

E to 44 AD

Preaching in Lydda, Joppa and Caesarea – Cyprus and Antioch – Peter leaves Jerusalem.

> Acts 9:32–12:25

The apostle Peter travels to **5** Lydda and **6** Joppa. In support of his preaching, God works several miracles there and many people come to believe in Christ.

While Peter is staying at the house of Simon, a tanner in Joppa, the Roman centurion Cornelius sends for him and asks him to come to **7** Prepared by a divine vision, Peter sets out. Thus, these non-Jews hear the gospel and believe in Jesus Christ.

The Jerusalem Christians are increasingly persecuted because of their faith. Many of them have to leave the city and with them the gospel reaches **9** Phoenicia, **11** Cyprus and **12** Antioch (in Syria), first to the Jews living there. In Antioch, however, many gentiles also hear the gospel and become believers.

When the believers in Jerusalem hear about this, they send Barnabas to Antioch. He brings Paul with him to the city and works with him there for a whole year. Here the disciples of Jesus are called “Christians” for the first time.

In Jerusalem, meanwhile, the persecution of Christians is gaining in severity: the apostle James (John’s brother) is killed by King Herod. Peter is imprisoned, but is freed by a divine miracle. Afterwards he leaves Jerusalem and stays in **7** Caesarea.

F 46–49 AD

First missionary journey of the Apostle Paul.

> Acts 13:1–14:28

Starting from **12** Antioch, Barnabas and Paul first visit Barnabas’ home region in **11** Cyprus before sailing to the southern region of Asia Minor. As they pass through **18** Antioch (in Pisidia), **16** Iconium, **20** Lystra, and **15** Derbe, Paul and Barnabas are driven out of each city by jealous Jewish scribes. Later they return the same way and strengthen the Christians. From **23** Attalia they sail back to **12** Antioch (in Syria).

G 50 AD

Jerusalem. Clarification of a dispute.

> Acts 15:1–35

After a discussion in Jerusalem, the apostles confirm that the Gentile Christians are exempt from keeping the Jewish law. How-

ever, they are asked not to sacrifice to idols anymore – as was customary at that time – not to eat blood and strangled food and not to commit fornication (whoredom).

H 51–54 AD

Second missionary journey of the Apostle Paul.

> Acts 15:36–18:22

Paul and Silas again travel to the places in Asia Minor where Paul preached the gospel, while Barnabas sails to **11** Cyprus. Paul and Silas visit **15** Derbe and **20** Lystra. From there they travel to **26** Troas, where Paul is called by a vision to **27** Macedonia. In **28** Philippi they stay a few days and are hosted by a purple seller woman. This woman not only opens her house to the missionaries, but also her heart to Jesus Christ. They then pass through several cities (including **29** Thessalonica and **30** Berea), arrive in **31** Athens and go from there to **32** Corinth.

Paul stays in Corinth for one and a half years, works as a tentmaker and preaches the gospel first in the synagogue, later in a private house. Then Paul and Silas sail to **25** Ephesus, from there to **7** Caesarea and visit the church in Jerusalem before returning to **12** Antioch in Syria.

I 54–58 AD

Third missionary journey of the Apostle Paul.

> Acts 18:23–21:15

Paul’s third missionary journey is similar to the second. He crosses **19** Galatia and **22** Phrygia and arrives again in the great port city of **25** Ephesus. There he preaches and teaches for three years. He then travels again through **27** Macedonia and **33** Achaia, strengthening the Christians in each place and ending his journey with a visit to Jerusalem.

J 58 AD

Jerusalem. Paul’s arrest.

