

NEW TESTAMENT BIBLICAL LITERACY

ACTS – PART THREE

Paul's Conversion

Lesson 25

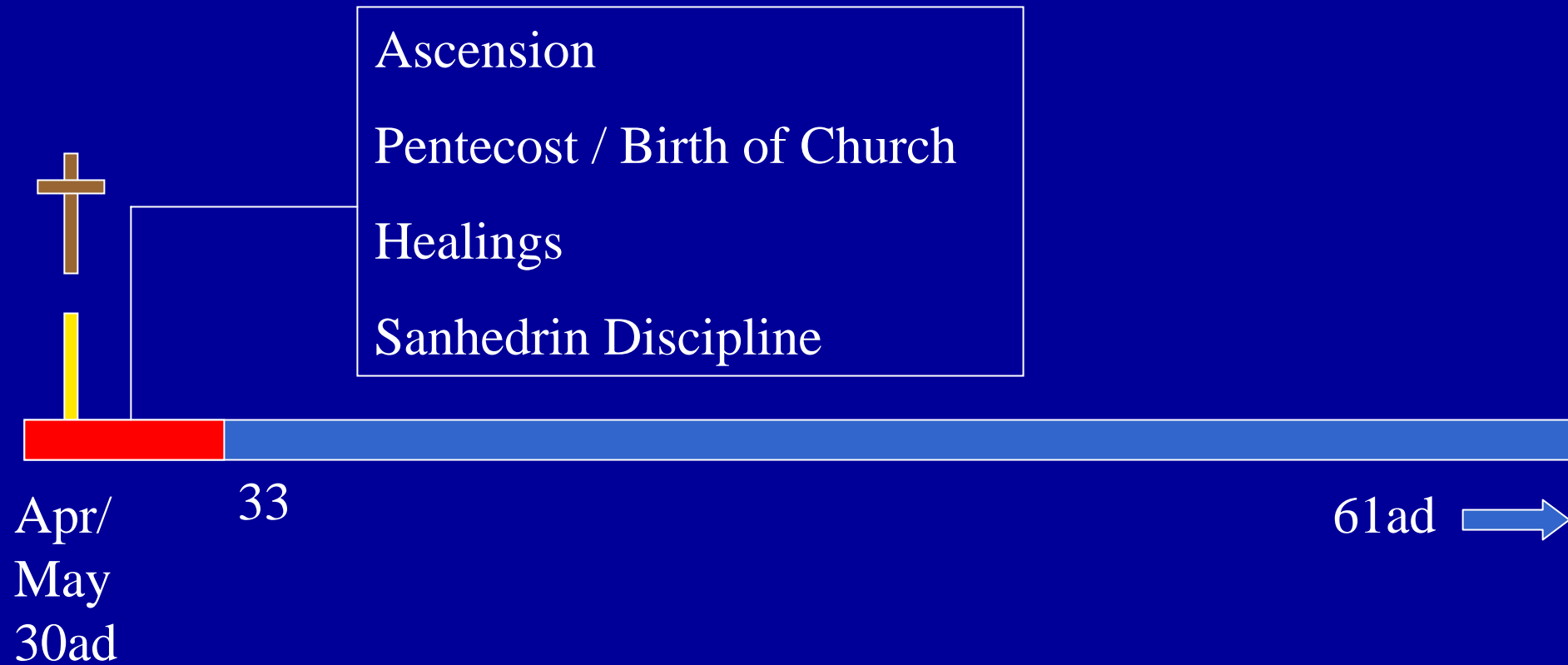
Biblical-Literacy.com

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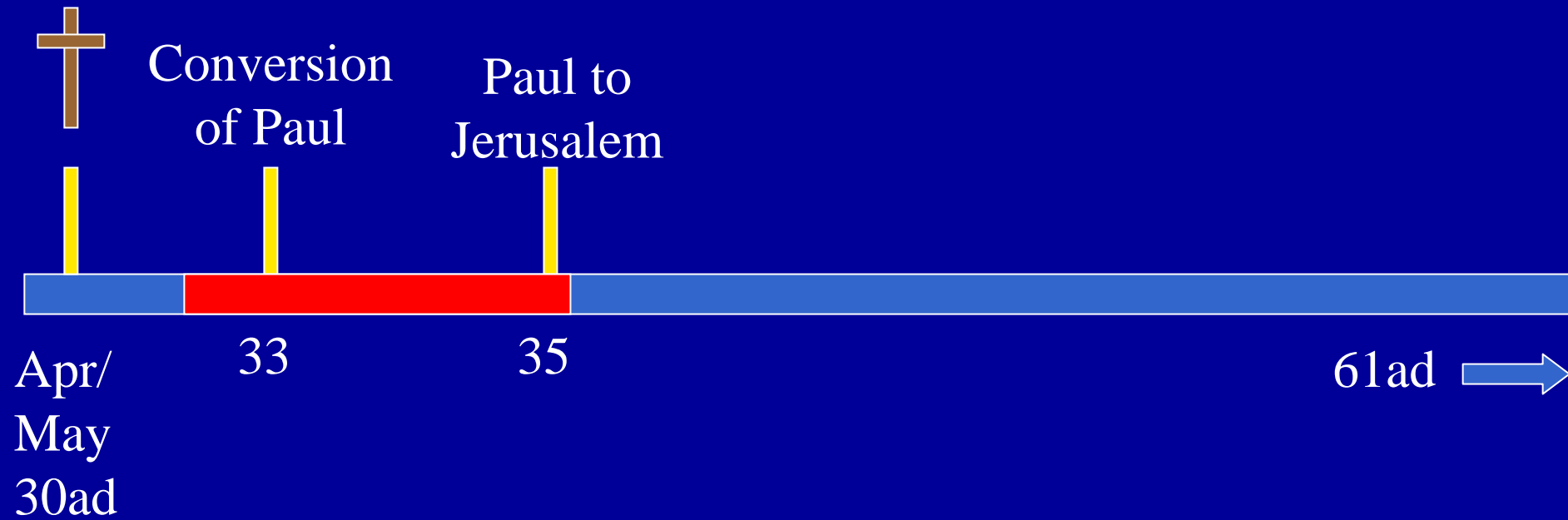
Remember

- Luke Traveled With Paul
- Luke Spent Time in Jerusalem

Timeline



Timeline



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

What About Paul?

