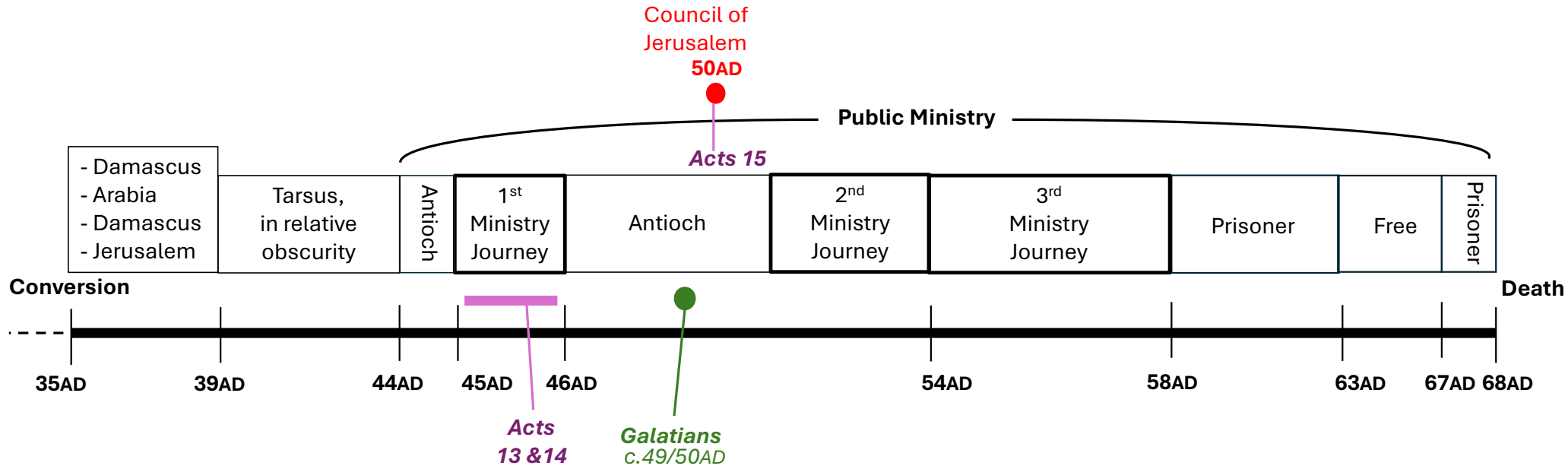


# Timeline of Paul's Life & Ministry

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



## The Second Journey, in brief ...

- ❖ **Paul and Silas undertake this journey (Acts 15:36-40)**
  - To be a follow up to Paul's first journey (15:36)
  - Delivering the decrees of the Jerusalem Council (16:4)

- ❖ **Starting with Syria & Cilicia (15:41)**
- ❖ **Timothy joins them in Galatia (16:1-5)**

- ❖ **Events in Macedonia (16:12-17:15)**
  - Philippi
  - Thessalonica
  - Berea

- ❖ **Events in Achaia (17:16-18:18)**
  - Athens
  - Corinth
  - Cenchrae

1 & 2 Thessalonians written  
and sent from here

- ❖ **Brief visit to Ephesus (18:19-21)**
- ❖ **Back home (via Caesarea) to Antioch (18:22)**

## Acts 15:36 to 18:22



Acts  
16:16,17

**Acts 16:16** - ... a certain slave girl possessed with **a spirit of divination** met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.

**Acts 16:17** - This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the **Most High God**, who proclaim to us the way of **salvation**."

From a Christian viewpoint, what she was saying was correct:

- Paul & Silas & co. were servants of the **Most High God** ✓
- They were proclaiming the way of **salvation** ✓

So ... why did Paul get annoyed?

**Acts 16:16** - ... a certain slave girl possessed with **a spirit of divination** met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.

**Acts  
16:16,17**

KJV /NKJV / ESV - “a spirit of divination”

NIV - “a spirit by which she predicted the future”

Greek - “a spirit of **Python**”

- Linked to the Greek god **Apollo**
- The Oracle of Delphi was a pagan priestess, known as the Pythia
- She lived in the Temple of Apollo at Delphi (not far from Athens and Corinth)
- She supposedly prophesied to humans supposedly on behalf of the god Apollo
- Her messages would often predict ruler’s fortunes and advise on Greek policy, advocating wars, validating rulers, etc. These were very influential.

Note: In Greek mythology, **Apollo was the son of Zeus, sometimes referred to as “the Most High God”**.

