

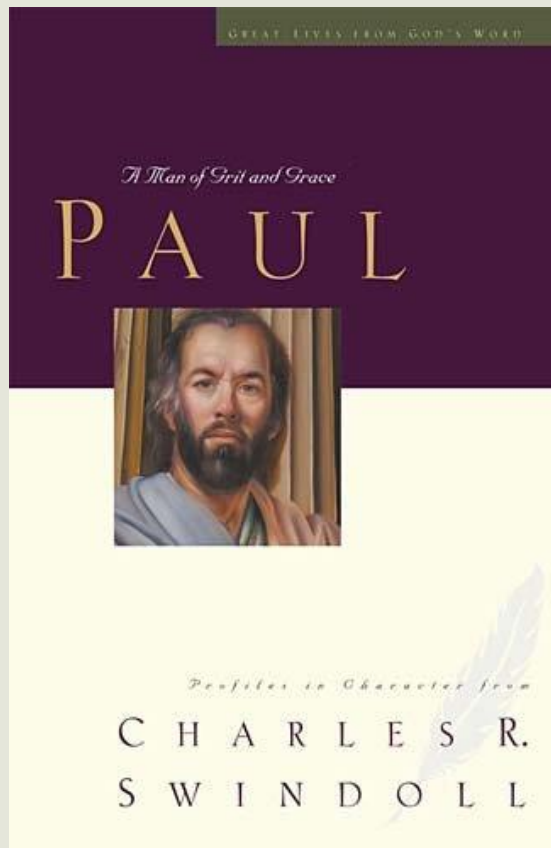


# Paul – Session 1

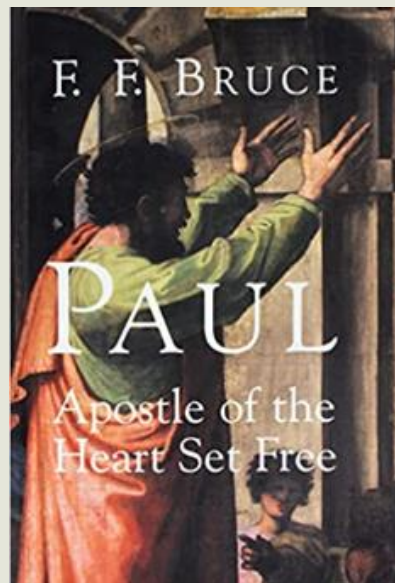
## New Testament Studies

CBC B&B Sunday School  
March 12, 2023

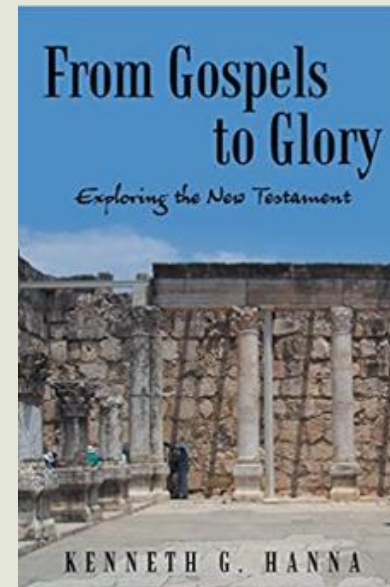
# Source Material



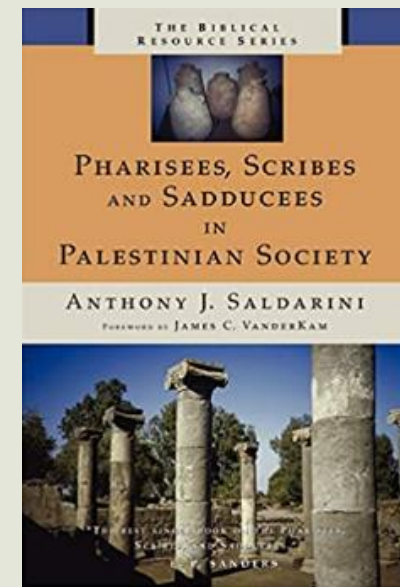
Primary Source



Companion Source



Companion Source



Companion Source

# Chronology of Acts / Ministry of Paul

Date	Event	Scripture Ref	Date	Event	Scripture Ref
AD 30	The Ascension	Acts 1	AD 48-49	<b>*Book of Galatians</b>	Acts 14
	Pentecost	Acts 2	AD 50	Jerusalem Council	Acts 15
	Apostles Preach / Sanhedrin	Acts 5	AD 50-52	Paul's second missionary journey	Acts 15-18
AD 32-35	Death of Stephen	Acts 6-8		<b>*1,2 Thessalonians</b>	Acts 18
	Paul's Conversion / Damascus	Acts 9	AD 52	Paul's 4 <sup>th</sup> Jerusalem visit	Acts 18
AD 35-37	Paul's 1 <sup>st</sup> Jerusalem visit	Acts 9	AD 53-57	Paul's third missionary journey	Acts 18-21
AD 41	Church Plant in Antioch	Acts 11		<b>*1,2 Corinthians, Romans</b>	
AD 42-43	Paul at Antioch	Acts 11	AD 57	Paul's 5 <sup>th</sup> (final) Jerusalem visit	Acts 21
AD 44-45	Famine in Jerusalem	Acts 11		Paul's Arrest	Acts 21-23
	Paul's 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jerusalem visit		AD 57-59	Paul Imprison in Caesarea	Acts 23-26
