

Peter and the Early Church, Missions Era, Paul's Writings – Lesson 15

Chronology of Acts

Years after the resurrection of Christ (29-33 AD)

Year after resurrection	Event
1	Church formed
3	Steven martyred
4	Saul saved
5	Cornelius saved
18	Paul's 1st Missionary Journey
19	1 st Council of Jerusalem
19 to 24	Paul's 2 nd Missionary journey
24 to 29	Paul's 3 rd Missionary journey
29 to 31	Paul's Arrest
32 to 33	Paul's Journey to Rome

About Peter:

NAME: Simon Barjona

Brother: Andrew

Occupation: fishermen from the town of Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee.

He lived in Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee and was unlearned, except that he was with Jesus for three years.

Family: Peter was married (Mt 8:14.), but little is known of his wife.

Characteristics: He was impulsive and inconsistent before his betrayal of Christ. (Mt 14:28-30; 17:4; Joh 21:7; Mt 16:22; Joh 13:8-9; 18:10; Mt 26:69-72). Then he became BOLD for Jesus.

Special event: Jesus prayed for him in *Luke 22:31-32 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*

QUESTION: Was Peter unconverted all the time he walked with Jesus?

Dispensational issue: It was necessary for Christ to die on the cross first before a person could be saved according to NT Doctrine. However, he professed to believe that Jesus was the Christ/Messiah.

Some of Peter's Memories with Jesus

- Jesus changed Peter's occupation from fisherman to fisher of men (Mt 4:19) and changed his name from Simon to Peter (a stone.) Remember how Abram and Jacob had their names changed by God.
- Peter saw Jesus walk on water and then had the experience himself when he asked Jesus to have him come to him. When he took his eyes off Jesus, he began to sink. Mt 14:29-31
- Jesus asked, whom do men say that I AM? Peter gave the testimony; Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God. This testimony, not Peter, was the rock that the church would be built upon. See Mt 16:13-18.
- Peter, James, and John (the inner circle) saw Jesus transfigured into His glorious resurrection body and heard the voice of God coming out of a cloud saying, this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased, hear ye him. Mt 17:1+. Moses and Elijah appeared to them showing that the soul is alive after death. Elijah never died, yet both seemed to be of equal standing. This pictures the Rapture of the Church when the dead are raised incorruptible, and the living are changed at Christ's return.

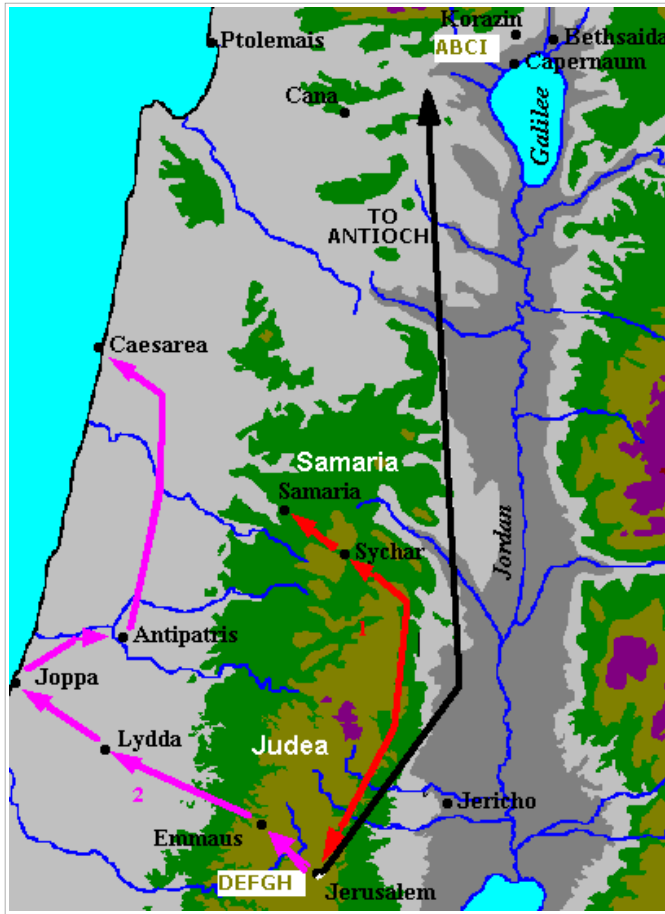
- Jesus told Peter to go catch a fish and take a coin out of his mouth to pay their taxes. Mt 17:24
- In the upper room on the last night, Jesus washed Peter's feet. Peter protested saying that Jesus would never wash his feet. Then he decided he needed to be washed all over. Read John 13:6-10. Jesus was teaching a lesson of humility.
- Jesus told Peter he would deny him before the cock crowed. Peter said he would die first. Then Peter, the same night, denied him **3 times**. See Mt. 26:34
- Peter couldn't stay awake to pray as Jesus asked when He was about to be betrayed. Mt 26:40
- Peter cut off the ear of servant of the High Priest, Malchus, and Jesus put it back on. Mt 26:51, John 18:10
- Peter saw the empty tomb and the resurrected Christ.
- After the resurrection Jesus told them to cast the net on the other side of the boat (Lu 5:5, Joh 21:5). John then recognized Jesus and said it is the Lord. Peter put on his coat and jumped into the water to swim to Jesus. Why put on your coat? Jesus made them a fish fry on shore (Joh 21.15) and asked Peter if he loved Him more than these (other disciples, or things related to fishing? See Mt 26:33).
- Healed the lame man at the temple (Acts 3)
- Led Cornelius to Christ
- Separated himself from the Gentiles to please the church leaders from Jerusalem (Gal. 2:12)