Acts  
16:16,17

**Acts 16:16** - ... a certain slave girl possessed with **a spirit of divination** met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.

**Acts 16:17** - This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the **Most High God**..."

**Most High God** = *Theos Hupsistos*  
God Highest/Supreme

Ancient inscriptions with the words **Theos Hupsistos** have been found in Macedonia (Philippi was located there), Greece and Western Turkiye.

- Not in a Christian context, but referring to a pagan god.
- The "Most High" god of Greek mythology was **Zeus, the father of Apollo**.

Acts  
16:16,17

**Acts 16:16** - ... a certain slave girl possessed with **a spirit of divination** met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.

**Acts 16:17** - This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the **Most High God**, who proclaim to us the way of **salvation**."

The word "**salvation**" primarily means deliverance or preservation from something unwanted. In both pagan literature and the Bible, the context will determine the meaning.

A person can be "saved" from ...

- **an event** e.g. harm, a life-threatening event, defeat in war, physical death, etc.
- **a consequence** e.g. guilt, the wrath of pagan gods or the One True God, etc.
- **a condition** e.g. oppression from enemies, illness, a medical condition, imprisonment, etc.

Acts  
16:16,17

**Acts 16:16** - ... a certain slave girl possessed with **a spirit of divination** met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.

**Acts 16:17** - This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the **Most High God**, who proclaim to us the way of **salvation**.”

### This event in summary:

- The slave girl in Acts 16 had **a spirit** (Python) **associated with Apollo**.
- She was attributing Paul and Silas’ work, not to the real “Most High God” of the Bible, but to **Zeus** (i.e. father of Apollo, and the “Most High” god of Greek mythology).
- The “way of **salvation**” she spoke of referred to how people could be delivered from the **various perils of life** by the intervention and guidance of pagan gods.
- This was contrary to the message of salvation from the real Most High God by way of Jesus Christ. A demonic force was at work, and Paul exorcised that demon.

## The Philippian Jailor: “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” (Acts 16:30)

**What was he asking? What was he expecting?  
What answer did he get?**

In all literature, the meaning of “saved” and “salvation” are determined by the context.

### **Context:**

- v. 17** – The slave girl had been calling out, “These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the [= a] way of salvation.”
- v.18** – Paul exorcises the girl’s demon, and he and Silas were thrown into prison (v.23)
- v.25** – They were audibly praying and singing hymns to God
- v.26** – An earthquake struck, and the prison doors flung open
- v.27** – The jailor assumed that the prisoners had escaped (which they had not – v.28)
- v.27** – The jailor considered the awful consequences of him failing in his duty, and went to kill himself
- v.28** – Paul said, “Don’t harm yourself, we are all here”.

### **The Question and the Answer:**

- v.30** – He bowed before Paul and Silas and asked “What must I do to be saved?”  
(From what?- The consequences of failing in my duty?; The perils of life?; Wrath of the gods?)
- v.31a** – The answer: “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, ...”
- v.31b** – “... you and your household” (cp. v.33b,34). Saved from the wrath of God (Romans 5:8-11)

# Salvation =

being delivered or preserved from an undesirable event, consequence or condition.

➤ ... being delivered or preserved ... i.e. “saved” from something

➤ ... from an undesirable ...

- **event** e.g. harm (*2 Samuel 22:1-4*)  
defeat in war (*1 Samuel 4:2,3*)  
**or** physical death (*Psalms 68:19,20; Hebrews 5:7,8*)  
life-threatening event (*Matthew 8:23-27*)
- **consequence** e.g. guilt, sins, sinful state (*Isaiah 64:5b; Psalm 51:14; Psalm 79:8,9; Matthew 1:20,21*)  
**or** God’s wrath (*Romans 5:7-11; Ephesians 2:3,8,9*)
- **condition** e.g. oppression from enemies (*past – Exodus 14:13; Acts 7:25*  
*future - Psalm 118; Matthew 21:7-9; Luke 1:68-71*)  
illness (*Mark 6:56*)  
medical condition (*Mark 10:52*)  
imprisonment (*Philippians 1:19*)  
permanent annihilation (*Revelation 21:24 cp 20:7-9*)

## Salvation - noun

*Heb: yeshua H3444 / Gk: soteria G4991*

## Save - verb

*Heb: yasa H3467 / Gk: sozo G4982*

(These are the main Hebrew and Greek words translated “salvation” and “saved”.)

After mid-Acts, most (but not all) references to salvation refer to being counted among those who will be delivered from the consequences of God’s wrath.

Sometimes this is plainly linked with the Lord’s second coming, other times it may be broader in scope.