

# *The Book of Acts*

## **Unleashing of the Gospel (Chapters 24-28)**

### A. Paul the Defender (25 -26)

#### 1. *Paul before Festus and Sanhedrin (25)*

- a. Conciliation: Festus and the Jewish Leaders (25:1-12)*
- b. Paul's appeal to be heard as a Roman citizen*

#### 2. *Paul before Agrippa (25:23-26:32)*

- a. Festus and Agrippa: The Consultation*
- b. The state visit*
- c. The Confrontation: Festus, Agrippa and Paul*

### B. Paul in Rome (27- 28)

#### 1. *Paul the Counselor (27:1-20)*

#### 2. *Paul the Encourager (27:21-44)*

#### 3. *The Shipwreck – Paul the Helper*

#### 2. *Paul in Malta (28:1-15)*

#### 3. *Paul the Preacher in Rome (28:11-31)*

### C. Paul's release and final missionary Journey? (??)

#### 1. *Paul's travel to Spain (Rom 15:24)*

#### 2. *He left Titus in Crete (Titus 1:5)*

#### 3. *Trophimus in Meiletus (2 Tim 4:20)*

#### 4. *Timothy in Ephesus (1 Tim 1:3)*

- 5. He was perhaps arrested in Troas*
- 6. Jewish converts had problem with him*
- 7. Gentiles converts abandoned him (2 Tim 4:16-17)*
- 8. Paul was beheaded in Rome (AD 67/68).*

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Was Paul trying to save himself, or was he defending his newfound faith in Christ?
2. What does it mean to 'defend' your faith?
3. Why did Paul want to appeal to Caesar?
4. Why do you think God chose Christian-hating Saul to become the famous evangelist, Paul?
5. What did Paul have to lose to gain salvation?
6. How did Paul use his situation to further the cause of Christ?
7. Why would Luke devote a long section of Acts to the description of a voyage and a shipwreck?
8. What can we learn about dealing with trials the way Paul handled his imprisonment?
9. Has the Book of Acts been a reminder of how to face the trials in your life? How will you press on despite them?

Let us be reminded again and again of the apostles, their often difficult lives, and how they presented the Gospel to the world.

'God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.' (2 Timothy 1:7)

***'Lord, thank you for Jesus and his work. Thank you for the way the apostles and disciples acted with boldness to spread your message. Thank you for helping us to know Jesus as our Savior. Grant us boldness and courage to abide by your love and share it with others. Thank you for granting us the Spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.' Amen***

## Paul's journeys and imprisonments. (Approximate Time)

Journey or Imprisonment	Years	When in Acts
Paul at Damascus	37-40 AD	Acts 9:8-25
First Journey	45-47 AD	Acts 13:4 - 14:26
Second Journey	51-53 AD	Acts 15:36 - 18:22
Third Journey	54-58 AD	Acts 18:23 - 21:17
Imprisonment in Judea	58-60 AD	Acts 21:30 - 26:32
Voyage to Rome	60-61 AD	Acts 27:1 - 28:15
Imprisonment in Rome	61-63 AD	Acts 28:16-31
Post-Imprisonment Journeys	63-67 AD	after Acts

## The table below lists the years in which Paul wrote his epistles. (Approximate Time)

Epistle	Year	When in Acts	Written from
1st Thessalonians	52 AD	Acts 18:11	from Corinth during second journey
2nd Thessalonians	52 AD	Acts 18:11	from Corinth during second journey
Galatians	55-57 AD	Acts 19:10	during the third journey, probably from Ephesus
1st Corinthians	57 AD	Acts 19:22	from Ephesus, during third journey
2nd Corinthians	57 AD	Acts 20:1	from Macedonia, possibly at Philippi, during third journey
Romans	57-58 AD	Acts 20:2-3	from Corinth during third journey
Ephesians	62 AD	Acts 28:30	from Rome, while in prison in his own hired house
Philippians	62 AD	Acts 28:30	from Rome, while in prison in his own hired house
Colossians	62 AD	Acts 28:30	from Rome, while in prison in his own hired house
Philemon	63 AD	Acts 28:30	from Rome, while in prison in his own hired house
Hebrews	64-65 AD	after Acts	from Italy, while not in prison
Titus	64-65 AD	after Acts	while not in prison, from an unknown location
1st Timothy	64-65 AD	after Acts	while not in prison, from an unknown location
2nd Timothy	66-67 AD	after Acts	while in prison shortly before death, from Rome