

Student Notes

New Testament Survey



The Spread of Christianity

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LESSON 4: Book of Acts - The Early Christian Community until Paul's First Missionary Journey

Overview of Acts

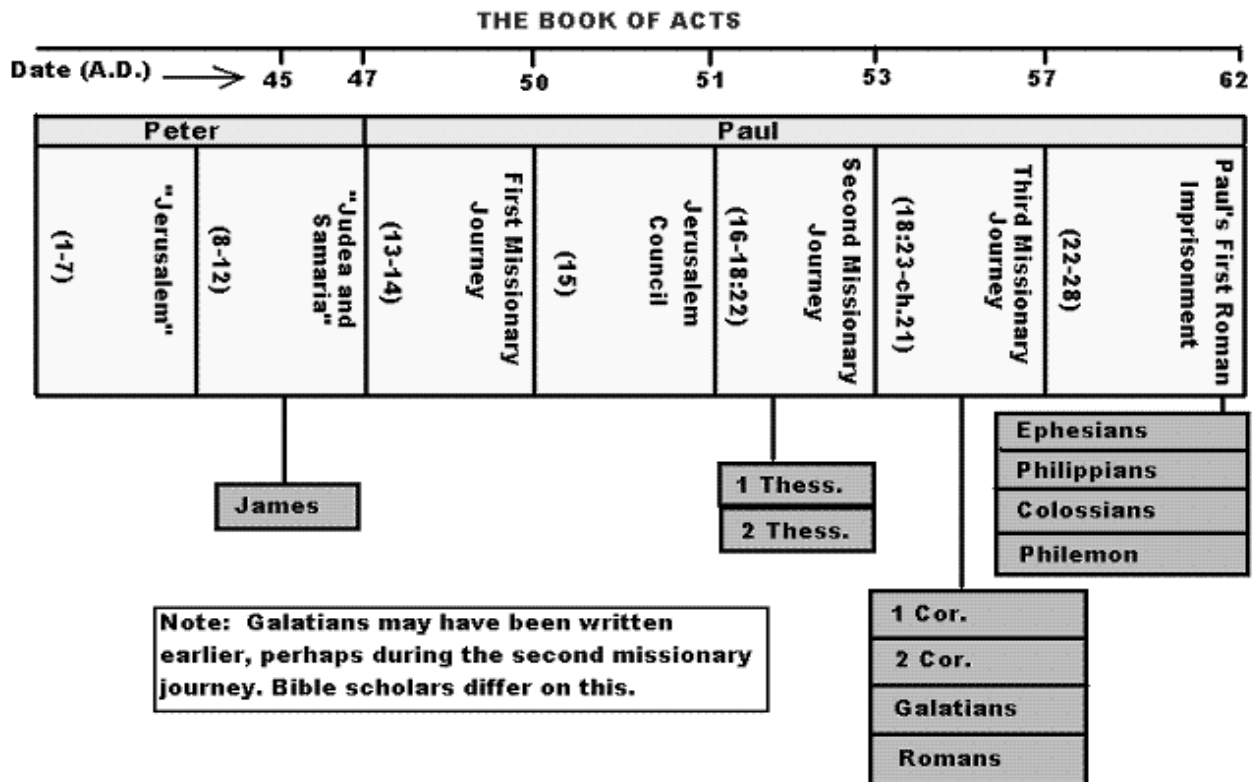
1. Spread of Christianity in fulfilment of the GREAT COMMISSION (Ac. 1:8...2= Jerusalem; 6:7= Judea; 9:3= Samaria; 12:24=Gentiles).
2. Vindication of Christianity as rooted in legal JUDAISM. A continuation of LUKE.
3. Introduction of Paul and the mission to the GENTILES

(a) Thematic Outline of Acts:

