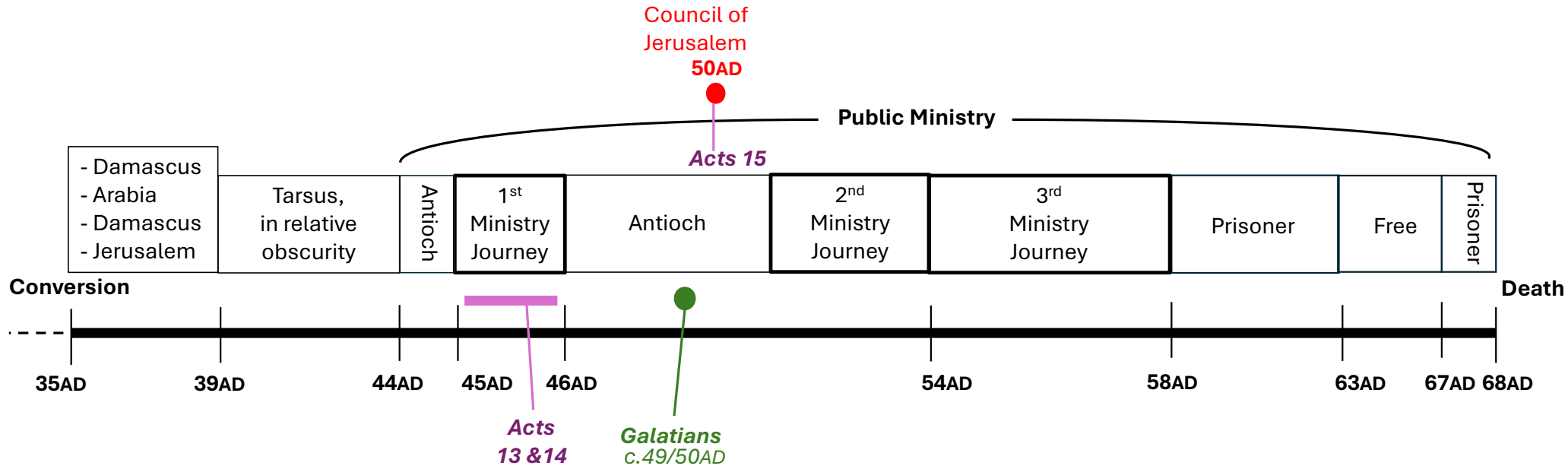


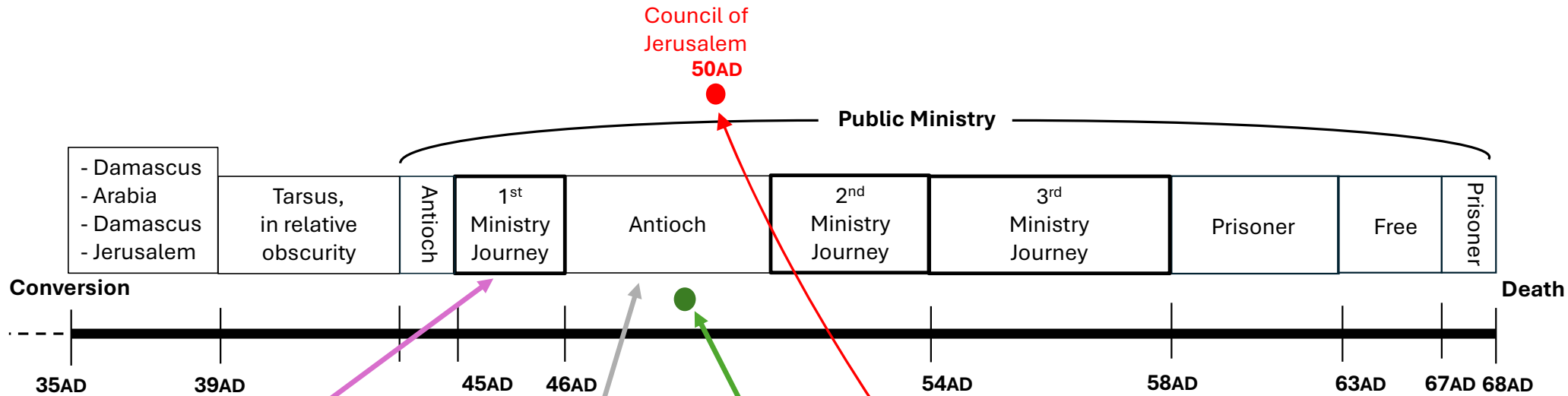
Timeline of Paul's Life & Ministry

*Most of the dates on this chart are approximate.
Some events may be up to 5 years earlier or later than charted here.*



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Paul visits centres in Galatia (Acts 13 & 14), and teaches them about salvation apart from the Law (Acts 13:38,39)

Back home in Antioch, Paul hears that the Galatians are abandoning this teaching (Galatians 1:6; 3:1-6)

Paul then writes to the Galatians restating his original teaching and expanding upon it (Galatians 2:11-5:12)

Men from Judea come to Antioch and begin teaching false doctrine about the place of the Law (Acts 15:1,2). A meeting is held in Jerusalem to discuss these things, and a statement is formed (Acts 15:2-29).

