

# Paul in Context



- 1 Saul the Pharisee
- 2 **Apostle to the Gentiles**
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- 3 Where did they get the idea that they had to preach to Jews first?

# Chronology of Paul

	Paul converted (33) <i>Acts 9:1-22</i>			
34	Paul in Arabia and Damascus (33-36) <i>Acts 9:23-25; Gal 1:17-18</i>			
36	Paul's 2 week visit to Jerusalem (36) <i>Acts 9:26-30; Gal 1:18-19</i>		Caligula (37-41)	
38	Paul in Syria (Antioch) & Cilicia (Tarsus) (36-43) <i>Acts 9:30; Gal 1:21</i>			
40				
42			Claudius (41-54)	Herod Agrippa I king of Judea (41-44)
44	James the apostle beheaded (44) <i>Acts 12:1-2</i> Paul's trip to Antioch (44) <i>Acts 11:25-26</i>			
46	Paul's second visit to Jerusalem (46) <i>Acts 11:27-30</i> <b>Paul's first journey</b> (46-48) <i>Acts 13:2 - 14:28</i>			
48				
	Judaist contention at Antioch (49) <i>Acts 15:1-2; Gal 2:12-14</i>	Galatians from Antioch (49)	<i>Jews expelled from Rome (49)</i>	
50	Jerusalem council (50) <i>Acts 15:2-29</i> <b>Paul's second journey</b> (50-52) <i>Acts 15:40 - 18:23</i>	1 Thess. from Corinth (51)		Herod Agrippa II Tetrarch of Nth. Territory (50-93)
52		2 Thess. from Corinth (51/52)		Felix (52-60) Roman procurator
	<b>Paul's third journey</b> (53-58) <i>Acts 18:23 - 21:17</i>			

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- Famous for its sports, especially chariot racing.



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- Earliest believers in Antioch fled Jerusalem because of Saul. (Acts 11:19)

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- Acts 4:36. Son of encouragement.
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- Acts 9:26–27. Everyone else afraid.  
Barnabas believed him. Gave him the benefit of the doubt. Did not assume false motives.
- Acts 11:23. He “barnabased” them.

# First journey

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- Acts 13:9 the turning point: Saul becomes Paul, and Paul becomes the leader.

# Gentiles and Jews

- Jew:** a descendant of Jacob
- Gentile:** not a Jew
- Proselyte:** a Gentile who had converted to Judaism. (e.g., Ruth)
- God-fearer:** a Gentile who believed in God, but did not follow the law of Moses. (e.g., Cornelius)

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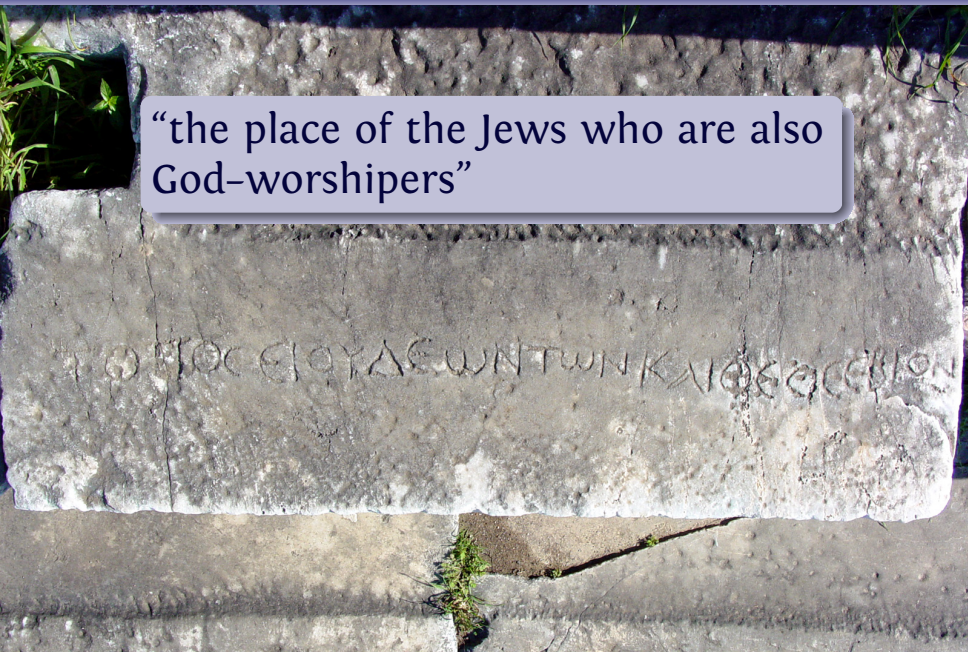