AD 46-48	Paul's first missionary journey	Acts 13-14	AD 59-60	Paul's Voyage to Rome	Acts 25-28

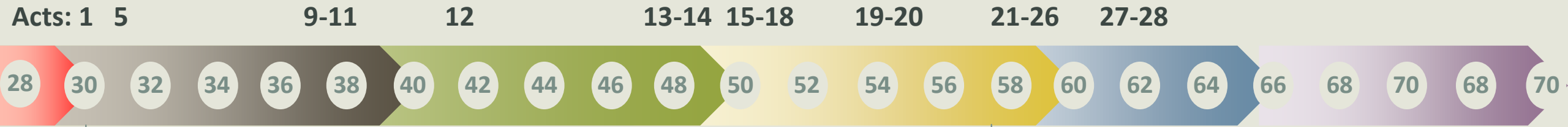
# Chronology of Acts / Ministry of Paul

Date	Event
AD 60	*Acts written by Luke in Rome
AD 60-62	*Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, Philemon written from prison
AD 62-63	Paul released from Prison
AD 63-66	Paul in Asia Minor / Spain
	*1 Timothy, Titus written
(AD 64-68)	Nero's persecution of Christians
AD 66-67	Paul's arrest / 2 <sup>nd</sup> imprisonment in Rome
	*2 Timothy written from prison
	Martyrdom of Peter, Paul

# New Testament Epistles Timeline

Date	Epistle	Author	Date	Epistle	Author
AD 45-49	James	James	AD 63-65	1 Timothy	Paul
AD 49	Galatians	Paul	AD 64-65	Titus	Paul
AD 50-52	1, 2 Thessalonians	Paul	AD 64	1 Peter	Peter
AD 55-56	1 Corinthians	Paul	AD 64	Hebrews	Unknown
AD 56	2 Corinthians	Paul	AD 65	2 Peter	Peter
AD 57	Romans	Paul	AD 67	2 Timothy	Paul
AD 60-62	Philippians	Paul	AD 67-70	Jude	Jude
	Colossians	Paul	AD 95-100	1 John	John
	Philemon	Paul		2 John	John
	Ephesians	Paul		3 John	John

# Chronology of Acts / Life & Ministry of Paul



1

Paul's Arrest in Jerusalem  
Acts 21

- 
- 1 Ascension – Acts 1
  - Pentecost – Acts 2
  - Apostles before Sanhedrin – Acts 5
-

# Acts 22:1-5 [NASB]

<sup>1</sup>“Brethren and fathers, hear my defense which I now *offer* to you.”

