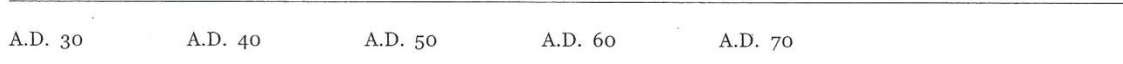


1. I want to review some of that learned and then begin new material at point four on page two.

ACTS TIMELINE

All dates are approximate

Ascension & Pentecost A.D. 30 (Tiberius)
 Stephen Killed A. D. 34-35 (Tiberius)
 Great Persecution A.D. 35-36 (Tiberius)
 Saul Conversion A. D. 38-40 (Caligula)
 Cornelius Conversion A. D. 39-40 (Caligula)
 Herod Agrippa I dies A. D. 44 (Claudius)
 Paul's 1st Journey A. D. 47-48 (Claudius)
 Jerusalem Council A. D. 48-50 (Claudius)
 Paul's 2nd Journey Begins A. D. 51(Claudius)
 Paul's 3rd Journey A. D. 52-53 (Claudius)
 Paul to Ephesus A. D. 53 (Claudius)
 Paul to Greece A. D. 56 (Nero)
 Paul Arrested in Jerusalem A. D. 58 (Nero)
 Paul Imprisoned A. D. 58-60 (Nero)
 Voyage to Rome A. D. 60-61
 Paul in Rome A. D. 61-63 (Nero)
 Paul Released A. D. 63 (Nero)
 Paul Travels A. D. 63-65 (Nero)
 Paul Martyred A. D. 67-68 (Nero)
 Jerusalem Destroyed A. D. 70 (Vespasian)



2. Post Conversion Experiences

3. An outline of the period would include at least the following points:

- Preaching in Damascus,
- Journey into Arabia,
- Return to Damascus and the flight to Jerusalem,
- The first meeting with Peter and James in Jerusalem,
- Return to Syria and Cilicia (Tarsus).

3.1 One is impressed with the energy of Paul. He was indeed zealous (literally, "bubbling" or "boiling") in whatever he undertook.

3.2 What we do know of Paul would certainly indicate there were no years of inactivity. He began "immediately" to preach Jesus as the Son of God.

3.3 Barnabas was sent to see what was happening in Galatia, and was instrumental in enlarging the number of converts.

3.4 But when the work grew too large for him, "he left for Tarsus to look for Saul." Acts 11:25

3.5 Together the two worked in Antioch "for approximately a year."

3.5.1 This was a crucial point in the life of Paul, for it may well have been here that his vision of taking the gospel to the Gentile world crystallized.

4. When we last met I had just begun to teach the missionary journeys.

4.1 It was while Paul and Barnabas were active in Antioch Syria that "the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'"

4.2 Thus were launched the missionary travels of the apostle Paul. The missionary journeys covered a period of about ten years.

4.3 Paul's work was chiefly in four provinces of the Roman Empire: Galatia, Macedonia, Achaia, and Asia.

4.4 In each of these provinces he concentrated on the key cities, the centers of population.

4.4.1 Once his work was begun, he reached out into the surrounding countryside, usually by employing the native converts, training these men and ordaining them as pastor-teachers.

4.5 Paul's methods of founding and establishing churches assumed a fairly regular pattern.

4.5.1 A summary is stated in Acts 14:21-23:

Acts 14:21 They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, Acts 14:22 strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.

Acts 14:23 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

4.5.2 For example:

- preaching the gospel (evangelism);
- strengthening and encouraging believers (edification);
- appointing pastor-teachers in every church (organization).

4.6 The first journey (Acts 13:1-14:28)



4.6.1 Like each of Paul's journeys, the point of departure was Antioch (in Syria), a place which had assumed the role of the center of Gentile Christianity.

4.6.2 Sailing from the port of Seleucia, Paul and his companions landed on Cyprus at its eastern end. From Salamis they traversed the entire length of the island, preaching first in the synagogues of the Jews.

4.6.3 Indeed, this was their point of contact with Gentiles, some of whom were adherents to Judaism, others merely curious onlookers.

4.6.4 The first meeting with Roman officialdom occurred in Paphos, the capital city and residence of the proconsul Sergius Paulus.

4.6.5 Despite opposition from his Jewish magician, the proconsul believed the message of Paul.

5. Traveling Across Cyprus

Acts 13:6 And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus ...

Acts 13:8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

Acts 13:9 Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him

Acts 13:10 And said, O full of all subtlety and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

Acts 13:11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

Acts 13:12 Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

6. Putting out to sea, the party next came to Perga in Pamphylia.

6.1 Up to this point Barnabas had been the leader, Paul the main speaker, and John Mark (the cousin of Barnabas) the apostles' helper.

6.2 But leaving Cyprus Paul assumed the leadership, whereupon Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem.

Acts 13:13 Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.

