



St Ursula's Church, Berne

The life and times of Paul

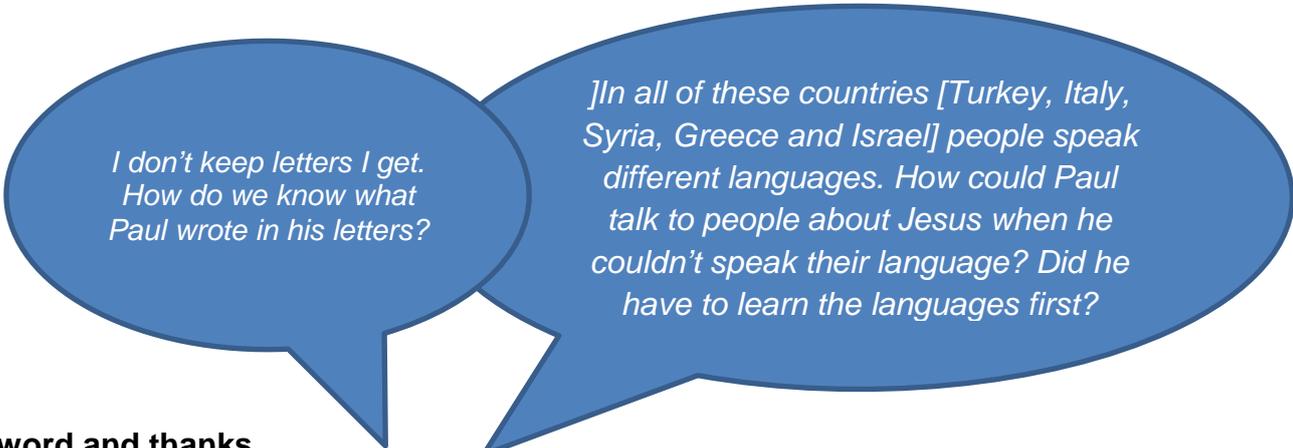
Junior Church Project

June – August 2018



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- A. Paul lived during the time of the Romans
- B. Paul had two jobs. He was a tentmaker and a missionary
- C. Paul wrote letters to help churches grow.



*I don't keep letters I get.
How do we know what
Paul wrote in his letters?*

]In all of these countries [Turkey, Italy, Syria, Greece and Israel] people speak different languages. How could Paul talk to people about Jesus when he couldn't speak their language? Did he have to learn the languages first?

Foreword and thanks

This project extended over 3 months. In the first three weeks we explored the three main areas of the project: the times Paul lived in, what we knew about Paul and what we knew about letter writing in those times. We shared what we knew already and made a list of what we wanted to find out. It was interesting to notice that we knew more about the Egyptians and the time of the Kings/Queens and Knights than we did about the time when Jesus and Paul lived.

From our list of questions, we chose the ones that interested us most and set out to find answers. Sometimes the Bible gave us the answers we were looking for; sometimes we needed to search the internet. Some questions were easy to answer; others took a lot of time until we found useful sources. Some of us could only work a bit on the project because we were on holiday; others had more time. Now at the end, when we combine what we found out, as a group we can see that we know a lot more than in the beginning.

Thank you to the children for not giving up when you couldn't find answers quickly. Thank you to the youth for helping us with the project and for taking over difficult questions. Thank you to the teachers for your willingness to plan week by week, for putting so much effort into preparing material and helping the kids with their research and for making the sleepover possible. Because it was at the sleepover that everything came together and we could see what we had achieved. We have learnt a lot together! May we learn a lot more!

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with you always”!

A. Paul lived during the time of the Romans

What was happening around the time of Paul?

Raphael

Saul of Tarsus was born sometime around 5 to 15 AD and died probably somewhere around 56-70 AD.



How did the Roman Empire look like then?

The Roman Empire in 117 AD had an area of 5'000'000km² - the same as half of Europe.

In the first 100 years after Jesus was born, Londinium (London) was founded, the Colosseum was built, and Scotland was invaded by the Romans.

In 64 AD, Nero set fire to Rome, and blamed the Christians for it. In 122 AD, the

Hadrian Wall in England was built.

What was happening in the area that now is Switzerland?

