

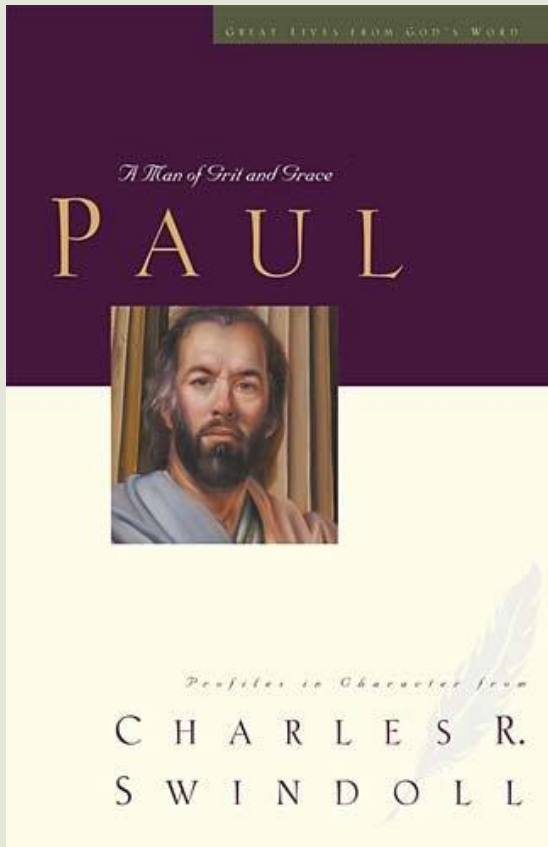
The background is a dark grey chalkboard with various white chalk sketches. On the left, there is a large sketch of a microscope. Above it is a globe of the Earth. In the bottom left, there are sketches of books and a cross. In the bottom right, there are sketches of a percentage sign, an exclamation point, and a right-angle symbol. The text is centered on the board.

Paul – Session 2

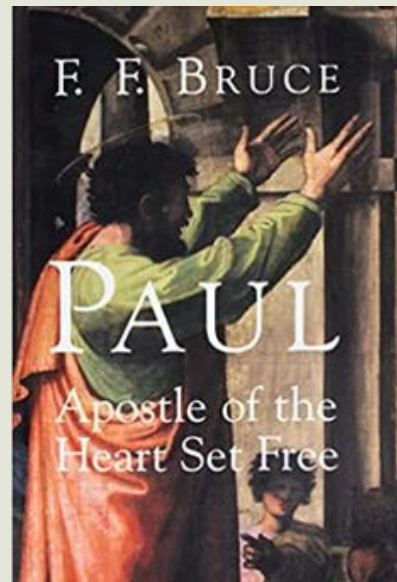
New Testament Studies

CBC B&B Sunday School
March 19, 2023

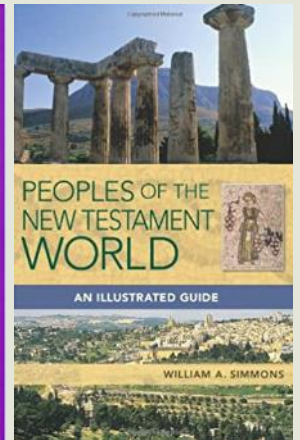
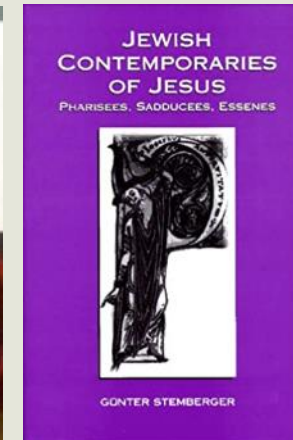
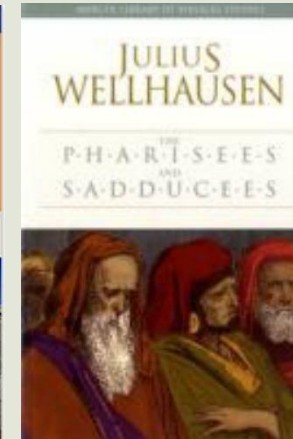
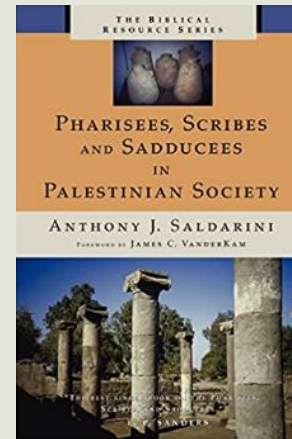
Source Material



