The Journeys of Paul the Apostle

How Corinthians fits into the timeline
The Journeys of Paul the Apostle

• The Acts of the Apostles records
  • three missionary journeys of Paul and his companions.
  • The fourth journey to Rome was done by Paul alone, as a prisoner in chains, from Jerusalem to Rome, and eventually to his death.
Paul's First Missionary Journey

- **The mission starts in Antioch**
  - (around the year 46-48 A.D.) (Acts 13 -14)
  - this journey sets off from Antioch not Jerusalem,
  - The Church of Antioch (Syria)
    - a newly established Church.
    - founded by believers (lay people),
    - escaping from the persecution in Jerusalem.
    - They preached the Good News to Jews.
    - some of the believers began preaching to Gentiles
    - large numbers of Gentiles believed (Acts,11: 19-21)
    - First Evangelization to the Gentiles on a large scale by lay people.
Paul's First Missionary Journey
Paul's First Missionary Journey

How it started

- Paul and Barnabas working in this Church for a year,
- the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'
- They first sailed to Cyprus." (Acts, 13:4)
- A young boy, John (or John Mark), joined them
  - "John was with them as their helper." (Acts, 13:5)
  - He was the cause of much trouble later
Paul's First Missionary Journey

**Strategy**
- first address the local Jewish community.
- afterwards Evangelize the Gentiles.
- use the **Old Testament as the starting point** to lead the Jewish audience to accept Jesus as the fulfilment of the prophecies.
- they preached from town to town
Paul's First Missionary Journey

- **FIRST STOP. The island of Cyprus.**
  - John Mark to leave them and returns to Jerusalem.
  - Causes a great division, when the two apostles began their second missionary journey,
Paul's First Missionary Journey

- **SECOND STOP. Antioch of Pisidia.**
  - not to be confused with the Antioch of Syria
  - they announce the Gospel to the Jewish Community, and then to the Gentiles.
  - They receive a very good response.
  - soon the Jewish leaders incite the people against them and they have to leave
THIRD STOP. Iconium

- Paul and Barnabas went together to the synagogue and preached
- a great number of both Jews and Gentiles believed.
- The apostles stayed there a long time, preaching
- A mob of Gentiles and Jews, along with their leaders, decided to attack and stone them.
- they fled for their lives.
FOURTH STOP. *Lystra*

- the crowds were astonished at their power to perform miracles
- they started adoring them as gods.
- Immediately after this incident, persecution comes again.
- some Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium and turned the crowds into a murderous mob.
- They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, apparently dead.
- as the believers stood around him, he got up and went back into the city.
- The next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe. (Acts, 14: 19-20)
Paul's First Missionary Journey

FIFTH STOP. Derbe

- preach the Good News in Derbe
- making many disciples,
- Paul and Barnabas returned again to visit the communities they had left in each city,
- they appointed elders in every church and prayed for them with fasting,
Paul's First Missionary Journey
Paul's Second Missionary Journey

(around the year 49-52 A.D.) (Acts, 15: 36-40,16,17,18:1-22)

Send Off

• starts again from Antioch.
• Barnabas wanted to take along John Mark.
• Paul disagreed strongly
• the disagreement was so sharp they separated.
• Barnabas took John Mark with him to Cyprus.
• Paul chose Silas, and travelled through Syria and Cilicia (Acts,15: 36-40)
Paul's Second Missionary Journey
Paul's Second Missionary Journey

- The first part of Paul's second missionary journey
  - revisit the Churches founded during the first journey.
  - Paul's plan
    - to establish a strong local Christian Community in each place he went,
    - revisit these communities or keep in contact with them through letters.
  - Paul and his missionary team revisited Derbe and Lystra.
In Lystra they met Timothy, a young disciple whose mother was a Jewish believer, but whose father was a Greek. Timothy was well thought of by the believers in Lystra and Iconium, so Paul wanted him to join them on their journey."(Acts,16:1-3)

he presents Paul with a new problem. Timothy had not been circumcised at birth
- Timothy knew very well that he could be baptized without having to be circumcised.
- now, it was not a matter of doctrine but of respect for human feelings and cultural customs.
- The Jewish community would feel much more at ease to have Timothy circumcised. Paul agreed.
Paul's Second Missionary Journey

- Led by the Spirit
  - Next Paul and Silas travelled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia,
  - they went on through Mysia to the city of Troas (Acts,16:6-8)
  - at Troas the important decision is made to go to Macedonia, Greece and Athens
Paul's Second Missionary Journey

- **The First European Stop - Philippi**
  - At Philippi there was an Overseas Jewish community.
  - But they had no synagogue for their meetings. They used an open air space near a river.
  - One of them was Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth.
  - She accepted what Paul was saying and was baptized along with other members of her household, (Acts,16:14-15)
  - In the early years of Christianity, the house of believers became the Church of Christians.

