

SUMMARY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS OF APOSTLES

BIBLICAL PERIOD	#12: THE CHURCH				
FOCUS	Witness in Jerusalem		Witness in Judea and Samaria		Witness to the ends of the earth
COVENANT	THE NEW COVENANT IN CHRIST				
SCRIPTURE	1:1-----3:1-----8:5-----13:1-----21:17---28:31				
DIVISION	Birth of the Church	Progress of the Church	Expansion of the Church	Paul's 3 missionary journeys	Paul's trials
TOPIC	The faithful remnant of the Old Covenant becomes the New Covenant Church		Samaria [Israel] comes into the New Covenant		The Gentiles are reunited with the Family of God
	Simon-Peter's apostolic mission		Philip the deacon's mission		Paul's conversion and apostolic mission
LOCATION	Jerusalem		Judea and Samaria		The world
TIME	30 years [from 30 AD - c. 60/ 61 AD]				

TIME LINE: AD

World Empire: The Roman Empire -----

[Roman Province of Judea]

30	35	42	49	62	64	66	70
-Jesus' Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension -2 nd Great Pentecost	-James son of Zebedee martyred -Church in Antioch, Turkey founded by Peter	-Peter founds Church in Rome -Paul 1 st mission (AD 44-49)	-Council of Jerusalem -2 nd mission of Paul (AD 49-52) - Paul 3 rd mission (AD53-58)	-James Christian Bishop of Jerusalem martyred	- fire destroys Rome -Christian persecution by Romans	-Jewish Revolt against Rome	-Romans destroy Jerusalem and the Temple -67? Peter and Paul martyred in Rome

The Gospel of John has no mini apocalypse like the other 3 Gospels. Is it because the Holy Spirit revealed the maxi apocalypse to St. John during his imprisonment on the island of Patmos? John's vision in the Book of Revelation follows the same outline as the Synoptic Gospels with the addition of the creation of the New Heaven and New Earth.

The Synoptic Gospels vs. Revelation— The Judgment on Jerusalem

REVELATION Chapter 6	MATTHEW Chapter 24	MARK Chapter 13	LUKE Chapter 21
1. Wars: verses 1-2	Wars: verse 6	Wars: verse 7	Wars: verse 10
2. International Strife: verses 3-4	International Strife: verse 7a	International Strife: verse 8a	International Strife: verse 10
3. Famine verses 5-6	Famine verse 7b	Famine verse 8c	Famine verse 11b
4. Pestilence verses 7-8			Pestilence verse 11
5. Persecution verses 9-11	Persecution Verses 9-13	Persecution verses 9-13	Persecution verses 12-19
6. Earthquakes verses 12-17	Earthquakes verse 7c	Earthquakes verse 8b	Earthquakes Verse 11a
7. De-creation verses 12-17	De-creation verses 15-31	De-creation verses 14-27	De-creation verses 20-27

Jerusalem and the Temple of Solomon were destroyed by the Babylonian army on the 9th of Ab [Av] 587/6BC and Jerusalem and the Second Temple were destroyed by the Roman Army on the 9th of Ab 70AD. Is this just an amazing coincidence or a prophesized act of divine judgment?

The Regenerative Power of Christian Baptism

The Regenerative Power of Christian Baptism which images Christ:

Christ's crucifixion and death →	Christ's Resurrection →	Christ's glorified new life
Our crucifixion with Christ and our death to sin & self into the waters of baptism →	Our resurrection to new life through the power of the Holy Spirit = "born again" or "born from above" in the image of Christ raised up through the water of baptism →	Our final Resurrection and glorification at the end of time

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The Old Covenant vs. the New Covenant

In Romans 4:13-17, St. Paul presents the alternative to disobedience to the Law which leads to transgression of the Law and God's wrathful judgment through God's promise of salvation in the gift of unmerited grace and faith.

The Law → transgression → wrath	God's promises → unmerited grace → faith
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God's power to make us godly is greater than the power of concupiscence which tempts us to sin [see CCC#405; 1264; 2515-16].

In Romans 6:16-23, St. Paul contrasts the parallels between two dominations. One form of domination is under the Old Covenant Law and the other is under the New Covenant in Christ.

Old Covenant	Dominion of sin →	Law = Judgment →	Death & the grave
New Covenant	Dominion of grace →	Holiness = Sanctification →	Salvation /Eternal life

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ST. PAUL'S SEVEN CHRISTIAN GIFTS

In Romans chapter 12, St. Paul writes of seven Christian gifts of service that build up the Body of Christ, which is the Church:

Just as each of us has various parts in one body, and the parts do not all have the same function: in the same way, all of us, though there are so many of us, make up one body in Christ, and as different parts we are all joined to one another. Then since the gifts that we have differ according to the grace that was given to each of us: if it is a gift of prophecy, we should prophesy as much as our faith tells us; if it is a gift of practical service, let us devote ourselves to serving; if it is teaching, to teaching; if it is encouraging, to encouraging. When you give, you should give generously from the heart; if you are put in charge, you must be conscientious; if you do works of mercy, let it be because you enjoy doing them. Let love be without any pretence. Avoid what is evil stick to what is good. In brotherly love let your feelings of deep affection for one another come to expression and regard others as more important than yourself. In the service of the Lord, work not half-heartedly but with conscientiousness and an eager spirit.