Peter and the number three

Peter seems linked to the number three. Consider the following:

- Let us make 3 tabernacles
- Asleep 3 times in the garden when he should have been praying
- 3 denials foretold
- 3 denials occur
- Jesus asked, "Lovest thou me" – 3 times
- Vision of the sheet from heaven - 3 times
- 3 men from Cornelius seek thee
- 3rd appearance of Jesus – 153 fish caught (3*3*17)
- 153 verses with the word, Peter, in the Bible (note: same as Paul – explained later)

Journeys of Peter - Based on Thompson Chain Reference Bible Topic 4308-k



With Jesus in the Gospels

- A. Called near Galilee Mt 4:18-19; Joh 1:36-44
- B. Walks on water Mt 14:28-30
- C. Money in the fish Mt 17:24-27
- D. Last supper Joh 13:6-7
- E. Gethsemane Joh 18:10-11
- F. Peter denies the Lord thrice Joh 18:25-27
- G. Peter's remorse Mt 26:75
- H. The empty tomb Joh 20:3-8
- I. 153 fishes after resurrection of Jesus Joh 21:3-17

Peter in the Book of Acts

1. Peter's 1st missionary journey from Jerusalem to Samaria and back. Ac 8:14-25
2. Peter's 2nd journey from Jerusalem through Lydda and Joppa to Caesarea and back. Ac 9:32-11:2
3. Peter's 3rd journey from Jerusalem to Antioch and back. Ac 15:1-14; Ga 2:11

Peter - Leader of the Early Church (Acts 1-12)

Formation of the Church (Acts 1-5)

Chapter 1 – The ascension of Jesus

- The Great Commission reiterated (Acts 1:8, Mt 28:19)
- Taken up in a cloud
- 2 angel witnesses
- He will come again in like manner – Joh 14:3, Act 1:11
- Peter “stands up” taking a leadership role

Chapter 2 – Pentecost – Jews celebrate the giving of the Law on Sinai

- Opposite of the Tower of Babel – all gathered and heard message in their own languages
- Peter standing explains
- Last days of Joel 2:28
- Knows the Scriptures
- Prophets foretold of Christ
- Death – Ps 22
- Resurrection – Ps 16:2
- The audience - men of Israel
- For remission of sins
- Repent and be baptized
- Call on the name of the Lord

- 3000 added that day
- Signs and wonders authenticate the message
- Unity
- Daily
- House to house
- All things in common

Chapter 3 – Lame man healed

- Apostolic authority comes from the name of Jesus
- Opportunity to witness
- Repent
- Be converted
- Sins forgiven
- Time of restitution (Millennium)
- Jesus was the Prophet foretold by Moses

Chapter 4 – Peter preaches boldly to the Jewish council

- Filled with the Spirit
- Great grace and power
- No other name whereby we must be saved (4:12)
- Should we obey God or men?

