

Bible Study #3

9 29 15

Bible Study 2015 -16

- Charts Presented on 9/29/15

Review

Acts 1-19:12

1st and 2nd Thessalonians

Galatians

A Prayer to be recited before reading the Sacred Scriptures

- Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.
- Send forth Thy spirit and they shall be created.
- And thou shalt renew the face of the earth
- *Let Us Pray*
- O God, Who didst instruct the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things and ever to rejoice in His consolation.
- Through Christ our Lord

Early Christian Time Line (Cont)

- We left off last week with Paul's Return to **Jerusalem** where he was challenged by the "circumcision party" (Acts 11:1)
 - His counter argument silenced his detractors (Acts 11:2-18)

Critical Old Testament Dates impacting on the early church

- **587 B.C. Jerusalem and Temple destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, Babylonian captivity begins**
- 538-322 B.C. Persian domination
- **538 B.C. Cyrus conquered Babylon and sets the Jews free**

334 B.C. Alexander the Great conquered Palestine

322- 63 B.C. Greek domination

175-63 B.C. Maccabean Revolt

167 B.C. Temple desecrated by Greeks

164 B.C. Temple restored by Judas Maccabaeus (**Festival of lights – *Hanukkah***)

Critical players impacting on the early church

- **Players:**

- **Sadducees** – Wealthy - High priestly families- Rulers of the Sanhedrin and controlled the Temple – Got along with the Romans – Accepted only the Pentateuch – Did not believe in angels or life after death
- **Pharisees** – Lay political party – Governed the synagogue system – Sought to bring about the return of the Messiah by insuring all the people lived the letter of the Law – Believed in life after death - Accepted all the scriptures in the Septuagint
- **Essenes** – Radical group of separatists – Live in holy communities with extensive purification rites (one major group located by the Dead Sea) – Believed that God would destroy the Jewish nation and they would be the remnant
- **Zealots** – Radical group of revolutionaries - Believed that the only way to bring about the Messiah was to attack and defeat the Romans – Led to the Jewish war which eventually resulted in the Roman destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 A.D.

Early Christian Time Line (Cont)

- The Church continued to spread as far as ***Phoenicia*** and ***Cyprus*** by **preaching the Word to none but Jews** (Acts 11:19)
- Some believers from ***Cyprus*** and ***Cyrene*** came to ***Antioch*** and spread the **Gospel to the Greeks**, and many believed (Acts 11:20-21)
- The Church in ***Jerusalem*** sent ***Barnabas*** to ***Antioch*** to investigate and encourage the Church to remain faithful (Acts 11: 22-23)
- A large company was added to the Lord (Acts 11:24)
- ***Barnabas*** went to ***Tarsus*** and brought ***Saul*** to ***Antioch*** where they worked together for one year (Acts 11:25)
- The name **“Christian”** was first used by the Church of ***Antioch*** (Acts 11:26)
- A great famine was predicted and broke out in ***Jerusalem*** and the rest of the region (Acts 11:27-29)

Early Christian Time Line (Cont)

- A collection was taken up in the Church in **Antioch** and was delivered to the brethren in the Church of Jerusalem by *Barnabas* and *Saul* (Acts 11:29-30)
- King *Herod Agrippa* then executed *James*, the brother of *John*, and arrested *Peter*, binding him between two soldiers in prison (Acts 12:1-6)
- *Peter*, after being freed by an angel, went to the house of *Mary*, the mother of *John Mark*, and then fled after placing *James* (the lesser) in charge of the Church in Jerusalem (Acts 12:7-17)

Early Christian Time Line (Cont)

- Herod executed the sentries and traveled to **Caesarea** where, after being adulated by a delegation from *Tyre and Sidon*, was smitten by an angel, eaten by worms and died (Acts 12:18-23)
- The Word of God grew and multiplied throughout the region (Acts 12:24)
- *Barnabas, Saul and John Mark* returned to **Antioch** (Acts 12:25)

Early Christian Time Line (Cont)

- 45-49 Paul's 1st Missionary Journey (Acts 13:4-14:28)
 - Spring of 45 Paul, Barnabas, & John Mark sailed for **Cyprus** where they refuted the magician Elymas and converted the proconsul Sergius Paulus (Acts 13)
 - Saul was **first called** by his Roman name **Paul**
 - Paul established his standard operating procedure:
 - Upon arrival in a new town or city he found the synagogue
 - On the Sabbath he began preaching to the Jews
 - After he was expelled he took his message to the Gentiles in the public square
 - When the Jews ran him out of town he moved to the next town after leaving a foundation for a church

Early Christian Time Line (Cont)

- Paul and Barnabas sailed for ***Asia Minor*** and arrived at ***Antioch of Pisidia*** while John Mark returned to ***Jerusalem*** (Acts 13:13)
- After **speaking for two Sabbaths** (Paul's first Kerygma speech) they were expelled from ***Antioch*** by powerful Jews (Acts 13:14-52)*

Summary of the Kerygma

- The promises of God made in the OT have now been fulfilled with the coming of Jesus, the Messiah
- Jesus was anointed by God at his baptism as Messiah
- Jesus began his ministry in Galilee after his baptism
- He conducted a beneficent ministry, doing good and performing mighty works by the power of God
- The Messiah was crucified according to the purpose of God
- He was raised from the dead and appeared to his disciples
- Jesus was exalted by God and given the name “Lord”
- He gave the Holy Spirit to form the new community of God
- He will come again for judgment and the restoration of all things
- All who hear the message should repent and be baptized

Early Christian Time Line (Cont)

- From there they moved to **Iconium** but had to flee when they learned of an impending attack and stoning
- After arriving at **Lystra** they healed a cripple and were thought to be the Greek gods of Zeus and Hermes until a delegation from **Antioch** and **Iconium** arrived and stoned Paul
- They finally reached **Derbe** where they may have **remained for 1 year** before returning to **Antioch in Syria** (Acts 14:28)

Early Christian Time Line (Cont)

- Some men came to ***Antioch*** from ***Jerusalem*** proclaiming that “one could not be saved without being circumcised”
- Paul and Barnabas refuted this demand and were sent by the Church in ***Antioch*** to ***Jerusalem*** for clarification **from the Apostles** (Acts 15:1-3)