



THE LIFE AND WRITINGS OF PAUL THE APOSTLE

SESSION SEVEN: GO WEST, OLD MAN!

(Painting is “The Philosopher” or “Saint Paul” by Vincenzo Gemito, 1917.)

QUESTIONS:

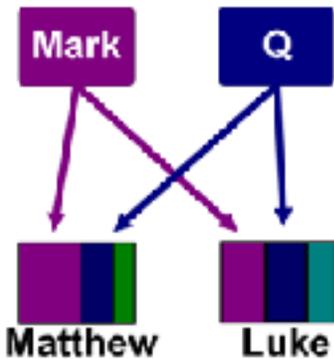
- 1) Paul was saved from the Temple mob by which Roman commander?
- 2) The Roman soldiers initially mistook Paul for a terrorist from which country?
- 3) Paul was able to halt a flogging, which could have killed him, by revealing what information?
- 4) After the high priest had Paul struck in the mouth, Paul responded angrily: “God will strike you, you _____?”
- 5) How did Paul completely derail his trial before the Sanhedrin?
- 6) Who warned the Roman authorities of the assassination plot against Paul?
- 7) An Caesarean inscription was discovered in 1961, to which Roman governor?
- 8) We know Paul’s voyage to Rome was late by traveling standards because of which Lucan reference?
- 9) On which small island did Paul’s ship wreck?
- 10) Luke’s ending of Acts has Paul in Rome for how long, in his own rented house?

Last week: Paul had arrived in Rome where he would spend the next two years, until the spring or summer of 62 AD, under house arrest.

SPANISH SPECULATION: Did Paul go to Spain?

The Lucan ending of Acts: Luke knew of Paul's death but did not record it, as Luke likely completed his two-volume book in the late 70s.

Two-source Hypothesis



The majority of scholars date Mark in the late 60s, just before the destruction of the Jewish Temple; and we know that Matthew and Luke use Mark as a source.

90% of Mark is found within Matthew.

50% of Mark is found within Luke.

25% of Matthew and Luke are not found in Mark (likely Q).

Paul's stated intentions: "23 But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since I have been longing for many years to visit you, 24 I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to see you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while...28 So, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way." - Romans 15

References made in early Christianity:

1. Clement of Rome, writing in the 90s: "Paul taught righteousness to the whole world, having reached the farthest limits of the West."



2. "The Acts of Peter," from the late 2nd century records a scene of Paul leaving Rome for Spain.

3. Eusebius in "Ecclesiastical History:" Paul was released from his Roman imprisonment, acquitted of all charges, and returned to his missionary activity. Paul was arrested a second time by orders of Nero and suffered martyrdom.

Spanish tradition: Centers on the villages of Tarroga and Tortosa.

THE PASTORAL EPISTLES

“The Pastoral Epistles” (1 and 2 Timothy and Titus) are disjointed from the book of Acts. Traditionally, 1 Timothy and Titus are dated after Paul’s first Roman imprisonment. 2 Timothy is dated after his second arrest.

60-62	Roman imprisonment (House arrest); the book of Acts ends
62-64	Paul’s further travels westward (1 Timothy and Titus)
64	Rome burns, the Neronian persecution of Christians begins
c. 66-67	Death of Paul (2 Timothy)
68	Death of Nero

A few irreconcilable references from The Pastoral Epistles:

1 Timothy 1:3 - “As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus...”

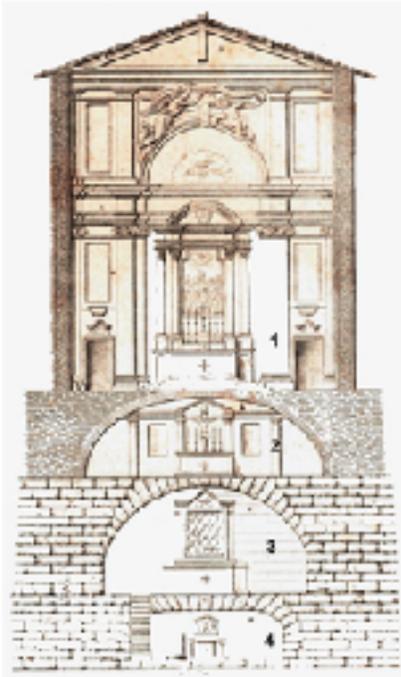
Titus 1:5 - “The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders as I directed you.”

Titus 3:12 - “As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there.”

2 Timothy 4:20 - “I left Trophimus sick in Miletus.”

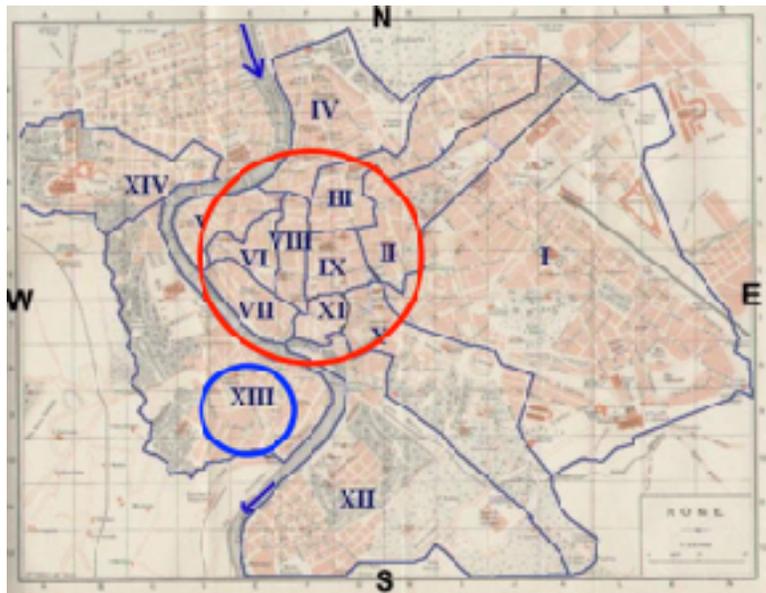


PAUL'S SECOND ARREST AND DEATH



Tradition, from earlier cited sources, holds that Paul was held in the infamous Mamertine Prison in Rome after his second arrest. This “death row” jail would later hold Simon Peter as well. Paul is there because of the fire that destroyed large parts of Rome in 64 AD (red circle), though all contemporary historians of the day held Nero responsible as the primary arsonist.

The poorer, largely Christian neighborhoods escaped the fire (blue circle), allowing Nero to scapegoat Christianity. Simon Peter and Paul, as the recognized leaders of the movement, were easy



Vespasian



Titus



Domitian

targets.

For the remainder of the first century, Christianity would become a persecuted faith. Emperor Trajan (98 AD) established

a more “tolerable” policy, that endured for two centuries. The last empire-wide persecution of Christians was launched by Diocletian around 300 AD, resulting in the loss of the oldest scriptural manuscripts and historical records, with Christian leadership as the execution targets.