The Helvetii, one of the Celtic tribes living in this area, left the area between the Jura and the Alps to move more westward. They were stopped by Caesar at the Battle of Bibracte in 58 BC. After their surrender, Caesar sent the Helvetii home, and sent Roman troops to the area to keep more control. The Helvetii were given the status of *foederati* or Roman allies, so they had some freedom in governing themselves. The next few hundred years were ones of peace and prosperity, trade flourished and many high-quality roads were built.

What was happening in Jerusalem?

Around 20 BC, the temple was renovated and expanded by Herod the Great, and became known as Herod's Temple. Around the time of Saul/Paul's death, the First Jewish–Roman War was raging and the temple was destroyed by the Romans during the Siege of Jerusalem (70 AD). The Jews saved many important old scrolls by hiding them in caves nearby, many of which were only found in the last 60 years (e.g. Dead Sea Scrolls). The Roman army, led by the future Emperor Titus, besieged and conquered the city of Jerusalem, which had been controlled by Judean rebel factions since 66 AD, when the Judean Free Government was formed in Jerusalem. The destruction of both the first and second temples is still mourned annually as the Jewish feast Tisha B'Av. The Arch of Titus, celebrating the Roman sack of Jerusalem and the Temple, still stands in Rome.

Sources:

https://www.pbs.org/empires/peterandpaul/footsteps/footsteps_1_1.html (22.07.2018).

<https://www.ancient.eu/image/266/> (22.07.2018).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Switzerland_in_the_Roman_era, (31.08.2018).

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Römische_Provinzen_im_Alpenraum_ca_14_n_Chr.png (31.08.2018).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_in_Jerusalem (31.08.2018).

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| What was life like then in Corinth? | Abby | Thomas |

The Roman Emperor was very strict. His rules had to be followed.

Religious life in Corinth would have been mostly pagan.



Most children that live in Corinth go to military school. Greece always had wars and small battles so troops start their training early.

An adult Corinthian's daily life is usually an equal mix of work and leisure. Many people are tradesmen and people from Corinth are generally very good craftsmen.



Sources:

Nicholls, Rachel (2018): Introducing Life in Corinth. ROOTS Children & Young People Issue 95. Available online: www.rootsontheweb.com

B. Paul had two jobs: he was a tent maker and a missionary.

What was travelling like then?

Daniel

When Paul started his journeys, the Roman Empire extended over most of the Mediterranean area. The Romans had built a huge network of roads so that they could move their soldiers around quickly from place to place. Most roads were about 4 metres wide and very straight. They were paved with stone and on both sides often had banks of sand. Every mile (about 1.5 km) was marked with a stone column about 2 metres high. The following information was to be found on these milestones: name of the governor responsible for the road, distance from starting point. Many milestones were marked in Greek and Latin.

The roads were at their best at the time of Paul's travels, so the average person could walk about 32 kilometres a day. By carriage, they could cover 40- 80 kilometres. Paul also travelled during the safest period, as the war had just ended and the roads were policed well, so the danger of robbers was low.

Many Romans avoided inns after a long day's walk and rather slept in tents. This was because the inns had a bad reputation: filthy sleeping quarters, gamblers, bad wine... Christians were urged to practice hospitality for travelling believers, so Paul often enjoyed these places.

Paul did not only travel on land, he also travelled by ship. It was by far the fastest way to travel, especially from west to east. The wind generally blew from the northwest. From Rome to Alexandria (Egypt), it would take between 10- 20 days. Travelling back again it would take between 40- 60 days.

Because travelling in winter was dangerous on land, as by sea, Paul often stayed in one place for a longer time and worked there. He travelled during the warmer months.



Sources:

<https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/article/on-the-road-with-paul>

<https://www.anatolianroads.org/milestones/>

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| How long did each of Paul's journeys take? | Eleonor | Zornitsa |
| Who went with Paul? | Michael | |

Paul started up many churches on his journeys. Often he would travel somewhere, work as a tentmaker during the day and talk with groups of people during the evenings. He would stay for several months in a place before carrying on. During his journey, he would write to the churches he had started. He wrote to encourage them and to give advice. We have copies of some of his letters in our bible.

First journey

Started in: 45 AD
 Started from: Antioch, Syria
 Ended in: Antioch, Syria
 Stayed longest at: Iconimum
 Travelled with: Barnabas and Mark
 Distance travelled by foot and by ship: 2500 km

Wrote letters to: No-one yet because he had not started any churches

Special incidents on this trip:

Paul and Barnabas were sentenced to death, but escaped. Paul performed miracles such as healing a cripple. Then the Jewish leaders in Antioch turned the crowd against Paul and Barnabas and they were stoned and left for dead. But God save them.

