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APOSTOLIC HISTORY

"A" Course

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APOSTOLIC HISTORY 'A'

Lesson Topics:

1. The Purpose and Scope of the Subject.
2. The Beginning of the Church.
3. The Spirit at Work in the Kingdom Church.
4. The Beginning of the Church of Grace.
5. Paul's Missionary Journeys.
6. Paul's Journey to Rome and His Death.

LESSON 1 THE PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE SUBJECT

- A. The Point of View in History.
1. Not merely to get the order of events as they occurred. (The Holy Spirit selects all the essential events. John 21:25).
 2. We must ascertain the relationship of these events.
 - (a) Must learn to estimate cause and effect. (Cause and coincidence are different).
 - (b) Must be able to anticipate results.
 3. By induction we must discover the great principles underlying life.
- B. Church History involves an understanding of the Bible term "Church".
1. Many strange ideas are abroad regarding this Bible term.
 - (a) Some say, "There is only one Church". e.g. Roman Catholics.
 - (1) Roman Catholics claim their organization is the Church. N.B. Their Church did not begin until 376 A.D., long after the Book of Acts was written. The Virgin Mary was brought into their worship in 381 A.D. from the pagan worship of Ishtar (Queen of Heaven).
 - (2) Others claim there is only one Church and that it is the Body of Christ that is meant. e.g. Plymouth Brethren. N.B. The term "Church" is often found in the plural in the Bible. 1 Cor. 11:16; 1 Cor. 16:19; Rev. 1:4.
 - (b) Some go back to the original Greek "Ecclesia", and they say it means "called out ones" and hence can only refer to Christians. N.B. "Ecclesia" not only applied to religious affairs. See Acts 19:39, 41. (assembly).
 2. The Church idea was known before Christ's Resurrection. Acts 7:38.
 3. The Bible use of the term:
 - (a) The building, house or place where worshippers meet. Col. 4:16; 1 Cor. 11:18-22. N.B. In 1 Cor. 11:18-22 the contrast is between the Church building and home. It is not proper to celebrate the Communion in a private home.
 - (b) An assembly of God's people separated from the world. Acts 7:38. N.B. This passage has to do with the church of Israel, not Christians.
 - (c) The local organization consisting of professing Christians whether actually Christians or not. Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 11:16. In this sense it is often plural. Matt. 16:18 must refer to the local organization. "build", "it". An organization not an organization.
 - (d) The general assembly, or conference, consisting of representatives from the local organizations. Acts 15:2,6,22; 1 Cor 14:23.
 - (1) Only for advisory purposes.
 - (2) Women disallowed to pray or prophesy in the general assembly 1 Cor. 14:34, but permitted in the Local Assembly 1 Cor 11:5, because rules are given for her conduct.

(e) The mystical body of Christ. The organism of which Christ is the head. Eph. 1:21-23; Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:18.

N.B. This organism compared to a:

(1) Body with members 1 Cor. 12:12.

(2) Vine with branches John 15:4.

(3) Olive tree with natural branches and wild olive tree grafted in Rom. 11:17.

(1) All Christians do not belong to this body or organism. Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27; "so many", "as many" not all are in the organism. 1 Cor. 12:13 shows that it is the Holy Spirit that baptizes us into the body of Christ. "we", "into".

(2) Unless we are members of this organism we cannot bear fruit John 15:4. Must be "in" the Vine.

(3) Study the three relationships of the Holy Spirit John 14:16, 17; (John 20:22) Acts 1:8; c/f Acts 8:16,17; Acts 19:1-6:
WITH, IN, UPON.

4. Two facts are surely evident:

(a) When a person talks about joining the Church Acts 2:47; 1 Thes. 1:6; he can only refer to the Local Assembly.

(b) Apostolic, or Early Church History should deal largely with the establishment and growth of the Visible Church (Church Militant, or the Local Assemblies).

C. This Early History involves the careful distinction of the two Churches, which were in existence before the Church of Grace began, from the Church of Grace itself.

1. We have little or nothing to do with the Church of Israel (Decadent Church).

2. We shall follow for a few years the Kingdom Church as first led by Peter and later by James, with headquarters at Jerusalem.

3. Then we must follow out the inauguration and development of the Church of Grace by revelation and expansion, under the leadership of Paul, with headquarters at Antioch.

4. Our text-book will be for the most part the Book of Acts. Its name signifies its content (The Acts of the Apostles).

(a) Chapters 1 and 2 deal with the establishment of the Church.

(b) Chapters 3 to 12 deal with the Kingdom Church in the limelight.

(c) Chapters 13 to 28 deal with the Church of Grace as it comes on the scene.

LESSON 2 THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH

A. There were Christians before there was a Church.

1. There were no born again people before the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. Lk. 22:32; John 14:1, 16, 17.

2. The Disciples became Christians in the Upper Room on the evening of the Resurrection Day John 20:22. Thomas became a Christian eight days later. c/f John 20:28,29 "believed". See also Lk. 24:45 c/f 1 Cor 2:14 They were instructed to tarry in Jerusalem for the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, which marked the beginning of the Church (Body of Christ) Lk. 24:49; Acts 1:4,5,8.

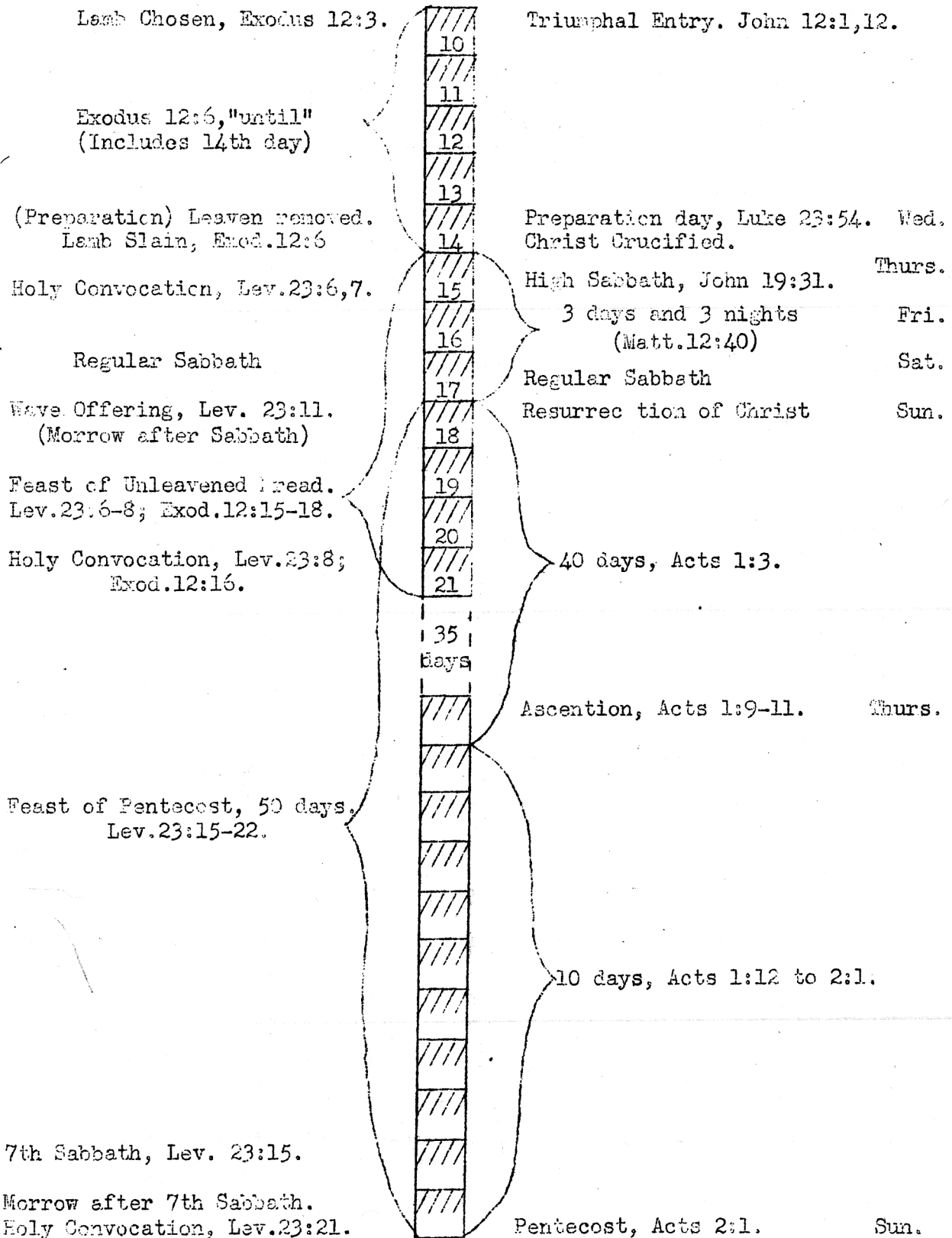
B. The Passover and Pentecost. (see chart)

