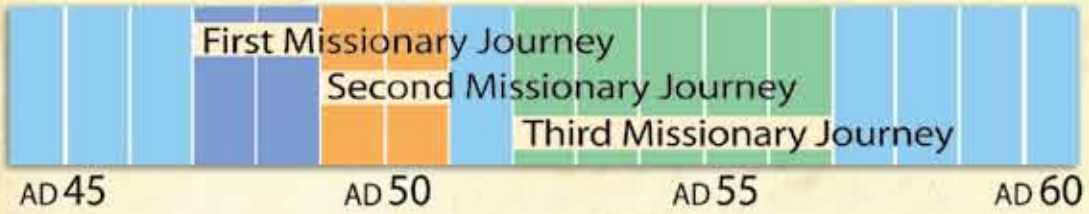


200 Key Facts *at a Glance*

# *The LIFE of the* **APOSTLE PAUL**



Alessandro Algardi

- His Life, Conversion, and Writings
- Time Line, Maps, and Missionary Journeys

**ROSE**  
PUBLISHING

# The LIFE of the APOSTLE PAUL

Shipwrecked.  
Attacked by murderous mobs.  
Beaten. Starved. Imprisoned.  
Betrayed by friends...

All to serve the one thing  
he sought to destroy...  
...Christianity.



*Stained glass window  
in Philippi*

## Who was Paul?

Paul was an arch-enemy of Christianity, who amazingly became the greatest Christian missionary of all time. He authored more books of the Bible than anyone else and is called the "Apostle to the Gentiles."

## Background

Paul came from a well-respected family in Asia Minor (Turkey today) where his father was an official. He excelled in his studies and became a devout Pharisee. As a young man Paul—whose Jewish name was Saul—was sent to Jerusalem to study under the great teacher Gamaliel. He hated Christians and participated in the first execution of a Christian leader, a man named Stephen. Paul was determined to murder all those who followed Jesus, not just in Jerusalem, but elsewhere (Acts 7:54–8:3).

## Persecuted for Jesus Christ



Stoned and left for dead



Beaten with rods  
three times



Whipped with 39  
lashes five times



Attacked by angry mob



Death threats

AD 5 Dates are approximate

AD 30

AD 35

- Born an Israelite, from the tribe of Benjamin, a Roman citizen in Tarsus of Celicia, given the Hebrew name of Saul (Acts 7:58; 22:25-29). AD 5
- Receives the best of Roman education in Tarsus; studies under the Jewish scholar Gamaliel. AD 10-30

- Persecution of Christians. AD 30-35

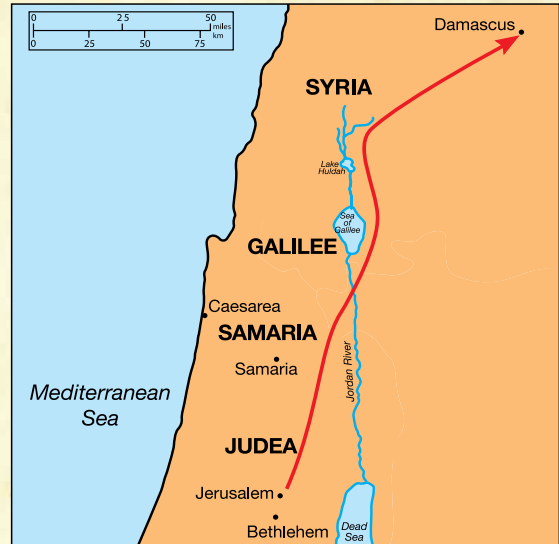
- Watches with approval the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7:57-60). AD 32 or 33

### What was a Pharisee?

The Pharisees were a group of Jewish religious leaders who believed a person must keep every one of the traditions of Judaism, as well as the biblical commandments. The Pharisees were respected, but were legalistic. Jesus condemned them for being self-righteous and hypocritical (Matthew 23). Pharisees plotted to kill Jesus because of his popularity and claim to be God.