- The whole city is in an uproar because of their preaching
- A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas
- They are severely beaten, and then thrown into prison. (Acts,16:22-23)
- They are miraculously saved by the Lord, and convert the jailer
Paul's Second Missionary Journey

- **Second European Stop - Thessalonica.**
  - travelled through the towns of Amphipolis and Apollonia and came to Thessalonica,
  - Paul went to the synagogue service for three Sabbaths (Acts,17:1-2)
  - Many believed. One of the converts, Jason, welcomed the missionary team into his house.
  - the same pattern of events repeats itself. The leaders of the city form a mob and start accusing them (Acts,17:5-7)
Paul's Second Missionary Journey

**Third European Stop - Berea**

- the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica
- They searched the Scriptures day after day to check up on Paul and Silas
- many Jews believed, as did some of the prominent Greek women and many men. (Acts, 17:10-12)
- Soon some people stir up trouble again against Paul and Silas.
- the local believers are very concerned about the safety of the missionary team.
- They send Paul on to the coast, while Silas and Timothy remained behind.
- Those escorting Paul went with him to Athens. (Acts, 17:14-15)
Fourth European Stop - Athens

- He went to the synagogue to debate with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles
- Spoke daily in the public square
- He had a debate with some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers.
- "Paul, standing before the Council, addressed them as follows: ' "
  - Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious,
  - I saw your many altars. And one of them had this inscription on it--To an Unknown God.
  - You have been worshiping him without knowing who he is
- Some joined him and became believers (Acts, 17: 32-34)
- Left Athens almost immediately and went to Corinth, where Silas and Timothy joined him.
- They stayed there for one and a half year, and formed a very active Church.
Paul's Second Missionary Journey

In Corinth

- the model of the "house-church" spread rapidly.
- The first house offered as a Church, was the house of Aquila and Priscilla.
  - expelled from Italy after Claudius Caesar's order to deport all Jews from Rome.
  - Paul lived and worked with them,
  - they were tentmakers just as he was." (Acts,18:2-3)
- Another "house-church" was that of "Titius Justus who lived next door to the synagogue." (Acts,18:7)
- Paul preached often at the synagogue.
- "Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, and all his household believed in the Lord.
- As usual, the reaction of the leaders was prompt.
  - Gallio became governor of Achaia, some Jews rose in concerted action against Paul (Acts,18:12-13)
  - He refused to judge what he considered to be a religious dispute.
  - "One night the Lord spoke to Paul 'Don't be afraid! Speak out! Don't be silent! For I am with you, and no one will harm you because many people here in this city belong to me.'"(Acts,18:9-10)
Paul's Second Missionary Journey

- Paul sailed for the coast of Syria,
  - took Priscilla and Aquila with him.
  - at the port of Ephesus, Paul left the others behind.
  - next stop was at the port of Caesarea.
  - From there he went and visited the church at Jerusalem
  - then went back to Antioch. (Acts, 18:18-22)
Paul's Second Missionary Journey
Paul's Third Missionary Journey

(Around the year 53-58 A.D.) (Acts, 19-26)

*Two events to note:*
Paul's Third Missionary Journey

Two events to note:

1. The arrival of Apollos in Ephesus.
   - He was a Jew from Alexandria in Egypt
   - He had been taught the way of the Lord
   - talked to others with great enthusiasm and accuracy about Jesus.
   - he knew only about John's baptism.
   - Priscilla and Aquila took him aside and explained the way of God more accurately."(Acts,18:24-26)
Paul's Third Missionary Journey

Two events to note:

2. A group of Christians in Ephesus, who had only received John's baptism.
   - Maybe this group of believers was formed by Apollos,
   - Paul came to Ephesus, he found believers that didn’t know about the Holy Spirit.
   - As soon as they heard about Jesus they were baptized in His name
   - when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, (Acts,19:1-7)
   - There was a tremendous amount of enthusiasm,
   - all believers joined in the work of proclaiming the Gospel.
Paul's Third Missionary Journey

Paul begins his third missionary journey to raise money for the poor in Jerusalem and Judea.