Chapter 5 – Ananias and Sapphira

- Lied to the Holy Ghost
- Fell down dead
- Fear of God
- Signs and wonders
- Rejoicing to suffer for Christ

Expansion of the Church (Acts 6)

- Seven Deacons chosen - Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, Nicolas
 - To serve
 - To preach
- Word of God increased
- Signs and wonders
- False witnesses arose

Persecution (Acts 7)

- Stephen gives the “Big Picture” to the Jews telling of:
 - Abraham
 - Isaac
 - Jacob
 - Moses
 - The Exodus
 - A Prophet like Moses would arise (Jesus Christ)
 - Wandering
 - Rebelliousness
 - Idolaters
 - The Tabernacle
 - Joshua
 - David

- Solomon
- The Prophets
- They stone him
- He being filled with the Spirit sees Jesus standing at the right hand of God
- He forgives them like Christ did on the cross
- Saul (who becomes Paul) is consenting to his death

Transition – From Jew to Gentile (Acts 8-12) Acts 8

- Saul persecutes the Church
- Disciples scattered (spreading the Word like seeds)
- Saul causes great havoc
- Philip goes to Samaria
 - They believed
 - Were baptized
 - Apostles came from Jerusalem
 - Holy Ghost came upon the Samaritans showing their salvation to the Jews
- Philip told “arise and go “ by the Angel
 - The Spirit told him to join up with the Ethiopian eunuch
 - The Ethiopian was seeking
 - And reading the Scriptures (Isa 53)
 - Philip preached Jesus to him from the text
 - He asks, What hinders me from being baptized? (8:37 taken out of modern Bibles)
 - If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest (compare Rom 10:9-13)
 - Confesses with mouth – I believe that Jesus is the Son of God
 - Baptized by immersion – came up out of the water like Jesus

Acts 9

Saul Saved (Acts 9)

- Light from heaven
- Voice of Jesus
- Paul asks, “What should I do?” A good question for all to ask.
- Was baptized immediately, then his eyes were opened
 - New understanding given
 - Boldly preached the Gospel Peter goes to Lydda and Joppa
 - Aeneas healed
 - Tabitha raised from dead

Acts 10 Cornelius saved

- Seeking God
- Feared God
- Praying
- Has an angelic vision to call Peter
- Peter has a simultaneous vision
- Unclean food in a sheet came down from heaven
- Go with 3 men
- God is no respecter of persons (Ac 10:34; Ro 2:11; Eph 6:9; Col 3:25; 1Pe 1:17)
- Preaches the Gospel to them
- Gift of the Holy Ghost – sign to the Jews that there is no difference (Jew, Gentile)

- Immediately baptized
- Peter reports to Jerusalem about Gentile salvation
- Gentile salvation recognized
- Barnabas sent to Antioch where disciples were first called Christians

Acts 11 – Peter explains to the Church at Jerusalem about Gentile salvation Acts 12

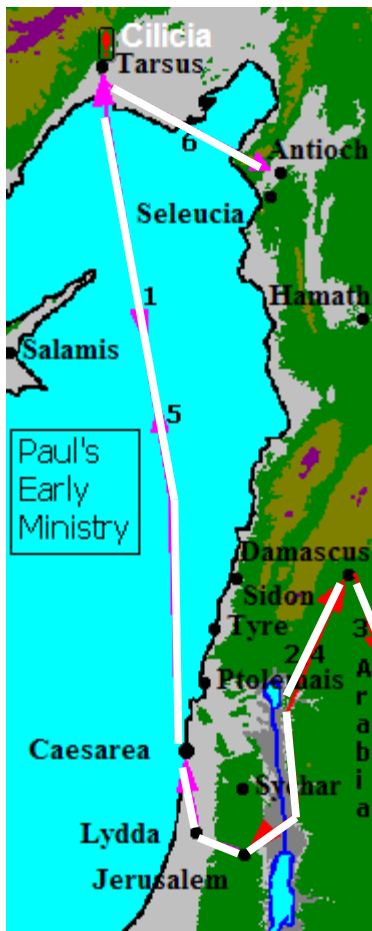
Peter escapes jail

The church was praying for Peter, but didn't believe it when he appeared at the door, having escaped. This marked the end of Peter's ministry in the book of Acts except for Paul's rebuke in Acts 15 for his hypocritical behavior toward the Gentiles when Jews were present while he was in Antioch.