<sup>2</sup> And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew dialect, they became even more quiet; and he \*said,

<sup>3</sup> “I am a Jew, **born in Tarsus of Cilicia**, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, **strictly according to the law of our fathers**, being zealous for God just as you all are today. <sup>4</sup> I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons, <sup>5</sup> as also the high priest and all the Council of the elders can testify. From them I also received letters to the brethren, and started off for Damascus in order to bring even those who were there to Jerusalem as prisoners to be punished.



**ROME**

**Philippi**

**Thessalonica**

**Ephesus**

**Corinth**

**Colossae**

**GALATIA**

**Tarsus**

**Antioch**

**Malta**

**Damascus**

**Jerusalem**



# Acts 22:27-29 [NASB]

<sup>27</sup> The commander came and said to him, “Tell me, are you a Roman?” And he said, “Yes.”

<sup>28</sup> The commander answered, “I acquired this citizenship with a large sum of money.” And Paul said, “But *I was actually born a citizen.*”

<sup>29</sup> Therefore those who were about to examine him immediately let go of him; and the commander also was afraid when he found out that he was a Roman, and because he had put him in chains.

# Acts 23:6-8 [NASB]

<sup>6</sup> But perceiving that one group were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, Paul *began* crying out in the Council, “Brethren, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees; I am on trial for the hope and resurrection of the dead!”

<sup>7</sup> As he said this, there occurred a dissension between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided.

<sup>8</sup> For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor an angel, nor a spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.

# Life & Ministry of Paul

## Sovereign Foundations:

- Born / Raised in Tarsus (Acts 22:3)
- Born a Roman Citizen (Acts 22:28)
- Born the son of a Pharisee (Acts 23:6)
- Raised in Strict Adherence to the way of the Pharisees (Acts 22:3)

# Philippians 3:1-5 [NASB]

Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things *again* is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you.

<sup>2</sup> Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision; <sup>3</sup> for we are the *true* circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

# Life & Ministry of Paul

## Sovereign Foundations:

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- Born a Roman Citizen (Acts 22:28)
- Born the son of a Pharisee (Acts 23:6)
- Raised in Strict Adherence to the Pharisees (Acts 22:3)
- Jew – Descendant of the tribe of Benjamin (Phil 3:5)
  - Jewish name “Saul” possibly named after king Saul

# Acts 22:1-5 [NASB]

<sup>1</sup>“Brethren and fathers, hear my defense which I now *offer* to you.”

<sup>2</sup> And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew dialect, they became even more quiet; and he \*said,

<sup>3</sup> “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under **Gamaliel**, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for God just as you all are today. <sup>4</sup> I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons, <sup>5</sup> as also the high priest and all the Council of the elders can testify. From them I also received letters to the brethren, and started off for Damascus in order to bring even those who were there to Jerusalem as prisoners to be punished.

# Acts 26:1-5 [NASB]

<sup>1</sup>“Agrippa said to Paul, “You are permitted to speak for yourself.” Then Paul stretched out his hand and *proceeded* to make his defense:

<sup>2</sup> “In regard to all the things of which I am accused by the Jews, I consider myself fortunate, King Agrippa, that I am about to make my defense before you today; <sup>3</sup> especially because you are an expert in all customs and questions among *the* Jews; therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently.

<sup>4</sup> “So then, all Jews know my manner of life from my youth up, which from the beginning was spent among my *own* nation and at Jerusalem; <sup>5</sup> since they have known about me for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that I lived *as* a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion.

# Life & Ministry of Paul

## Sovereign Foundations:

- Born / Raised in Tarsus (Acts 22:3)
- Born a Roman Citizen (Acts 22:28)
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- Jew – Descendant of the tribe of Benjamin (Phil 3:5)
- Disciple of Gamaliel (Acts 22:3)
- Zealous Persecutor of “The Way” (Christ Followers) (Acts 22:4; 26:10-11)



# Galatians 1:13-17 [NASB]

<sup>13</sup> For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it; <sup>14</sup> and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.

<sup>15</sup> But when God, who had set me apart *even* from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased <sup>16</sup> to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, <sup>17</sup> nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus.

