

NEW TESTAMENT BIBLICAL LITERACY

ACTS – PART TWO

Lesson 24

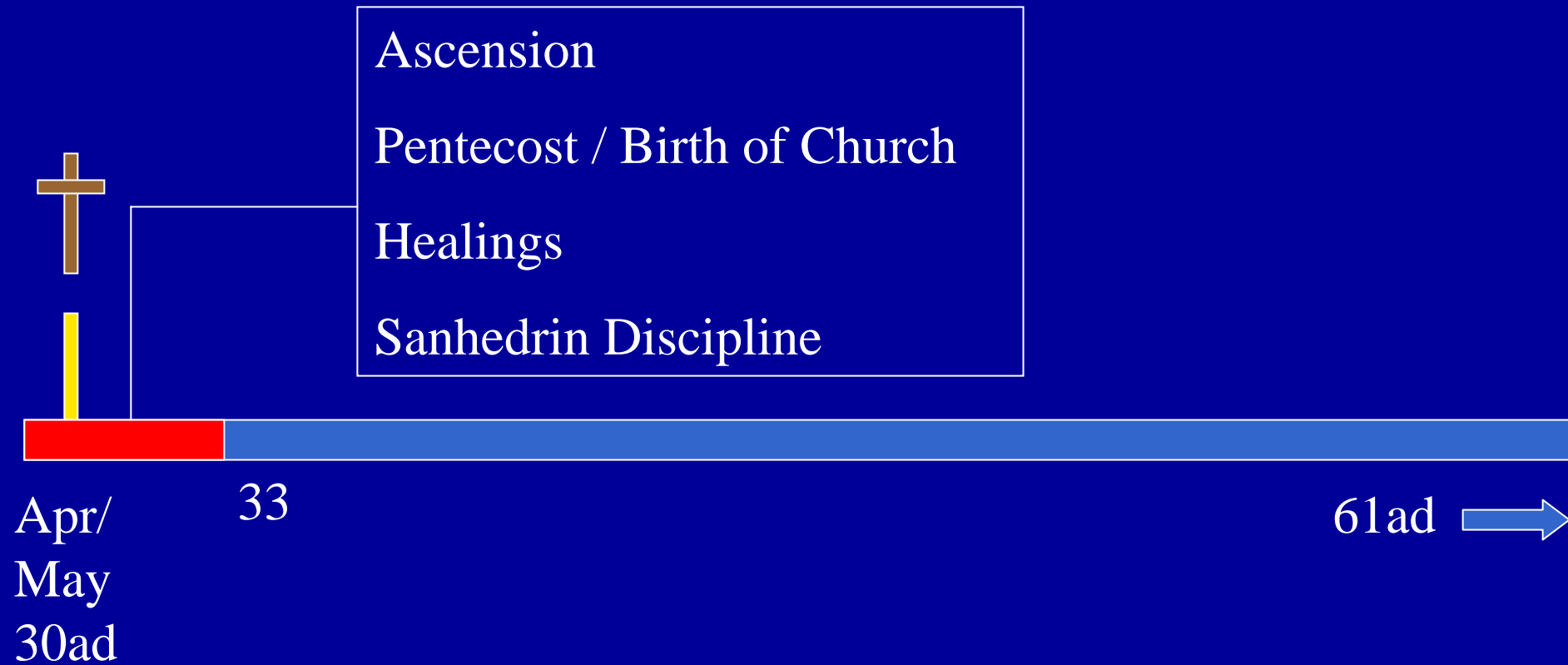
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Where Did Luke Get His Info?