Questions on Peter and the Early Church

1. What things show that Peter was the leader of the early church?
2. What are some things that happened to Peter three times?
3. What events show that Peter was impulsive?
4. When was Peter converted? See Lu 22.32.
5. List Peter's journey's from Jerusalem.
6. How did Peter explain the speaking in tongues on Pentecost?
7. What are the similar miracles of Peter and Paul?
8. Why did Ananias and Sapphira die?
9. Describe the early church activities.
10. Peter was the apostle to the Jews but he also went to which Gentiles?
11. What did the Jewish church at Jerusalem require of the believing Gentiles?
12. Why was the office of deacon established?
13. How did Stephen confront the Jewish leaders?
14. What was the result of the persecution of the early church?
15. When Stephen was stoned, what phrase did he say that was like Christ?
16. What was the requirement for baptism of the Ethiopian? Others?
17. How long did people wait after believing to get baptized? List examples.
18. Why should people be baptized today?
19. How did the prayers of the early church for Peter get answered?

Missions Era (Acts 13-28 and Paul's Epistles)



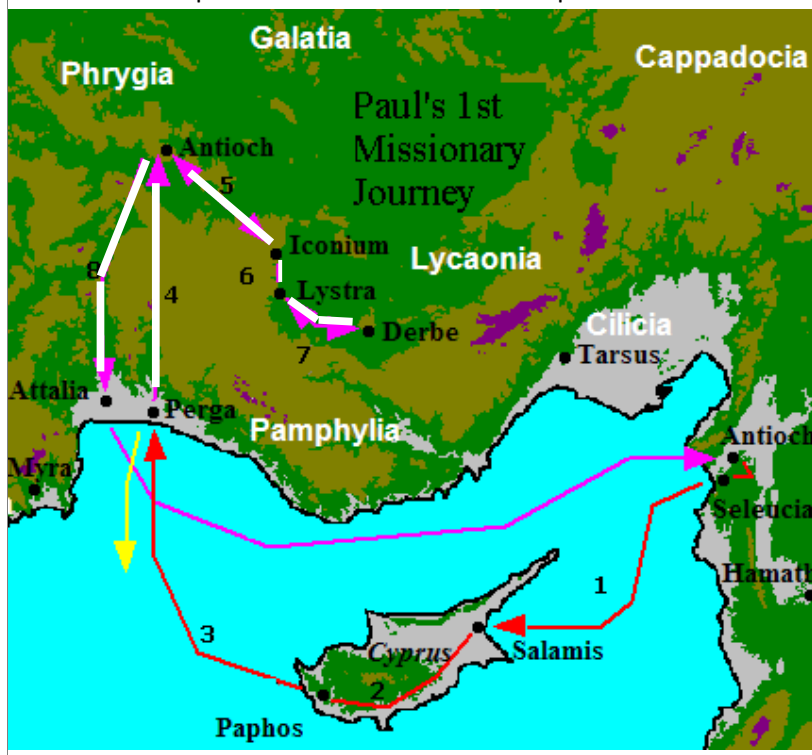
Paul's Early Life

1. From Tarsus to Jerusalem (Ac 22:3) to study at the feet of Gamaliel. Saul consenting to the death of Stephen (Ac 7:58-8:1)
2. From Jerusalem to Damascus to persecute Christians (Ac 9:1-8). Saul's conversion. Saul escapes from the Jews at Damascus (Ac 9:25)
3. From Damascus to Arabian desert (Ga 1:17)
4. From Arabia to Damascus. After 3 years to Jerusalem (Ga 1:18)
5. From Jerusalem through Caesarea to Tarsus (Ac 9:29-30)
6. From Tarsus to Antioch to preach there (Ac 11:25-26)