Second journey

Started in: 51 AD
 Started from: Antioch, Syria
 Ended in: Antioch, Syria
 Stayed longest at: Corinth (1.5 years)
 Travelled with: Silas and Timothy

Distance travelled by foot and by ship: 5000 km
 Wrote letters to: Thessalonians (2 letters)

Special incidents on this trip:

God opened the heart of Lydia and the Philippian jailer.

Third journey

Started in: 54 AD
Started from: Antioch, Syria
Ended in: Jerusalem
Stayed longest at: Ephesus
Travelled with: Timothy and Erastus

Distance travelled by foot and by ship: 5300 km
Wrote letters to: Corinthians (2 letters), Romans

Special incidents on this trip:

A young man fell out of a window and Paul raises him from the dead.

Fourth journey

Started in: 60 AD
Started from: Jerusalem
Ended in: Rome
Stayed longest at: Rome
Travelled with: Luke and Aristarchus

Distance travelled by foot and by ship: 3800km

Wrote letters to: Churches – Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Hebrews
People – Philemon, Titus, Timothy (2 letters)

Special incidents on this trip:

He got bit by a snake. Then he healed the father of Publius and others

Sources:

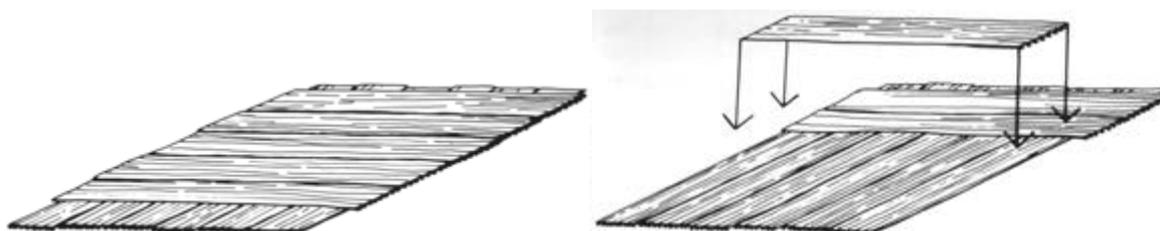
The Bible, New Testament.

C. Paul wrote letters to help churches grow

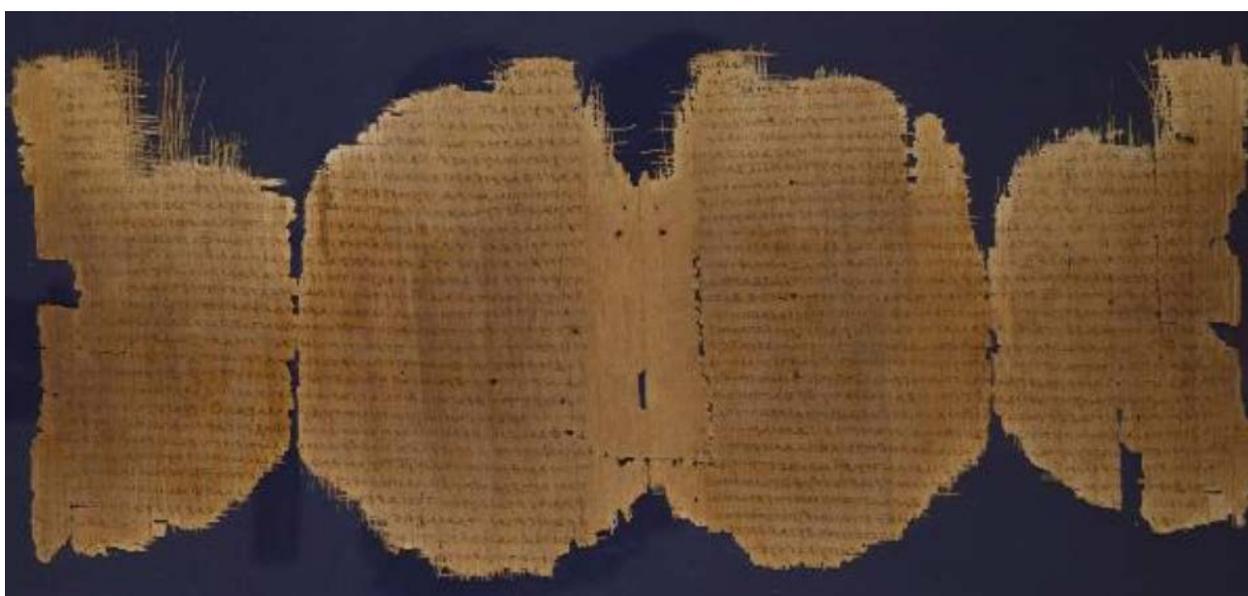
What did people write on?