### How did Paul become a Christian?

Paul asked the chief priest in Jerusalem to give him authorization to arrest any follower of Jesus in Damascus (about 100 miles away). On his way from Judea to Damascus, a light from heaven blinded him. He fell to the ground and a voice said, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He answered, "Who are you?" The voice said, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting. Get up! Go into the city, and you will be told what to do." Paul was



told to go to a house and wait for a Christian man named Ananias to come restore his sight (Acts 9:1-12).

### What did other Christians think?

The Lord spoke to Ananias, and Ananias was afraid. He knew Paul's reputation, but went to the house anyway. The Lord said that Paul was chosen to take the Lord's name to Gentiles, their kings, and to the Jews. Ananias placed his hands on Paul and his sight was restored. Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit and was baptized. He started speaking in synagogues and convincing people that Jesus was the Messiah. People were amazed and confused. The believers back in Jerusalem refused to believe he had changed until one of their leaders, Barnabas, vouched for him (Acts 9:13-28).

### What did the Pharisees think?

Because the Lord, had spoken to him, Paul kept preaching in the synagogues in Damascus, saying that Jesus was the Son of God. He gave proofs from the

## Persecuted for Jesus Christ

“Everyone who  
wants to live a  
godly life in  
Christ Jesus will  
be persecuted...”

—2 Timothy 3:12

## AD 40

- Paul's conversion (Acts 9:1-19). AD 37
- Begins to preach about Christ in the synagogues (Acts 9:20-25). AD 37
- Goes to Jerusalem, but the Christian leaders are suspicious of him.(Acts 9:26-29; Galatians 1:18-19). AD 37
- When the Christians hear about a plot to kill him, they send him to Syria and Celicia (Acts 9:30; Galatians 1:21). AD 37-46
- Spends three years in Arabia, then returns to Damascus (Galatians 1:17; Acts 9:23). AD 37-40

Scriptures to show that Jesus was the fulfillment of the Bible prophecies. To the Jews, this was blasphemy and they were outraged. They plotted to kill Paul as he walked out of the city gates. Paul learned of the plot. His friends put him in a basket and lowered him down the city wall to escape (Acts 9:20-25).

### Life as a Fugitive?

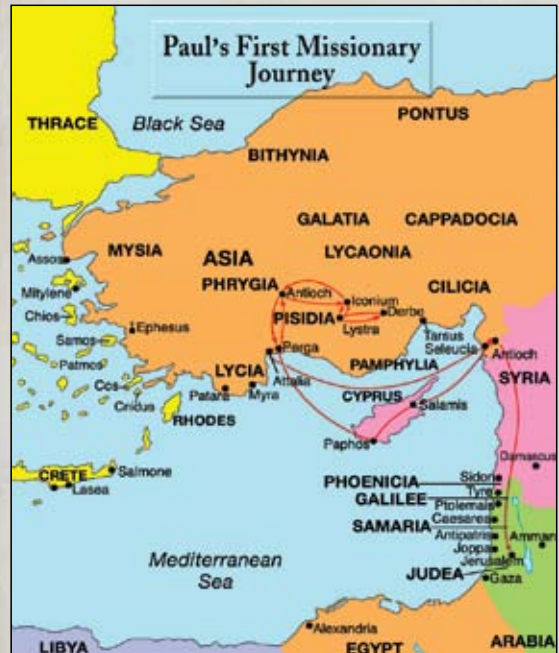
Instead of hiding out, Paul went to Jerusalem and boldly preached in the synagogues. He tried to convince people about Jesus. He preached fearlessly and debated at every opportunity. He received death threats and the Christians brought him out of Jerusalem. He went back home to Tarsus (Acts 9:28-30).

### Is Jesus for the Jews Only?

During the early years of Christianity, most of the converts were Jewish. Jesus' disciples preached only to Jews. Yet as Jewish people scattered throughout the Roman Empire, they told their neighbors about Jesus. Many of these Gentiles (non-Jews) became followers of Jesus too (Acts 11:19-21).

