from ancient manuscripts: "A summary of the early descriptions is as follows: Paul is stylized as a short, bald man with a thick beard, a prominent nose, his eyebrows meeting in the middle, his legs somewhat bowed, but on the whole a man of dignified appearance and bearing."

The three points Peter makes concerning the Gentiles in Acts 15:9-10.

1. The inclusion of the Gentiles is God's doing.
2. God chose the Gentiles like He chose the Jews by divine election through the Holy Spirit.
3. In their divine election, the Gentiles are equal to Jews.

The Council of Jerusalem's decision concerning Gentile converts. They must:

1. Abstain from meat sacrificed to false gods
2. Reject marriage that is considered incest because it is too close a degree of kinship
3. Observe the prohibition against eating strangled animals or blood

SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY: Approximate dates: 50 – 52 AD Companions: Silas, Timothy, Priscilla and Aquila, Luke Mission field: Syria, Turkey, Greece Approximate miles traveled: 2,800 miles Sent by church of Antioch, Syria	
Syria and Cilicia (Tarsus, the capital of Cilicia was Paul's hometown)	Acts 15:23
Derbe and Lystra in Lycaonia/South Galatia	Acts 16:1-5
Phrygia and North Galatia	Acts 16:6
Mysia to Troas	Acts 16:7-10
Samothrace and Neapolis	Acts 16:11
Philippi in Macedonia	Acts 16:12-40
Amphipolis and Apollonia	Acts 17:1
Thessalonica	Acts 17:1-9
Beroea (Berea)	Acts 17:10-15
Athens	Acts 17:16-34
Corinth	Acts 18:1-18
Cenchrea (Cenchreae)	Acts 18:18
Ephesus	Acts 18:19-21
Caesarea	Acts 18:22
Jerusalem	Acts 18:23
Antioch, Syria	Acts 18:23

EARLIEST BISHOPS OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM

In *Church History*, Book IV chapter 5 Eusebius, 4th century Bishop of Caesarea in Palestine writes concerning the succession of the Bishops of Jerusalem: *The chronology of the bishops of Jerusalem I have nowhere found preserved in writing; for tradition says that they were all short lived. But I have learned this much from the writings, that until the siege of the Jews, which took place under Adrian [135AD] there were fifteen bishops in succession there, all of whom are said to have been of Hebrew descent, and to have received the knowledge of Christ in purity, so that they were approved by those who were able to judge such matters and were deemed worthy of the episcopate.*

Bishop Eusebius is referring to the Second Jewish Revolt against Rome which was brutally suppressed in 135 AD. The First Jewish Revolt began in 66 AD and was finally completely suppressed in c. 73 AD with the taking of the last Jewish fortress at Masada. Jerusalem was conquered and the Temple was completely destroyed in 70 AD, resulting in the deaths of over a million and the enslavement of circa 55,000 Jewish men, women, and children who were scattered throughout the Roman Empire. After the Second Revolt the city of Jerusalem was raised to the ground and rebuilt as a Roman city and renamed Aelia Capitolina. Jews were forbidden all access to the holy city but Christians were not penalized because they did not participate in either revolt. Christian persecution by the Roman Empire which began in 64 AD was diminished for a time during the reign of Hadrian.

THE FIRST CHRISTIAN BISHOPS OF JERUSALEM			
1. James, kinsman of Jesus Christ +	11. Justus +	21. Gaius I	31. Dius
2. Symeon, kinsman of Jesus Christ +	12. Levi +	22. Symmachus	32. Germanio
3. Justus +	13. Ephres +	23. Gaius II	33. Gordius
4. Zacchaeus +	14. Joseph +	24. Julian II	34. Narcissus (repeated)
5. Tobias +	15. Judas +	25. Capito	35. Alexander
6. Benjamin +	16. Marcus	26. Maximus II *	36. Mazabanes
7. John +	17. Cassianus	27. Antonius *	37. Hymenaeus
8. Matthias +	18. Publius	28. Valens	38. Zambdas
9. Phillip +	19. Maximus I	29. Dolichianus	39. Hermon
10. Seneca +	20. Julian I	30. Narcissus	

+ Jewish descent

*These two names are omitted in Eusebius' *Church History*, but are listed in his *Chronicles* and are also listed by the Church historian Epiphanius.

