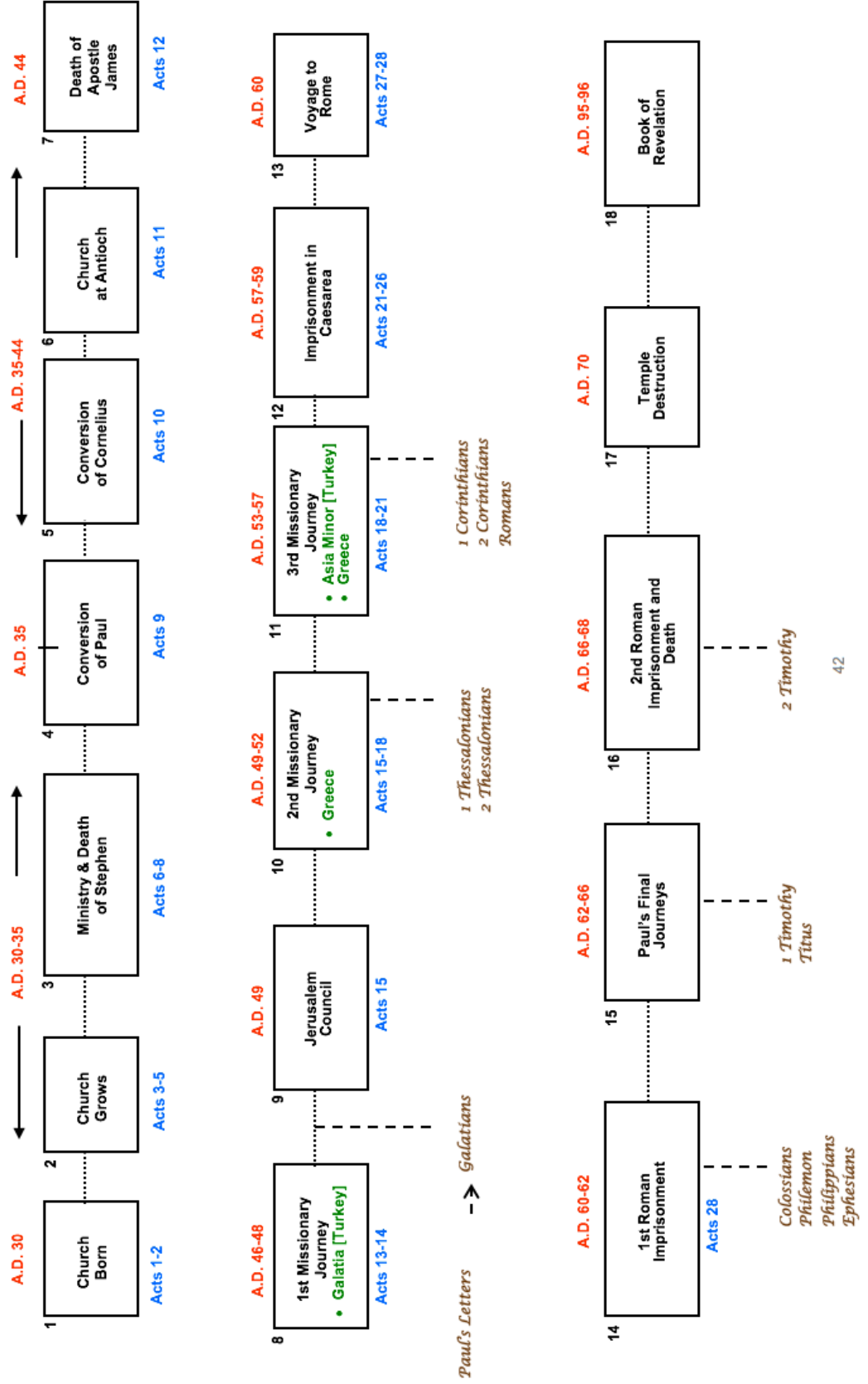


## NEW TESTAMENT TIMELINE

1	2	3	4
Life of Christ	Birth and Growth of Church	Letters	Future
4 BC– AD 30	30–96 AD	44–96 AD	AD??