C. The Crucifixion to the Establishment of the Church at Pentecost (see chart).

E. Passover and Pentecost, 1.Cor.5:7.

C. Crucifixion to the Establishment of the Church at Pentecost.

Nisan
(1st Month)



Triumphal Entry. John 12:1,12.

Preparation day, Luke 23:54. Christ Crucified.

High Sabbath, John 19:31. Thurs.

3 days and 3 nights (Matt.12:40) Fri.

Regular Sabbath Sat.

Resurrection of Christ Sun.

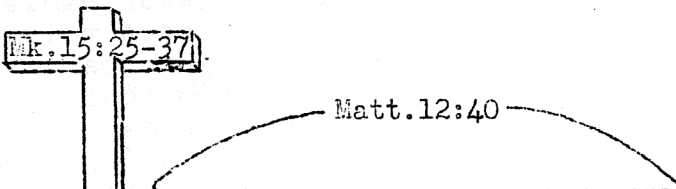
40 days, Acts 1:3.

Ascention, Acts 1:9-11. Thurs.

10 days, Acts 1:12 to 2:1.

Pentecost, Acts 2:1. Sun.

Detail of the Crucifixion and Resurrection:



Nisan date:	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	
<u>Jewish:</u> Sundown to Sundown.	4th/day Preparation	5th/day High Day	6th/day Secular	7th/day Sabbath	1st/day Resurrection	
<u>Roman:</u> Midnight to Midnight.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	

Did Christ eat the Passover Just before His Crucifixion?

A. Was the Lord's Last Supper the Passover Feast of the slain Lamb?

1. Essential features of the Paschal feast are missing from the supper of which the Lord partook before His passion.
 - a. No mention is made of the slain lamb and the bitter herbs.
 - b. Instead of partaking of it with loins girded and staves in their hands, Exod.12:11, they reclined at this meal.
 - c. The Jew must remain in the house during the Passover night, Exod. 12:22. The Lord and His disciples went out, Mark 14:26. Also the scrupulous Pharisees went out to the Garden to arrest Jesus.
2. The Scriptures clearly show that Christ was crucified before the feast was held.
 - a. Matt.27:62 - Christ was crucified on the day of preparation.
 - b. Mark 15:42 - 'it was the preparation'
 - c. Luke 23:54 - 'preparation, and the Sabbath drew on'
 - d. John 13:1,2 - 'before the feast.--- And supper being ended'
 - e. John 13:29 - Judas' betrayal was before the feast.
 - f. John 18:28 - Christ was tried before the feast of Passover.
 - g. John 19:14 - Final rejection was on 'preparation day'
 - h. John 19:31 - body removed before the High Sabbath.
 - i. 1.Cor.5:7. - Christ fulfilled the Passover type.

B. How then explain certain other passages: Matt.26:17; Mark 14:12; Luke 22:7.

'First day of the feast of Unleavened Bread' is clearly identified with the day for the slaying of the Lamb, the preparation day, or the 14th of Nisan. It will be noted that Lev.23:6,7 speaks of the 'first day' with reference to the Holy Convocation, or the 15th of Nisan. The term used in the first case is general (Luke 22:1), while in the latter it is specific.

D The Seven Days of Preparation.

1 Preliminary Meetings Acts 1:4-11.

(a) The Call Meeting Acts 1:4-5.

(1) Place: Jerusalem.

(2) By Whom called: Christ.

(3) Purpose: to receive instructions for service. "ye shall be baptized....."

(b) The Farewell Meeting. vs. 6-11.

(1) Place: Mt. of Olives. c/f Lk.24:49-50.

(2) Purpose discussed: An error proposed. vs.6; its correction, vs.7; Promise to receive power, vs.8; The missionary program, vs.8. N.B. "after that" shows that the baptism is first, then power. N.B. "times and seasons" refer to the 75 days in the Tribulation Period, prior to Christ's second coming. c/f I Thess. 5:1-2.

(c) The closing moments of the meeting. vs. 9-11.

(1) The Ascension. Gradual, not like the Rapture, but like the Second Coming.

(2) Two men and their message: "same Jesus", literal, not spiritual. Jesus shall return in the flesh. "in like manner" visibly, in the clouds, to the same place, Zech.14:4. Christ's Coming is an event, not a process, and is personal and corporeal.

2 The Organization Meeting. Vs. 12-26.

(a) Place: Jerusalem.

(b) Number present: "about 120 names" (c/f 1 Cor. 15:6. only 24%, less than one out of four interested in having the power of the Holy Ghost.)

(c) The order of procedure.

(1) Much prayer and supplication. vs.14.

(2) Scripture read by Peter, vs.15. (Ps.69:25, Ps.109:8, etc.) Peter declared these Scriptures were fulfilled in Judas, and now someone must take his office. N.B. Bishoprick and Apostleship are the same. c/f 1 Acts 1:20 and 25.

N.B. c/f Acts 1:21-22, and I Tim.3:1-7. The former are the qualifications of a Kingdom Apostle, and the latter are the qualifications for an Apostle of Grace.

(3) Nominations, vs.23. Two appointed. Why two? Church government should be democratic. If Peter had appointed one without a vote, it would have been Autocratic.

(4) Prayer, vs.24-25.

(5) Ballots cast, vs.26. Matthias elected.

N.B. How many Apostles? See Rev.21:14. Some say that there have been only 12 Apostles, that Matthias was man's choice, but that Paul was God's choice.

(a) Matthias was numbered with the other eleven, Acts 1:26.

(b) Paul was not qualified to be a Kingdom Apostle Acts 1:21-22.

(c) More than twelve others named, Acts 14:14, I Cor.4:6,9. Rom. 16:7, I Thess.2:6 c/f I Thess. 1:1, etc.

(d) Apostles are set first in order in the Church, I Cor.12:28. Cannot have a fully organized Church without one or more Apostles.

(e) The qualifications in I Tim.3:1-7 were given long after the ordination of the first twelve Apostles. This would have been unnecessary if Apostleship were not to continue.

(f) Eph. 4:11-13 states that Apostleship is to continue until the Rapture.

- (g) There are two kinds of Apostles. We must distinguish the Kingdom Apostles from the Apostles of Grace. Gal. 2:7,8; Rom. 11:13. There were only 12 Kingdom Apostles, but there have been and are many Apostles for the Churches in this Dispensation of Grace.

