

AFTER ACTS: PAUL'S HISTORY

Luke ends the Book of Acts with a simple statement about Paul's two-year house arrest (first imprisonment) in Rome. The book was written very shortly after the Apostle's release in 62 AD. Before we look at events which follow, we will review Paul's epistles to date and those that follow.

Paul's Epistles: Classified and In Chronological Order

Exact dating becomes proportionately difficult the further one goes back in history. These dates are based on the Book of Acts and on internal evidence and are compared with Lightfoot, Milligan, Ramsay, Zahn and Guthrie. Students will find a slight variation of dates in different commentaries (especially so in the case of Galatians), but little or no change in order and grouping.

<u>BOOK</u>	<u>DATE WRITTEN</u>	<u>THEME</u>	<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>
Galatians	AD 48 or 49	<i>Defends</i> Salvation by Faith Alone	
I Thess.	AD 50 (2 nd Journey)	Second Coming - Believers	
II Thess.	AD 51 (2 nd Journey)	Second Coming - Unbelievers	
I Cor.	AD 54 or 55 (3 rd Journey)	Problems of Corinthians (Carnality)	
II Cor.	AD 55 or 56 (3 rd Journey)	Problems of Paul (True Ministry)	
Romans	AD 57 or 58 (3 rd Journey)	<i>Defines</i> Salvation by Faith Alone	
Colossians	AD 61-62	(1 st Im- prison- ment)	In Christ, Fullness
Philemon	AD 61-62		In Christ, Imputed Righteousness
Ephesians	AD 61-62		In Christ, Our Position
Philippians	AD 61-62		In Christ, Joy – Think
<i>(Book of Acts ends here)</i>			
I Timothy	AD 63-64	Orderliness in the Assembly	
Titus	AD 63-65	Godliness in the Assembly	
II Timothy	AD 66-67 (2 nd Imprison.)	Steadfastness in the Pastorate	

Paul's Life After AD 62 (Post Acts 28)

1. BEFORE HIS RELEASE: Paul's Expectations (Plans)
 - Col. 1:1; Philemon :1; Paul and Timothy are together in Rome as first imprisonment ends.
 - Philippians 2:19-24; Paul promised to send Timothy to Philippi as soon as he learned the outcome of his case.
2. AFTER HIS RELEASE: Paul's Journeys
 - a. Sends Timothy to Philippi; instructs him to meet in _____.
 - b. Sails to Ephesus, visits Philemon in Colossae as promised, Philemon :22.
 - c. Returns to Ephesus, meets Timothy, then departs for Macedonia (I Timothy 1: 3,4) leaving Timothy behind. From Macedonia, he writes I Timothy (3:14, 15).
 - d. Visits _____ (apparently from Ephesus); there he leaves Titus to set church matters in order, Titus 1:5.
 - e. Sails to _____, (a western seaport in Greece), where he planned to winter; from there or Macedonia he wrote Titus, 3:12.
 - f. On to _____, ca. spring 64 AD: see Romans 15:24 (written six years previous). Support for this: Clement of Rome writing in 96 AD tells of a visit by Paul to Spain as does the Muratorian Canon, ca. 170 AD (plus references in the church fathers). Thus Paul was in Spain during the burning of Rome (July 19-24, 64 AD) by Nero.
 - g. Returns east, spring of 66 AD (?). Names of places he visited are found in II Timothy.
 - _____ with Carpus, with whom he left his books and parchments, 4:13.
 - _____ where he left Trophimus sick, 4:20.
 - _____ (possibly) where Erastus remained, 4:20.
 - h. His re-arrest (possibly at Troas), second imprisonment, and death in Rome (from II Timothy), 66 or 67 AD.
 - as a criminal, an enemy of the State, 2:9; 1:8, 12, 16, 17
 - alone and forsaken after his first defense, 4:16
 - ready to die, 4:5, 6
 - death by beheading (strong tradition): 67 AD (?)

Conclusion

Thus died the Apostle Paul. Was he alone? No, Luke was there. Did Timothy make it before winter? We do not know. Paul died in earthly silence, but in heaven, the "Daily Arrival List" trumpeted his coming! The Lord through this one man changed the course of Western Civilization. Think of the joy of meeting him in heaven!