

Handout: Acts Lesson 9

The adventures of Paul's missionary team in Ephesus can be divided into four parts:

1. Paul baptizes twelve men who only knew the baptism of St. John the Baptist (19:1-7).
2. Paul's separation from the Jews of the local Synagogue (19:8-10).
3. The defeat of Jewish exorcists and the victory over the practice of the occult in Ephesus (19:11-20).
4. The riot of the Ephesian silversmiths (19:23-40).

The accusation of "hardening" or stubbornness of the Jews in Acts 19:9 recalls the same characterization in the Old Testament:

1. The "hardening" of the Egyptian Pharaoh in the Exodus.
2. Sihon king of Heshbon whose heart God "hardened" to give the Israelites victory over the Amorites.
3. The obstinacy of the children of Israel ignoring the warnings of the prophets in turning away from God and in failing to fulfill Israel's destiny in God's plan for mankind's salvation.

"Hardness of heart" is not an accusation Jesus made against the Jews during His ministry, but it is an accusation applied to the Jewish leaders by Stephen (Acts 7:51) and now to the Jews of the Diaspora (lands outside of the Holy Land of Israel) by Luke. It signifies a stubborn resistance in the face of God's visitation (compare with Rom 2:5; 9:18; Heb 3:8, 13: 4:7).

There are three encounters in Acts between the ministers of the Gospel and magicians.

1. The magician Simon Magus and St. Peter (Acts 8:4-25).
2. The magician and false prophet Bar Jesus/Elymas who opposed Sts. Barnabas and Saul/Paul (Acts 13:4-12).
3. Jewish exorcists and Paul's Ephesus mission (Acts 19:13-20).

Paul's missionary companions in 20:4:

- Sopater/Sosipater probably became a disciple when Paul was preaching in Berea in Acts 17:10-12. Paul calls Sosipater his "kinsman," meaning fellow Jew, who joins Paul in sending greetings to the church in Rome (Rom 16:21).
- Aristarchus is a Macedonian who was introduced in 19:29 when he was seized by the mob in the silversmith's riot.
- This is the only appearance of Secundus (Latin name means "second," perhaps used like "junior" as a nickname). He is from Thessalonica in Macedonia.
- Gaius is a member of Paul's team who was also seized with Aristarchus during the riot in Ephesus (19:29).
- Timothy is known to us as a member of the second missionary team (Acts 16:1-3) and the two letters Paul will write to him.
- Tychicus is an Asiatic first mentioned here, but Paul will also mention him in his letters (Eph 6:21; Col 4:7; 2 Tim 4:12; Tit 3:12).
- Trophimus is also from Asia and is first mentioned here, but he will also be named in Acts 21:29 and in Paul's second letter to Timothy (2 Tim 4:20).

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MAJOR EVENTS IN ST. PAUL'S LIFE	YEAR AD (most dates are approximate)
Born at Tarsus (in modern Turkey) of Jewish parents who trace their ancestry to the tribe of Benjamin and who are Roman citizens, a status also given Saul/Paul (Rom 11:1; Phil 3:5).	10?
Arrival in Jerusalem to study with the scholar Gamaliel (Acts 22:3). He is a Pharisees (Acts 23:6; 1 Co 15:9; Gal 1:13; Phil 3:6)	30?
Sent as an officer of the Sanhedrin to arrest Christians in Damascus Encounter with Christ and conversion on the road to Damascus	34?
3 year sojourn in Arabia and mission to Damascus (Gal 1:17)	34-36?
Visit to Jerusalem to meet with the Apostles (Gals 1:18)	36/37?
Return to home in Tarsus (Acts 9:30)	?
Barnabas brings Saul to the church in Antioch, Syria (Acts 11:25)	41-43?
Mission to take supplies to the church in Jerusalem and return to Antioch (Acts 11:29-30; 12:25)	44
1 st Missionary journey to Cyprus and Asia Minor (S. Galatia) Changes his Hebrew name to the Latin name "Paulus" (Acts 13-14)	45-49
-Jewish Christians from Jerusalem upset the church at Antioch	49/50
-Letter to the Galatians	49/50
-Sent as a delegate to the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15)	
2 nd Missionary journey (Acts 15:36-18:21)	50-52
-speaks at Athens & Corinth in Greece. Meets the Roman Gallio+	50/51
-writes the letters 1 & 2 Thessalonians	51-52
3 rd Missionary journey (Acts 18:23-21:14)	53-58
-mission to Phrygia & N. Galatia	53
-mission to Ephesus and stays three years (Acts 20:31)	54-56*
-wrote first letter to the Corinthians from Ephesus	54
-mission to northern Greece (Macedonia & into Illyricum)	54
-wrote second letter to the Corinthians written from Macedonia	
-mission to Corinth (Greece)	56/57
-wrote letter to the Roman Christians from Corinth	57/58
	Winter 58
Return to Jerusalem with offerings from the Gentile Christian churches; attacked by the Jews and rescued by Romans (Acts 21:15-23:22).	Spring 58
Imprisoned by the Romans in Caesarea for two years (Acts 24:24-27)	Spring 58
-Preaches the Gospel to Roman governor Felix and his wife	58
-Preaches the Gospel to Roman governor Festus & King Agrippa II	60
As a Roman citizen he appeals to the tribunal in Rome. Sent to Rome -Ship wrecked off Malta (Acts 27); arrives in Rome the following spring (Acts 28:11-14)	60-61
Under Roman "house arrest" for two years and preaches to all visitors -writes letters to Christian churches in Colossus, Ephesus, Philippi and to the Christian Philemon (Acts 28:30-31)	61-63
Released by the Romans and probably makes 2 missionary journeys: one to the East and another to the West (Romans 15:24, 28) -wrote or gave as an address the letter to the Hebrews (?)	63-67
Arrested upon his return to Rome; martyrdom by beheading	67

*three years as the ancients counted

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Paul's life can be related to four dates fixed by external historical sources:

1. The death of King Herod Agrippa I in 44 AD
2. The administration of the Roman governor Gallio at Corinth in 50/51 or 51/52 AD
3. The administration of the Roman governor Felix in Judea in 58-60 AD
4. The administration of the Roman governor Festus in Judea in 60-61 AD

Paul recorded that three years passed from the time of his conversion until his first journey to Jerusalem (Galatians 1:17-18) and that there was a 14 year span (Galatians 2:1) between his first and his second visit to Jerusalem to consult with the Apostles at the Council of Jerusalem (the ancients counted without the concept of 0 as a place value so the first number or day or year in any series would count as #1). If the Council of Jerusalem was in 49/50 AD then Paul's first visit to Jerusalem was in 36/37 AD.

*For the period of Paul's life not covered by Biblical sources, I referred to the writings of Clement, Bishop of Rome (martyred circa 96/100AD). Clement who was baptized and later ordained by St. Peter served as Peter's assistant and became a friend of Paul's when he was imprisoned in Rome in 61 AD. He may be the Clement mentioned by Paul in Philippians 4:3. In his letter to the Church at Corinth, St. Clement recorded that Paul had suffered imprisonment seven times *preaching both in the East and in the West, he gained the illustrious reputation due to his faith, having taught righteousness to the whole world, and come to the extreme limit of the West, and suffered martyrdom under the prefects.* Clement's reference to "the West" may be a reference to the journey to Spain to spread the Gospel, a plan Paul outlines in his letter to the Romans (Romans 15:24, 28). St. Clement is the 4th Bishop of Rome after St. Peter, counting Peter as the 1st Bishop of Rome. See *The Epistles of Clement, Chapter V; The Ante-Nicene Fathers*, volume 9, pages 230-231.