

Acts Timeline and Major Locations

Acts 1-15 - dates are approximate; map numbers refer to the map following this timeline

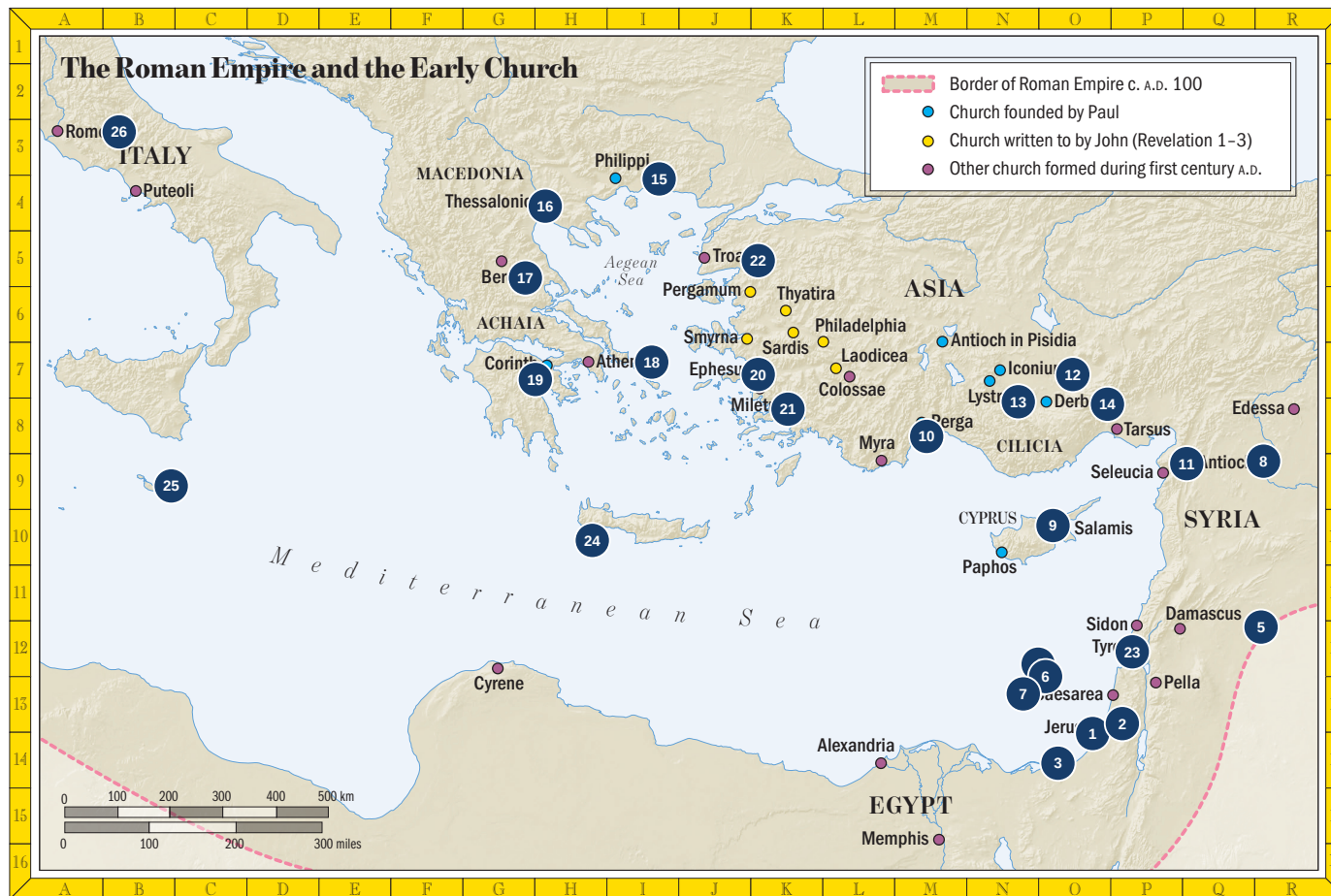
Approx. date	Major event	Acts	Location(s) / map region
c. A.D. 30	Jesus ascends; the disciples return to Jerusalem and choose Matthias.	Acts 1	Jerusalem [1]; Mount of Olives [2]; Judea [3]
c. A.D. 30	Pentecost; Peter preaches; the church begins.	Acts 2	Jerusalem [1]
Early-mid 30s	Healing at the temple, growth of the church, and persecution; Stephen is killed.	Acts 3-7	Jerusalem [1]
Early-mid 30s	Philip preaches in Samaria, then teaches and baptizes the Ethiopian official.	Acts 8	Samaria [4]; Gaza and Azotus (Judea)
Early-mid 30s	Saul meets the risen Jesus, is baptized, and begins preaching.	Acts 9:1-30	Damascus [5]; Jerusalem [1]
Late 30s	Peter heals Aeneas and raises Tabitha.	Acts 9:32-43	Lydda and Joppa [6] (Judea)
Late 30s	Peter's vision leads him to Cornelius; Gentiles receive the gospel.	Acts 10-11:18	Joppa [6]; Caesarea [7]
Early 40s	The church grows at Antioch; believers are first called Christians.	Acts 11:19-26	Antioch of Syria [8]
