

# WHO WAS PAUL?

Dan Cates

Who was this Paul?

Also called Saul ([Act 13:9](#)).

Saul means "demanded; lent; ditch; death" (Hitchcock), "asked for" (Easton), "desired" (Smith) in Hebrew.

Paul means "small; little" (Hitchcock) as a form of the Latin word *Paulatim* ("little by little, by degrees, gradually; a small amount at a time, bit by bit") in Latin.

A Jew of Benjamin ([Rom 11:1](#); [Phi 3:5](#); [2Co 11:22](#)).

From Tarsus, "no mean city" ([Act 9:11](#); [Act 21:39](#); [Act 22:3](#)).

A Roman citizen ([Act 16:37](#); [Act 22:25-28](#)).

Educated in Jerusalem by Gamaliel ([Act 22:3](#)).

A Hebrew of the Hebrews ([Phi 3:5](#)).

A Pharisee ([Act 23:6](#); [Act 26:5](#); [Phi 3:5](#)).

Known to his countrymen ([Act 9:21](#); [Act 26:4](#)).

Had zealously followed the Jews' traditions ([Gal 1:14](#)).

May have been a member of the Sanhedrin ([Act 26:10](#)), if so, he had been married

As persecutor ([Act 8:3](#); [Act 9:1-2](#); [Act 22:4](#)), present at stoning of Stephen ([Act 7:58](#); [Act 8:1](#); [Act 22:20](#)).

Baptized by Ananias after having seen Jesus on the road to Damascus ([Act 9:3-20](#); [Act 22:4-16](#); [Act 26:9-16](#)).

Not appreciated by his countrymen after his conversion ([Act 22:18-19](#); [Act 9:23-24](#)).

In Arabia for three years ([Gal 1:17-18](#)).

An apostle out of season ([1Co 9:1](#); [1Co 15:8](#)).

Apostle to the Gentiles ([Act 22:21](#); [Act 26:17-18](#); [Rom 11:13](#); [Rom 15:15-20](#)).

Meek ([2Co 10:1](#)).

Able to answer detractors ([2Co 10:10](#); [2Co 11:6](#)).

Suffered many trials ([2Co 11:23-28](#)).

Had "a thorn in the flesh" ([2Co 12:7-9](#); [Gal 4:13-14](#)).

Died in Rome, apparently beheaded by Nero A.D. 66 (Easton) or 67 (ISBE, Smith) or 68 (Smith).

**CHRONOLOGY OF SAUL/PAUL**  
*with supplementary dates*  
 Daniel F. Cates

Saul born Acts 22:3,28	c A.D. 5
Saul at Gamaliel's feet Acts 22:3	c A.D. 17-20
Stephen stoned under Saul's blessing Acts 6:9~8:1-2	c A.D. 32
Saul converted, popularly goes by Latin name Paul Acts 9:2-18; 13:9	c A.D. 34-37
Aretas IV of Nabatea dies Paul's escape from Damascus prior to this (Acts 9:25; 2 Cor. 11:32) He had been converted in Damascus three years prior (Gal. 1:17)	c A.D. 40
Paul first goes to Jerusalem Gal. 1:18	c A.D. 40
Paul returns to Tarsus Acts 9:30	c A.D. 40
Barnabas seeks Paul in Tarsus Acts 11:25	c A.D. 46
Paul and Barnabas start first journey Acts 13:2~14:27 (Antioch and Seleucia in Syria to Salamis and Paphos on Cyprus to Perga in Pamphylia to Antioch in Pisidia to Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe in Lycaonia back through Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch in Pisidia to Perga and Attalia in Pamphylia to Antioch in Syria)	c A.D. 47
Paul and Barnabas return from first journey	c A.D. 48
Paul discusses Judaizing in Jerusalem conference Acts 15:1-30	c A.D. 49
Paul and Barnabas, then Silas, start second journey Acts 15:36~18:22 (Antioch in Syria to Derbe to Lystra to the regions of Phrygia, Galatia, and Mysia to Troas in Mysia (where he received the "Macedonian Call") to Samothracia in the Aegean to Neapolis and Philippi in Macedonia through Amphipolis and Apollonia in Macedonia to Thessalonica and Berea in Macedonia to Athens, Corinth, and Cenchræa in Greece to Ephesus to Caesarea in Judea to Antioch of Syria)	c A.D. 49
Claudius expels Jews from Rome Could not have met Aquilla and Priscilla prior to this (Acts 18:2)	A.D. 49
Paul welcomes Timothy into traveling party Acts 16:3	c A.D. 50

Paul enters Corinth Acts 18:1	c A.D. 50
I Thessalonians Acts 18:11	c A.D. 50
II Thessalonians Acts 18:11	c A.D. 50
Paul meets Aquila and Priscilla Acts 18:2-3	c A.D. 50
Gallio proconsul in Corinth	A.D. 51-52
Paul appears before Gallio Acts 18:12-17	c A.D. 51
Galatians After the conference in Jerusalem (Gal. 2:1-14)	c A.D. 51-53
Paul and Silas return from second journey	c A.D. 51-52
Paul starts third journey Acts 18:23~21:15 (From Antioch in Syria to the regions of Galatia and Phrygia to Ephesus in Asia to Macedonia to Greece back to Macedonia to Philippi to Troas to Assos in Mysia and to or by Mitylene, Chios, Samos, Trogyllium Miletus, and Coos on Asia's Aegean coast to Rhodes in the Aegean to Patara in Lycia to Tyre in Phoenicia to Judea's Ptolemais, Caesarea, and Jerusalem)	c A.D. 51-52
Paul in Ephesus for three years Acts 19:1; cf Acts 20:31	c A.D. 51-53
Romans Rom. 15:25-26; Acts 19:21; 20:3; 1 Cor. 16:1-6	c A.D. 52-53
I Corinthians 1 Cor. 16:8	c A.D. 52-53
II Corinthians 2 Cor. 8:10; 9:2	c A.D. 53-54
Paul returns to Jerusalem to end third journey	c A.D. 53-54
Paul apprehended in Jerusalem Acts 21:27~22:30	c A.D. 54
Paul in Caesarea Maritima Acts 23:33-35	c A.D. 54-57
Festus procurator of Judea	A.D. 56-c 60
Paul carried to Rome and imprisoned for two years Acts 27:1~28:16 (From Caesarea to Sidon in Phoenicia to Myra in Lycia to the Fair Havens and Lasea in Crete to Melita in the Mediterranean to Syracuse in Sicily to Rhegium, Puteoli, Appii Forum, the Three Taverns and Rome)	c A.D. 57-60
Ephesians Eph. 3:1; 4:1; 6:19-20; Acts 28:30-31	c A.D. 57-59
Philippians	c A.D. 57-59

Phi. 1:7,13-14; Acts 28:30-31	
Colossians	c A.D. 57-59
Col. 4:3,18; Acts 28:30-31	
Philemon	c A.D. 57-59
Phm. 1,9-10,13,23; Acts 28:30-31	
Hebrews	c A.D. 57-59
Heb. 13:3,19,23-24; 10:34; Acts 28:30-31	
Paul takes more missionary journeys	c A.D. 60-66
Rom. 15:19; Tit. 3:12	
I Timothy	c A.D. 60-63
Titus	c A.D. 63-67
Titus was in Crete (Tit. 1:5); he would be in Dalmatia by 2 Tim. 4:10	
Paul imprisoned under Nero	c A.D. 66-67
II Timothy	c A.D. 67
2 Tim. 2:9; 4:9,13,21	
Paul dies in Rome	c 68