Contents

Foreword-I xi
Foreword-II xiii
Introduction xv

Chapter 1: The Developmental Period (5 BC-AD 48) 1
1. The Developmental Period 1
1.1. Pre-Damascus Phase 1
1.1.1. Family 2
1.1.2. Roman Birthright in the Diaspora 3
1.1.2.1. Date of his Birth 5
1.1.2.2. The Man Paul 5
1.1.2.2.1 The Sources of Pauline Thought 7
1.1.2.2.1.1. The Epistles 7
1.1.2.2.1.2. The Oral Tradition 9
1.1.2.2.1.3. The Old Testament 9
1.1.2.3. Different Backgrounds of Paul 10
1.1.2.3.1. Greco-Roman Heritage 10
1.1.2.3.1.1. Roman Citizenship 11
1.1.2.3.1.2. The Language and Culture of Hellenism 12
1.1.2.3.1.3. Impact of Greco-Roman Inheritance in Paul and His Writings 15
1.1.2.3.1.3.1. Philosophical Ideas 15
1.1.2.3.1.3.2. Rhetorical Elements 18
1.1.2.3.1.3.3. Mystery Religious Concepts 25
1.1.2.3.1.3.4. Diatribe 28
1.1.2.3.1.3.5. Gnosticism 31
1.1.2.3.1.3.6. Literary Style and Form of Paul's Letters 33

1.1.2.3.1.3.7. The Imperial Cult 48
1.1.2.3.2. Jewish Heritage 51
1.1.2.3.2.1. Rabbinic Education under Gamaliel 52
1.1.2.3.2.2. Pharisaic Background 54
1.1.2.3.2.3. A Member of the Sanhedrin 55
1.1.2.3.2.4. Impact of Jewish Inheritance in Paul and His Writings 57
1.1.2.3.2.4.1. Paul's Use of the Old Testament 58
1.1.2.3.2.4.1.1. Proofs from the Authentic Letters of Paul 59
1.1.2.3.2.4.2. Monotheistic Belief 69
1.1.2.3.2.4.3. The Hope of the Coming of the Messiah 73
1.1.2.3.2.4.4. Nature of Human Beings 75
1.1.2.4. Christian Background 77
1.1.2.5. Stoning of Stephen 79
1.1.2.6. Paul, the Persecutor of the Church 80
1.2. Post-Damascus Phase 83
1.2.1. Experience at Damascus 83
1.2.2. Post-Damascus Identity 84
1.2.2.1. Impact of the Damascus Experience in Paul and His Writings 85
1.2.2.1.1. Shift from Theo-centrism to Christo-centrism 86
1.2.2.1.2. Mission to the Gentiles 87
1.2.2.1.3. Jesus Tradition and Early Christian Practices 88
1.2.2.1.4. His Apostolic Experience 89
1.2.2.1.4.1. Theological Aspects 90
1.2.2.1.4.2. Practical Aspects 97
1.2.3. Departure to Arabia 99
1.2.4. Return to Damascus 104
1.2.5. First Visit to Jerusalem 105
1.2.6. Return and Stay in Tarsus 107
1.2.7. In Antioch 108
1.2.7.1. The Prophecy of Agabus and Paul's Second Visit to Jerusalem 109