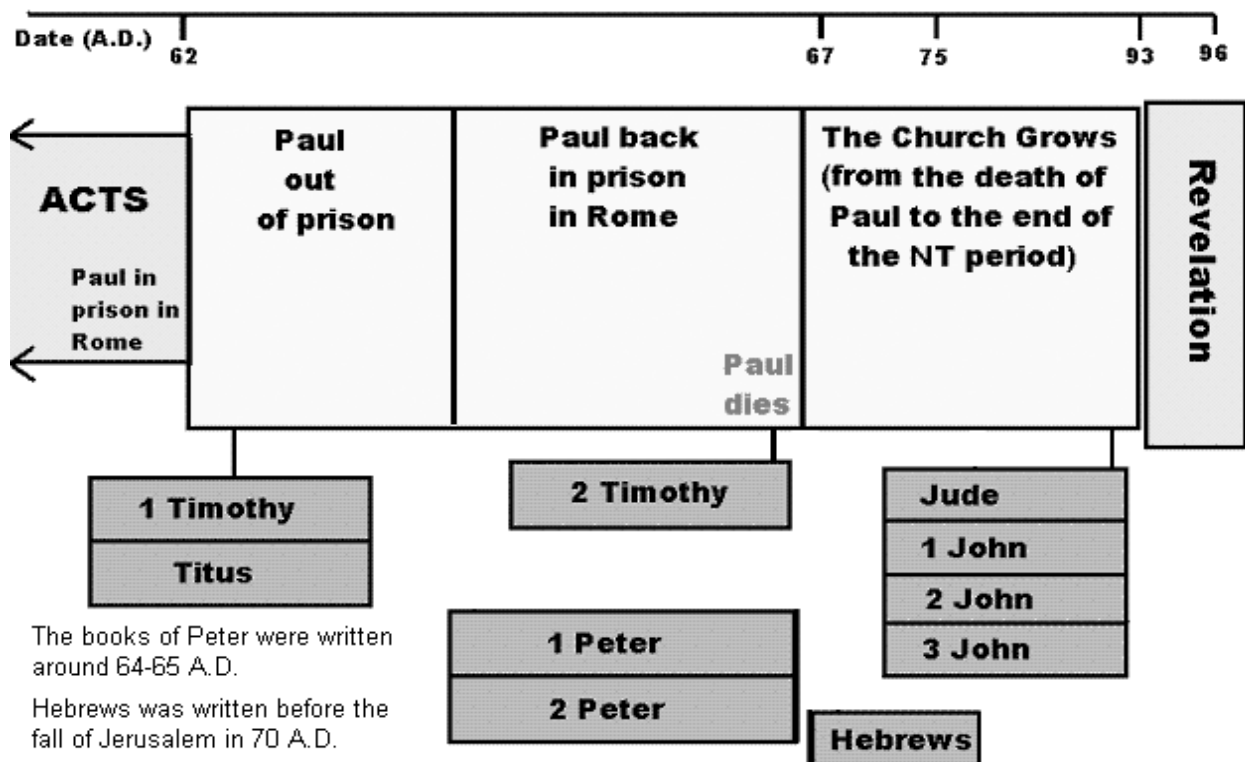
The Book of Acts

Focus	Foundation of the Church								Founder of Churches											
Divisions	Spirit of the Church		Growth of the Church		Persecution of the Church		Expansion of the Church		First Journey of Paul		Second Journey of Paul		Third Journey of Paul		Arrest of Paul		Trials of Paul		Imprisonment of Paul	
	1	4	5	7	8	9	10	12	13	15	16	18	19	20	21	23	24	26	27	28
Topics	Peter				Philip				Paul											
	To the Jews				To the Samartans				To the Gentiles											
Place	Jerusalem				Judea & Sumaria				Uttermost Parts											
Time	2 Years (A.D. 33-35)				14 Years (A.D. 35-48)				14 Years (A.D. 48-62)											
Author	Luke the Doctor																			