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“the place of the Jews who are also  
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It seems likely that the early church leaders assumed preaching to Gentiles meant preaching to God-fearers, not pagans.

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- Appointed elders on the return journey.



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- Iconium. Synagogue. Acts 14:1
- Lystra, Derbe, etc. No mention of synagogues.

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- 1 Timothy 2:7

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  - They fled from Iconium (Acts 14:6) because of threats, but returned to Lystra after stoning (Acts 14:26). What changed?

# Return to Antioch



## Acts 14:26–28

From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been entrusted by God's grace to the work they had now completed. 27 On their arrival, they gathered the church together and reported everything that God had accomplished through their activity, and how God had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles. 28 They stayed with the disciples a long time.

# Judaist contention at Antioch

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- Key issues: circumcision, Sabbath, food laws.
- Problem started in Antioch, but continued throughout all churches in first century.

# Jerusalem Conference (AD50)

## Acts 15:1-2

Some people came down from Judea teaching the family of believers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom we’ve received from Moses, you can’t be saved.” 2 Paul and Barnabas took sides against these Judeans and argued strongly against their position.

The church at Antioch appointed Paul, Barnabas, and several others from Antioch to go up to Jerusalem to set this question before the apostles and the elders.

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- Paul disagrees: Galatians 2:15–16; 3:24–25; 5:1.

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- Galatians 4:9–11, 17–20; 5:1–3,12

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- **Paid “super-apostles”:**

2 Corinthians 11:4-7,21-22.

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- The Jerusalem conference and the letter to the Galatians are responses to the Judaist controversy.
- There was divided opinion on keeping the law, even amongst the leadership in the first century ecclesias.

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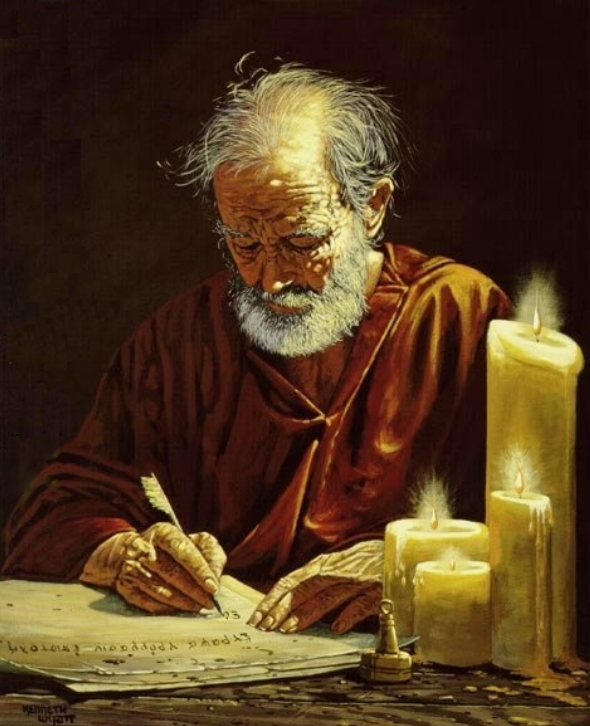


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- Not every decision in the New Testament is inspired or binding.



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