## 1. Church Born [Acts 1–2]

The church was born in Jerusalem on the Jewish feast day of Pentecost when the promised Holy Spirit came upon the disciples of Christ. They spoke in many different languages and 3000 people were converted [Acts 2] by hearing the preaching of Peter.

## 2. Church Grows [Acts 3–5]

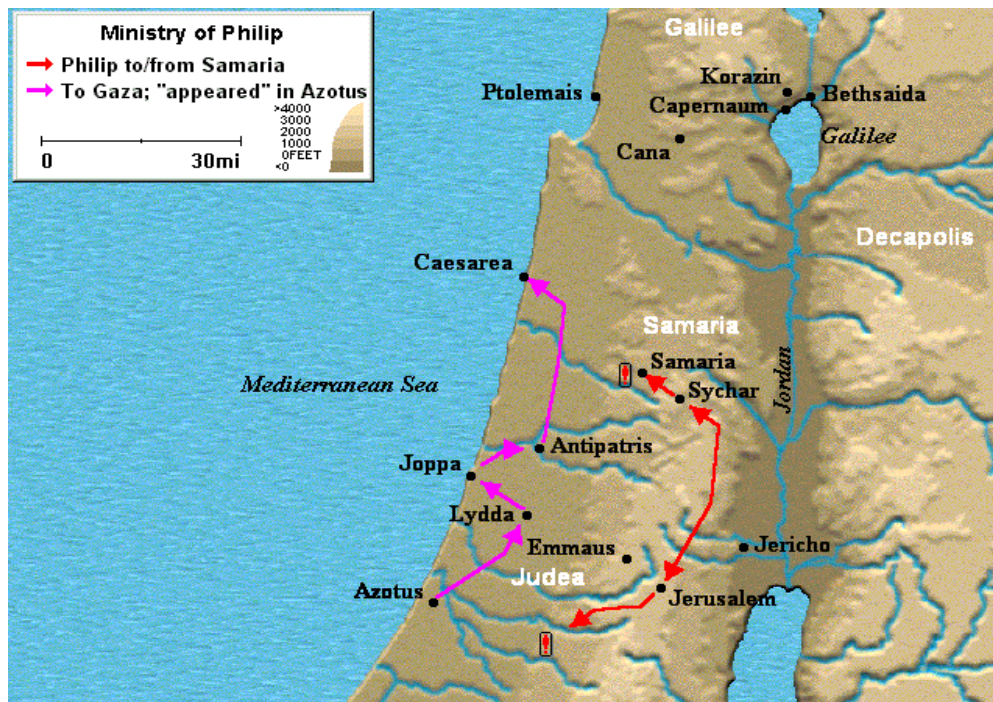
As Peter continued to preach, the number of converts grew to over 5000. Persecution toward the church slowly started at this stage.

## 3. Ministry and Death of Stephen [Acts 6–8]

As converts increased, the apostles appoint 7 men [later known as deacons] to oversee the administrative functions of the Church. Stephen, one among them, proclaimed the word fearlessly. As a result of his preaching, the Jews got angry and stoned him to death. He was the first Christian to die as a martyr [meaning “witness”].

Saul of Tarsus played a lead role in the killing of Stephen. In addition, he led the persecution against the Christians. As a result, many believers were scattered from Jerusalem to other places.

As they went, they preached the gospel in various places. Philip, one of the 7, preached the gospel in Samaria and as a result, many came to the faith.



#### 4. Conversion of Paul [Acts 9]

Saul of Tarsus, the leader of the mob that killed Stephen, was directly confronted by Jesus on the road to Damascus and as a result, became a Christian. He spent the next 2-3 years in Arabia adjacent to Damascus where he received direct revelations from the Lord [Gal 1:17-19].

He came back to Damascus to preach and as a result of persecution went to Jerusalem, his first visit there since his conversion.

In Jerusalem, he met Peter and spent fifteen days with him. Due to persecution in Jerusalem, he goes to Tarsus. For the next 7-8 years, Paul remained in the background in the area of Tarsus and around being trained by the Lord for his later ministry.