b. Historical Outline of Acts

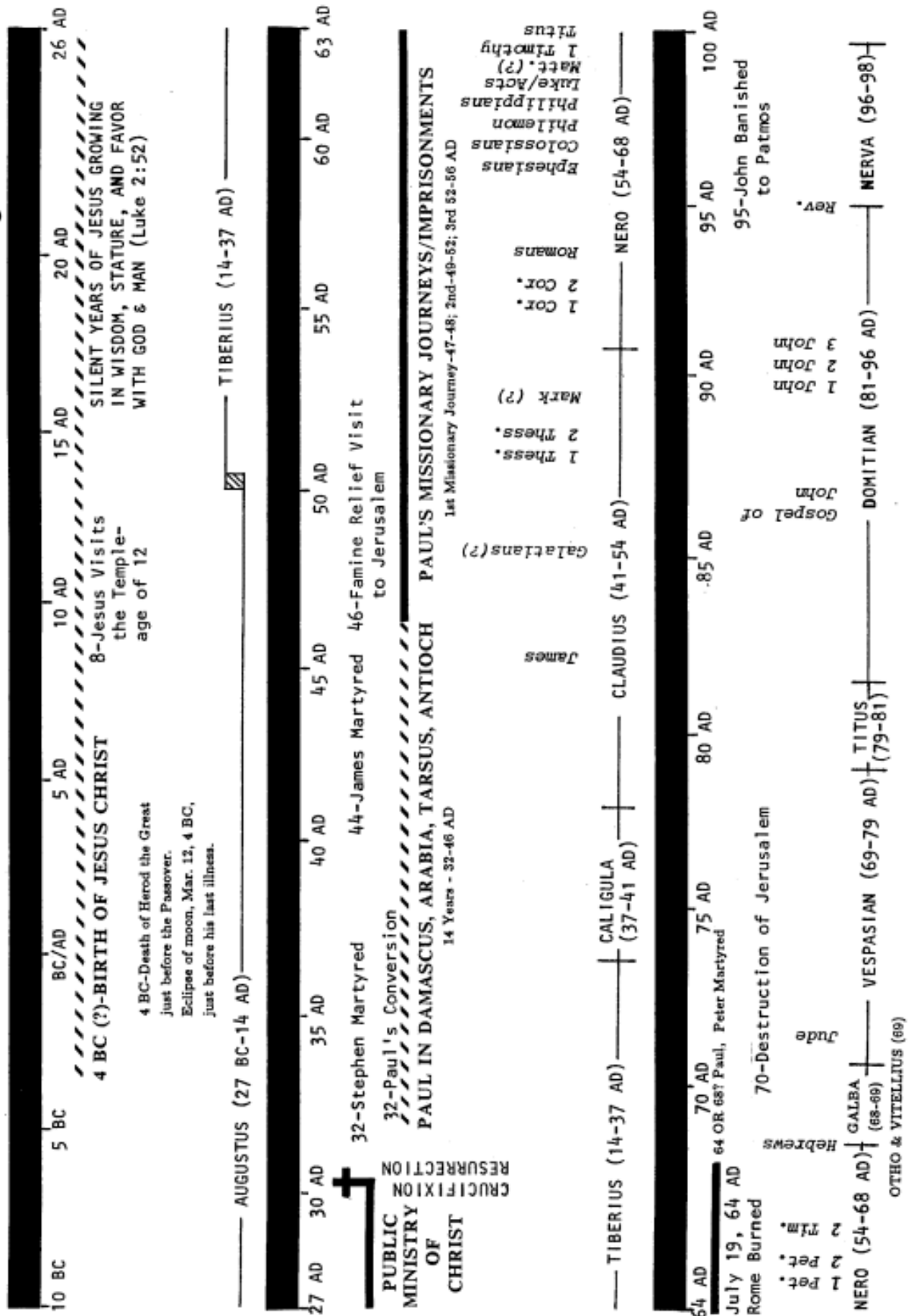


c. Historical Overview immediately after Acts



NEW TESTAMENT TIME LINE

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i. The birth of the church (ch. 1,2)- From led by Lots to Led by Spirit.

1. PENTECOST (2:1-36)

ii. The Jerusalem church (2:41-6:15) - Gospel to Jerusalem and Judea (Acts 1:8)

1. Period of GROWTH.
2. RESISTANCE mounts (3:1-4:31, 5:17-42)
3. Emphasis on COMMUNITY life (2:41-47; 4:31-5:16)
 - Appointing of Deacons (Acts 6:1-8).

iii. Stephen, Philip and the spread of Christianity outside of Jerusalem – Gospel to Samaria (Acts 1:8)

Stephen's Martyrdom led to a forced exodus from Jerusalem. (Acts 7).
Philip witnesses to Samaritans (Acts 8:5-25) and Ethiopian Eunuch.

iv. Peter, Paul and the spread of Christianity to the Gentiles- Gospel to Ends of the Earth (Acts 1:8)

Paul's CONVERSION and COMMISSION (9:1-31): Door to the Gentiles seen.