6.3 The timing seems hardly accidental. Was he jealous? or offended? or just homesick?

6.4 Moving northward, the pair entered the province.

6.5 In Antioch, Paul preached in the synagogue, discoursing on the history of Israel and the fulfillment of God's promises in the coming of the Savior, Jesus.

6.6 His closing emphasis was upon forgiveness of sins and justification through faith in Christ, a note sounded again later on in the Epistle to the Galatians.

Acts 13:38 Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:

Acts 13:39 And by Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

6.7 When the Jews opposed him, Paul said, "We are turning to the Gentiles" (Acts 13:46), a usual procedure in Paul's ministry in various cities (see also Acts 18:6 and Acts 28:28).

Acts 13:46 Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles.

6.8 Driven out of Antioch Pisidia, they came next to Iconium, one of the most beautiful sites in the ancient world, and repeated the familiar pattern.

Acts 14:1 At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed.

Acts 14:2 But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers.

Acts 14:3 So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders.

Acts 14:4 The people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews, others with the apostles.

Acts 14:5 There was a plot afoot among the Gentiles and Jews, together with their leaders, to mistreat them and stone them.

Acts 14:6 But they found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding country,

7. Trip to Lycaonia

7.1 One new note was added: The Lord bore witness to His word by "granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands."

Gal 3:5 He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Heb 2:4 God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

7.2 The third city visited was Lystra, a city in which there was no synagogue, probably a sign that few Jews resided there.

7.3 Lystra was then a native settlement, peopled mainly by Lycaonians of the region of central Anatolia.

7.4 The worship of Zeus and Hermes was popular there, and the language was principally Lycaonian rather than Greek.

Acts 14:11 When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!"

Acts 14:12 Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker.

7.5 After Paul healed a man "lame from his mother's womb," the people worshipped them.

7.6 Even after order had been restored, the peace was short-lived, for "Jews came from Antioch and Iconium" and Paul was stoned and went to the Third Heaven and he was left for dead. (See 2Co 12:1-5)

Ironsides--Doctrine of Paul's Visit to Heaven

1. This event in Paul's life will record a strange event – Paul visited Heaven where he was sworn to secrecy.

2. The event and the reason for Paul's recounting can be found in the book of Acts compared with Paul's second letter to the church at Corinth.

Acts 14:19 Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead.

Acts 14:20 But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

Acts 14:21 They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch,

2Co 12:1 I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord.

2Co 12:2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know--God knows.

2Co 12:3 And I know that this man -- whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows --

2Co 12:4 was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell.

2Co 12:5 I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses.

2Co 12:6 Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say.

3. Let's see what H.A. Ironsides and Col. R.B. Thieme have to say about this most unusual event – a composite:

Unedited Lecture Notes on the Book of Acts by H.A. Ironsides

"And they dragged that seemingly lifeless body outside the city and threw it on the refuse heap. Let the jackals devour it. They were done with Paul. But God was not done with him. I like to think this is the very time Paul had the experience of which he speaks in the Second Epistle to the Corinthians (12:2-4): 'I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth); such an one caught up in the heaven ... caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.'

"I believe that at the very moment they thrust Paul's body away, the real Paul--the man who lived inside of that body--was in the third heaven. God said, as it were, 'I want to show you what I have in store for you.' Up there Paul did not know whether he was in the body or not. If in his body, he did not know it; if out of his body, he did not miss it. He was in paradise and heard unspeakable things which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

"How long he was there we do not know. We do read that as the body lay there the disciples stood round about, evidently making plans for a funeral, probably with tears streaming down saying "what shall we do? We shall have to lay his poor broken body away." But he suddenly rose up! I should like to have seen that. It is such a graphic picture. Here gathered about the body of Paul were Barnabas and the other believers, saying, doubtless,

"Is it not a pity that he had to die right in the midst of his wonderful ministry? If only he could have lived longer." Then suddenly, I think, Paul opened his eyes, rose to his feet, brushed off his clothes and said, It is all right. You dear brothers will have to put off the funeral a little longer! He was ready to start again. Persecution thwarted him none. He must continue preaching the gospel of the grace of God. "He rose up, and came into the city, and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe."

"Paul died from the traumatic event of stoning, only to be awakened. He then records for his disciples for the many a record of going to heaven and meeting a fellow believer who earlier had died having taken up residency in the Third Heaven. It would seem the man died fourteen years earlier.

“Interestingly, Paul could not tell if the real but “invisible” Paul was on earth or in heaven. It would seem his trip from earth to heaven was like stepping across some invisible line. Whatever the case Paul gives us little information—perhaps this was part of his orders ‘not to tell.’”

4. There may have been much more said between Paul and his former friend. What else went on there we do not know. Miraculously, he was resuscitated and the next day he and Barnabas set out on the 60-mile journey to Derbe (southeast of Lystra).

5. From Derbe they retraced their travels for the purpose of establishing their converts (Acts 14:21-23), coming eventually to Antioch in Syria.

Acts 14:21 They preached the good news in that city (*Derbe*) and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch,

Acts 14:22 strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.

Acts 14:23 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.



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