

A Synopsis of the Life of The Apostle Paul

The information found herein is based largely on the book, *The Apostle Paul – A Life of Paul*, by John Pollock, a Cambridge-educated clergyman, who was Billy Graham's authorized biographer. He wrote other biographies, including *The Master: A Life of Jesus*. Prior to authoring Paul's biography, Mr. Pollock and his wife traveled and researched extensively throughout the regions in which Paul had traveled and preached.

Paul was born in 1 AD in the city of Tarsus, the capital city of the Roman province of Cilicia. His family had Roman citizenship credentials, and this was part of God's providence in Paul's life, as it was a card he played at key points in his ministry.

Around the age of 13 he was sent to Jerusalem to study for 5-6 years at the feet of the famous teacher & rabbi (and member of the Sanhedrin), Gamaliel.

By the time he was 30 he was in Jerusalem and we find him at the stoning of Stephen in Acts 7:58 and persecuting the church in Acts 8:1-3.

In Acts 9 his life was changed forever on the road from Jerusalem to Damascus when he came face to face with the Lord Jesus Christ, in Whom Paul committed the remainder of his life. He was blinded by intense light from heaven and told to go into Damascus to Ananias.

He went into Damascus, met with Ananias, had his sight miraculously restored. At some point thereafter he went to the Arabian desert for a period of 3 years, a time that was surely spent digging deep into the Scriptures and communing with the Lord, Who was preparing him for the journey ahead.

He went to Jerusalem and tried to meet with the disciples (Acts 9:26-30), but was initially given the cold-shoulder. Barnabas ("the Son of Encouragement") rescued him and introduced him as "a follower of Christ" to the disciples. He, thereafter, was well-accepted by the disciples and went on to write 13 books found in our New Testament.

His 1st missionary journey was around 46-48 AD, when he was 45 years old.

He participated in the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15), the important conference of disciples that convened to discuss the way of salvation. The final consensus was that the Gentiles could receive Jesus without submitting to Jewish traditions.

The 2nd missionary journey was around 49 AD, when he was 48 years old.

The 3rd missionary journey was around 53 AD, when he was 52 years old.

When he returned to Jerusalem in 57 AD (age 56), he was arrested, appealed to Caesar in Rome, and remained under house arrest for several years. It was during this time that he wrote the books of Ephesians, Philemon, Colossians, and Philippians, the books known as "The Prison Epistles." He was released from his imprisonment around 62 AD.

In about 66 AD, he was re-arrested, spent time in the infamous Mamertine Prison (a dungeon), where he penned his final letter (2 Timothy). He was finally beheaded by the Romans under Emperor Nero on the Ostian Way in June 67 AD at the age of 66.