

Introduction

1. The book is a letter written by Paul to Timothy in c. A.D. 68. Paul wrote the letter during Neros's reign in what many call "Paul's 2nd imprisonment." At the end of the 2nd imprisonment Paul would be decapitated.

2. Though Paul suffered numerous "minor" imprisonments, most scholars agree there were two major ones. The book of Titus was written after Paul was released from his 2nd imprisonment as he traveled north through Greece on his way to Dalmatia.

3. A travelogue of Paul's two major imprisonments:

4. Two years in Caesarea and two years in Rome.

4.1 As best we can tell the first imprisonment in Caesarea began in c. 58 and ended when he was transported to Rome by boat in c. 60 A.D. He was imprisoned in Rome for the greater part of two years.

4.2 In Rome while awaiting trial Paul lived under what has been called a house arrest.

Acts 28:16 When we got to Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with a soldier to guard him.

4.3 During his 1st imprisonment in Rome, Paul wrote the books of Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon.

4.4 Paul was released in c. 62. Under Rome's rules of criminal procedure accusers were given two years to present evidence of a "crime," however, no such accusations were presented therefore Paul was released.

4.5 After being released from Rome Paul traveled to Yugoslavia and then to Nicopolis in northern Greece. Nero has him again arrested and imprisoned in Rome where he would be martyred in c. 68.

5. Paul is alone at Rome except for Luke. 2Ti 4:11

2Ti 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.

6. The rest of the Pauline team are out evangelizing and teaching. Last week I disclosed where the various team members worked, while Paul was in his second imprisonment:

7. I want to provide a timeline of the Book of Acts in which we can see when and how the 1st and 2nd imprisonment relate to the Book of Acts.

ACTS TIMELINE

All dates are approximate

Ascension & Pentecost A.D. 30 (Tiberius)
Stephen Killed A. D. 34-35 (Tiberius)
Great Persecution A.D. 35-36 (Tiberius)
Saul Conversion A. D. 38-40 (Caligula)
Cornelius Conversion A. D. 39-40 (Caligula)
Herod Agrippa I dies A. D. 44 (Claudius)
Paul's 1st Journey A. D. 47-48 (Claudius)
Jerusalem Council A. D. 48-50 (Claudius)
Paul's 2nd Journey Begins A. D. 51 (Claudius)
Paul's 3rd Journey A. D. 52-53 (Claudius)
Paul to Ephesus A. D. 53 (Claudius)
Paul to Greece A. D. 56 (Nero)
Paul Arrested in Jerusalem A. D. 58 (Nero)
Paul Imprisoned A. D. 58-60 (Nero)
Voyage to Rome A. D. 60-61
Paul in Rome A. D. 61-63 (Nero)
Paul Released A. D. 63 (Nero)
Paul Travels A. D. 63-65 (Nero)
Paul Martyred A. D. 67-68 (Nero)
Jerusalem Destroyed A. D. 70 (Vespasian)

A.D. 30

A.D. 40

A.D. 50

A.D. 60

A.D. 70

8. As you can see from the Chart Paul served his first imprisonment c. 58 to c. 63. The timeline also indicates Paul's first imprisonment was divided. In our study of First Timothy you may recall Paul spent some two years in Caesarea Syria and some two years in Rome.

9. Let's begin our study of the book of Second Timothy.

Chapter One

1. Timothy is charged to guard the gift that has been given to him.

NIV

2Ti 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

2Ti 1:2 To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

2Ti 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.

2Ti 1:4 Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.

2Ti 1:5 I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

Comments:

1. Paul recalls how and when he met Timothy and the recommendation he received about Timothy.

Acts 16:1 Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was a Jewess and a believer, but whose father was a Greek.

Acts 16:2 The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him.