### Barnabas Finds Paul

Barnabas went to Tarsus and together he and Paul preached to non-Jewish people. At the city of Antioch, these believers were first called Christians. A famine hit Jerusalem and the Christians wanted to send relief to their fellow believers. They sent Barnabas and Paul back to Jerusalem with gifts. When their mission was accomplished, Barnabas and Paul, along with a young man named John Mark, headed back north to start a missionary journey throughout Asia Minor (Acts 11:22-30).



## Paul's First Missionary Journey AD 47-49

### Acts 13:1-14:28

**Travelers:** Paul, Barnabas, John Mark

**Main route:** Cyprus and Turkey

**Cities/places:** (1400 miles)

- 1. Antioch in Syria:** The Holy Spirit sets apart Paul and Barnabas for the missionary ministry. John Mark goes along as their helper.
- 2. Sailed from Seleucia to Salamis and Paphos (on Cyprus):** Paul confronts a sorcerer named Elymas and blinds him. (From this point the Bible calls him Paul, rather than Saul.)
- 3. Perga in Pamphylia:** John Mark deserts the group and returns to Jerusalem.

AD 50

#### • First Missionary Journey AD 47-49

- Barnabas takes Paul to Syrian Antioch, where they minister for a year (Acts 11:25, 26). AD 46

- When a prophet predicts a famine will hit Jerusalem, the Christians collect contributions and send them to Jerusalem with Barnabas and Paul (Acts 11:27-30; 12:25). AD 47

#### • Second Missionary Journey AD 49-51

- Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:1-35) AD 49
- Galatians letter written AD 49
- Appears before Gallio AD 51

- 1 & 2 Thessalonians written AD 51

#### • Third Mission

**4. Antioch of Pisidia (Turkey today):** Paul preaches his longest recorded sermon, and many respond. Jewish leaders drive them out of the city. The Lord calls Paul to focus his ministry on Gentiles. The Gentiles are glad and many become believers.



*Early Cave Church in Antioch*

**5. Iconium:** More plots force them to flee.

**6. Lystra:** When Paul heals a lame man, the townspeople think he and Barnabas are Greek gods. Jews from Antioch stir up the crowd, and Paul is stoned and left for dead.

**7. Derbe:** Paul preaches and many disciples are added to the church.

**8. Lystra, Iconium, Antioch of Pisidia, Pamphylia, Perga, Attalia:** On the return trip, Paul and Barnabas appoint elders in the churches they had planted.

**9. Antioch (Syria):** Paul remains there for a while, reporting what God had done. Paul writes Galatians.

**10. Jerusalem, via Phoenicia and Samaria:** In AD 49, Paul and Barnabas report to the leaders of the Jerusalem church. This meeting is known as the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:1-35).

## Paul's Second Missionary Journey AD 49-51

Acts 15:36–18:22

**Travelers:** Paul, Silas, Timothy, Priscilla and Aquilla, Luke

**Main route:** Syria, Turkey, Greece, Jerusalem

**Cities/places: (2800 miles)**

**1. Antioch in Syria:** Paul and Barnabas decide to visit the churches again, but disagree about who should go with them. Paul doesn't want to take John Mark because he left them on their first trip. Barnabas takes John Mark with him to Cyprus; Paul takes Silas.

**2. Syria and Cilicia:** Paul and Silas take a letter from the Jerusalem church for the churches in this region.

**3. Derbe, Lystra, Iconium:** While visiting these churches, Timothy joins them.

**4. Troas:** While in this seaport, Paul has a vision of a man from Macedonia calling him to come help them. Acts 16:10 uses the word "we," indicating that Luke was with Paul.



*Diana (Artemis), the goddess of Ephesus*

AD 55

**• Third Missionary Journey AD 52-57**

- In Ephesus AD 53-55

Gallio AD 51

nians written AD 51

**• Journey to Rome AD 57-62**

- Arrested in Jerusalem AD 57

• 1 & 2 Corinthians letters written AD 56

- Romans letter written AD 57

- In prison in Caesarea AD 57-59