Galatians

Why?

The main reason for writing:

Gentile Christians in Galatian churches were being told by other influential Jews that they needed to be circumcised and observe the Mosaic Law. (1:6,7; 3:1; 5:7; 6:12,13)

This is contrary to what Paul had taught them earlier (1:8,9), so he wrote to warn them that this false belief was undermining the gift of salvation, freely given apart from adherence to the Law. (2:15-21 *cp.* Acts 13:38,39)

Related issues:

Paul defended his apostleship, reinforcing that he had the authority from God to teach the Galatians about salvation by faith alone. (1:11-2:10)

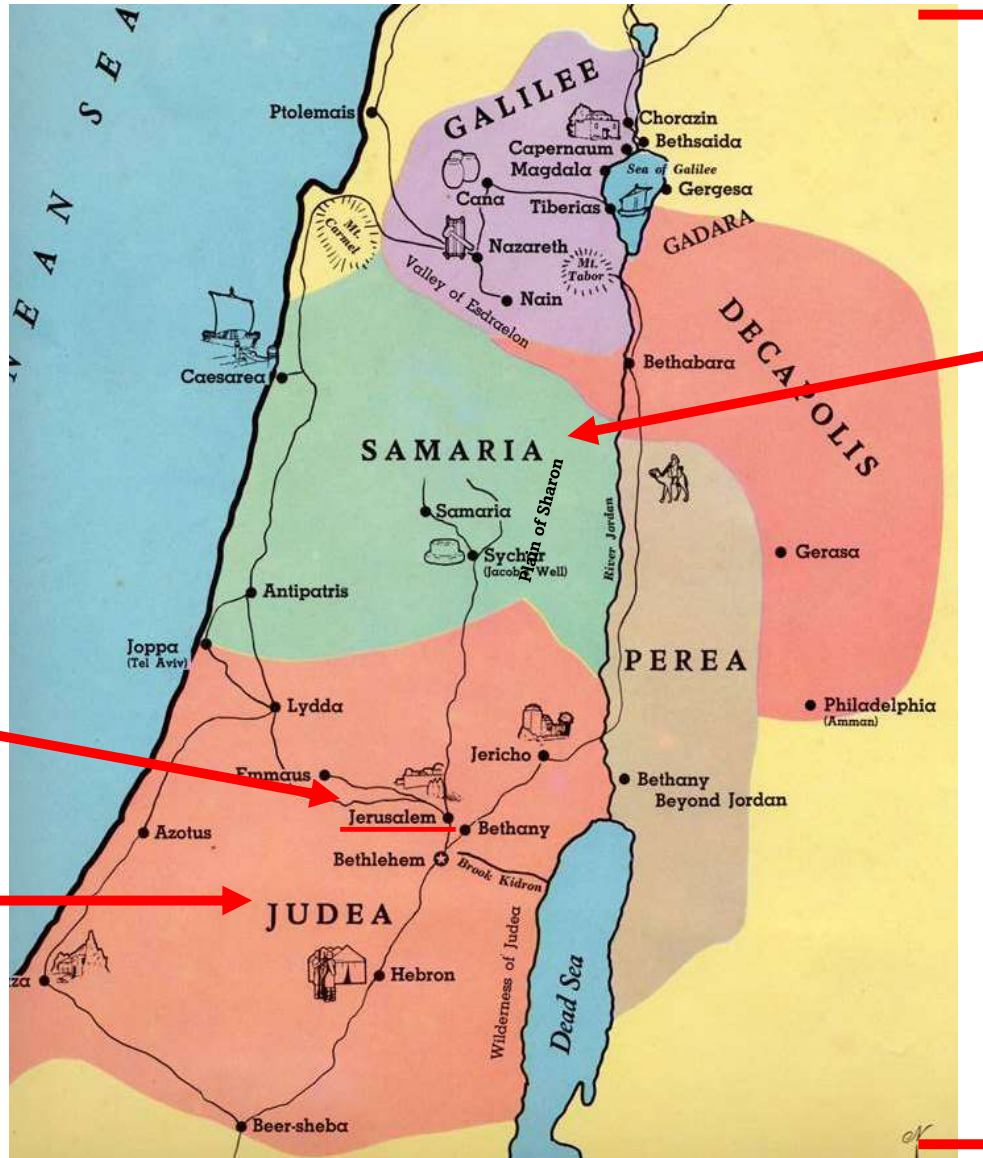
He also addresses their Christian walk. (5:13-6:10)