Chapter 2: The Missionary Period (AD 48-57) 111

2. The Missionary Period 111
2.1. First Missionary Journey 112
2.1.1. Commissioning of Paul and Barnabas 112

2.1.2. In Cyprus 113
2.1.3. Paul's Model Sermon to the Jews in the Synagogue at Antioch 114
2.1.4. Paul's Ministry in Iconium and Stoning in Lystra 119
2.1.5. The Third Visit to Jerusalem 122
2.1.5.1. Jerusalem Council 122
2.2. Second Missionary Journey 127
2.2.1 In Syria-Cilicia 128
2.2.2. In Asia Minor 128
2.2.2.1. The Macedonian Call 132
2.2.3. Luke Associates the Team 132
2.2.4. In Macedonia 133
2.2.4.1. Paul in Philippi 135
2.2.4.2. Ministry at Thessalonica 137
2.2.4.3. Ministry at Beroea 139
2.2.4.4. In Athens 140
2.2.4.4.1. Ministry of Paul in Synagogue, Market Place and Areopagus 140
2.2.4.5. Paul's Arrival in Corinth 143
2.2.4.5.1. Ministry in Synagogues 146
2.2.4.6. I Thessalonians 148
2.2.4.6.1. Background and Purpose 149
2.2.4.6.2. The Content of 1 Thessalonians 149
2.2.4.7. II Thessalonians 151
2.2.4.7.1. Purpose and Content of II Thessalonians 151
2.2.5. Travel to Syria 153
2.2.5.1. Hair cut at Cenchreae 153
2.2.5.2. Paul's First Visit to Ephesus 156
2.2.6. The Fourth Visit to Jerusalem 158
2.3. Third Missionary Journey 158
2.3.1. Paul in Antioch 159
2.3.2. Paul's Second Visit to Ephesus 160
2.3.2.1. Ministry in the Synagogue 161
2.3.2.2. The Previous or the Lost Epistle to the Corinthians 163
2.3.2.3. I Corinthians 164
2.3.2.3.1. Background and Purpose 165
2.3.2.3.2. The Content of 1 Corinthians 166
2.3.2.4. Galatians 172
2.3.2.4.1 The North and South Galatian Theories 172

2.3.2.4.2. Background and Purpose 173
2.3.2.4.3. The Content of Galatians 174
2.3.2.5. Confrontation with Jewish Exorcists and Riot 175
2.3.2.6. Departure to Macedonia 176
2.3.2.7. Severe/Tearful Letter of Paul 176
2.3.2.8. II Corinthians 177
2.3.2.8.1. Background and Purpose 177
2.3.2.8.2. The Content of II Corinthians 177
2.3.2.9. Paul's Second Visit to Corinth 181
2.3.2.9.1. Romans 181
2.3.2.9.1.1. Background and Purpose 181
2.3.2.9.1.2. The Content of Romans 182
2.3.2.10. In Miletus 186
2.3.2.10.1. Paul's Special Message to the Elders of Ephesus 186
2.3.3. The Fifth Visit to Jerusalem 188
2.3.3.1. Prophecy of Agabus the Prophet 189
2.3.3.2. Paul in Jerusalem 190

Chapter 3: The Imprisonment Period (AD 57-68) 191

3. The Imprisonment Period 191
3.1. Arrest in Jerusalem 193
3.1.1. Temple Events before Paul's Arrest 193
3.1.2. Paul's Self-defense and the Mob's Reaction 194
3.1.3. Paul before the Sanhedrin 195
3.1.4. Plot Against Paul 196
3.1.5. Paul in Caesarea before Felix the Governor 197
3.1.6. Two Years of Imprisonment in Caesarea 200
3.1.7. Paul's Appeal to Caesar 200
3.2. Journey to Rome 201
3.2.1. Three Months of Stay in the Island of Malta 202
3.3. Under House Arrest at Rome 203
3.3.1. Ephesians 206
3.3.1.1. Background and Purpose 206
3.3.1.2. The Content of Ephesians 207
3.3.2. Philippians 208
3.3.2.1. Background and Purpose 212
3.3.2.2. The Content of Philippians 213
3.3.3. Colossians 216
3.3.3.1. Background and Purpose 217
3.3.3.2. The Content of Colossians 218
3.3.4. Philemon 219

3.3.4.1. Background and Purpose 220
3.3.4.2. The Content of Philemon 221
3.3.5. Paul's Release 222
3.3.6. Paul in Spain 223
3.3.7. Paul's Third Visit to Ephesus 223
3.3.8. Ministry in Macedonia 225
3.3.8.1. I Timothy 225
3.3.8.1.1. Background and Purpose 226
3.3.8.1.2. The Content of I Timothy 226
3.3.8.2. Titus 229
3.3.8.2.1. Background and Purpose 229
3.3.8.2.2. The Content of Titus 229
3.3.9. Journey to Corinth and Nicopolis 231
3.3.10. Final Visit to Ephesus and Arrest 231
3.4. Final Roman Imprisonment and Death 232
3.4.1. His Difficulties in the Last Imprisonment 233
3.4.2. II Timothy 233
3.4.2.1. Background and Purpose 234
3.4.2.2. The Content of II Timothy 234
3.4.3. The Assassination of Paul 236

Chapter 4: The Lost Letters of Paul 239

4. The Lost Letters of Paul 239
4.1. The Lost Letter Prior to 1 Corinthians 240
4.2. The Lost Letter Prior to II Corinthians 242
4.3. The Lost Letter to Laodiceans 243

Chapter 5: A Chronological Table of Paul and his Epistles 247

Conclusion 257