> Acts 21:17–23:35

Despite warnings, Paul did not allow himself to be deterred from being in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost in 58 AD. First he reports to his co-workers among the Christians how God has worked among the Gentile nations. Then he visits the temple and is recognized there by Jews from Asia Minor. A riot ensues and the mob tries to kill Paul. The Roman commander intervenes and Paul narrowly escapes danger. He addresses the angry crowd with a speech. When he mentions that God sent him to the Gentiles,

the religious pride of the Jews is aroused and a great tumult ensues. Again, the soldiers have to intervene. When the commander learns that Paul has Roman citizenship, he takes him into protective custody.

The following day Paul is brought before the Jewish High Council. Again there is a violent confrontation and Paul is taken to the camp of the Romans. When the commander learns of a planned assassination attempt against Paul, he has him brought by night, escorted by 470 soldiers, to **7** Caesarea, where the Roman governor Felix has his official residence.

K 58–60 AD

Caesarea. Paul in prison.

> Acts 24–26

Paul remains in custody for two years in **7** Caesarea. The Jews bring charges against him several times, but are unsuccessful. When Felix hands over his office to the next governor Festus, he leaves Paul in custody – as a favor to the Jews. The Jews take the opportunity and ask the new governor to bring Paul before the High Council again. To escape this danger, Paul insists on a trial before the Roman emperor, to which every citizen of Rome is entitled.

Before Paul is transferred to **37** Rome, he has the opportunity to tell Festus and King Herod Agrippa I about Jesus Christ. Like Festus, the king also comes to the conclusion that Paul is innocent and could be released – if he had not appealed to the emperor.

L at about 60 AD

Paul’s journey to Rome – Imprisonment in Rome.

> Acts 27 and 28

On the sea voyage along the (coastal) route **21** Myra – **24** Knidos to the island of **34** Crete, the ship on which Paul is to be brought to Rome gets caught in a heavy storm while trying to winter in **35** Phoenix. It is shipwrecked and strands in **36** Malta (Melite?). After a three-month stay there, Paul the prisoner finally arrives in **37** Rome. There he initially has privileges and lives in a rented house. He receives guests, teaches and develops a lively correspondence with Christians in Greece and Asia Minor, as well as with co-workers on the mission field.

What does Pentecost mean to me?

Blessed Pentecost!

Jesus Christ is the Son of God who became man in order to save us. **On the Day of Pentecost, the proclamation of the Savior Jesus Christ who died and rose from the dead began.** Since then, millions of people have entrusted their lives to the Lord Jesus – until today!

Salvation – from what?

Anyone who commits a crime must expect to be punished by the courts. **But what about our guilt before the holy God?** The apostle Paul writes in his letter to the Christians in Rome: “*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*” (Romans 3:23). Whoever faces God once without forgiveness of his guilt will experience eternal separation from God.

God’s salvation by grace

“*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus*” (Romans 6:23). – This verse sums up God’s great plan of salvation: God, out of love, sends His own Son Jesus Christ to us to punish Him for someone else’s guilt on the cross of Calvary. Why? **Because God wants to give us eternal life through faith in the Lord Jesus!**

This is the unique message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It challenges us to make a decision: Do I continue to live as before – or do I believe in the Lord Jesus as my Savior, confess my guilt before Him and claim God’s forgiveness?

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.”

The Bible – Acts 16:31

Salvation – that easy? Yes!

For some, this sounds too easy. They hope to get right with God through good deeds. Others trust in their religious community or church. But there is only one who can save us from our sins:

“*Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven ... by which we must be saved*” (Acts 4:12). **This is Jesus Christ.** He did not remain in the grave, but rose from the dead. This is the proof that he is the Son of God.

Saved for ever!

Whoever believes in the Lord Jesus and confesses his sins before God experiences: **God forgives all my guilt and makes me his child.** With him I am safe. Nothing can separate me from his love (Romans 8:38, 39). True Christians base their actions on the Bible, lovingly care for one another, regularly practice the Lord’s Supper with other true Christians, and remain in communion with God through prayer (see Acts 2:42).

According to his promise, Jesus Christ will come again to take all who believe in him to himself. **This knowledge carries us through all the storms of life.**



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