Michael

People wrote on papyrus for different things. A waste paper dump was found in Egypt with shopping lists, newsletters, songs, stories, plays and private letters. The paper was made out of a reed. Only the stalk was used to make the paper. The inside of the stalk was cut or peeled into long strips. These strips were then laid out in two layers, one horizontal and one vertical, and pressed and dried to form a papyrus sheet.



Finally, many of these sheets were then joined end-to-end to form a roll. No glue was used. Instead, the natural gum of the plant held the sheets together. A roll was usually about 30 cm in height and could be up to 30 metres in length. Papyrus sheets could also be joined to make a book, called a codex. In a codex the pages were written on the back and front. At the time of Paul it was more common to write on scrolls. His letters were rolled into a scroll and sent with a messenger or visitor. There was no postal service then.



The first papyrus was made in the ancient Egypt.

Sources:

<https://earlychurchhistory.org/communication/letter-writing-in-the-ancient-world/> (making paper)

<http://earlybible.com/manuscripts/p46.html> (Letters of Paul)

<http://www.csad.ox.ac.uk/POxy/frame1.htm> (Waste paper dump of Oxyrhynchus in Egypt)

| How was ink made? What did people write with? | Ariel Michael | |
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Black was the most common colour of ink. Ink was usually made from soot or lamp-black. It was mixed with gum arabic or glue. Scribes also used ink made from iron vitrol. It is the same thing shoemakers used to dye leather black.

In Ancient Rome people did not write with feathers. They mostly wrote with reeds or metal.



Sources:

<https://www.quora.com/What-did-the-ancient-Romans-use-for-ink>

<http://the-history-girls.blogspot.com/2017/01/ancient-roman-pen-and-ink-by-caroline.html>

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| Could everybody read and write? | Jack | |

At the time of Jesus most people could not read and write. Tradesmen, administrators working for local rulers and the Roman elite needed to be able to read and write.

Jewish people required a level of knowledge to be able to interpret the Jewish bible, the Torah, as this was part of their religious duty. Reading the Torah was an important event for men in that society.



Paul went to school and learnt to read and write. Paul probably spoke many languages but he wrote his letters in Greek. This was the language of trade and the most common language in the Roman Empire.

Not as many women learnt to read and write as men. Some women had their writing sets buried with them when they died. They must have been proud that they could write.



Sources:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torah>

<http://the-history-girls.blogspot.com/2017/01/ancient-roman-pen-and-ink-by-caroline.html>

Other questions that interested we want to follow next time....

Were people annoyed or inspired by Paul? Why did Paul tell people about God?

Our theme song

Paul, Preacher of the Word

Damascus bound, Saul meant to jail
Any followers of Jesus he found there.
In stunned surprise he heard the Lord,
"I've chosen you to preach my word!"

Chorus 1:

Saul was a changed man
God turned him around to see God's plan,
He sent him out to spread the word
Of Jesus Christ, the one true Lord.

Saul told of Christ as he was led,
And so others wished to see him dead.
The church heard this and in the night,
Lowered Saul in a basket to save his life.

Chorus 1

When Paul and Silas sang in jail,
An earthquake caused their chains to fail.
The jailer heard the saving word,
He and his whole family believed the Lord.

Chorus 2:

Paul was a changed man
God turned him around to see God's plan,
He sent him out to spread the word
Of Jesus Christ, the one true Lord.

Paul witnessed everywhere he went,
To the Gentiles, Jews, as he was sent.
To governor and to the king,
God's redeeming good news he did bring.

Chorus 2

Sailing to Rome, on Paul's last trip,
A storm came up and wrecked the ship.
Then Paul spoke up, "I serve the Lord;
He'll save us for His mighty word."

Chorus 2