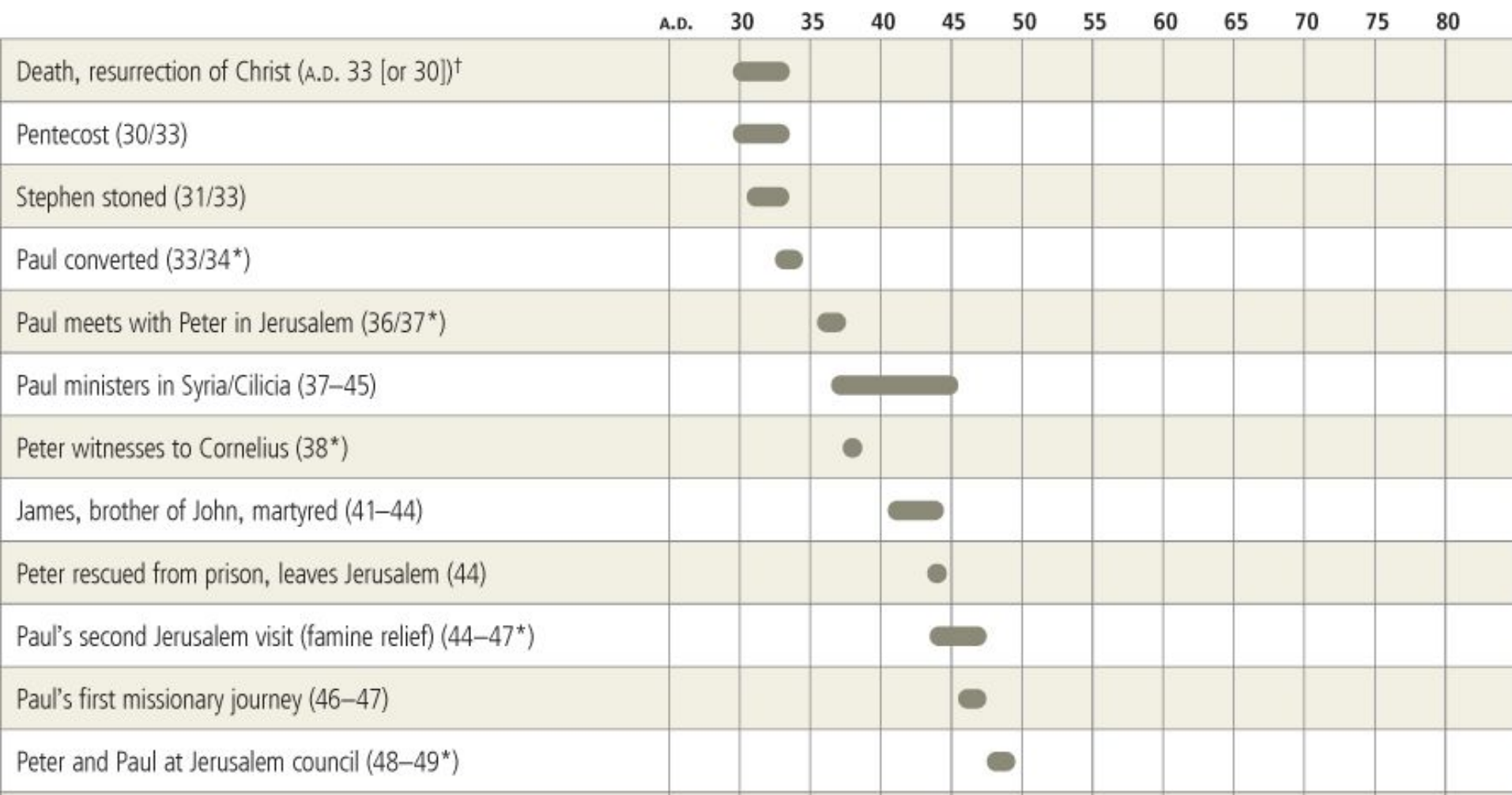


The gospel: rejected by
some, believed by others

Acts 13:44-52

Assignment (from last week):

Read this passage again, then immediately read the book of Galatians, which was written to these same people whom Paul is preaching to in this synagogue in Antioch.







The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him.

Acts 13:44-45

And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,

“I have made you a light for the Gentiles,
that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 13:46-47

And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

Acts 13:48

And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

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that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 13:46-47

Listen to me, O coastlands,
and give attention, you peoples from afar.
The LORD called me from the womb,
from the body of my mother he named my name.
He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.

Isaiah 49:1-2

And he said to me, “You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”

But I said, “I have labored in vain;

I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my right is with the LORD,
and my recompense with my God.”

Isaiah 49:3-4

And now the LORD says,
he who formed me from the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him;
and that Israel might be gathered to him—
for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—

Isaiah 49:5

he says:

“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob

and to bring back the preserved of Israel;

I will make you as a light for the nations,

that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

Isaiah 49:6

Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation,
the servant of rulers:
“Kings shall see and arise;
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves;
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

Isaiah 49:7

And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

Acts 13:48

Ἀκούοντα δὲ τὰ ἔθνη ἔχαιρον καὶ

when they heard and the Gentiles they began rejoicing and

ἐδόξαζον τὸν λόγον τοῦ κυρίου καὶ ἐπίστευσαν

they began glorifying the word of the Lord and they believed

ὅσοι ἦσαν τεταγμένοι εἰς ζωὴν αἰώνιον·

as many as were appointed to life eternal.

Acts 13:48

“Distasteful as this announcement was to the synagogue leaders, it was joyful news to the Gentiles who heard it, and many of them believed the gospel—all, in fact, who had been enrolled for eternal life in the records of heaven (for this appears to be the sense of the words here used).”

F. F. Bruce, 267

“Throughout Acts we have seen Luke’s emphasis on God’s plan and sovereign hand guiding the circumstances in the life of Jesus and then in the life of the church, and here we are told that the Gentiles who came to faith were already within God’s predetermined plan. This is certainly as strong a statement about predestination as one finds in Luke-Acts.”

Ben Witherington, 416

“In fact Barrett, *Acts*, vol.1, p. 658, says, ‘The present verse is as unqualified a statement of absolute predestination ... as is found anywhere in the NT.’”

Ben Witherington, 416, note 242

And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 13:49-52

And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

Luke 4:14-15

And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority.

Luke 4:31-32

And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, but he said to them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.” And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Luke 4:42-44

On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret....

Luke 5:1

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

Acts 1:1-2

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Acts 2:42

“Evangelism is man’s work, but the giving of faith is God’s [work].”

J. I. Packer

Evangelism & the Sovereignty of God, 40

“[W]e see at once why it was that Paul, who faced so realistically the fact of fallen man’s slavery to sin and Satan, was able to avoid the disillusionment and discouragement that we feel today as it dawns upon us more and more clearly that, humanly speaking, evangelism is a hopeless task. The reason was that Paul kept his eyes firmly fixed on the sovereignty of God in grace.”

J. I. Packer

Evangelism & the Sovereignty of God, 115