# Life & Ministry of Paul

## Sovereign Foundations:

- Born / Raised in Tarsus (Acts 22:3)
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- Smarter than his contemporaries (Gal 1:14)

# Life & Ministry of Paul

Insights from Swindoll:

- Fluent with Greek, Latin, and Aramaic
- Well educated and intelligent that, by his thirteenth birthday, he had mastered
  - Jewish History
  - Poetry of the Psalms
  - Literature of the Prophets
- Able to dissect Scriptural text into scores of many possible meanings
- A master debater – skill necessary to serve as a Rabbi
- Aspires towards becoming a member of the Sanhedrin

# Life & Ministry of Paul

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# Life & Ministry of Paul

## Gamaliel:

- Member of the Sanhedrin
- Successor of the Hilel school of legal interpretation (cf Acts 5:38)
- Discipled an “... unnamed pupil ... who manifested ‘imprudence in matter of learning’ and tried to refute his master...” – tradition points this pupil to Paul (though it is uncertain)

# Acts 5:27-39 [NASB]

<sup>27</sup> When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup> saying, “We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” <sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup> The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. <sup>31</sup> He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup> And we are witnesses of these things; and *so is* the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

# Acts 5:27-39 [NASB]

<sup>33</sup> But when they heard this, they were cut to the quick and intended to kill them. <sup>34</sup> But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the Law, respected by all the people, stood up in the Council and gave orders to put the men outside for a short time. <sup>35</sup> And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you propose to do with these men. <sup>36</sup> For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a group of about four hundred men joined up with him. But he was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. <sup>37</sup> After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census and drew away *some* people after him; he too perished, and all those who followed him were scattered.

# Acts 5:27-39 [NASB]

<sup>38</sup> So in the present case, I say to you, stay away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or action is of men, it will be overthrown; <sup>39</sup> but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; or else you may even be found fighting against God.”

## Shammai vs Hilel

\*\*Paul was likely at this hearing, and he very likely disapprove of his mentor's proposition...

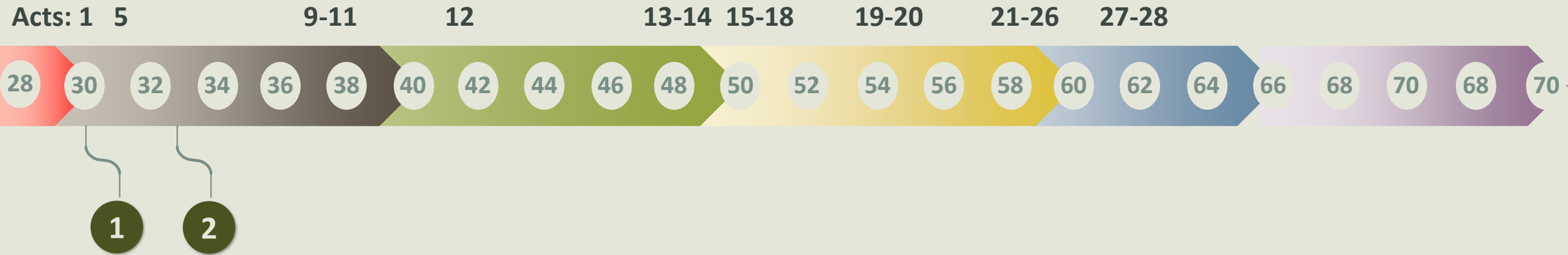


# Life & Ministry of Paul

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- Zealous Persecutor of “The Way” (Christ Followers) (Acts 22:4; 26:10-11)
- Smarter than his contemporaries (Gal 1:14)
- Sees himself as wiser than the wise, smarter than the intelligent

# Chronology of Acts / Life & Ministry of Paul



1 Ascension – Acts 1  
Pentecost – Acts 2  
Apostles before Sanhedrin – Acts 5

2 Stoning of Stephen – Acts 7

# Acts 7:54-60 [NASB]

<sup>54</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they *began* gnashing their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup> But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; <sup>56</sup> and he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” <sup>57</sup> But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse. <sup>58</sup> When they had driven him out of the city, they *began* stoning *him*; and **the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.** <sup>59</sup> They went on stoning Stephen as he called on *the Lord* and said, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!” <sup>60</sup> Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!” Having said this, he fell asleep.