1. Paul's commission (9:15)
2. Peter's ministry to the Gentiles (9:32-10:18) - Peter *used the KEYS to the Kingdom (Matt 16:19)* to open doors to Jews (Ch. 2:14) and Samaritans (Ch. 8:14) and later to the Gentiles (Ch 10:28)

The base for the Christian movement shifted from JERUSALEM to ANTIOCH. It is from here that the Roman world would be reached for Christ (Acts 11:19-26). Resistance in Jerusalem comes to a head with martyrdom of James and imprisonment of Peter by Herod.

v. Paul's first missionary journey (13:1-15:35)

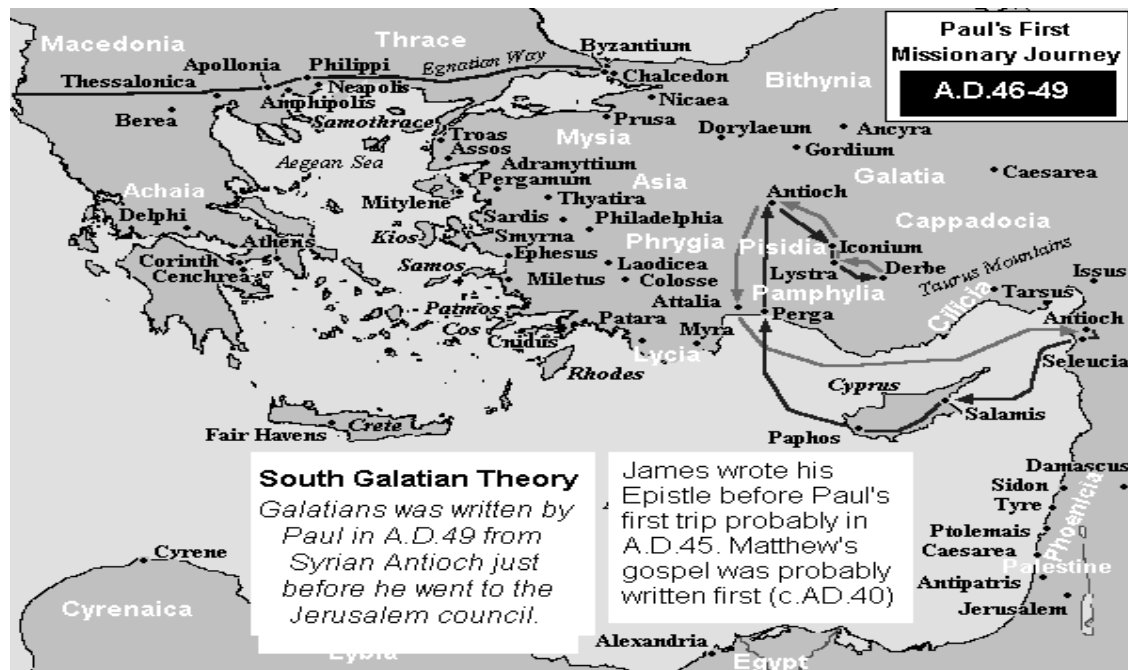
1. Sent out by the church at ANTIOCH (13:1-3).
2. Cyprus (13:4-12)
3. Asia Minor (13:13-4:28)

Strategy:

- i. Urban centres.
- ii. Synagogues.
- iii. Paul's central message (13:16-42)
- iv. To "God fearers" (13:43).
- v. *Established the church in short time – appoint elders.*

Parallels between Peter and Paul

Chapters 1-12		Chapters 13-24	
• Jerusalem the center • Peter the chief figure • Out to Samaria • Word rejected by Jews of homeland • Peter imprisoned • Judgment on Herod		• Antioch the center • Paul the chief figure • Out to Rome • Word rejected by Jews of the dispersion • Paul imprisoned • Judgment on Jews	
First Sermon	2	First Sermon	13
Lame man healed	3	Lame man healed	14
Simon the sorcerer	8	Elymas the sorcerer	13
Influence of shadow	5	Influence of handkerchief	19
Laying on of hands	8	Laying on of hands	19
Peter worshipped	10	Paul worshipped	14
Tabitha raised	9	Eutichus raised	20
Peter imprisoned	12	Paul imprisoned	28



- **The books of James and Galatians compared (See next page for James and Galatians overviews).**

- **North and South Galatian theories:**

vi. Jerusalem council (15:1-35)

1. Question: What is the relationship of Christianity to THE LAW?

- a. Position of the Judaizers (15:1,5).
- b. Testimony of Peter (15:7-12).
- c. Findings summarized by James (15:13-29)

Abstain from: 1. Things polluted by idols.

2. Sexual Immorality.

3. Eating anything that has been strangled.

4. Eating blood.