A.D. 44	Herod Agrippa persecutes the church; James is killed and Peter is delivered from prison.	Acts 12	Jerusalem [1]
c. A.D. 45-46	Antioch sends famine relief to Judea.	Acts 11:27-30; 12:25	Antioch of Syria [8]; Jerusalem [1]
c. A.D. 46-48	Paul and Barnabas leave Antioch on the first missionary journey.	Acts 13:1-3	Antioch of Syria [8]; Seleucia (Syria)
c. A.D. 46-48	They preach across Cyprus; Elymas opposes them and Sergius Paulus believes.	Acts 13:4-12	Salamis and Paphos (Cyprus [9])
c. A.D. 46-48	John Mark leaves; Paul preaches at Antioch of Pisidia.	Acts 13:13-52	Perga [10] (Pamphylia); Antioch of Pisidia [11]
c. A.D. 46-48	Paul and Barnabas preach amid opposition; Paul is stoned at Lystra.	Acts 14:1-20	Iconium [12]; Lystra [13]; Derbe [14]
c. A.D. 46-48	They revisit churches, appoint elders, preach in Perga, and sail home.	Acts 14:21-28	Derbe [14], Lystra [13], Iconium [12], Antioch of Pisidia [11], Perga [10], Attalia (Pamphylia), Antioch [8]
c. A.D. 48-49	The Jerusalem meeting decides Gentile Christians are not required to be circumcised.	Acts 15:1-35	Jerusalem [1]; Antioch of Syria [8]