Based on Thompson Chain Reference Bible Topic 4309-b

Paul's First Missionary Journey

Based on Thompson Chain Reference Bible Topic 4309-c



1. From Antioch to Seleucia and on to Salamis in Cyprus (Ac 13:2-4)
2. From Salamis to Paphos (Ac 13:5-12). Saul renamed to Paul. Elymas the Sorcerer blinded. Deputy, Sergius Paulus, saved.
3. From Paphos to Perga. Mark leaves the journey to Paul's dismay (Ac 13:13)
4. From Perga to Antioch in Pisidia (Ac 13:14) where Paul preaches his famous sermon. The Jews reject his message. (Ac 13:16-46)
5. From Antioch to Iconium: (Ac 13:50-Ac 14:4)
6. From Iconium to Lystra where Paul is stoned (Ac 14:5-19)
7. From Lystra to Derbe (Ac 14:20)
8. Return from Derbe along the same route establishing the churches (Ac 14:21-28)

Paul's Second Missionary Journey



Based on Thompson Chain Reference Bible Topic 4309-d

1. From Antioch to Lystra (Ac 15:40-16:3) where Timothy joins Paul and Silas.
2. From Lystra to Troas where Paul has a vision (Ac 16:6-9)
3. From Troas to Philippi (Ac 16:11-33) where Lydia is saved and Paul and Silas are put in prison.
4. From Philippi to Thessalonica where a mob assaults the house of Jason (Ac 16:40-17:5)
5. From Thessalonica to Berea for Bible study (Ac 17:10-11)
6. From Berea to Athens and sermon on Mars Hill (Ac 17:14-33)
7. From Athens to Corinth and Sosthenes beaten (Ac 18:1-17). Jews reject message 2nd time.
8. From Corinth to Ephesus (Ac 18:18-19).
9. From Ephesus to Jerusalem and on to Antioch (Ac 18:21-22)



Paul's Third Missionary Journey

Based on Thompson Chain Reference Bible Topic 4309-e

1. From Antioch in Syria to Galatia to Ephesus where books were burned and idolatry in the temple of Diana (Ac 18:22-19:41)
2. From Ephesus through Macedonia to Corinth where the Jews were lying in wait for Paul (Ac 20:1-3)
3. From Corinth through Macedonia to Troas when Eutychus falls down dead and Paul heals him. (Ac 20:3-9)
4. From Troas to Miletus and Paul's farewell to the Ephesian elders. (Ac 20:13-38)
5. From Miletus to Tyre. (Ac 21:3-6)
6. From Tyre to Caesarea to Jerusalem (Ac 21:7-15). Agabus prophesies.

Paul's Journey to Rome

1. Accusations in Jerusalem. Sent to Caesarea where Paul stands before Felix, Festus, and King Agrippa. As a Roman, he appeals to Caesar's judgment seat at Rome (Ac 21:1-26:32)
2. Caesarea to Sidon, Myra, Cnidus, Salome, Fair Havens, Clauda, and shipwreck at Melita(Malta) (Ac 27)
3. At Melita, Publius' father healed (Ac 28:1-8)
4. From Melita to Syracuse, Rhegium, Puteoli, Apii Forum, Three Taverns and to Rome. Final rejection by the Jews. (Ac 28:9-end)



Based on Thompson Chain Reference Bible Topic 4309-f

Paul's writings

1. The Importance of Paul's WRITINGS

- What are some things that you know about the Apostle Paul?
 - He was the apostle to the Gentiles (us). (Rom. 11:13, Gal. 2:8, 1 Tim. 2:7, 2 Tim. 1:11)
 - Paul was a Pharisee of the strictest kind believing in the literal fulfillment of the Old Testament. (Phil. 3:4-6)
 - He studied under Gamaliel - a wise and most respected rabbi of the day - Acts 22:3, Acts 5:34
 - He was a converted "hostile witness". His writings therefore carry extra credibility.
 - He was intelligent, logical, and formally trained, yet relied on the HS of God to preach/teach God's Word
 - **1 Cor. 2:4** And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:
 - **2 Cor. 10:10** For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.
 - **Phil. 3:4-7** Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: 5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; 6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