Romans 12:4-11 (New Jerusalem Bible translation)

Paul lists 7 gifts and 7 functions or effects of the gift:

GIFT	EFFECT OF THE SERVICE
1. prophecy	Inspired preaching to build up faith within the community
2. practical service	The exercise of necessary services/ ministries that promote the growth of the Church
3. teaching	To provide the faithful with right teaching to understand the faith
4. encouraging or exhortation	To promote ethical teaching and practice within the community
5. almsgiving	Generously given to support the Church and her ministries
6. position of authority	To conscientiously and humbly provide resources and leadership in serve to the faith community
7. acts of mercy	Bringing relief to the unfortunate with a cheerfulness of spirit that relieves the recipient of embarrassment through understanding that performing the service on their behalf is a privilege of love.

1. Prophecy: Paul lists “prophecy” as the first of the gifts. He is not referring to the gift of predicting the future but rather to the first mission of the prophet which is to speak the words of God to the people, inspiring them to live in fellowship with God [see 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28; 13:2; 14:1, 3-6, 24, 39; and 1 Timothy 4:14]. According to the literal translation this gift is to be used in “*according to the analogy of faith*”. The Greek word *analogia* means “right relationship, proportion”. In other words, all inspired preaching must agree with the teachings of Christ and His earthly representative, the Church. If certain preaching does not agree, it is not inspired by the Holy Spirit.

2. Practical Service: Paul uses the Greek word *diakonia*, meaning “service”. It is the word from which comes our English word “deacon”. Paul may be referring to those who serve in a specific ministry, as our deacons serve today, or he may have in mind all

ministries that serve to build up the faith community. Paul applied this same term to his own ministry in Romans 11:13 and used the term in the same way in 1 Corinthians 12:5; 2 Corinthians 4:1; 11:8; Colossians 4:17; and Ephesians 4:12.

3. Teaching: In the Greek a *ho didaskon* is “the one who gives instruction”. Paul uses this term for one who gives instruction in the interpretation of sacred Scripture or in catechesis [see 1 Corinthians 14:19 and Galatians 6:6].

4. Exhortation: Paul is using the Greek word *paraklesis* and is probably referring to one who guides the members of the Church in their communal life by encouraging or teaching ethical behavior or is living in the example of ethical behavior [see 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Philippians 2:1; and Hebrews 13:22].

5. Almsgiving: The Greek word *metadidonai* describes one who contributes to charity, sharing from his private wealth [see Luke 3:11; Ephesians 4:28]. Such a person, when giving from the heart without hope of recognition or thanks, gives motivated by the Holy Spirit and contributes to the well being of individuals in need within the Church and to the Church as a whole. Such a person judges genuine “wealth” in spiritual terms and not in monetary terms.

6. Authority: The literal Greek word used in the 6th charism is *ho proistamenos*, meaning “the one standing at the head”, or a leader who presides or directs. This person would be one to whom the Spirit has given the gift of wisdom and leadership to guide the community in its various ministries and functions.

7. Mercy: The seventh position is *ho eleon*, in the Greek, “the one who performs acts of mercy”. Paul probably intends this gift to include all acts of mercy including caring for the sick, burying the dead, etc. However, he cautions that this gift should be accompanied by cheerfulness. If this gift doesn’t come from a heart of love which receives joy from serving God through serving brothers and sisters who are in need of God’s mercy then the charism is not genuine.

In all these gifts, the spirit in which the gifts are carried out is as important as the acts themselves.

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From the Agape Bible Study on St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans

This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while. The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.

Revelation 17:9-11

LIST OF ROMAN EMPERORS

The Roman Historian Tacitus in his history, **The Annals**, begins his list of Roman emperors with Augustus Caesar (Octavian), but the Roman Historian Suetonius begins his list of Roman Emperors in **Lives of the Twelve Caesars** with Julius Caesar as the first of the Roman Emperors as does Dio Cassius in his **Roman History** and Josephus in his **Antiquities of the Jews**. There were, therefore, two official lists in use in the first century AD.

Suetonius' List	Tacitus' List
1. Julius Caesar died 44BC	
2. Augustus Caesar died 14AD	1. Augustus Caesar
3. Tiberius died 37AD	2. Tiberius
4. Caligula died 41AD	3. Caligula
5. Claudius died 54AD	4. Claudius
6. Nero died 68AD	5. Nero
7. Galba died 69AD	6. Galba
8. Ortho died 69AD	7. Ortho
9. Vitilleus died 69AD	8. Vitilleus
10. Vespasian died 79AD	9. Vespasian
11. Titus died 81AD	10. Titus
12. Domitian died 96AD	11. Domitian