Primary Source

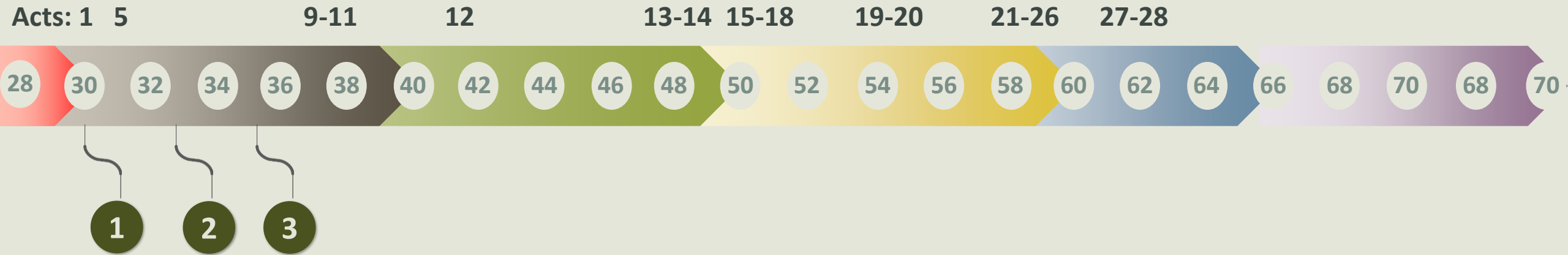


Companion Source



Supplementary Sources

Chronology of Acts / Life & Ministry of Paul



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- 1 Ascension – Acts 1
Pentecost – Acts 2
Apostles before Sanhedrin – Acts 5
 - 2 Stoning of Stephen – Acts 7
 - 3 Paul's Conversion – Acts 9
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Acts 9:1-19 [NASB]

¹ Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, ² 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. ³ As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; ⁴ and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “**Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?**” ⁵ And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” And He *said*, “**I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,**

Acts 9:1-19 [NASB]

⁶ but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do.” ⁷ The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸ 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. ⁹ And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Acts 9:1-19 [NASB]

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, “**Ananias.**” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹ And the Lord *said* to him, “**Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight.**”

¹³ But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints at Jerusalem; ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.”

Acts 9:1-19 [NASB]

¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; ¹⁶ for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name’s sake.” ¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized; ¹⁹ and he took food and was strengthened.

Acts 9:1-19 [NASB]

Violent Capture of a Rebel Will

Pharisees in the Time of Christ

- Matthew's Account:
 - Cited 30 times
 - Depicts the group as legalistic, with emphasis on mechanical practice of religion over principles of Scripture
- Mark's Account:
 - Cited 12 times
 - Depicts the group as an opposition to Jesus, or opposition to the ministry of Jesus.

Pharisees in the Time of Christ

- Luke's Account:
 - Cited 27 times
 - Closeness, similarities to Jesus and His ministries
- John's Account:
 - Cited 20 times
 - Depicts the group as the representatives of the Jews in opposition to Jesus

Pharisees in the Time of Christ

- Less emphasis on political influence (ceding to the Sadducees)
- More emphasis on religious influence over the people
- Recognized as the experts of the Mosaic Law
- Endured many campaigns against the sects / secularizations of their faith leading into the Herodian Period (King Herod)
 - The Inquisition of a new “sect”: John 1:19-27

John 1:19-27 [NASB]

¹⁹ This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰ And he confessed and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹ They asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” And he *said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²² Then they said to him, “Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?” ²³ He said, “I am A VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, ‘MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD,’ as Isaiah the prophet said.”

²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, and said to him, “Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶ John answered them saying, “I baptize in water, *but* among you stands One whom you do not know. ²⁷ *It is* He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Pharisees in the Time of Christ

- Paul's Perspective
 - Embraced Pharisee's perspective passed down from his ancestors (Acts 24:14)
 - Embraced current Pharisee's perspective with respect to religious authority
 - Embraced Pharisee's perspective that Jesus Christ is the leader of a new religious sect
 - Embraced Pharisee responsibility to diffuse religious sects
 - Believed Jesus is dead

Encounters Christ in a Vision!

Acts 9:1-19 [NASB]

Memorable Faith of a Forgotten Hero

Acts 9:1-19 [NASB]

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹ And the Lord *said* to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight.”

¹³ But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints at Jerusalem; ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.”

Memorable Faith of a Forgotten Hero

- Ananias' Perspective
 - Saul is coming to Damascus to arrest Christ Followers
 - I am a Christ follower; watch my step, avoid attention
 - Received vision from God to seek out Saul
 - ??!?

Acts 9:1-19 [NASB]

¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; ¹⁶ for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name’s sake.” ¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized; ¹⁹ and he took food and was strengthened.

Swindoll's Principles Chapter 3

- Surprises are always part of God's leading
- Surprises always intensify our need for faith
- Stepping out in faith always brings clarification of God's plan
- Obedience always stimulates growth

(On a Normal Day...)

Applications

- In matters of spiritual integrity, learn to stand firm
- When things become too comfortable, be ready for God's "surprises"
- In encounters with God, learn to let go of our rational thoughts

Questions