- o He received revelations explaining mysteries hid from others.
- **Paul's writings are important because they are SCRIPTURE.**
 - o **2 Tim. 3:16** All scripture is given by **inspiration of God**, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
 - So the question becomes - how do we know what is scripture? Who decides what makes the cut into the Bible or not?
 - o **1 Tim. 5:8** For **the scripture saith**, thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, **The labourer is worthy of his reward.**
 - Where does the scripture say that? The truth is, you won't find that ANYWHERE in the OT...
 - The quote is actually from Luke 10:7, which was likely penned just 2 years before Paul wrote 1 Timothy.
 - **Luke 10:7** And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: **for the labourer is worthy of his hire.** Go not from house to house.
 - Paul recognized that Luke's writings were "scripture", and as such they were given by "inspiration of God" (2 Tim. 3:16)
 - By defining Luke's gospel as "scripture," Paul demonstrates a remarkable truth - the apostles and the early church discerned (by Divine power) which writings were given by inspiration. This truth is verified by Peter recognizing Paul's epistles as "scripture" (2 Peter 3:15-16)
 - **2 Pet. 3:15-16** And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother **Paul** also according to the wisdom given unto him hath **written unto you**; 16 As also in **all his epistles**, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, **as they do also the other scriptures**, unto their own destruction.
 - This is also illustrated by the churches being ordered to pass epistles to other churches
 - **Colossians 4:16** And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:27** I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.
 - Peter recognized that Paul's writings were "scripture", and as such, they were given by "inspiration of God" (2 Tim. 3:16)
 - o If you have something INSPIRED, you have SCRIPTURE.
- **Paul's writings are important because of their AUDIENCE.**
 - o They are doctrinal and practical - what we teach and believe; what we say and do.
 - **1 Cor. 10:32** Give none offence, neither to the **Jews**, nor to the **Gentiles**, nor to the **church** of God:
 - o **Rom. 1:7** To all that be in Rome, **beloved of God, called to be saints**: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - o **1 Cor. 1:2** **Unto the church of God which is at Corinth**, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's:
 - o **2 Cor. 1:1** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, **unto the church of God which is at Corinth**, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:
 - o **Gal. 1:2** And all the brethren which are with me, **unto the churches of Galatia**:
 - o **Eph. 1:1** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, **to the saints which are at Ephesus**, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

- **Phil. 1:1** Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, **to all the saints in Christ Jesus** which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:
- **Col. 1:2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse:** Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **1 Thess. 1:1** Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, **unto the church of the Thessalonians** which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **2 Thess. 1:1** Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
- **1 Tim. 1:2 Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith:** Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.
- **2 Tim. 1:2 To Timothy, my dearly beloved son:** Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **Titus 1:4 To Titus, mine own son after the common faith:** Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.
- **Philemon 1** Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, **unto Philemon** our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer,
- **Hebrews** - Hebrews 13:25 ...*Written to the Hebrews from Italy possibly by Timothy*

Where written and penned by...

- **Romans 16:27** ...Written to the Romans from Corinthus, and sent by Phebe servant of the church at Cenchrea.
- **1 Corinthians 16:24** ... The first epistle to the Corinthians was written from Philippi by Stephanas, and Fortunatus, and Achaicus, and Timotheus.
- **2 Corinthians 13:14** ...The second epistle to the Corinthians was written from Philippi, a city of Macedonia, by Titus and Lucas.
- **Galatians 6:18** ...Unto the Galatians written from Rome.
- **Ephesians 6:24** ...Written from Rome unto the Ephesians by Tychicus.
- **Philippians 4:23** ...It was written to the Philippians from Rome by Epaphroditus.
- **Colossians 4:18** ...Written from Rome to the Colossians by Tychicus and Onesimus.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:28** ...The first epistle unto the Thessalonians was written from Athens.
- **2 Thessalonians 3:18** ...The second epistle to the Thessalonians was written from Athens.
- **1 Timothy 6:21** ...The first to Timothy was written from Laodicea, which is the chiefest city of Phrygia Pacatiana.
- **2 Timothy 4:22** ...The second epistle unto Timotheus, ordained the first bishop of the church of the Ephesians, was written from Rome, when Paul was brought before Nero the second time.
- **Titus 3:15** ... It was written to Titus, ordained the first bishop of the church of the Cretians, from Nicopolis of Macedonia.
- **Philemon 1:25** ...Written from Rome to Philemon, by Onesimus a servant.
- **Hebrews 13:25** ...Written to the Hebrews from Italy by Timothy.