#### Conversion of Paul



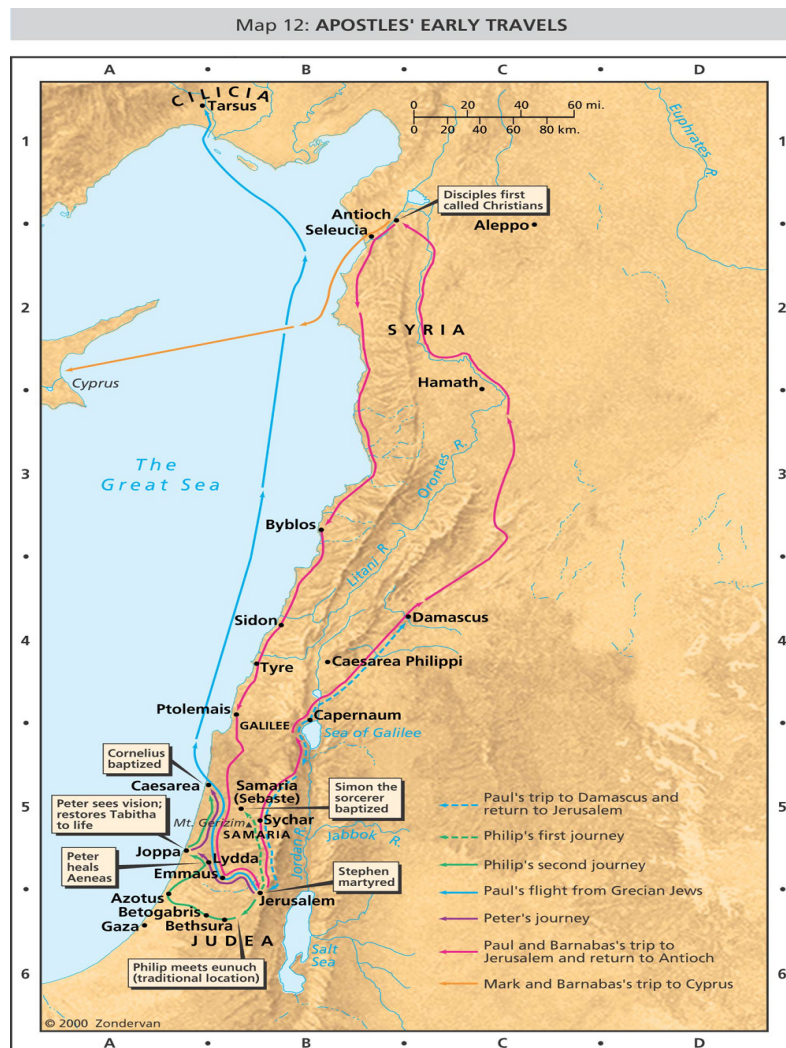
## 5. Conversion of Cornelius [Acts 10]

Peter preached to a Gentile [non-Jew] named Cornelius and as a result of his preaching the family and friends of Cornelius became Christians. These were the first non-Jewish converts to Christianity.

## 6. Church at Antioch [Acts 11]

Due to the scattering of the Christians, the gospel is taken to many places, including Antioch. Many turned to the Lord in Antioch. Barnabas took Paul [now in Tarsus] to minister along with him to the growing church in Antioch.

Disciples are first called Christians in Antioch [11:26]. Later, Barnabas and Paul took some supplies from this church to help the church in Jerusalem that was going through a great famine.



## 7. Death of Apostle James [Acts 12]

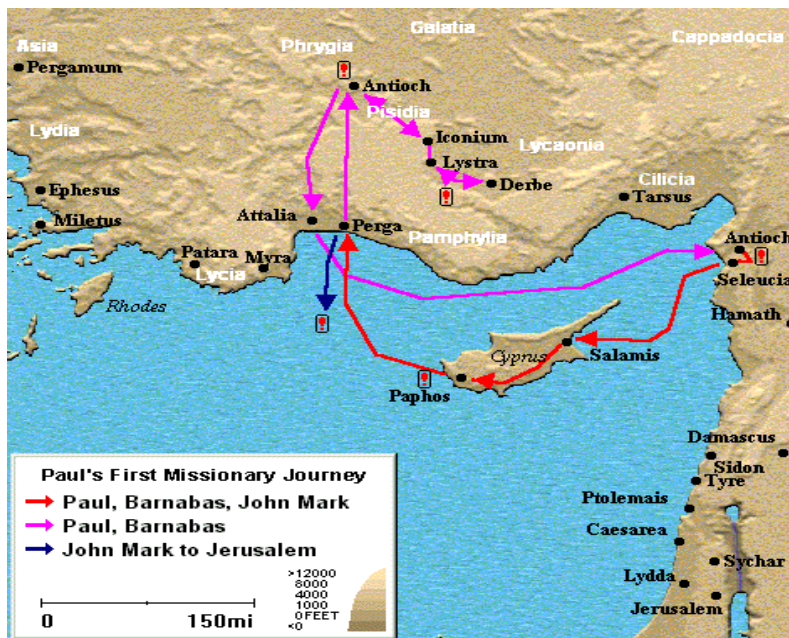
Herod persecuted the Christians; first he killed apostle James [brother of John] and later arrested Peter. An angel of the Lord delivered Peter from the prison as believers prayed.