Acts 1:8

you shall be witnesses to Me

in Jerusalem

and in all Judea



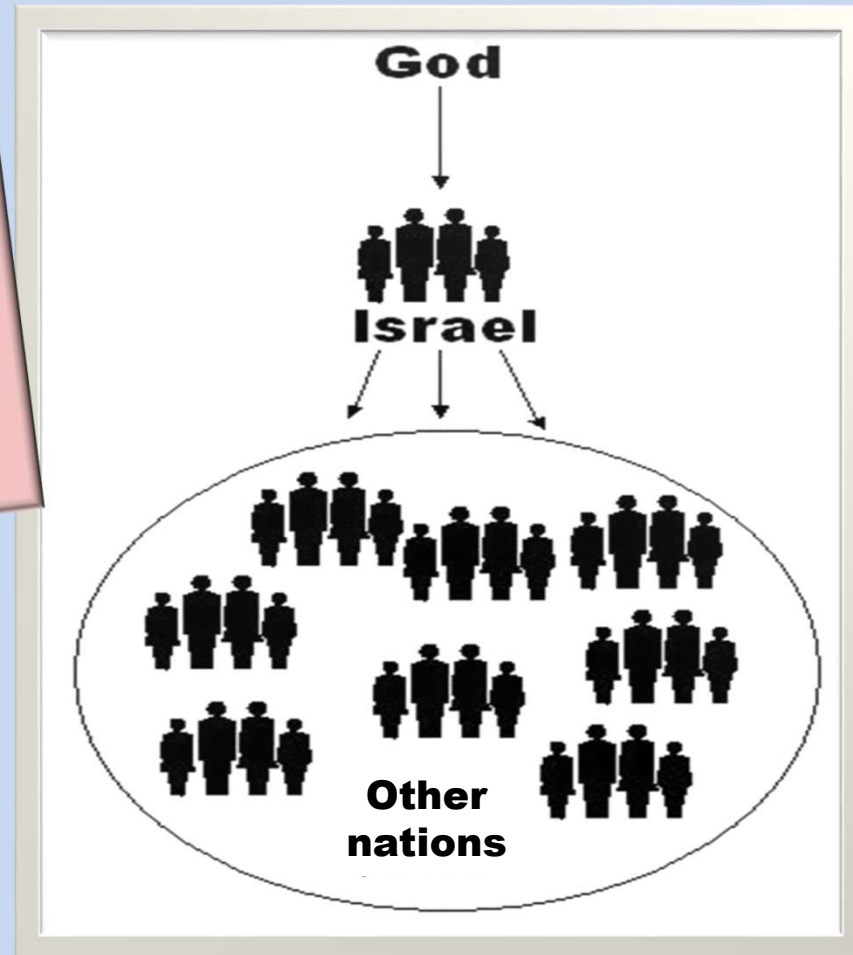
and Samaria

and to the end of the land [or earth – Greek = *gè*, which may mean either land or earth, depending on context].

Genesis 12:2,3

**“I will make you into
a great nation (Israel)**

-
**... all peoples on earth
will be blessed
through you.”**



Acts 15 – The Council of Jerusalem Decrees

... and what this meant for Jews and Gentiles c.50 to c.61 AD (Acts 15 to 28)

JEWISH Christians were instructed to:

- place God above all things
- treat their fellow man with love and kindness
- live upright and moral lives
- continue trying to **observe the Law** with its ordinances because there was still a role for Israel being played out at that time

SAME

SAME

SAME

DIFFERENT

GENTILE Christians were instructed to:

- place God above all things
- treat their fellow man with love and kindness
- live upright and moral lives
- **not be polluted** with aspects of idol worship and to be careful with food preparation that may hinder fellowship with Christian Jews

Acts 15:20 - Four Decrees for Gentile Christians

effective c.50 to c.61 AD (Acts 15 to 28)

- ❖ **Abstain from things polluted by idols** (cp. 1 Corinthians 8:1-13)
 - Items and foods dedicated to pagan gods
- ❖ **Abstain from sexual immorality** (cp. 1 Corinthians 6:13b-20; Revelation 2:14)
 - A generally sound principle for several reasons – health, respect
 - A prominent feature of pagan worship
- ❖ **Abstain from things strangled** (cp. Leviticus 17:10-14)
 - specifically referring to blood in the meat of animals
- ❖ **Abstain from blood** (cp. Leviticus 17:10-14)
 - Probably refers to using blood for making other food products, e.g. “black pudding”, etc

Four distinct decrees, all linked by the idea of “purity and devotion to God”, regarding idolatrous practices, and practices that would be offensive to devout Christian Jews.

Decrees of this nature are mentioned together in Leviticus 19:26-29 & Ezekiel 33:25,26.