50  51  52  53  54  55  56  57
Paul's Third Missionary Journey

- **First Stop. Ephesus**
- Paul and his team concentrate on the synagogue, but with very little result.
  - Paul left the synagogue and took the believers with him.
- He began preaching daily at the lecture hall of Tyrannus." (Acts, 19:9)
  - Ephesus was a multi-racial, multi-religious, very prosperous Roman colony.
  - Schools or lecture halls, like the one mentioned here, must have been abundant.
  - Paul starts a school of Evangelization.
  - For more than two years he and his team teach daily in this school.
- **Writes 1st epistle to the Corinthians**
- Raises money for the church at Jerusalem experiencing famine
Paul's Third Missionary Journey

- Paul felt impelled by the Holy Spirit to go over to Macedonia and Achaia before returning to Jerusalem. 'And after that,' he said, 'I must go on to Rome!'" (Acts, 19:21)

- serious trouble developed in Ephesus beginning with Demetrius, a silversmith
  - he had a large business manufacturing silver shrines of the Greek goddess Artemis.
  - He kept many craftsmen busy.
  - He tells them Paul has persuaded many people that handmade gods aren't gods at all.
  - Paul's message not only damaged their business,
  - it also "robbed the magnificent goddess Artemis of her prestige" (Acts, 19:27)
  - Everyone rushed to the amphitheater,
  - dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, who were Paul's traveling companions
  - Paul wanted to go in, but the believers wouldn't let him.
  - hours of shouting and confusion,
  - the mayor of the city, feared that the Roman soldiers would take action
  - convinced the crowds to disperse.
Paul's Third Missionary Journey

- Travels to **Phillipi**
  - Writes 2nd Epistle to the Corinthians
- Travels to **Corinth**
  - In Greece for about 3 months
  - In Corinth writes letter to Romans
- Returns to **Troas via Phillipi** in Macedonia
Paul's Third Missionary Journey

**Second stop Troas**

- As soon as the Passover season ended boarded a ship at Philippi in Macedonia and
- five days later arrived in Troas, where they stayed a week."(Acts,20:6)
- Troas is where Paul and his missionary team had begun the journey to Europe.
- "On the first day of the week, we gathered to observe the Lord's Supper."(Acts,20:7)
- Paul was preaching; and since he was leaving the next day, he talked until midnight.
  - The upstairs room where we met was lighted with many flickering lamps.
  - a young man named **Eutychus**, sitting on the windowsill,
  - became very drowsy he sank into a deep sleep
  - fell three stories to his death below.
  - Paul went down, took him into his arms and said 'he's alive!'
- Paul **continued talking to them until dawn** (Acts,20:7-12)
Paul's Third Missionary Journey

- **Third Stop. Miletus**
  - Paul had decided against stopping at Ephesus.
  - He was hurrying to get to Jerusalem for the Festival of Pentecost.
  - When he landed at Miletus, he sent a message to the elders of the church at Ephesus, asking them to come down to meet him. (Acts 20:16-17)
  - Paul says the Holy Spirit has told him in city after city that jail and suffering lie ahead.
  - He believes his life is worth nothing unless he is telling others about God's wonderful kindness and love.
Paul's Third Missionary Journey

- Paul’s Journey to Jerusalem
  - Sails to Tyre, in Syria, where the ship was to unload.
  - Finds the local believers, and stayed with them a week."(Acts,21:3-4)
  - The next stop was Ptolemais, greeted the brothers and sisters but stayed only one day.
  - went on to Caesarea and stayed at the home of Philip the Evangelist (Acts,21:7-8)
  - they all beg Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.
  - left for Jerusalem. Some believers from Caesarea accompanied them
  - went to the home of Mnason, a man originally from Cyprus and one of the early disciples.
  - All the brothers and sisters in Jerusalem welcomed him (Acts,21:15-17)
Paul begins his third missionary journey to raise money for the poor in Jerusalem and Judea.
Paul’s Journey to Rome