- “We” Passages
 - Firsthand
 - Paul
 - Mark
 - Peter
 - Philip
 - Jerusalem

Timeline



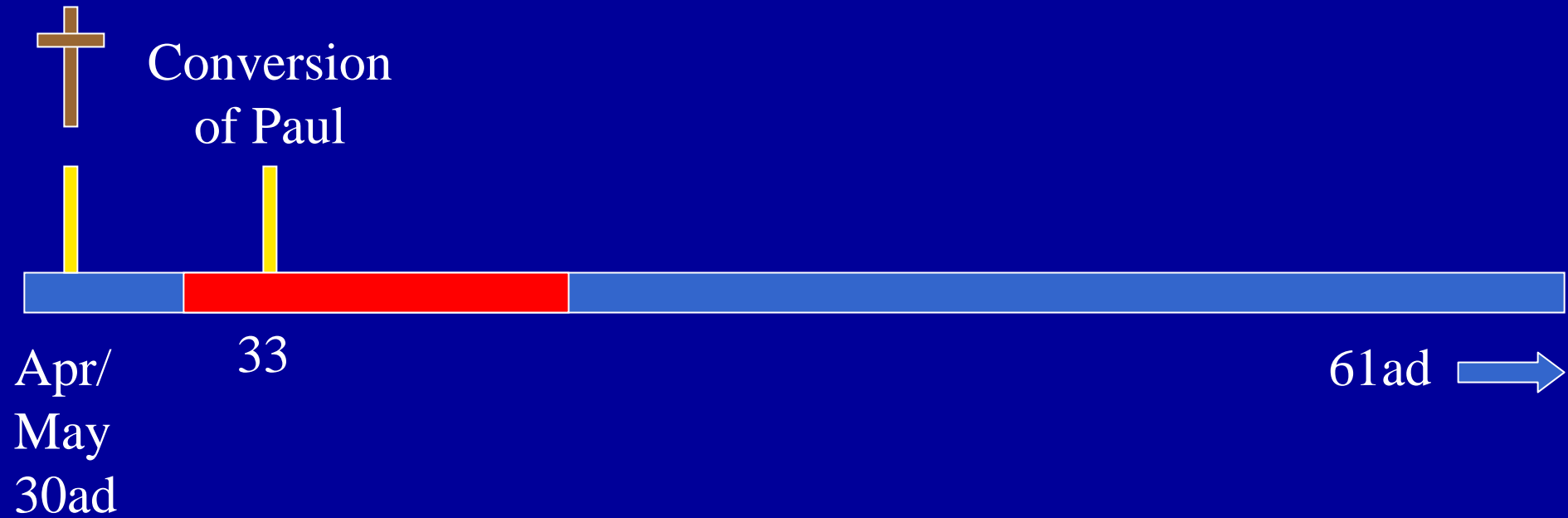
Timeline



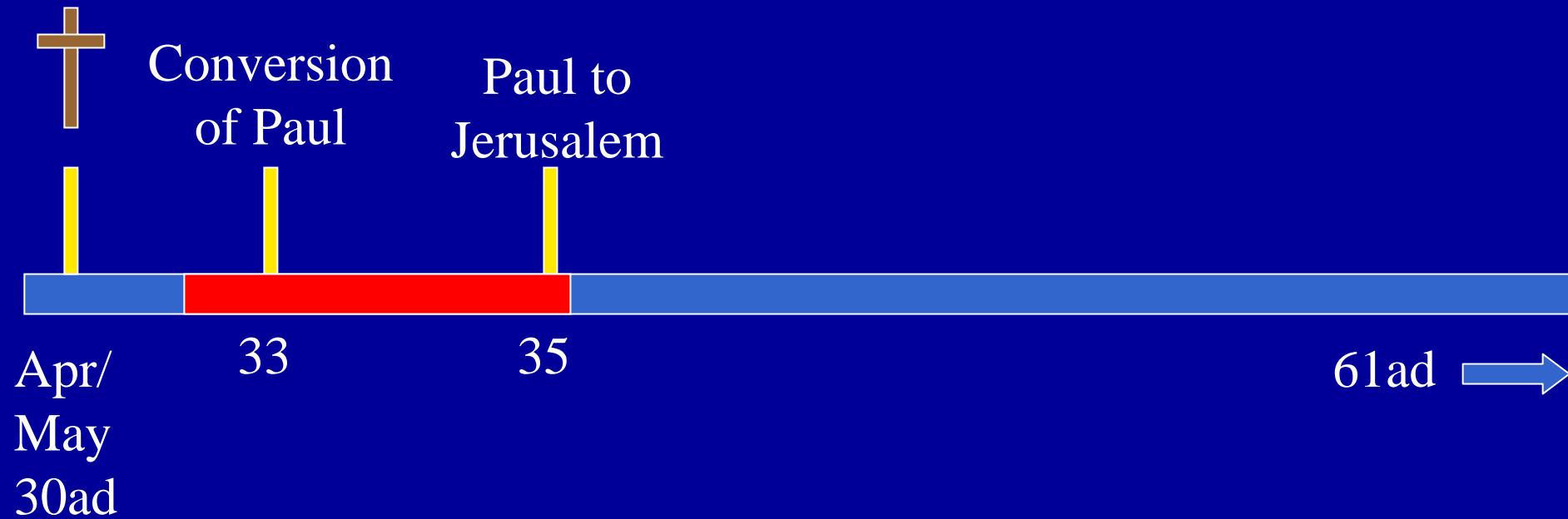
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Timeline



Timeline



Persecution and the Church's Expansion (6:1 - 9:31)

Context From 5

- Disciples Before Sanhedrin

Gamaliel

- Historically a Top Rabbi
- Taught Paul

“When Rabban Gamaliel the Elder died, the glory of the Torah ceased, and purity and holiness died.” Sotah 9:15

Gamaliel

“I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men, you will only find yourself fighting against God.” Acts 5:38

Acts 6

“In those days ...”

The First Church Issue

- The Problem:
 - Grecian Jews (Hellenists)
 - Food Distribution
- The Solution:
 - Seven to Serve
 - Full of “Spirit and Wisdom”
 - Includes Stephen, Philip, and Nicolas

The First Church Issue

- The Effect:

“The word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.” (6:7)

Stephen

- Presents in Wisdom and Spirit
- Trumped up Charges
- Arrested, Brought to Sanhedrin
- ? Speaking against Temple and Moses?

Stephen's Defense

“You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him...” (7:51-52)

Sanhedrin's Reaction

- “When they heard this they were furious”
(7:54)
- Stephen's Last Sight
- “Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.”
(7:58)

Heightened Persecution

- “On that day, a great persecution broke out against the church ... Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.” (8:1-3)
- People are Scattered ... So is the Message

Philip in Samaria

- Simon the Sorcerer
- Peter and John

A Divine Appointment

- A Man in a Chariot
- “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.” (Isa. 53:7-8; Acts 8:32-33)

About Saul...

- Breathing Out Murderous Threats
- The Road to Damascus
- Ananias
- At Once Preaching
- Jerusalem Later
- Back to Tarsus and Peace...

Points for Home

- God's Hand Moves in History
- We Live History
- God's Not For Sale
- Keep Your Divine Appointment