# Acts 8:1-3 [NASB]

Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death.

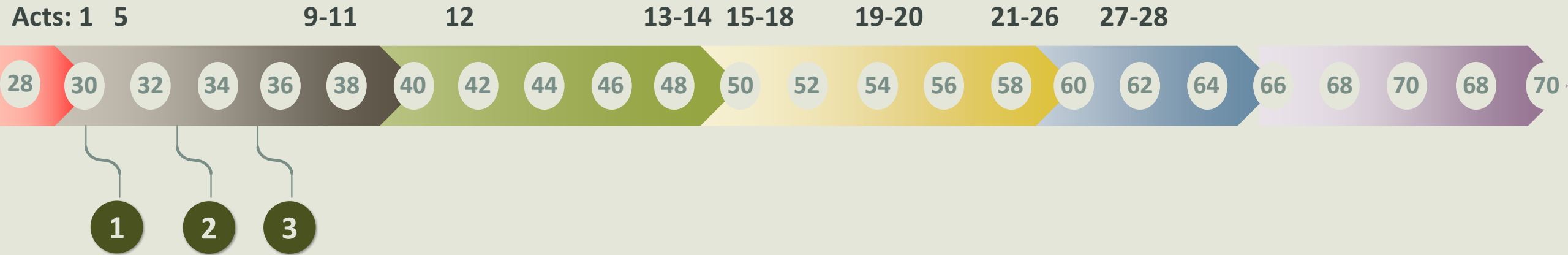
And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

<sup>2</sup> *Some* devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him.

<sup>3</sup> But Saul *began* ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.

... this was Paul!! ...

# Chronology of Acts / Life & Ministry of Paul



- 
- 1 Ascension – Acts 1  
Pentecost – Acts 2  
Apostles before Sanhedrin – Acts 5
  - 2 Stoning of Stephen – Acts 7
  - 3 Paul's Conversion – Acts 9
-

# Swindoll's Insights

“The conversion of a soul is the miracle of a moment, the manufacture of a saint is the task of a lifetime”

- Alan Redpath

No person, no matter how bright or how sincere or how submissive, comes to Christ and enters a world of instantaneous spiritual maturity. Becoming mature is a lifelong process. The process begins at the moment of salvation. Conversion to Christ is the initial downbeat to an entire magnum opus, which God composes of our lives

# Acts 9:1-9 [NASB]

Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, <sup>2</sup> and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; <sup>4</sup> and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, **“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”**

# Acts 9:1-9 [NASB]

<sup>5</sup> And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” And He *said*, “**I am Jesus whom you are persecuting**, <sup>6</sup> but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do.” <sup>7</sup> The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.

<sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.



# Life & Ministry of Paul

... how Paul remembered this experience...

# Acts 22:4-8 [NASB]

<sup>4</sup> I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons, <sup>5</sup> as also the high priest and all the Council of the elders can testify. From them I also received letters to the brethren, and started off for Damascus in order to bring even those who were there to Jerusalem as prisoners to be punished.

<sup>6</sup> “But it happened that as I was on my way, approaching Damascus about noontime, a very bright light suddenly flashed from heaven all around me, <sup>7</sup> and I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’ <sup>8</sup> And I answered, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said to me, ‘I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting.’

# Swindoll's Principles Chapter 1/2

- No matter how you appear to others today, everyone has a dark side
- Regardless of what you have done, no one is beyond hope
- Even though your past is soiled, everyone can find a new beginning with God

# Applications

- In times of persecution – or in opportunities for evangelism – emphasize more on your personal testimony, and less on theology
  - Stephen – Acts 7
  - Paul – Acts 22-26
- In times of depression due to persecution, reflect on your conversion experience (Acts 22 / Acts 9).

# Questions