3 The Establishment. Chapter 2:

- (a) Three steps in this:
 - (1) The Enduement or Ordination vs. 1-13.
 - (2) The Inauguration vs. 14-36.
 - (3) The Establishment vs. 37-47.
- (b) The Enduement or Ordination vs. 1-13.
 - (1) Time: Day of Pentecost "fully come".
 - (2) Place: Jerusalem.
 - (3) Events:
 - (a) Approaching sound "came from heaven".
 - (b) Character: "like a rushing mighty wind".
 - (c) Extent: heard all over the house with the same volume. The sound drew their attention.
 - (d) Position of the people: "sitting".
 - (e) Visible manifestation: "appeared" not "came" - distant.
 - (f) Character: "cloven tongues like as of fire" not "of fire". "It": Mass of cloven tongues. One single mass with many tongues.
 - (g) Result: (1) All filled with the Holy Ghost. N.B. Baptized once but filled many times, c/f Acts 4:8,31; etc. (2) They spake with other tongues, which were known vs.8-11. N.B. There are two kinds of tongues: 1st. Other tongues or tongues of men (known tongues); 2nd. Unknown tongues or tongues of angels. I Cor. 14:27,28 gives us the rules regarding the use of the gift of tongues.
 - (h) Its reception: vs.6-11. (1) Why was it so spectacular? To convince the Disciples and the crowd. (2) What was so strange? vs.6-10. (3) What did they speak about? vs.11. (4) What were the attitudes? Amazement, doubt, mockery.
- (c) The Inauguration (entering into office with appropriate ceremonies) vs.14-36. Peter's inaugural sermon.
 - (1) Call to listen. He challenged the charge - "only 3rd. hour" (9 oclock A.M.)
 - (2) Calls attention to Bible prophecy of Joel 2:
 - (a) Not a fulfillment. Distinguish "this is that" from "that is this" (N.B."this" is near, "that" is far). Also distinguish "spoken by" from "spoken of by".
 - (b) Peter's purpose in quoting this Scripture: To direct their attention to the Holy Ghost, Who was to be given later on, and Who was now manifesting Himself at this time in a shadowy fulfillment.
Example of a shadowy fulfillment: Mal.4:5 c/f Matt.17:10-13
Mal.4:5 is literally fulfilled in the Tribulation Period, see Rev.11:3.

- (3.) The theme and purpose of Peter's sermon.
 - (a) Proved the resurrection and exaltation of Jesus Christ, and showed our need of submission to Him.
 - (b) Proofs of resurrection and exaltation:
 - 1. Approved of God by miracles, wonders, and signs, vs. 22.
 - 2. Though wickedly crucified, He arose, vs. 23,24.
 - 3. Prophesied by their own David, vs. 25-31.
 - 4. Witnessed by the Apostles, vs. 32.
 - 5. Shown by the coming of the Holy Ghost, vs.33.

(D.) The Establishment Completed by Membership, vs. 37-47.

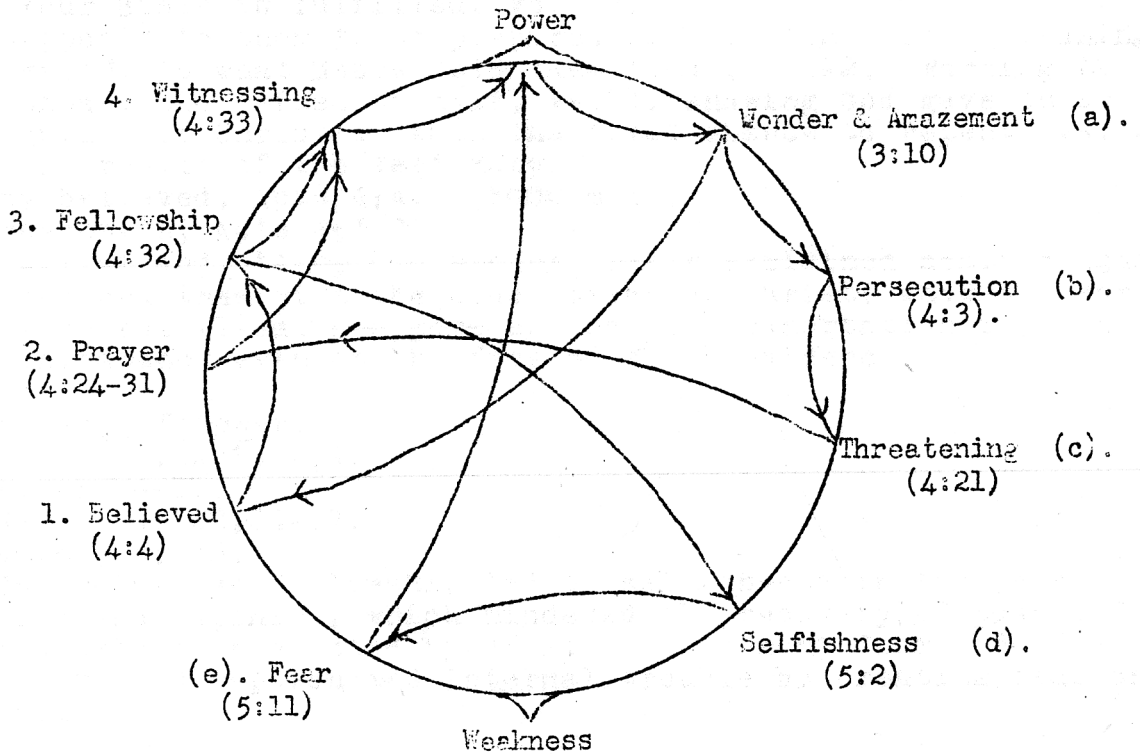
- (1.) An earnest enquiry, vs. 37-40.
 - (a) A Kingdom Gospel, vs. 38. (1st. Repent; 2nd. Be baptized).
 - (b) A promise, vs. 39.
 - (c) A call to separation, vs. 40.
- (2.) A large addition of Prospective members, vs. 41-47.
 - (a) Number 3000 - Added same day, not baptized.
 - (b) Vs. 41,42 cannot refer to the order of procedure, but to the various things that characterized them as they went on. (e.g. prayers can come before the baptism, or joining of a Church, etc.)
 - (c) This is before the Day of Grace, and refers to Kingdom Church. N.B. Holding all things in common is on a par with close communion, vs.44,45. Vs.46 breaking of bread, not always communion, sometimes refers to a meal. Vs.47 "saved"(not new birth)"Salvation"; a process in three tenses. c/f. Rom.13:11.

LESSON 3 THE SPIRIT AT WORK IN THE KINGDOM CHURCH.

