Charts 15-2, 15-3

The Life of Paul

Explanation

The book of Acts provides an excellent outline of many parts of Paul's ministry. Although exact dating can be ventured for only some of the events in Paul's life, a fairly reliable sequence of events and even the approximate dating of those events is found in chart 15-2. As far as possible, the time and place of Paul's composition of individual epistles are included. Dating is given in the Roman system used at the time, with modern equivalents. Also offered are scriptural references for the activities noted in the scriptures. Aspects of Paul's ministry after his arrival at Rome are conjectural, based on early Christian tradition.

Chart 15-3 details the missionary experiences of Paul, showing the various locations where he preached the gospel of Jesus Christ and the results thereof.

Paul was an impressive missionary. Although he may be best known through his exposition of doctrine and powerful testimony that still live in the words of his epistles, his actions speak even louder than his words. Paul displayed his faithfulness and dedication throughout his missionary labors. Chart 15-3 summarizes the information reported in the book of Acts about Paul's experiences as a missionary. Details about where he went, what events are known to have occurred there, what lengths of time were involved, and what outcomes they produced are listed along with the scriptural references.

References

Sidney B. Sperry, *Paul's Life and Letters* (1955; reprint, Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1995).
Richard Lloyd Anderson, *Understanding Paul* (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1983).
Henry C. Thiessen, *Introduction to the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1955).

Paul's Life and Ministry

Roman Year	Modern Date	Event	Scriptural Reference
753–56	1–3	Paul's birth at Tarsus	
771–81	19–29	Approximate period of Paul's tutelage at Jerusalem under Gamaliel	Acts 22:3
781–85	29–33	Paul departs from Jerusalem, probably for Tarsus	
786–87	34–35	Paul witnesses stoning of Stephen and persecutes the Christian community in Judea	Acts 7:54–60, 8:1–4
787	35	Paul is converted on road to Damascus;	Acts 9:1–19
		Paul preaches of Christ at Damascus	Acts 9:20–25
788	36	Paul's visit to Jerusalem to learn of Christ from Peter and other brethren	Acts 9:26–29, Gal 1:18
789–94	37–42	Paul's ministry in Tarsus, Syria, and other places	Acts 9:30, Gal 1:18–20
795	43	Paul's mission at Antioch	Acts 11:25–26
796	44	Paul's second visit to Jerusalem	Acts 11:30, Gal 2:1–10
797–99	45–47	Paul's first missionary journey	Acts 13–14
800–801	48–49	Paul's continued labors in Antioch	Acts 14:26–15:2, 25–34
801	49	Council of Jerusalem	Acts 15:2–34
801–4	49–52	Paul's second missionary journey	Acts 15:35, 16–17
803–4	51–52	Paul at Corinth	Acts 17
		1 Thessalonians written from Corinth	
		2 Thessalonians written from Corinth	
804	52	Paul's fourth visit to Jerusalem	Acts 18:27–28
804–5	52–53	Paul labors in Antioch	Acts 18:23
805	53	Paul begins his third missionary journey	Acts 18:23–24
806–8	54–56	Paul at Ephesus	Acts 19
		1 Corinthians written from Ephesus	
809	57	Paul in Macedonia (Philippi)	Acts 20:1–2
		2 Corinthians written from Macedonia	
		Galatians written from Macedonia	
		Paul returns to Corinth	Acts 20:2–3
		Romans written from Corinth	
810	58	Paul's farewell journey through Macedonia and Asia as he returns to Jerusalem	Acts 20:4–38
811–12	59–60	Paul's fifth visit to Jerusalem and arrest; in custody at the governor's palace at Caesarea	Acts 21–26
813	60	Paul's voyage to Rome	Acts 27
		Hebrews written from Caesarea	
813–14	61–62	Paul lives in his own house two years at Rome awaiting his hearing before the emperor, Nero	Acts 28
813	61	*Colossians* written from Rome	
		Ephesians written from Rome	
814	62	*Philippians* written from Rome	
815	63	Ministry in Rome and Italy	
816–18	64–66	Possible missionary journey through the western provinces (Spain, Gaul, Raetia, Noricum)	
818–19	66–67	Pastoral Epistles written from Rome	
820	68	Possible date of death	