LIST OF 10 IMPERIAL PROVINCES

Italy
 Achaia
 Asia
 Syria/Judea
 Egypt
 Africa
 Spain
 Gaul
 Britain
 Germany

LIST OF THE HERODIAN RULERS

1. Herod the Great	5. Herod of Chalcis
2. Archelaus	6. Agrippa I
3. Herod Antipas	7. Agrippa II
4. Philip Herod	

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THE JOURNEYS OF ST. PAUL—APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES

ST. PAUL'S CALL TO CONVERSION and NEW LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN	
Witnessed St. Stephen's martyrdom	Acts 8:1
Mission to arrest Christians for the Sanhedrin	Acts 8:3
Conversion experience on the Road to Damascus	Acts 9:1-19
Paul preaches in Damascus	Acts 9:20-25
Spends 3 years in Arabia	Galatians 1:17-18
Returns to Damascus	Galatians 1:17
Meets with the Apostles Peter, James (Bishop of Jerusalem) , and John in Jerusalem	Acts 9:26-30; Galatians 1:17-19
Goes to Caesarea and from there home to Tarsus	Acts 9:30; Galatians 1:21
Called by Barnabas to join him in Antioch, Syria	Acts 11:26
Takes a famine relief contribution to Jerusalem	Acts 11:3
Returns to Antioch, Syria	Acts 12:25

ST. PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY:	
Approximate dates: 45 – 49 AD	
Companions: Barnabas, John Mark	
Mission field: Cyprus and Asia Minor (Turkey)	
Approximate miles traveled: 1,400 miles	
Sent by church of Antioch, Syria	
Mission to Cyprus by way of Seleucia	Acts 13:4-12
Antioch in Pisidia	Acts 13:13-51
Iconium	Acts 14:1-5
Lystra in Lycaonia	Acts 14:6-19
Derbe	Acts 14:20
Back through Lystra, Iconium and Antioch Pisidia	Acts 14:21-26
Return to home church at Antioch, Syria	Acts 14:27-28
Council of Jerusalem	Acts 15

ST. PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY:	
Approximate dates: 50 – 52 AD	
Companions: Silas, timothy, Priscilla and Aquila, Luke	
Mission field: Syria, Turkey, Greece	
Approximate miles traveled: 2,800 miles	
Sent by church of Antioch, Syria	
Syria and Cilicia (Tarsus, the capital of Cilicia was Paul's hometown)	Acts 15:23
Derbe and Lystra in Lycaonia (Timothy's home)	Acts 16:1-5
Phrygia and Galatia	Acts 16:6
Mysia to Troas	Acts 16:6-10
Samothracis and Neapolis	Acts 16:11

Philippi in Macedonia	Acts 16:12-40
Amphipolis and Apollonia	Acts 17:1
Thessalonica	Acts 17:1-9
Beroea (Berea)	Acts 17:10-15
Athens	Acts 17:16-34
Corinth	Acts 18:1-18
Cenchrea (Cenchreae)	Acts 18:18
Ephesus	Acts 18:19-21
Caesarea	Acts 18:22
Jerusalem	Acts 18:23
Antioch, Syria	Acts 18:23

ST. PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY
Approximate dates: 53 – 58 AD
Companions: Timothy, Luke, and other disciples
Mission field: Turkey, Greece, Lebanon, Judea-Samaria-Galilee
Approximate miles traveled 2,700
Sent by church of Antioch, Syria

Galatia and Phrygia	Acts 18:23
Ephesus	Acts 19:1-20; 23-40
Macedonia	Acts 19:21; 20:1
Greece (Achaia)	Acts 20:2-3
Macedonia, Philippi, and Troas	Acts 20:3-12
Assos, Mitylene; near Chios, Samos, Trogyllium, Miletus	Acts 20:13-38
Cos, Rhodes, Patara	Acts 21:1-2
Tyre and Ptolemais	Acts 21:3-7
Caesarea	Acts 21:8-16
Jerusalem	Acts 21:17-23:22
Caesarea (imprisoned 2 years)	Acts 23:23-26:32

ST. PAUL'S FOURTH JOURNEY TO ROME
Approximate date: 60/61 AD
Companions: Luke, Roman guards, others
By way of Lebanon, Turkey, Crete, Malta, Sicily, Rome
Approximate miles traveled: 2,250 miles
Sent by Roman Governor Festus

Caesarea	Acts 27:1-3
Sidon, Myra, Cnidus	Acts 27:4-7
Fair Havens (Crete)	Acts 27:8
Clauda (Cauda)	Acts 27:15
Malta (Melita)	Acts 28:1-10
Syracuse, Rhegium, Puteoli	Acts 28:11-11-13
Forum of Appius and Three Taverns	Acts 28:15

Rome	Acts 28:16
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OTHER TRAVELS—YEAR OF TRAVEL UNKNOWN:

Macedonia to Illyricum: 1 Timothy 1:3

Troas and Miletus: 2 Timothy 4:13, 20

Crete: Titus 1:5

Mission to Spain: circa 63-66AD: Romans 15:28

Nicopolis: Titus 3:12

MARTYRDOM:

Back to Rome and martyrdom: 2 Timothy 1; death June 29, 67AD

The Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit