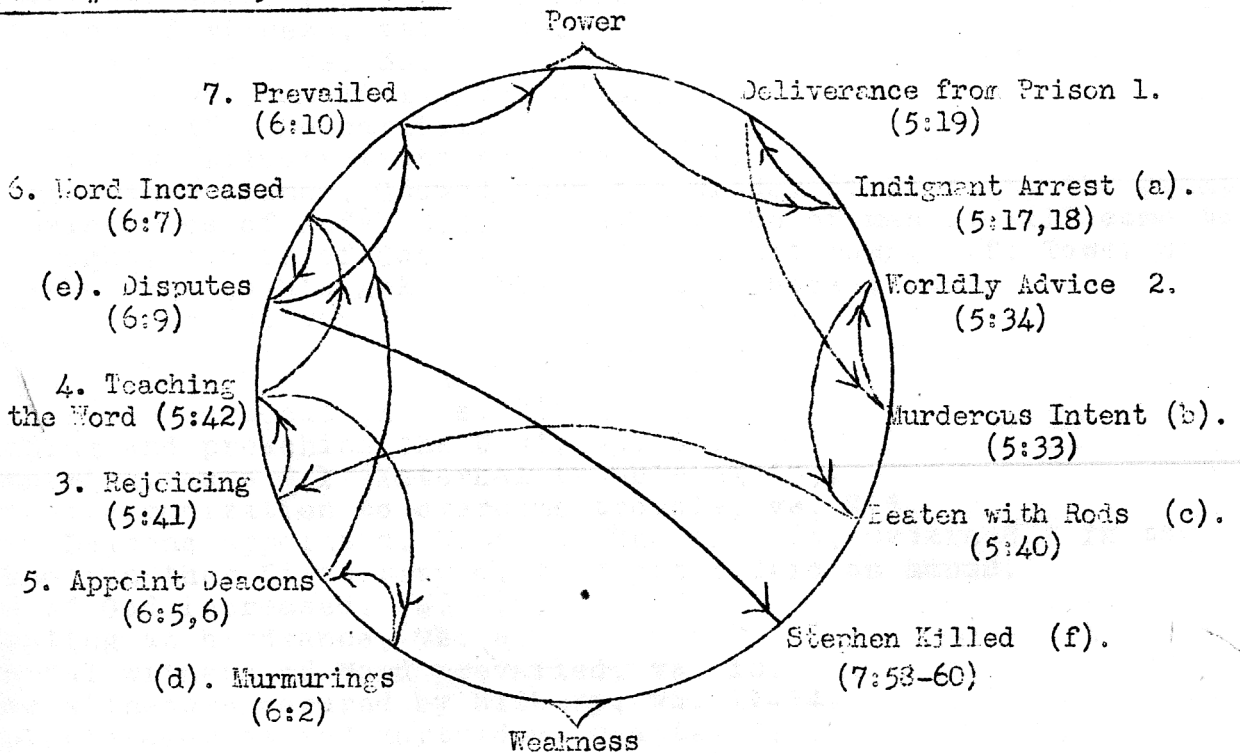
CYCLE 1 - Acts 3:1 to 5:11.

- A. The Occasion of Power.
 - 1. A simple incident: Two men going to a prayer meeting.
 - 2. A hopeless case: Lame from birth; carried there; 40 years - 4:22.
 - 3. The path of duty is where God guides. This time, on way to a prayer meeting.
- B. The Manifestation of Power.
 - 1. The power, not constant, but inculcated (given as needed). N.B. "Fastening his eyes upon him" - saw expectancy and faith, vs.16.
 - 2. The method of procedure:
 - (a) Get co-operation ("look on us" vs.4)...
 - (b) Remove side issues. "silver and gold have I none".
 - (c) Show sympathy and assurance. (You cannot serve God coldly, you must have your heart in it.)
 - (d) Inculcate faith, vs. 7.
 - (e) Give the Command. Speak with the authority of God's Word.
 - (f) Establish permanency, if possible. Grounded in the Word. Persuaded.
- C. The Result.
 - 1. The reaction, vs. 9,10 "filled with wonder and amazement."
 - 2. Gratitude of the man. "leaping and praising God".
 - 3. Misunderstanding of the crowd, vs.11. (Thought, power of Peter & John.)
 - 4. A testimony in Prophecy, vs. 12. (Must overcome misunderstanding.)
 - (a) Peter secures favorable attention.
 - 1. Startling fact - God glorified Christ.
 - 2. Challenges by contrast - You desired a murderer, but God God instead glorified and raised Christ from the dead.

Cycle #1. Acts 3:1 to 5:11.



Cycle #2. Acts 5:12 to 7:60.



- (b) Gives explanation of healing, vs. 16.
- (c) Gains their favor in his gospel appeal.
 - 1. Ye did it through ignorance, vs. 17.
 - 2. Your Bible is fulfilled, vs. 18.
 - 3. Appeals to them to be prepared for the times of refreshing, vs. 19. Do what Moses told them to do, vs. 22. Warning to those, who refuse to hear, vs. 23, showing God gave those guilty of Christ's death the first chance to repent, vs. 26.
- 5. The double result of the testimony.
 - (a) Many believed, Acts 4:4. (5000 men).
 - (b) Persecution, Acts 4:3-21.
 - 1. Arrest and attempt to hinder. Peter explained healing again, charged them with the crucifixion of Christ; showed a scripture fulfilled, and gave an indirect exhortation to Sanhedrin.
 - 2. Threatened even in the face of sound evidence.

D. The Recovery of Power.

- 1. Many believed, Acts 4:4.
- 2. Prayer, 4: 24-31.
- 3. Fellowship, 4: 32, 34-37.
- 4. Witnessing, 4: 33.
 - N.B. Their intense fellowship led to selfishness in the persons of Ananias and Sapphira, which hindered the recovery of power. This was quickly counteracted by drastic punishment from God, effectively removing deception and internal trouble by creating fear on all.
- 5. Fear, 5:11.

CYCLE 2 - Acts 5:12 to Acts 7:60.

A. Power Manifested.

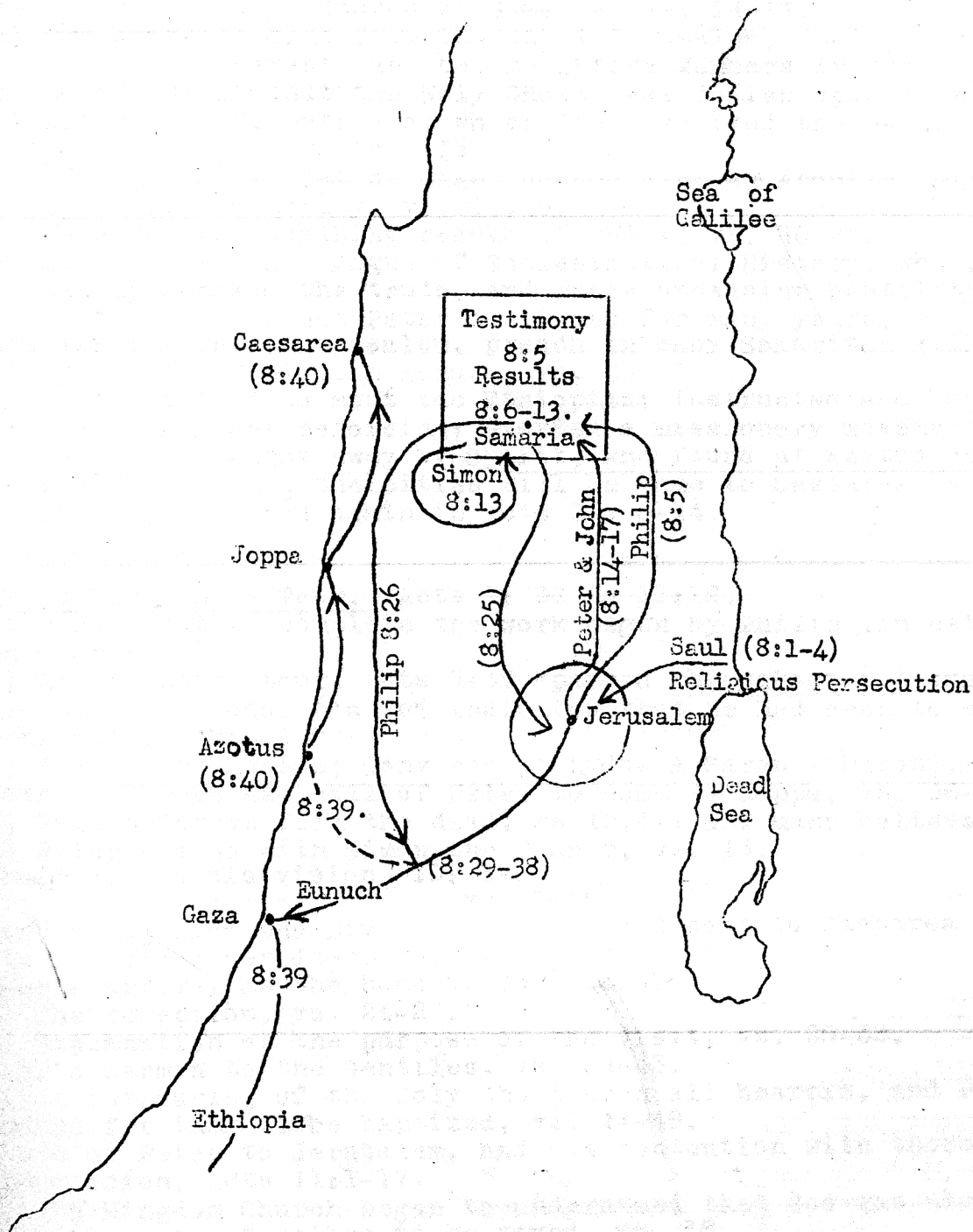
- 1. Healings and miracles, Acts 5: 12-16 (Greater).
- 2. Indignant arrest for contempt of court, vs. 17, 18.
- 3. Deliverance from prison, vs. 19.
- 4. Surprise of authorities, and rearrest, vs. 22-28.
- 5. Testimony of witness, vs. 29-32.
- 6. Murderous intent, vs. 33.
- 7. Worldly advice (Gamaliel), vs. 34-39.
 - (a) "Take heed" - Be careful.
 - (b) Gave two illustrations from the past.
 - (c) "Let them alone". Showed them the wisdom of learning the great principles of life. E.G. If any work be of man it will come to nought, but if of God it cannot be overthrown. c/f. Tower of Babel and Noah's Ark; Bible and other books; etc.
- 8. Beaten with rods, vs. 40.

B. The Result.

- 1. Rejoicing in persecution, vs. 41.
- 2. Teaching and preaching the Word, vs. 42.
- 3. Murmuring, Acts 6:1 (Internal trouble again).
- 4. Further organization to overcome trouble, vs. 2-6.
 - Seven Deacons appointed. N.B. (a) Chosen. (b) Ordained - In the ordination they first prayed, then after laid on hands.
- 5. Word of God increased, vs. 7, 8.
- 6. Disputing an hindrance, vs. 9.
- 7. Powerful witness of Word prevailed, vs. 10.
- 8. False witnesses secured by bribery, vs. 11-14.
- 9. Stephen's address and martyrdom, Chapter 7: .

PHILIP'S MISSIONARY TOUR

Cycle # 3 (a). Acts 8:1 to 8:40.



CYCLE 3(a)

A. Philip's Missionary Tour. Acts 8:1 to 8:40.

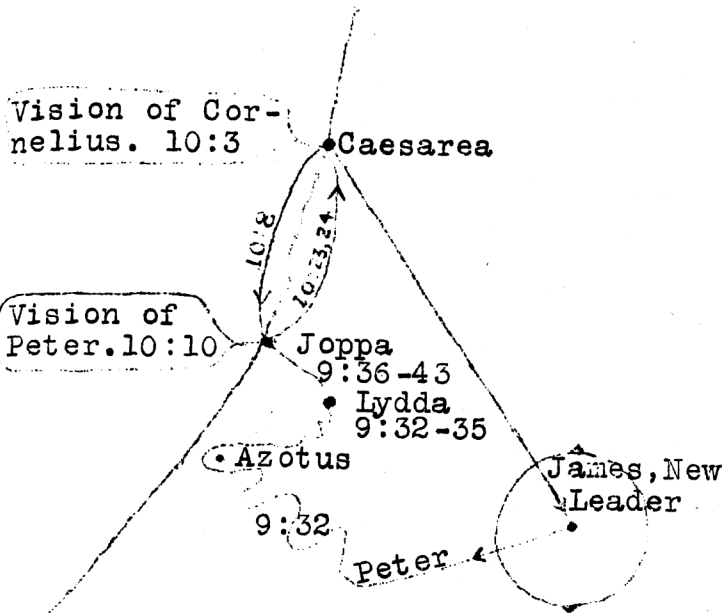
1. Religious persecution, with Saul the chief persecutor, scattering the early Church, and brought about the first missionary movement, Acts 8: 1-4.
2. Philip's mission in Samaria an outstanding success, vs.5-13.
 - (a) Gained their attention - "gave heed with one accord" vs. 6.
 - (b) Unclean spirits driven out, many healed, there was great joy, vs. (7,8).
 - (c) Simon an outstanding sorcerer, vs. 9-11.
 - (d) They believed and were baptized, so also Simon, vs. 12,13.
3. The organizing of a Church at Samaria, vs. 14-17.
 - (a) Two Apostles sent from Church at Jerusalem, that converts might receive enduement, and become Active Members in the Church.
 - (b) Notice vs.16 that the Holy Ghost "was fallen upon none of them."
 - (c) Notice vs.17, method by which they received the enduement.
4. Another phase in Simon's life.
 - (a) Offered money that he might become also an Apostle, with Apostolic authority, vs. 18,19.
 - (b) Received the scathing rebuke of Peter, vs. 20-24.
 - (c) May be the Simon Magus of Ecclesiastical History, who persistently opposed the truth, and whose unceasing hostility and bitterness against Peter continued for many years.
5. Apostles return to Jerusalem, preach in many Samaritan villages, vs.
6. Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch, vs. 26-40. (25.
 - (a) Philip called to meet the Ethiopian; Instructed and baptized.
 - (b) Ethiopian went rejoicing; Started a missionary movement in Africa.
 - (c) Philip is caught away by Spirit, and found at Azotus and preached in a the cities till he came to Caesarea, vs. 40.
 - (d) Philip mentioned again in Acts 21: 8-14.

CYCLE 3(b)

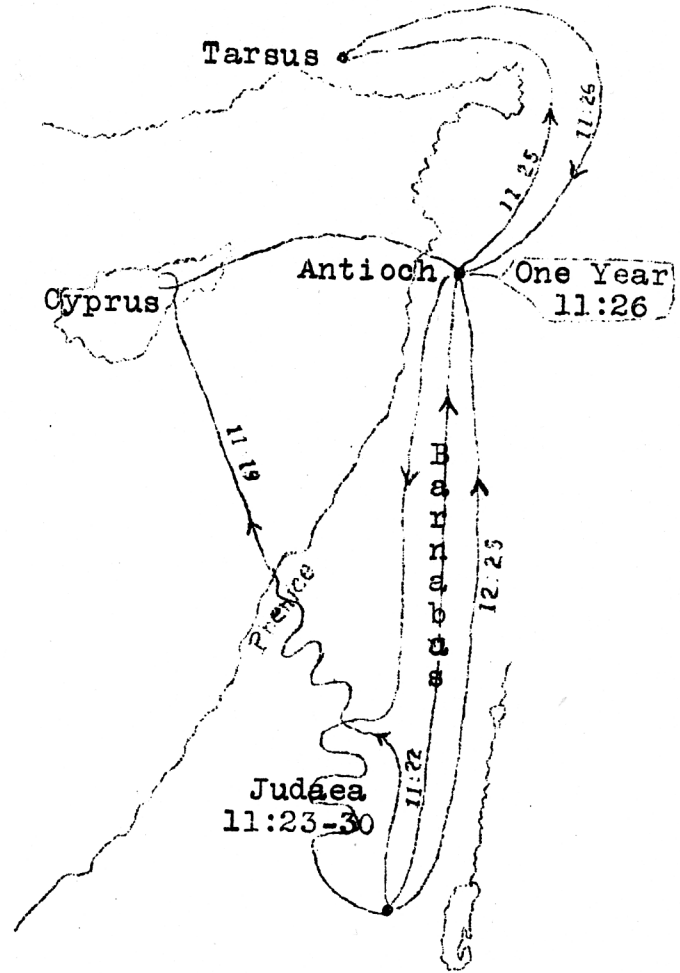
A. Peter's Missionary Tour. Acts 9: 32 to 11:18.

1. Peter sent out to complete the work begun by Philip ,in establishing Churches.
 - (a) An extensive tour, Acts 9:32 "passed throughout all quarters".
2. Came also to Lydda. ("also" indicates that he had been to other towns before this.)
 - (a) Healing of Aeneas; Converts at Lydda & Saron (Sharon), vs.33-35.
3. Death of Dorcas and call of Peter to come to Joppa, vs. 36-39.
 - (a) Raised Dorcas from the dead, vs.40,41; and many believed, vs.42.
 - (b) Peter stayed with Simon the Tanner, vs. 43.
4. Cornelius and his vision, 10: 1-8.
5. Peter and his vision, vs. 9-16.
6. Peter recognized the Divine guidance, and went to Caesarea taking with him six other Jews, vs. 17-23.
7. Peter's arrival at the home of Cornelius.
 - (a) The reception, vs. 24-27.
 - (b) Explanation of the purpose of the visit, vs. 28-33.
8. Peter's sermon to the Gentiles, vs. 34-43.
9. Direct outpouring of the Holy Ghost upon all hearers, and Peter's command for them to be baptized, vs. 44-48.
10. Return of Peter to Jerusalem, and his contention with those of the Circumcision, Acts 11:1-17.
 - (a) The Kingdom Church began to understand that God was also calling the Gentiles to be saved, vs. 18.
 - (b) James, new leader of the Kingdom Church.

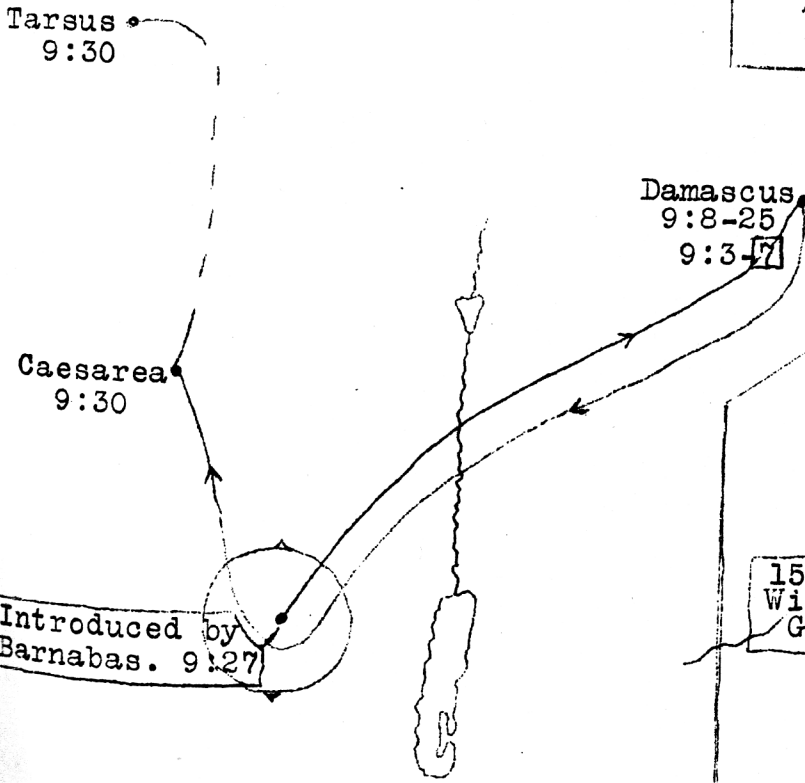
Cycle 3(b) - Acts 9:32 to Acts 11:18
Peter's Missionary Tour



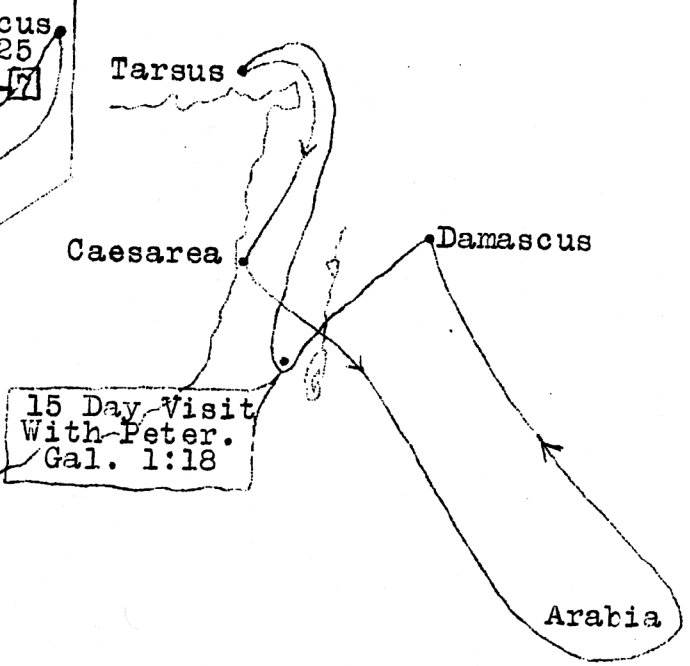
Cycle 5 - Acts 11:19 to Acts 12:25
Paul and Barnabas Together



Cycle 4(a) - Acts 9:1-31
Conversion of Saul



Cycle 4(b) - Gal. 1:
Visit To Desert of Arabia



CYCLE 4(a)

A. Conversion of Saul. Acts 9:1-31.

1. Saul enlarging his field of persecution, vs. 1,2.
2. The experience of Saul near Damascus, vs. 3-8.
c/f. Acts 22:5-16, and Acts 26:11-20.
 - (a) Light shone from Heaven, brighter than noonday sun.
 - (b) Fell to ground, heard a voice speaking to him in Hebrew.
 - (c) Saul's questions and the Lord's reply.
 - (d) Blinded by the glory of that light.
3. Saul led into Damascus, vs. 8.
4. After 3 days Ananias came to Saul by the direction of God, and Saul's eyesight was restored, and he was baptized, vs. 9-19.
5. Saul immediately began preaching the Deity of Christ, vs. 20.
6. His preaching confounded the Jews, and they took counsel to kill him, but he escaped by being let down by the disciples in a basket by the wall, vs. 21-23; and 2 Cor.11:32,33.
7. Came to Jerusalem and tried to join the Church, but they were afraid of him, vs. 26.
8. Introduced as a disciple by Barnabas, and Saul spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed with the Grecians, vs. 27-29.
9. Intent to slay Saul, but the brethren took him to Caesarea, and sent him forth to Tarsus, his home town, vs. 30.
10. Saul not yet a success; not yet in proper place for service.

CYCLE 4(b)

A. Saul's Visit To Arabia. Gal. 1:

1. Not recorded in Acts, but Chronologically it occurs between Acts 9; and Acts 11;
2. The Gospel of Grace is not an outgrowth of Judaism, nor an evolution of the Kingdom Gospel, but instead something new and unknown before it was revealed to Paul.
 - (a) This Gospel was made known by revelation to Saul by Christ, Gal. 1:11,12; (Acts 20:24).
 - (b) This Gospel the one and only true Gospel, Gal. 1: 6-10.
- N.B. Not Known before, Col. 1:26; Eph. 3:5,9; Rom. 16:25,26.
Saul saw Christ, Who spoke to him personally, revealing the whole mystery of Grace. Acts 22:14,15; 26:16.
3. Three stages in Saul's life Gal. 1:15,16.
 - (a) Physical birth. "Separated from mother's womb."
 - (b) Spiritual birth. "Called by His grace."
 - (c) Received the Revelation. "To reveal His Son in me."
4. This special Revelation not received from Apostles in Jerusalem, but from Christ in Arabia, vs. 16,17.
5. Returned again for the second time to Damascus, vs. 17.
6. Returned to Jerusalem, visited with Peter for 15 days, saw James also, vs. 18,19. Compare this visit with first visit after his conversion, Acts 9: 26-29.
 - (a) Why to see Peter? Paul knew that Peter had had the vision of the sheet, and Paul wished to discuss the program, which included the Gentiles, with Peter.
 - (b) Discussed the Gospel for 15 days; yet later Peter confessed difficulty in understanding Paul's Gospel, 2Pet. 3: 15,16.
7. Went North into regions of Syria and Cilicia, in which district Tarsus was situated, vs. 21.

CYCLE 5 - Acts 11:19 to Acts 12:25.A Saul and Barnabas Together:

- 1 The continued persecution enlarged the field of evangelism. Acts 11:19.
 - (a) The preaching was unto the Jews only to begin with.
 - (b) But the Jewish converts communicated the gospel to the Gentiles also with great results. vs. 20,21.
- 2 The Kingdom Church sent Barnabas to go only as far as Antioch. vs. 22.
- 3 When Barnabas came to Antioch he realized this work among the Gentiles needed the man God had called for this particular work, so he went to Tarsus to get Saul. vs.23-25.
- 4 They returned to Antioch and ministered for one year. vs. 26.
 - (a) 'Church' mentioned here is local organization, which became the headquarters of the Church of Grace to the Gentiles.
 - (b) Called 'Christians' first in Antioch.
- 5 Prophets came to Antioch and prophesied about the great dearth, and the Church at Antioch determined to send relief to Judea. vs. 27-29.
- 6 Barnabas and Saul sent to Jerusalem with the relief. vs. 30. (God's purpose may have been to help Saul break through the prejudice of the Kingdom Church.
- 7 Herod killed James the brother of John, and arrested Peter. Acts 12:1-4.
- 8 Prayer for Peter; his Divine deliverance and its results. vs. 5-19.
- 9 Death of Herod, removing another persecutor, and the Word of God progressed. vs. 20-24.
- 10 Barnabas and Saul returned to Antioch, taking with them John Mark. vs. 25.

LESSON 4 - THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH OF GRACEA The Transition Period Between the Kingdom Church Age and the Church of Grace.

1 Five outstanding steps:

- (a) Decentralization of the Early Church by persecution. (Authority not all centred in Jerusalem. See Gal. 2:).
- (b) Conversion of Saul, chosen of God to become the Apostle of Grace to the Gentiles, and to receive and preach the marvelous Gospel of Grace.
- (c) Peter's vision and the Preaching of the Gospel to the Gentiles, and also the Church ordinance of Water Baptism Given to the Gentiles.
- (d) The new purpose of Water Baptism. Not for remission of sins, but after conversion as the first step towards the baptism of the Holy Ghost, of which water baptism is a type.
- (e) Antioch made the headquarters of the Church of Grace

B The Ordination of Barnabas and Saul as Apostles. Acts 13:1-3.

- 1 Two gifts in the Church at Antioch, named: Prophecy and Teaching Vs. 1.
- 2 Call of Barnabas and Saul to the ministry of Apostleship Vs. 2.
- 3 This gift of Apostleship bestowed through the laying on of hands by the Presbytery Vs. 3. c/f. 1 Tim. 4:14. N.B. Apostleship is received by the laying on of hands by the Presbytery (Elders) 1 Tim.4:14; but the other Gifts of the Spirit are received by the laying on of hands by an Apostle; Thus the Apostles can only be ordained by the Church through their appointed representatives, and not by another Apostle. This is known as Church-succession. If one Apostle could ordain another man to become an Apostle, this would be Apostolic-succession, and this method is not only unscriptural but also undemocratic, as the people would have no say in the matter of whom was to govern them.

LESSON 5 PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS.A Cycle 6. Paul's First Missionary Journey. (46 to 48 A.D.)Stage 1 From Antioch to Paphos. Acts 13:4-12.

- (a) Paul, Barnabas and John Mark together.
- (b) Antioch to Seleucia, then sailed to Salamis (145 miles)
- (c) Thence to Paphos (100 miles)
 - (1) Experience with Bar-jesus. (2) Conversion of Sergius Paulus.

Stage 2 From Paphos to Derbe, Acts 13:13 to 14:20.

- (a) Paphos to Perga (165 miles) John left them.
- (b) Thence to Antioch in Pisidia (100 miles)
 - (1) Great sermon in the synagogue. 13:16-41.
 - (2) Immense crowd causes envy. vs. 45.
 - (3) The women and chief men expel them. vs. 50.
- (c) From Antioch to Iconium (80 miles)
 - (1) Many conversions both of Jews and Greeks.
 - (2) Forced by mob to leave Iconium.
- (d) From Iconium to Lystra (30 miles).
 - (1) Miracle of Impotent Man. N.B. Christ's name left out.
 - (2) Stoning of Paul. c/f. 2 Cor. 12:1-4.
- (e) On to Derbe through persecution (20 miles).

Stage 3 The Return, Acts 14: 21-28.

- (a) Organized churches. "ordained them elders in every church" vs. 23.
- (b) General preaching of the Gospel.
- (c) Back to Attalia, and then direct to Antioch.
- (d) Visit to Council at Jerusalem. Acts 15:
 - (1) Dispute over the keeping of the Law of Moses and circumcision. vs. 2 & 5.
 - (2) Delegates sent to Jerusalem.
 - (3) The question debated. vs. 5-12.
 - (4) James gives his verdict. vs. 13-21.
 - (5) Other delegates or representatives sent from the Church at Jerusalem to the Church at Antioch with the letters. vs. 22-29. (Judas and Silas).
 - (6) Arrival at Antioch, vs. 30-33. Silas chose to remain at Antioch vs. 34.

B³Cycle 7. Paul's Second Missionary Journey (49 to 52 A.D.).Stage 1 Antioch to Antioch, Acts 15:36 to 16:5.

- (a) Dispute over John Mark.
 - (1) Barnabas and Mark go to Cyprus.
 - (2) Paul and Silas go through Syria and Cilicia. (Church endorsed Paul and Silas vs. 40.)
- (b) On to Derbe and Lystra.
 - (1) Timothy joins the party from here.
- (c) On to Antioch in Pisidia.

Stage 2 Antioch to Troas, Acts 16:6-8.

- (a) Forbidden by the Holy Ghost to preach in Asia, East of Galatia. They had gone up into Galatia about 110 miles. "throughout" /- Phrygia and Galatia were large provinces.
N.B. Paul had some affliction, many think this affliction was of the eyes Gal. 4: 15 "plucked out your own eyes". 2 Cor. 12: 7-9. Gal. 6: 11.
- (b) Coming to Mysia; assayed to go into Bithynia but not permitted, so went on to Troas (280 miles).
 - (1) The Macedonian call vs. 9.
 - (2) Luke joins them at Troas. vs. 10 "we" indicates the narrator joined Paul's company at Troas.

Stage 3 Troas to Philippi, Acts 16:11-40.

- (a) Through Samothracia to Neapolis and on to Philippi. (120 miles).
 - (1) Conversion of Lydia. vs. 13-15. (Paul's first European convert).
 - (2) Spirit of divination (lip praise) Satan's agents may testify to God, tries to lead astray by exaltation of man. (vs. 16, 17.)
 - (3) Paul and Silas beaten and imprisoned. vs. 18-24.
 - (4) Conversion of the Jailer, and the apology for beating Romans. (Public recognition of their innocence).