Map numbers identify the major locations. Other named stops include their larger region for orientation.

Acts Timeline and Major Locations

Acts 15-28 - dates are approximate; map numbers refer to the map following this timeline

Approx. date	Major event	Acts	Location(s) / map region
c. A.D. 49-50	Paul and Barnabas separate; Paul begins the second journey with Silas.	Acts 15:36-41	Antioch of Syria [8]; Syria and Cilicia
c. A.D. 50	Timothy joins Paul; the team travels through Phrygia and Galatia.	Acts 16:1-8	Lystra [13]; Phrygia and Galatia
c. A.D. 50	Paul sees the Macedonian vision and crosses into Europe.	Acts 16:9-12	Troas [22]; Samothrace and Neapolis (Macedonia)
c. A.D. 50	Lydia is converted; Paul and Silas are imprisoned; the jailer is baptized.	Acts 16:13-40	Philippi [15]
c. A.D. 50	Paul travels to Thessalonica and preaches in the synagogue.	Acts 17:1-9	Amphipolis and Apollonia (Macedonia); Thessalonica [16]
c. A.D. 50	The Bereans search the Scriptures; Paul then speaks at the Areopagus.	Acts 17:10-34	Berea [17]; Athens [18]
c. A.D. 50-52	Paul spends about eighteen months preaching in Corinth; Gallio dismisses the charges.	Acts 18:1-17	Corinth [19] (Achaia)
c. A.D. 52	Paul sails from Cenchreae, briefly visits Ephesus, and returns to Antioch.	Acts 18:18-23	Cenchreae (Achaia); Ephesus [20]; Antioch [8]
c. A.D. 53-56	Paul's third journey includes a long ministry in Ephesus; the silversmiths riot.	Acts 18:23-19:41	Ephesus [20]
c. A.D. 56-57	Paul travels through Macedonia and Greece, encouraging the churches.	Acts 20:1-6	Macedonia; Achaia; Philippi [15]
c. A.D. 57	At Troas, Eutychus falls from a window and is restored to life.	Acts 20:7-12	Troas [22]
c. A.D. 57	Paul travels by Assos and the Aegean islands; he meets the Ephesian elders at Miletus.	Acts 20:13-38	Assos, Mitylene, Chios, Samos (Aegean); Miletus [21]
c. A.D. 57	Paul continues toward Jerusalem by way of Cos, Rhodes, Patara, Tyre, and Ptolemais.	Acts 21:1-7	Cos, Rhodes, Patara; Tyre [23], Ptolemais (Phoenicia)
c. A.D. 57	Paul is arrested in Jerusalem and begins his defenses.	Acts 21:17-23:35	Jerusalem [1]
c. A.D. 57-59	Paul is held at Caesarea and appears before Felix, Festus, and Agrippa.	Acts 24-26	Caesarea [7]
c. A.D. 59	Paul sails for Rome; he visits friends at Sidon and changes ships at Myra.	Acts 27:1-6	Sidon (Phoenicia); Myra (Asia Minor)
c. A.D. 59-60	The ship reaches Crete, passes Claudia, and is wrecked after leaving Fair Havens.	Acts 27:7-44	Crete / Fair Havens [24]; Phoenix and Claudia (near Crete); Malta [25]
c. A.D. 60	The travelers stop at Syracuse, Rhegium, and Puteoli before reaching Rome.	Acts 28:1-16	Syracuse (Sicily); Rhegium and Puteoli (Italy); Rome [26]
c. A.D. 60-62	Paul teaches about the kingdom of God while under guard. Acts closes here.	Acts 28:17-31	Rome [26]



Tier 1 map key

- Jerusalem
- Mount of Olives
- Judea
- Samaria
- Damascus
- Joppa
- Caesarea

- Antioch of Syria
- Cyprus
- Perga
- Antioch of Pisidia
- Iconium
- Lystra
- Derbe

- Philippi
- Thessalonica
- Berea
- Athens
- Corinth
- Ephesus
- Miletus

Numbers match the location entries in this handout

- Troas
- Tyre
- Crete (Fair Havens)
- Malta (Melita)
- Rome

Acts Timeline and Major Locations

Tier 1 locations - a Bible Bowl study handout for grades 7-12

Jerusalem

Jerusalem is the center of the first seven chapters of Acts and the birthplace of the church. Jesus ascended nearby from the Mount of Olives, and the apostles waited here until the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost. Peter preached the first gospel sermon here, thousands were baptized, and the early church began to grow despite increasing persecution. Paul also returned to Jerusalem several times, where he was eventually arrested.

Primary Acts references: Acts 1-7; 21-23

Mount of Olives

The Mount of Olives lies just east of Jerusalem. Jesus met with His disciples here before ascending into heaven forty days after His resurrection (Acts 1:9-12). Two angels promised that Jesus would return in the same way He departed. The disciples then returned to Jerusalem to await the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Primary Acts references: Acts 1

Judea

Judea was the southern province of the Jewish homeland, with Jerusalem as its capital. Jesus told His disciples that they would be His witnesses in "Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Much of the early preaching occurred throughout Judea before the gospel spread farther into the Roman world.