2. Paul after meeting and testing Timothy decides he would make a productive member of his team.

3. From "hind-sight" we know Paul's confidence was well placed. Timothy would become a "delegated apostle."

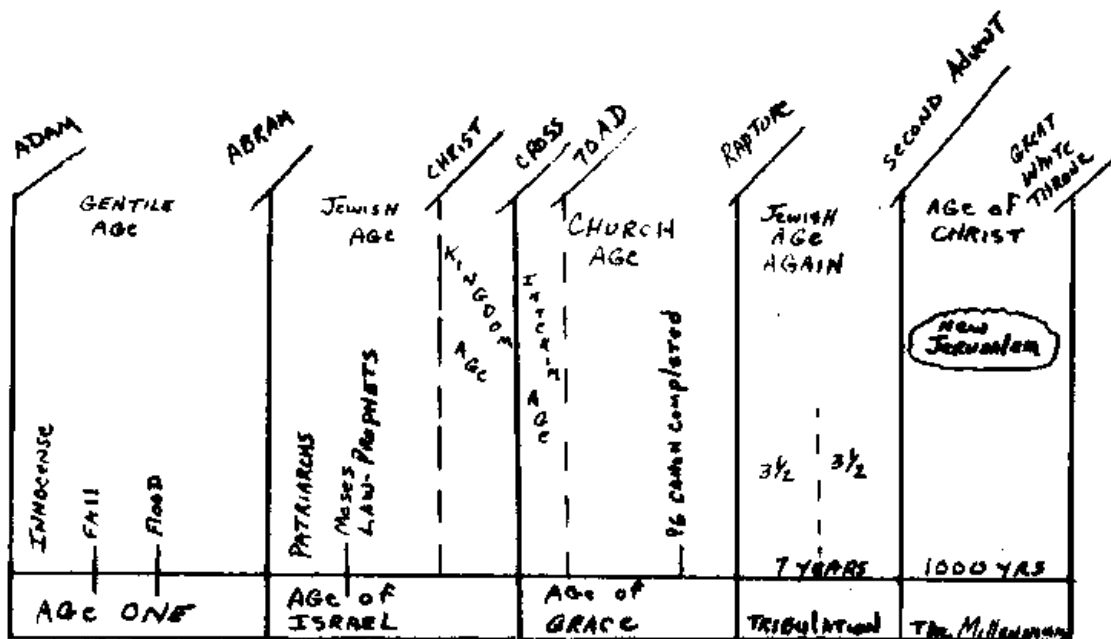
4. Let's review what we know about apostles.

4.1 Apostles once possessed significant authority and power. We have no direct comparison today.

4.2 There are people today in certain denominations who claim to be apostles, but in point of fact there are no *de jure* apostles in this portion of the Church Age. The gift of apostleship is no longer available.

4.2.1 It was appropriate in the early part of the Church Age, in what I like to call the Interim Age, a sub-age of the Church Age.

4.2.2 The Interim Age is also called the Apostolic Age. The Interim Age was an age of transition from the Kingdom Age to the Church Age. It was during the Interim Age that the Canon was written. A chart will illustrate.



5. The word apostle comes from the Greek word **Apostolos**. Originally it meant the supreme commander of the Athenian fleet, though it came to mean a messenger. In Scripture, it means a supreme spiritual commander in the Apostolic Age.

6. This period is also called the Pre-Canon period of the Church Age. I like to think of this age as an Interim Age. Col. R. B. Thieme called the Interim Age the Apostolic Age.

7. There was in the early part of the Church Age two kinds of apostles: there were the 12 original disciples minus Judas Iscariot plus Paul, called Apostles; and then there were other people who were Delegated Apostles. The Apostles were in most cases over one or more local churches.

7.1 Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles and thus responsible for the early Gentile churches.

7.2 Peter it would seem had authority over all the Judeo-Christian churches in Asia, later to be called Turkey.

7.3 In the case of James, the half-brother of Jesus, he was over the 200-plus local churches located in Jerusalem.

8. The delegated apostles included men like Barnabas, Apollos, Silas, Timothy and James, the half-brother of Jesus.

9. The gift of apostleship, like all other gifts, was bestowed by God the Holy Spirit.

1Co 12:11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

9.1 Christ, however, earned the gifts by successfully completing the Father's plan. Christ seized His well-earned booty, but God the Holy Spirit bestowed the gifts.

9.2 The gifts of prophecy and apostleship were given to facilitate the growth of the church during the early part of the Church Age (A.D. c. 32 to 96). The gifts of evangelism and pastor-teacher were given to facilitate the growth of the church after A.D. 96.

Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

9.3 The gift of apostleship was a temporary gift. This gift passed from the scene in A.D. 96 with the death of John and the completion of the Canon.

9.4 All communication gifts carry with them authority and are thus only given to males. Such was the case with the gift of apostleship.

9.5 Apostles also had to be eyewitnesses of the Resurrection.

9.6 Paul often documented his designation as the 12th apostle by telling of his own viewing on the road to Damascus.

10. Timothy proved to be an excellent choice. Let me give you 10 Scriptures where his name is mentioned.



Acts 17:14 The brothers immediately sent Paul to the coast, but Silas and Timothy stayed at Berea.

Acts 17:15 The men who escorted Paul brought him to Athens and then left with instructions for Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible.

Acts 18:5 When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.

Acts 19:22 He sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, while he stayed in the province of Asia a little longer.

1Co 4:17 For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.

2Co 1:19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by me and Silas and Timothy, was not "Yes" and "No," but in him it has always been "Yes."

Phi 2:19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you.

Phi 2:22 But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.

1Th 3:2 We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith,

1Th 3:6 But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you.

11. Now let's see what we can learn from 2Ti 1:6-10.

2Ti 1:6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

2Ti 1:7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (*Deili cowardliness*), but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

2Ti 1:8 So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God,

2Ti 1:9 who has saved us and called us to a holy life -- not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

2Ti 1:10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Comments:

1. One of the chief functions of a delegated apostle is to evangelize the lost. One of the devil's chief tools is fear. Timothy is warned against the power of fear. What the Bible teaches about fear is somewhat enigmatic.

2. We are told to fear God and yet we are also told perfect love casts out all fear. C. S. Lewis provides, in his own special way, an answer to the dilemma. How can you fear God, and yet confidently trust Him for your every need?