(II)

Stage 4 Philippi to Corinth -- Acts 17:1 to 18:17.

- (a) Through Amphipolis and Apollonia to Thessalonica.
- (b) The arrest of Jason and others, charging them with harboring rebels. 17:5-9. (Rom. 16:21, Jason with Paul in work).
- (c) Flight of Paul and Silas to Berea, 17:10.
Luke and Timothy follow later.
- (d) Paul taken by ship to Athens, 17:15.
 - (1) Silas and Timothy remain till later. Luke went with Paul but returned back to tell Silas and Timothy where to meet Paul.
 - (2) Paul's great speech from Mars' hill; escaped arrest.
 - (3) Timothy and Silas went back to Thessalonica, I Thes. 3:1-3. Brought aid, Phil. 4:15-18.
- (e) On to Corinth, 18:1.
 - (1) Meets Aquila and Priscilla (exiled from Rome).
 - (2) Discussion with the Jews. Left them and went to the Gentiles; Justus and Crispus follow 18:4-8.
 - (3) Vision and promise. vs. 9, 10.
 - (4) Before Gallio. Sosthenes beaten.
 - (5) Stays 1½ years, and writes the first Epistle to the Thessalonians, followed later by the second Epistle.

Stage 5 From Corinth to Antioch -- Acts 18:18-22.

- (a) At Cenchrea, shaved his head for a vow.
- (b) Sailed for Ephesus, joined by Aquila and Priscilla.
- (c) Desiring to keep the Feast in Jerusalem, he left Ephesus for Caesarea.
- (d) Back in Jerusalem. Gal. 2. (14 years later, after his 15 day visit with Peter.)
 - (1) Gal. 2:1-10. In conference with the leaders of the Kingdom Church.
- (e) Home to Antioch.
 - (1) Gal. 2:11 -- Paul's dispute with Peter at Antioch.

Cycle C. Paul's Third Missionary Journey.

53 to 56 A.D.

Stage 1 From Antioch to Ephesus. Acts 18:23 to 19:40.

- (a) Tour of Galatia and Phrygia.
- (b) At Ephesus:
 - (1) Apollos corrected by Aquila and Priscilla, then started a missionary journey from Ephesus to Achaia in Greece.
 - (2) Twelve converts of Apollos helped by Paul, 19:1-7.
 - (3) Preached 3 months in synagogue, then conducted lectures for two years in the school of Tyrannus.
 - (4) Case of Sceva and vagabond Jews.
The burning of the books of magic.
 - (5) Sent Timothy and Erastus through Macedonia. 19:22.

- (6) Titus sent to Corinth with the 1st letter.
c.f. 2 Cor. 8:6, 2 Cor. 12:18.
- (7) Diana of the Ephesians 19:23-41.

Stage 2 From Ephesus to Corinth.1

- (a) Waited for Titus at Troas, 2 Cor. 2:12, 13.
 - (1) Illness, 2 Cor. 4:16 to 5:10.
- (b) Journied to Philippi.
 - (1) Met Titus, 2 Cor. 7:6.
 - (2) Paul wrote 2 Corinthians and sent it with Titus.
- (c) Toured Macedonia, Rom. 15:19.
 - (1) Wrote Galatians.
- (d) Went on to Corinth for 3 months, Acts 20:3.
 - (1) First wrote epistle to Romans. Rom. 16:1.
 - (2) Plot against his life alters his course.

Stage 3 From Corinth to Jerusalem -- Acts 20:4-21.

- (a) Returned to Macedonia with friends.
 - (1) They went on to Troas and waited.
- b) Sailed from Philippi to Troas and stayed seven days, Acts 20:6.
 - (1) Story of Eutychus falling out of window.
- (c) Walked to Assos. 20:13.
- (d) Sailed to Mitylene and on to Miletus, 20:15.
 - (1) Elders from Ephesus met him here.
- (e) Past Coos, Rhodes to Patara, then to Tyre, Acts 21:1-7.
 - (1) Stays seven days and is warned.
- (f) Then to Ptolemais and thence to Caesarea.
 - (1) Four prophetesses of the house of Philip.
 - (2) Agabus warns.
- (g) Back in Jerusalem for the sixth time.

Paul's Visits to Jerusalem.

- (1) Introduced by Barnabas. Acts 9:27.
- (2) After visit to Arabia. 15 day visit with Peter, Gal. 1:10.
- (3) Paul and Barnabas bringing relief. Acts 11:29, 30.
- (4) At the Council, after the 1st journey. Acts 15.
- (5) At Council, after the 2nd journey. Gal. 2:1-10.
- (6) After the 3rd journey, despite warning. Acts 21:17.

Cycle 9 Paul's Journey to Rome and His Death.

Stage 1 In Jerusalem -- Acts 21:17 to 23:33.

- (a) Accepts the counsel of the elders and compromises for the sake of peace. 21:20-26.
- (b) Dragged from the Women's Court to the Court of the Gentiles.

- (c) Lysias and the Roman guard save him from the mob and take him to the Tower.
- (d) Addresses the mob from the stairs in Hebrew. 22:1-21.
- (e) Saved from scourging by claiming he was a Roman. 22:25-30.
- (f) Before the Sanhedrin. 23:1-10.
 - (1) Paul's strategy resulting in confusion between Pharisees and Sadducees.

Stage 2 From Jerusalem to Caesarea. Acts 23:23 to 26:32.

- (a) Trial No. 1.
 - (1) Before Felix, Tertullus accusing. 24:1-9.
 - (2) Address No. 1. Before Felix. Acts 24:10-21.
 - (3) Address No. 2. Before Drusilla and Felix. Remained 2 years in prison. Acts 24:24-27.
- (b) Trial No. 2.
 - (1) Before Festus. Acts 25:1-12.
- (c) Trial No. 3.
 - (1) Before Agrippa. 25:13 to 26:32.

Stage 3 On to Rome.

- (a) From Caesarea to Crete. Acts 27:1-8.
 - (1) Stay at Siron.
 - (2) Contrary winds to Myra.
 - (3) From Myra to The Fair Havens.
 - Hard sailing to Cnidus, south around to Cape Salmone, landing at Fair Havens near Lasea.
- (b) From Fair Havens to Rome.
 - (1) From Crete to Melita (Malta) Acts 27:9-44.
 - (a) Paul's advice opposed by the captain. Bad winter quarters. Phenice near at hand. Wind died down. Set sail. Euroclydon drives them furiously West.
 - (b) Paul's vision and proclamation. No man lost. Ship would be destroyed. They were to be cast upon an island.
 - (c) After 14 days sounded and anchored. Shipmen try to escape. The fast broken. The ship wrecked. The crew of 276 saved.
 - (2) On the Isle of Malta. Acts 28:1-11.
 - (a) The fire and the viper (superstition).
 - (b) Father of Publius healed, also many others.
 - (c) After 3 months set sail again. Sign of ship was Castor and Pollux.
 - (3) Malta to Rome. Acts 28:12-16.
 - (a) Three days at Syracuse (Sicily)
 - (b) On to Rhegium (one day)
 - (c) Thence to Puteoli (seven days)
 - (d) Met at Appii forum, and the three taverns.
 - (e) Paul allowed to dwell by himself with a soldier at Rome for two years.

Stage 4 Paul's Death -- Acts 28:17-31.

- (a) Addressed the Jews (not antagonistic)
- (b) Wrote Epistles: Philemon, Colossians, Philippians, & Ephesians.
- (c) Four years free (Questionable).
 - (1) Some say returned to Greece.
 - (2) Some say Paul went to Spain.
- (d) Final imprisonment and martyrdom. A.D. 67.
 - Last Epistles written -- 1st and 2nd Timothy. 2Tim. 4:6.