Primary Acts references: Acts 1:8; 8-9

Samaria

Samaria lay between Judea and Galilee and was inhabited by the Samaritans, who had long-standing religious differences with the Jews. After persecution scattered the Jerusalem church, Philip preached there with great success (Acts 8). Many believed, were baptized, and later Peter and John came to encourage the new Christians. The spread of the gospel to Samaria marked an important step in fulfilling Acts 1:8.

Primary Acts references: Acts 8

Damascus

Damascus was one of the oldest cities in the world, located northeast of Israel in Syria. Saul traveled there intending to arrest Christians but instead encountered the risen Jesus on the road (Acts 9). After being blinded, he was led into the city where Ananias restored his sight and baptized him. Saul immediately began preaching that Jesus is the Son of God.

Primary Acts references: Acts 9

Joppa

Joppa was an important Mediterranean seaport. Peter stayed here in the home of Simon the tanner and raised the disciple Tabitha (Dorcas) from the dead (Acts 9). While praying on a rooftop, Peter received the vision of the sheet filled with animals, preparing him to take the gospel to the Gentiles. This vision led directly to the conversion of Cornelius.

Primary Acts references: Acts 9-10

Caesarea Maritima

Caesarea was the Roman capital of Judea and the residence of Roman governors. Peter preached to Cornelius and his household here, opening the door of the kingdom to the Gentiles (Acts 10). Years later Paul was imprisoned in Caesarea for about two years and defended himself before Felix, Festus, and King Agrippa before being sent to Rome.

Primary Acts references: Acts 10; 23-26

Antioch of Syria

Antioch became the first great Gentile congregation and the center of missionary activity. Barnabas brought Saul here to help teach the growing church, and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:26). The church sent out Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey and later sent Paul on additional journeys.

Primary Acts references: Acts 11:19-30; 13-14; 15:35-36; 18:22-23

Cyprus

Cyprus is a large island in the eastern Mediterranean and the homeland of Barnabas. Paul and Barnabas began their first missionary journey here (Acts 13). They traveled across the island preaching in synagogues before confronting the false prophet Elymas.

Primary Acts references: Acts 4:36; 13:4-12

Perga

Perga was a city in Pamphylia on the southern coast of Asia Minor. It was here that John Mark left Paul and Barnabas and returned to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13). Although little ministry is recorded during the first visit, Paul later preached there on the return trip.

Primary Acts references: Acts 13:13-14; 14:25

Antioch of Pisidia

This Antioch was located in the interior of Asia Minor and should not be confused with Antioch of Syria. Paul preached a major sermon in the synagogue here, reviewing Israel's history and proclaiming Jesus as the promised Messiah (Acts 13). Many Gentiles believed, while opposition from some Jewish leaders forced Paul and Barnabas to leave.

Primary Acts references: Acts 13:14-52

Iconium

In Iconium Paul and Barnabas preached with great success, and many Jews and Gentiles believed (Acts 14). At the same time, unbelieving Jews stirred up opposition and divided the city. When a plot developed to stone them, they fled to nearby Lystra and Derbe.

Primary Acts references: Acts 14:1-7

Lystra

Lystra was the site of one of Paul's most dramatic experiences. After healing a man who had been lame from birth, the people tried to worship Paul and Barnabas as the gods Hermes and Zeus (Acts 14). Soon afterward, hostile Jews arrived, persuaded the crowd to stone Paul, and left him for dead. Paul survived and continued preaching.

Primary Acts references: Acts 14:8-20; 16:1-3

Derbe

Derbe was the easternmost city reached on Paul's first missionary journey. Many disciples were made there (Acts 14). Rather than taking an easier route home, Paul returned through the dangerous cities where he had faced persecution to strengthen the churches.