Also see *Church History*, Book V, chapter 12 in which Eusebius lists the first thirty of the bishops, ending with Narcissus, "*the thirtieth in regular succession from the Apostles.*"

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Church Council	SIGNIFICANT TEACHING
COUNCIL OF JERUSALEM - AD 49/50	Decisions made on conversions and circumcision. It was decided that it was not necessary for converts to submit to the Old Covenant laws like circumcision.
1. NICAEA I —AD 325	Nicene Creed; divinity of Christ, condemned Arianism; Easter observance set.
2. CONSTANTINOPLE I —AD 381	Expanded the Creed; defeated Arianism; condemned Macedonians who denied divinity of the Holy Spirit.
3. EPHESUS —AD 431	Defended Mary as the mother of God; condemned Nestorianism which held there were two distinct persons in the Incarnate Christ.
4. CHALCEDON —AD 451	Condemned Monophysitism by defining two distinct natures of Christ: Jesus fully human and divine.
5. CONSTANTINOPLE II —AD 553	Confirmed Chalcedon; condemned heresies like Monothelism that held Christ had only one will.
6. CONSTANTINOPLE III —AD 680-81	Defeat of Monothelism by defining two wills of Christ as two distinct principles of operation in unity of purpose.
7. NICAEA II —AD 787	Regulated veneration of holy images; condemned Iconoclasts and defined that sacred images may be honored without idolatry.
8. CONSTANTINOPLE IV —AD 869-870	Condemned teachings of Photius Bishop of Constantinople. Last council attended by Eastern Church; beginning of the Great Eastern Schism.
9. LATERAN I —AD 1123	First council after the Great Eastern Schism. Condemned practice of lay princes in investiture of bishops. Called for recovery of the Holy Land.
10. LATERAN II —AD 1139	Enacted reforms suggested by St. Bernard of Clairvaux; condemned certain heresies; declared null and void decrees by the deceased antipope Anticletus II.
11. LATERAN III —AD 1179	Established the Sacred Conclave as voting body to elect Pope by 2/3 rd s majority; condemned Albigenian and Waldensian heresies.
12. LATERAN IV —AD 1215	Defined <i>ex cathedra</i> : from the chair of Peter and " <i>There is but one Universal church, outside of which there is no salvation.</i> " Set in stone the term <i>Transubstantiation</i> for the mystery of the Eucharist. Ordered annual confession and Easter Communion.
13. LYONS I —AD 1245	Called for a new Crusade. Excommunicated and deposed Emperor Frederick II.
14. LYONS II —AD 1274	Filioque clause officially added to the Creed. Attempted reconciliation with Eastern Catholics. Decreed that papal elections should begin 10 days after death of the Pope.
15. VIENNE —AD 1311-1312	Reformation of the clergy and Catholic universities; called for a new Crusade; dealt with the charges against the Knights Templar; defined the relation of the soul to the human body; condemned false mysticism.
16. CONSTANCE —AD 1414-1418	Put an end to the Western Schism (Avignon Popes vs Rome); issued reform decrees in "head and members", condemned Wycliffe and Hus.
17. BASEL-FLORENCE —AD 1431(38)-1445	Affirmed papal primacy against Conciliarists who said a general council was superior to the Pope; defined doctrine of purgatory; attempted reunion with Eastern church.
18. LATERAN V —AD 1512-1517	Disciplinary decrees-defined the relation of Pope to a general council, condemned philosophers who taught human soul was mortal and only one for all mankind; discussed religious upheaval in Germany caused by Luther.
19. TRENT —AD 1545-1563	Condemned Lutheranism and other errors in teaching that resulted from Protestant movement; proclaimed Bible and Tradition as rule of faith; defined doctrine on the Mass, the sacraments, justification, purgatory, indulgences, invocation of saints, veneration of sacred images, issued decrees on marriage and clerical reform.
20. VATICAN I —AD 1869-1870	Defined the nature of revelation and faith, the relation of faith and reason; and infallibility of the Pope when speaking <i>ex cathedra</i> in matters of faith and morals. Condemned pantheism, materialism, deism, naturalism, and fideism.
21. VATICAN II —AD 1962-1965	Convoked by Pope John XXIII "mainly to more effectively preserve and present the sacred deposit of Christian doctrine." Sixteen documents reaffirmed the principles of Catholic faith and morality, authorized numerous changes in the Eucharistic liturgy, the ritual of the sacraments, and in the church's administrative structure. These documents and liturgical reforms defined the Church in the modern age. (Michal E. Hunt, Copyright 2004, Revised 2007, www.AgapeBibleStudy.com)