Paul in Context

1. Saul the Pharisee
2. Apostle to the Gentiles
3. When I am weak then I am strong
4. Poured out like a drink offering
Chronology of Paul

30 —
Jesus crucified and resurrected (30)

Pentecost (30)  Acts 2

Stephen stoned (32)  Acts 7

Paul converted (33)  Acts 9:1–22


Paul's 2 week visit to Jerusalem (36)  Acts 9:26–30; Gal 1:18–19

Paul in Syria (Antioch) & Cilicia (Tarsus) (36–43)  Acts 9:30; Gal 1:21

James the apostle beheaded (44)  Acts 12:1–2

Paul's trip to Antioch (44)  Acts 11:25–26

Paul's second visit to Jerusalem (46)  Acts 11:27–30


Judaist contention at Antioch (49)  Acts 15:1–2; Gal 2:12–14

Jerusalem council (50)  Acts 15:2–29


Romans from Corinth or Cenchrea (57)

1 Cor. from Ephesus (55)

2 Cor. from Macedonia (55)

Ephesians, Colossians & Philemon from Rome (61)

Philippians from Rome (62)

Jews expelled from Rome (49)

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Nero (54–68)

Vespasian (69–79)

Fire of Rome (64)

Galba, Otho, Vitellius (68/9)

Tetrarch of Nth. Territory (50–93)

Festus (60–62)

Roman procurator

Felix (52–60)

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Pontius Pilate

Roman procurator

Herod Agrippa II

Tetrarch of Nth. Territory (50–93)

Jews expelled from

Rome (49)

Herod Agrippa I

King of Judea

Felix (52–60)

Roman procurator

Festus (60–62)

Roman procurator

Jewish revolt against Rome (66)

Jerusalem Christians flee
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<td>60</td>
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<td>(61–63) Acts 28:11–31</td>
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<td>61</td>
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<td>66</td>
<td>Jewish revolt against Rome</td>
<td>(66) Acts 15:40 – 18:23</td>
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<td>68</td>
<td>Paul beheaded; Peter crucified</td>
<td>(67/68) 2Tim 4:6–8</td>
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Paul in prison
Temple riot

Acts 21:27–40
Temple riot
Temple riot
Soreg inscription

No foreigner is to go beyond the balustrade and the plaza of the temple zone. Whoever is caught doing so will have himself to blame for his death which will follow.
Temple riot
Temple riot
More plots against his life

More plots against his life


The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, "Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome."
More plots against his life

- **Acts 20:1–3.** Before he left for Jerusalem. Possibly Jews intended to throw him overboard.
- **Acts 21:27–31.** Public lynching
- **Acts 23:10.** Sanhedrin lynching
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**Encouragement (Acts 23:11)**

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In Caesarea
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- Paul in prison in Caesarea for two years.
- No letters from this period.
The “prison letters”

- Ephesians: 3:1; 4:1; 6:20
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- Ephesians: 3:1; 4:1; 6:20
- Colossians: 4:3,10,18
Letters from Rome

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Would we have these letters if Paul was not imprisoned?
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Paul's prison in Rome
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2 Timothy 4

- Feeling lonely and deserted
2 Timothy 4

- Feeling lonely and deserted
- Cold with winter coming
Paul’s last words

2 Timothy 4

- Feeling lonely and deserted
- Cold with winter coming
- Wanted books and parchments (i.e., his Hebrew Bible? Or citizenship papers?)

For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.
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Paul’s death (prob AD 67)

Tertullian *De praescrip* 36 (AD 200)

Or if thou art near to Italy, thou hast Rome, where we too have an authority close at hand. What a happy Church is that whereon the Apostles poured out their whole doctrine together with their blood; where Peter suffers a passion like his Lord’s, where Paul is crowned with the death of John [the baptist].
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Eusebius 2.25 (AD 324)

In [Nero’s] reign, Paul was beheaded in Rome itself and Peter was also crucified, and the cemeteries there still called by the names of Peter and Paul confirm the record.
Paul’s death (prob AD67)
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Catholic tradition holds that Paul was buried on the Via Ostiensiis, near the site of the modern basilica of San Paolo fuori le Mura.
Paul’s remains?
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Paul’s remains?
Vatican Press office, 29 June 2009

The sarcophagus under the altar dedicated to St Paul has recently been the object of detailed scientific analysis. It had not been opened in centuries and a tiny hole was made in it, through which a special probe was passed which found traces of a precious purple lined, decorated with gold sequins and a blue fabric with linen. Within the sarcophagus were also tiny bony fragments and these were put through carbon 14 testing by experts who did not know where they were from and they revealed that they were from a person who lived during the 1st or 2nd Century AD. This seems to confirm the unanimous and uncontested tradition that they are the mortal remains of the Apostle Paul. All this fills our souls with deep emotion.
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Drink offerings

In the Old Testament:

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Drink offerings
Poured out like a drink offering
Paul saw his life as poured out like a glass of wine as a sacrifice for the Lord.
Philippians 2:17

But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.
Poured out like a drink offering

Philippians 2:17
But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.

Romans 12:1–3
So, brothers and sisters, because of God’s mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service.
Poured out like a drink offering
Poured out like a drink offering

Jesus

You