2. The Importance of the MYSTERIES

- **Prov. 25:2** It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter.
- **1 Cor. 4:1** Let a man so account of us, as of the **ministers of Christ**, and **stewards** of the **mysteries** of God.
 - Paul's mysteries are revealed to the church - there are more mysteries, but these apply to the church.

Mystery #1 - The Mystery of GODLINESS

- **1 Tim. 3:16** And without controversy great is the **mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.
- **God makes a man in 4 different ways:**
 - o God makes a man with His HANDS out of the dirt (Adam)
 - o God makes a woman out of man WITHOUT a woman (Eve)
 - o God can made a man out of a woman WITHOUT a man (Jesus - the 2nd Adam - via the Virgin Birth)
 - o God can make a man OR woman out of a man AND woman, together (Everyone else)

Mystery #2 - The Mystery of INDWELLING (Christ in You)

- **Col. 1:27** To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this **mystery** among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory:
- **Luke 17:21** Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, **the kingdom of God is within you.**
 - o **Are you on the throne, or is God? There is no such thing as co-rule...Jesus isn't your co-pilot...**
- **Matt. 4:8-10** Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, **All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.** 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.
 - o The one claiming "co-rule" - they really want the throne & Jesus worshipping them...
- **John 13:4-9**
 - o Peter trying to rule... "thou shalt never wash my feet...", then "my hands and my head"....

Mystery #3 -The Mystery of the CHURCH (You in Christ)

- **Eph 5:25-32** Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: 30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be **one flesh.** 32 **This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.**
 - o **Eph. 1:9-10** Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: 10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might **gather together in one all things in Christ**, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; **even in him:**
 - o **Eph. 3:4-6** Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) 5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; 6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

Mystery #4 - The Mystery of the RESTORATION of Israel

- **Rom. 11=24-29** For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? 25 **For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery**, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. 26 **And so all Israel shall be saved:** as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: 27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. 28 **As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the father's sakes.** 29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.
 - o You have a BIBLE b/c of the Jews

- Rom. 2:1-2
- o You have a SAVIOUR b/c of the Jews
 - John 4:22
- Heresies:
 - o Replacement Theology
 - o Covenant Theology
 - o Reformed Theology
- We are instructed to pray for Israel!
 - o **Psalm 122:6** Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.

Mystery #5 - The Mystery of INIQUITY

- **2 Thess. 2:1-13** Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,² That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.³ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.⁵ Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?⁶ And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.⁷ For **the mystery of iniquity** doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.⁸ And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:⁹ Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,¹⁰ And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.¹¹ And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:¹² That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.¹³ But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and **belief of the truth**:
 - o Man of sin/Son of perdition
 - o Chose the METHOD of salvation...not the people that will be saved...

Mystery #6 - The Mystery of BABYLON

- **Rev. 17:5** And upon her forehead was a name written, **Mystery**, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth.
 - o She is a WOMAN - Rev. 17:3
 - o She is a CITY - Rev. 17:18
 - o She is a COUNTERFEIT bride - Proverbs - virtuous woman/strange woman
- Rev. 11:8, 17:1,4,5, 8-9, Matt. 24:5

Mystery #7 - The Mystery of the RAPTURE

- **1 Cor. 15:51-55** Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵ O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?
- Rapture = "catching away"
 - o 1 Cor. 15:23, 52; John 11:20-26
- The Resurrection is a DOCTRINE
- The Resurrection is a PERSON

Similarities of Peter and Paul in the Book of Acts (See Gal 2:7-8)	
Table adapted from Chuck Missler, <u>Learn the Bible in 24 Hours</u> (hour 17, slide 12)	
PETER - to the Jews	PAUL - to the Gentiles
First Sermon - Ch. 2	First Sermon - Ch. 13
Lame Man healed - Ch. 3	Lame man healed - Ch. 14
Simon the Sorcerer - Ch. 8	Elymas the sorcerer - Ch. 13
Shadow influence - Ch. 5	Handkerchief influence - Ch. 19
Laying on of hands - Ch. 8	Laying on of hands - Ch. 19
Peter worshipped - Ch. 10	Paul worshipped - Ch. 14
Tabitha raised - Ch. 9	Eutychus raised - Ch. 20
Peter imprisoned - Ch. 12	Paul imprisoned - Ch. 28

What about those 153 fish of Peter?