Primary Acts references: Acts 14:20-23

Philippi

Philippi was Paul's first major stop in Europe. Lydia became the first recorded convert there, and Paul cast a spirit out of a slave girl, leading to his imprisonment (Acts 16). After an earthquake opened the prison doors, the Philippian jailer and his household were baptized.

Primary Acts references: Acts 16:11-40

Thessalonica

Paul preached in the synagogue at Thessalonica for three Sabbaths (Acts 17). Some Jews, many Greeks, and prominent women believed, but opposition quickly arose. A mob accused the Christians of acting against Caesar by proclaiming another king, Jesus.

Primary Acts references: Acts 17:1-9

Berea

The Jews of Berea were described as "more noble" because they eagerly received the message and searched the Scriptures daily to verify Paul's teaching (Acts 17:11). Many believed, but opponents from Thessalonica eventually arrived and stirred up trouble. Paul then departed for Athens.

Primary Acts references: Acts 17:10-15

Athens

Athens was famous for philosophy and learning. Paul observed its many idols and delivered his famous sermon on the Areopagus (Mars Hill), declaring the "unknown God" to be the Creator of all things (Acts 17). While only a few became Christians, the sermon remains one of the Bible's greatest examples of presenting the gospel to a pagan audience.

Primary Acts references: Acts 17:16-34

Corinth

Corinth was a wealthy commercial city known for immorality. Paul lived and worked here for about eighteen months with Aquila and Priscilla while preaching the gospel (Acts 18). During this stay, the Roman proconsul Gallio dismissed the charges brought against Paul, allowing the work to continue.

Primary Acts references: Acts 18:1-17

Ephesus

Ephesus became Paul's longest place of ministry during his missionary journeys. He taught there for about three years, performed extraordinary miracles, and saw the gospel spread throughout the province of Asia (Acts 19). The success of Christianity threatened the city's idol-making trade, resulting in the riot led by Demetrius the silversmith.

Primary Acts references: Acts 18:19-21; 19

Miletus

Rather than stop in Ephesus, Paul met the Ephesian elders at nearby Miletus (Acts 20). He delivered an emotional farewell speech, reminding them of his example, warning about false teachers, and encouraging them to shepherd the church faithfully. The elders wept because Paul said they would not see him again.

Primary Acts references: Acts 20:15-38

Troas

Troas served as an important crossroads in Paul's ministry. From here Paul received the vision of a man from Macedonia asking for help, leading the gospel into Europe (Acts 16). Later, during another visit, Paul preached until midnight, and the young man Eutychus fell from a third-story window and was restored to life (Acts 20).

Primary Acts references: Acts 16:6-10; 20:6-12

Tyre

Tyre was a Phoenician port city where Paul's ship stopped on his final journey to Jerusalem (Acts 21). Paul met with the disciples there for seven days. Through the Spirit they warned him about the suffering that awaited him in Jerusalem, though Paul continued his journey.

Primary Acts references: Acts 21:3-6

Crete (Fair Havens)

During Paul's voyage to Rome, the ship stopped at Fair Havens on the island of Crete (Acts 27). Paul warned that continuing the voyage late in the sailing season would end in disaster, but the ship's owner and pilot persuaded the crew to sail on. Their decision led directly to the violent storm and shipwreck.

Primary Acts references: Acts 27:7-13

Malta (Melita)

After the shipwreck, Paul and the others safely reached the island of Malta (Acts 28). Paul survived a poisonous snakebite without harm, amazing the islanders. He also healed many sick people, including the father of Publius, before continuing to Rome.

Primary Acts references: Acts 28:1-10

Rome

Rome was the capital of the Roman Empire and the destination toward which Acts steadily moves. After arriving under guard, Paul was allowed to live in a rented house where he continued preaching the kingdom of God and teaching about Jesus "with all boldness and without hindrance" (Acts 28:31). The book closes here, emphasizing that although Paul was imprisoned, the gospel could not be stopped.

Primary Acts references: Acts 23:11; 27-28