3. In his book The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe he writes of two children searching for their brother, who is under the spell of a wicked witch. They are desperate for help when they hear that the Lion King of Narnia is on the move. The Lion in his book is symbolic of Christ the God-man. The children both fear and respect the Lion King hoping He might help them, one of the children, says, "Ooh!" said Susan, "Is he safe? I feel quite nervous about meeting a lion." "Safe?" said Mr. Beaver. "Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good.' He's the King ..."

3.1 Christ as the Lion of Judah is quite the companion, strong, bold, perfect and devoted to His pride but better yet, my Christian friend, He is Good!

3.2 The more we surrender to fear, the more things we will fear.

3.3 The more things we surrender to fear, the greater our capacity for fear.

3.4 The greater our capacity for fear, the more we increase the power of fear in our life.

3.5 The more we increase the power of fear in our life, the harder it becomes to grow in His grace.

3.6 Fear can be a sin or an evil in our life. Fear, as a sin, can be handled easily, just name it to God and move on. Fear, which becomes evil, is another matter.

3.7 If we let the sin of fear stick around, it will become an evil, a terrible mental attitude sin which is both irrational and irresponsible; and thus, a terrible distraction, breeding failure and unhappiness.

3.8 That man should fear and respect God is an established principle. In one sense, however, as His prized possession, the regenerate man with doctrine should bask in the fact that God is our shield and our very great reward. In another sense God is not to be mocked or tempted.

Gen 15:1 After his deliverance of Lot, the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, **Fear** not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

3.8.1 The carnal man, in contrast, is like an animal left to provide for himself in fear, protected from death, but left to live as an object of God's discipline. Lot feared to travel the way God directed. Gen 19:17-19

Gen 19:17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

Gen 19:18 But Lot said to them, "No, my lords, please!

Gen 19:19 Your servant has found favor in your eyes, and you have shown great kindness to me in sparing my life. But I can't flee to the mountains of Zoar; this disaster will overtake me, and I'll die.

3.9 The closing chapter in the career of Lot is a pitiful period of fear and incest.

3.10 Lot found himself evicted from his city of choice to live in fear of God and man. Zoar is a city located on the south shore of the Dead sea, its king had been one of the kings who had earlier captured Lot, requiring Abraham to rescue both him and his family.

3.10.1 Lot and his family failed miserably. Disaster, disgrace, despair, and death are written in their epitaph.

3.11 On his tombstone an appropriate inscription might have been: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal 6:7).

3.12 The fear and the dread of appearing before a Holy God are eliminated-or ought to be-in the life of a believer.

1Jo 4:18 There is no fear in love (**Agape**). But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

Rom 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus ...

Rom 8:33 Who will bring a charge against those whom God has chosen? *The answer is “of course,” no one.* It is God who justifies.

3.13 A fear and reverence for God is one of the requirements of a leader. It was one of the requisites given to Moses as a character requirement. Leaders may fear, but it is what they do with fear that is important. An old WWII cliché when speaking of what the British citizens did in response to the awful “buzz bombings.” “Fear knocked at the door but courage answered.”

Exo 18:21 Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:

3.14 The Scriptures speak of the following kinds of fear:

3.15 A holy fear which amounts to awe or respect for the majesty and holiness of God. Said another way: Godly fear is a deep and abiding respect because we know of His essence and attributes, but it has to be learned.

Psa 34:11 Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

3.15.1 David speaks of a fear which is clean and pure; one which creates joy in the heart and light to the eyes.

Psa 19:8 The precepts of the LORD are right, giving **joy** to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

Psa 19:9 The **fear** of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous.

3.16 The Bible, in several places, speaks of a reverential fear which is the basis or beginning of all true wisdom. Joy goes hand in hand with confidence on the road to happiness. Christians are to be joyful as we await the ecstatic and ultimate felicity and bliss at the end of our journey.

3.17 The writer of Pro 1:7 and Psa 111:10 both agree that fear and respect of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Pro 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Psa 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding ...

3.18 Reverential fear provides respect for God's authorities; such respect will be seen by others as a good witness. Others may want what you have.

Psa 2:11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

Pro 8:13 To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

2Co 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Phi 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

3.19 We are to fear secular authority, for each has been established as God's agent to facilitate peace and prosperity within the nation.

Rom 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Rom 13:2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Rom 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

Rom 13:4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

Rom 13:5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

3.20 Such a fear is proper, but there is an insensate dread which should not be a part of our make-up "worry or anxiety" without cause."

Heb 13:6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not **fear** what man shall do unto me.

1Pe 2:18 Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all **respect** *phobos*, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh.

Num 14:9 Only do not rebel against the LORD. And **do not be afraid** of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. **Do not be afraid** of them."

3.21 Discipline from the Lord is very often painful, but always perfect; it is done in love, God knows our frame and therefore provides that which is needed. Rom 8:26-28 compared with 1Th 5:18

End Lesson

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