The number, 153, associated with fish, fishing, and drawing the net reflects the spreading of the Gospel. Peter, being the apostle to the Circumcision, and Paul, being the apostle to the Gentiles, both spread the gospel.

156 verse have the word Peter or Peter's

4 verses have the word Peter's (Mt 8:14; Joh 1:40; 6:8; Ac 12:14) 152 verses have just the word Peter

1 verse has both Peter and Peter's (Ac 12:14) and should be counted, so

Exactly 153 verses in the KJV have the word Peter.

159 verses have the word Paul or Paul's, but one is a postscript (2Ti 4:22) and should not be counted. 6

verses have the word Paul's (Ac 19:29; 20:37; 21:8,11; 23:16; 25:14)

1 verse has both Paul and Paul's and should be counted. (Ac 23:16) So 159-1-6+1= 153

Exactly 153 verses in the KJV have the word Paul

Another thought on the 153 fish:

1. God is specific in numbers

a. Numbers our days, hairs, footsteps and he numbered the crowds

2. Jesus called Peter into ministry from the same sea (Mk 1:17)

a. I will make you fishers of men

b. From catching fish to catching the souls of men

c. How would Jesus do this? By personal example.

3. In going through the 4 gospels and recording all the people the Christ dealt with personally

a. I got 153 people!

b. Jn 21:15 – “feed MY lambs/sheep” – the ones He personally impacted

Questions on Paul and the Mission of the Church

1. What did Saul originally think about believers in Christ?
2. From what tribe of Israel was Saul of Tarsus?
3. Who did he meet on the way to Damascus?
4. What importance is the conversion of a persecutor like Saul, or a skeptic, or an atheist, etc.?
5. What did Saul do immediately after receiving his sight? What does this show?
6. How did the Jews feel about Saul after he converted?
7. Where was the base of Saul's mission work located?
8. When did Saul become known as Paul?
9. Why did Paul dislike John Mark and refuse to take him on the 2nd journey?
10. What was Paul's method of witnessing?
11. In what three ways did people of Paul's day respond to the gospel?
12. What happened when Paul tried to go to Asia and Bithynia? Then what happened?
13. What happened on Paul's 2nd journey at Philippi?
14. Why were the Bereans nobler than the Thessalonians?
15. What did Paul declare in Athens on Mars Hill?
16. When Paul revisited the churches, he confirmed the brethren. What does that mean?
17. How did Paul use his Roman citizenship to his advantage?
18. Why did Paul appeal to Caesar?

Questions on Paul's Epistles

1. Paul's epistles start out with _____ first then finish with _____.
2. They are characterized by being written to _____ or _____.
3. How do Paul's epistles relate to his journeys?
4. What does Paul mean by a mystery?
5. What are some of the mysteries he writes about?
6. Explain the judgment seat of Christ.
7. Where are the clear explanations of the Rapture given by Paul?
8. What is the doctrine of the rapture supposed to do for us now?
9. Paul says the body is the _____.
10. Paul uses many great doctrinal words that end in 'tion'. List and define as many as you can.
11. Explain the "new man" and the "old man" based on Scripture.
12. What does the Bible mean by charity?
13. What is the Gospel that Paul preaches?
14. How do grace and works reconcile?

Questions on the General Epistles

1. These epistles are characterized by who is _____.
2. To whom was Hebrews written?
3. To whom was James written? What does that mean?
4. Peter was the Apostle to the circumcision. How does that matter when we read his writings?
5. What is the difference between the Jew and Gentile in the Church?
6. How can the Book of James and Paul's writings be reconciled regarding works?
7. Who was Jude?
8. 1st John gives us _____ of our salvation.