## 8. Paul's First Missionary Journey [Acts 13–14]

As the church was growing in Antioch, the Holy Spirit prompted Barnabas and Paul to be sent out as missionaries to proclaim the gospel in other places. John Mark, cousin of Barnabas and the author of the gospel of Mark also went with them as their helper.

The group first sailed to Cyprus and preached the gospel there. John Mark returns to Jerusalem from Cyprus, but Paul and Barnabas travel forward to various cities of Galatia [modern day Turkey] such as Antioch of Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe.

Despite facing persecution in many of these places, the message was blessed as many turned to the Lord. They return back to Antioch after strengthening the Churches that were raised as a result of the conversions. Paul wrote the letter to Galatians soon after returning to Antioch.



## 9. Jerusalem Council [Acts 15]

The first major issue that confronted the early Church was the inclusion of Gentiles into the family of God, the Church. Paul's first missionary journey resulted in huge number of gentiles being added to the church. The question that faced the Church was—should Gentile Christians become Jews and keep the Mosaic law, specifically in undergoing circumcision, keeping food regulations, etc in order to be saved?

The Jerusalem Council led by James [the half-brother of Jesus and writer of letter of James], Peter, Paul and Barnabas concluded that since salvation is solely by God's grace through faith in Christ, Gentiles did not have to become Jews in order to be saved.



## 10. Paul's Second Missionary Journey [Acts 15–18]

Upon their return to Antioch, Paul and Barnabas prepare for another missionary journey. Due to differences between Paul and Barnabas concerning John Mark that left them during the first journey, Paul left with Silas and Barnabas left with John Mark.

Timothy also joined Paul and Silas. They ministered in Macedonia [cities such as Philippi, Thessalonica and Berea] and later in Corinth. Macedonia and Corinth are provinces in Greece.

Paul spent almost 18 months in Corinth during which he wrote 1-2 Thessalonians. He also ministered in Ephesus before departing to Antioch through Jerusalem.



## 11. Paul's Third Missionary Journey [Acts 18–21]

After some time in Antioch, Paul began his third journey and this time to spread the message in **Asia Minor** [modern day Turkey]. He encourages believers from first two trips and comes to **Ephesus** [a key city in Asia].

Paul spends about 3 years in Ephesus, the longest in all of his missionary journeys in one city. Infact, the church in Ephesus played a key role in the spread of Christianity next to the churches in Jerusalem and Antioch.

This church had Paul, Apollos, Timothy and later, the apostle John, as their leaders. After leaving Ephesus, Paul visited Macedonia, Greece and finally came to Jerusalem.

During this journey, Paul wrote 1–2 Corinthians and Romans.





## 12. Imprisonment in Caesarea [Acts 21–26]

In Jerusalem, Paul was arrested and later sent to prison in Caesarea for about 2 years. During this time, he presented his case to a governor named Felix, his successor Festus and finally to King Agrippa.

Since he was not released, Paul being a Roman citizen, appealed to Caesar. As a result, Paul was sent to Rome to present his case before Caesar.

## 13. Voyage to Rome [Acts 27–28]

Paul's voyage to Rome was filled with many dangers. Despite all the dangers, the Lord assured Paul of his presence and provision. Paul landed safely in Rome after a brief stop [almost 3 months] in an island called Malta, south of Sicily.

### PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME [Acts 27-28]



#### **14. Paul's First Roman Imprisonment [Acts 28]**

The Book of Acts closes with Paul's first Roman imprisonment as he waited to be heard by Caesar. This was a house arrest and Paul had the liberty of having visitors.

From this imprisonment, Paul wrote four letters; Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. These four are frequently called as "Prison Epistles."

Evidence from other letters of Paul suggest his release from prison and subsequent travels to other places.

#### **15. Paul's Final Journeys**

Paul's final journeys included stops at places such as Ephesus, Macedonia and Crete. He wrote 1 Timothy and Titus during this period.

#### **16. Paul's Second Roman Imprisonment and Death**

Paul was arrested and this time, there would be no release. He writes 2 Timothy and states clearly that he finished his race well and was looking forward to be offered as a sacrifice [2 Tim 4:6–8] and showed no hope of being released [as he did earlier in the prison epistles].

Tradition suggests that Paul was executed [beheaded] by Nero, the Roman king, sometime around A.D. 66–68. According to tradition, Peter was also put to death [crucifixion] by Nero during the same period.

## 17. Temple Destruction

In A.D. 70, the Romans as a result of Jews revolting, led by Titus captured the city of Jerusalem. The city was destroyed and many Jews faced terrible suffering at the hands of the Romans. More importantly, just as the Lord predicted [Matt 24:1–2], the temple in Jerusalem was completely destroyed, never to be rebuilt till date.

**Marble Paving Stones found on the Western Side of the Temple Mount. The stones date from the Temple Destruction in A.D. 70**



**Western Wall, revered by Jews for centuries as the only existing part of the temple since its destruction. It stands as a place of prayer for the Jews. [Also known as Weeping or Wailing Wall].**



## 18. Book of Revelation

After the death of Paul, the apostle John ministered in Ephesus. From there, he wrote the Gospel of John and 1–2–3 John. He was sent to exile in the island of Patmos, near the coast of Ephesus and from there, wrote the book of Revelation [A.D. 95–96].

## NEW TESTAMENT TIMELINE

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Life of Christ</b>	<b>Birth and Growth of Church</b>	<b>Letters</b>	<b>Future</b>
<b>4 BC– AD 30</b>	<b>30–96 AD</b>	<b>44–96 AD</b>	<b>AD??</b>

### 3. LETTERS

[Romans – Jude]

#### According to Dates

<b>A.D. 44-50</b>	<b>A.D. 51-60</b>	<b>A.D. 60-69</b>	<b>A.D. 70-100</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• James [44-48]</li> <li>• Galatians [49-50]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matthew [50-60]</li> <li>• Mark [50-60]</li> <li>• 1 Thessalonians [51]</li> <li>• 2 Thessalonians [51-52]</li> <li>• 1 Corinthians [55]</li> <li>• 2 Corinthians [55-56]</li> <li>• Romans [56-57]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Luke [60-61]</li> <li>• Colossians [60-62]</li> <li>• Philemon [60-62]</li> <li>• Philippians [60-62]</li> <li>• Ephesians [60-62]</li> <li>• Acts [62]</li> <li>• 1 Timothy [62-66]</li> <li>• Titus [62-66]</li> <li>• 1 Peter [64-65]</li> <li>• 2 Peter [66-68]</li> <li>• 2 Timothy [66-68]</li> <li>• Hebrews [67-69]</li> <li>• Jude [68-70]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John [80-90]</li> <li>• 1 John [90-95]</li> <li>• 2 John [90-95]</li> <li>• 3 John [90-95]</li> <li>• Revelation [95-96]</li> </ul>

### Nature of Letters.

Letters or Epistles were written to churches, individuals or the general Christian public. These letters could be dealing with a specific problem and issues of that day, but the instructions given apply for our day and age also. The typical pattern of these letters is to write about doctrinal truths and follow-up with practical implications of the truth; Doctrine–then duty, Principle–then practice.

### Paul’s Letters.

13 of the 22 epistles of the New Testament were written by Paul. Of those 9 were written to Churches and 4 to individuals. These 9 are arranged first and followed by the 4 letters to the individuals.

### General Letters.

There was a total of 8 letters written by other individuals to the Christian public at large. They are arranged according to their size (larger letters followed by smaller letters).