The Acts of Paul and Thecla

At length they saw a man coming (namely Paul), of a low stature, bald (or shaved) on the head, crooked thighs, handsome legs, hollow-eyed; had a crooked nose; full of grace; for sometimes he appeared as a man, sometimes he had the countenance of an angel. (1:7)

Born in Tarsus

- No Ordinary City!

“The people of Tarsus have devoted themselves so eagerly, not only to philosophy, but also to the whole round of education in general that they have surpassed even Athens or Alexandria”



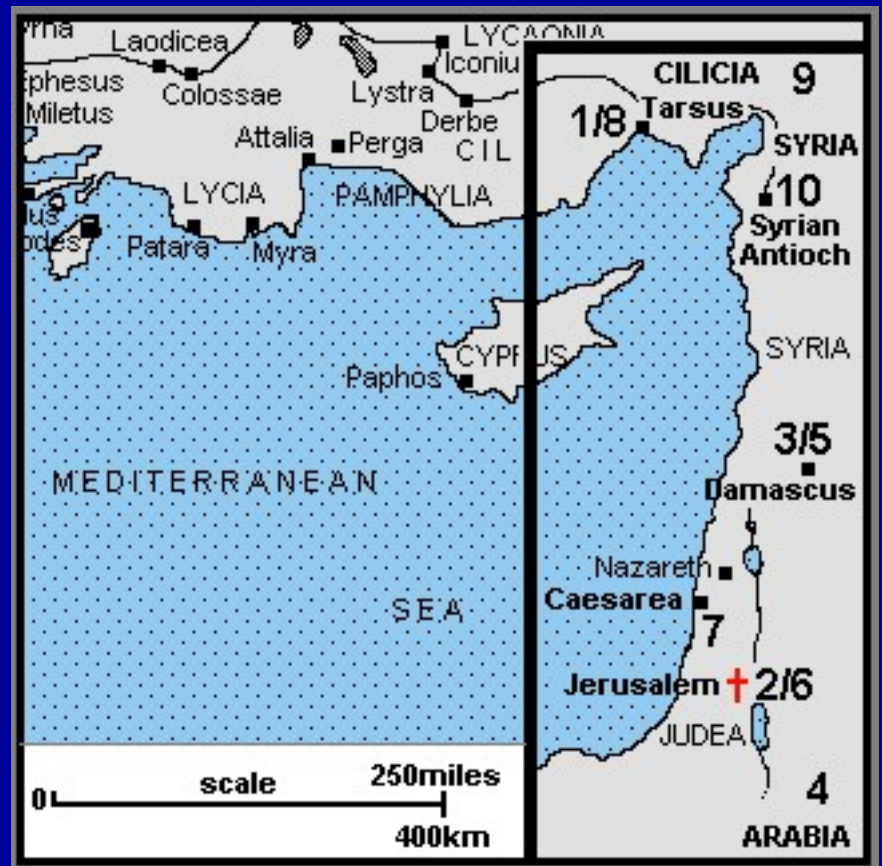
Tarsus

Coast of S.E. Turkey

Cydnus River

Ancient Town

Emperor History



A Roman Citizen

- Ways to Become a Citizen
 - Confer Benefit / Service to Emperor
 - Purchase
 - Birth
- Proof (Diptych)
- Three names
 - Forename
 - Family Name
 - Common Name

Rights of a Roman Citizen

- Full Rights Throughout Empire
- Fair Public Trial
- Exemptions From Certain Punishments
- Protection From Summary Execution
- Rights Paul Used -- Sometimes

Brought up in Jerusalem
Trained Under Gamaliel

Gamaliel

- Historically a Top Rabbi

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

A Pharisee of Pharisees

- Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes
 - Middle ground on Predestination
 - Zealous to the Law
- Origins of Pharisees
- Most Respected of People

Tribe of Benjamin

- King Saul

Hebrew of Hebrews

Acts 21:39

“I am a Jew from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen
of no ordinary city.”

Acts 22:3

“I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. Under Gamaliel I was thoroughly trained in the law of our fathers and was just as zealous for God as any of you are today.”

Acts 22:27-28

The commander went to Paul and asked, “Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?” “Yes, I am,” he answered. Then the commander said, “I had to pay a big price for my citizenship.” “But I was born a citizen,” Paul replied.

Philippians 3:5-6

“Circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.”

Saul's Acceptance

- Breathing Out Murderous Threats
- Midday on The Road to Damascus
- Ananias
- Instant 180
- Straight Street
- Jerusalem Later
- Back to Tarsus and Peace...

Paul Did Not “Convert”

- Still a Jew
- Still a Pharisee
- A Relationship

Points for Home

- God Made You
- God Knows You
- God Has Unique Plans For You