

Sunday, October 9, 2022—Galatians 1:16-17 Triangulating Acts 9 and Galatians 1

Galatians 1:16

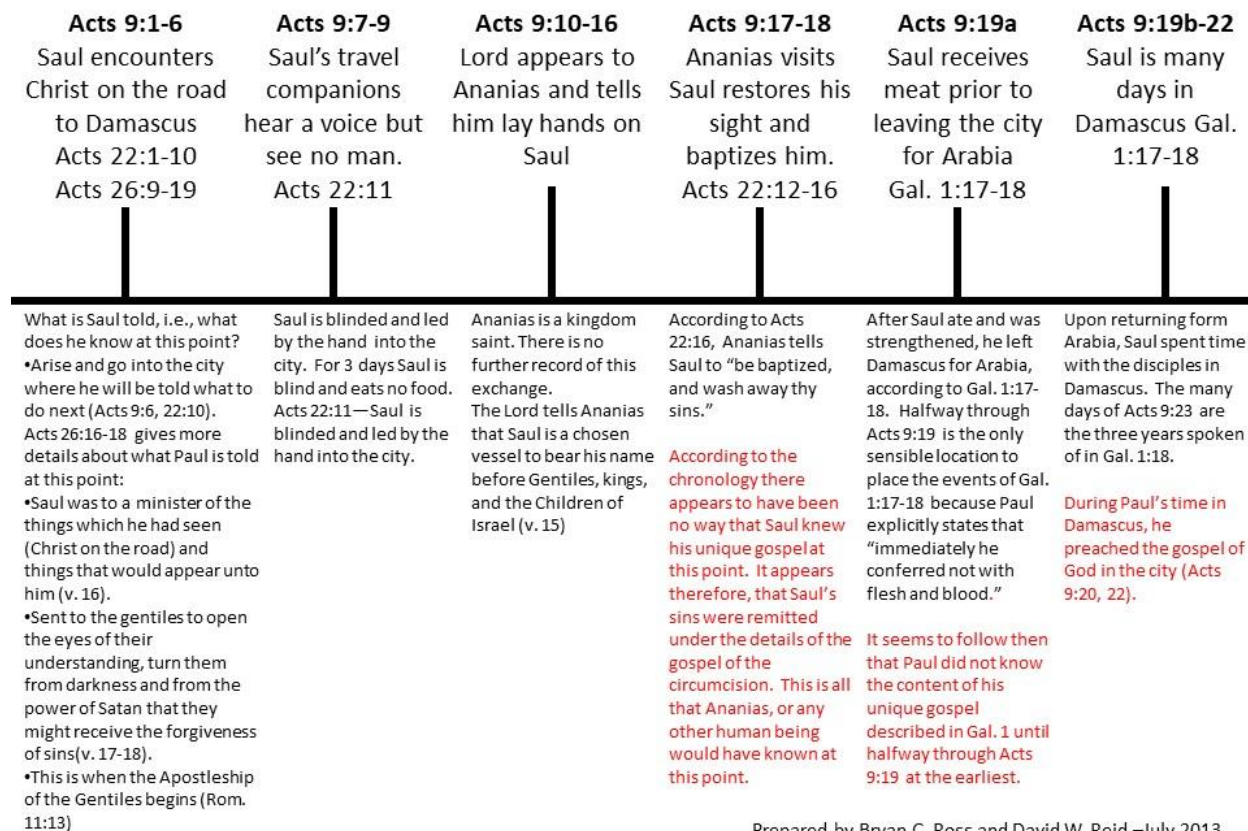
- **To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:**
- In the previous study we discussed the first two clauses of verse 16.
- **immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood**
- Immediately conveys the idea of “straightway” or “forthwith” i.e., right away.
 - Matthew 8:3—“immediately”
 - Matthew 13:5—“forthwith”
 - Matthew 14:22, 27, 31—“straightway” “immediately”
- Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language* defines “[immediately](#)” as follows:
 - Without the intervention of any other cause or event; opposed to mediately.
 - 1. Instantly; at the present time; without delay, or the intervention of time.
 - Matthew 8:3
- This is a negative statement, Paul expressing what he did **not** do. Paul’s claim is that “immediately” following his conversion he “conferred not with flesh and blood.” Once again Paul is stressing that he did not have a conference or meeting of the minds with another human being to double check whether the information given to him by the revelation of Christ was accurate or not.
 - Galatians 1:11-12

Galatians 1:17

- **Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me;**
- At the end of verse 16, Paul says that “immediately” following his conversion, he did not confer with flesh and blood. Now in verse 17, Paul elaborates by stating that he did not go to Jerusalem to speak with the twelve who were apostles before him.
- Once again, the first half of verse 17 is a negative statement, Paul is stating what did **not** do. In addition, to immediately conferring not with flesh and blood in verse 16, “neither” did Paul go to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before him.

- **but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.**
- Note the contrast “but” followed by a positive statement of what Paul did do immediately following his conversion i.e., he “went into Arabia.”
 - Negative—“conferred not with flesh and blood”
 - Negative—“neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me”
 - Positive—“but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus”
- If we follow the flow of the context, compared with events in the book of Acts, “immediately” following the restoration of his sight, Paul leaves Damascus for the deserts of Arabia. When Paul was done in the desert, he returned unto Damascus.
- Now we have a bit of a problem to deal with, there seems to be a discrepancy between what Paul says here in Galatians and what Paul records in Acts 9.
- Acts 9:19-20—seems to indicate that Paul went and preached Christ in the synagogue right after his conversion.
- In comparing the record in Acts with that in Galatians, we must keep in mind that the Holy Spirit had a given purpose for writing what is included in the book of Acts, and it does not contain details that are irrelevant to the fulfillment of that purpose. In other words, the account in Acts does not purport to give a detailed history/full chronology of Paul’s movements.
- Therefore, based on Paul’s own account in Galatians 1:17, I think that this verse fits into the middle of Acts 9:19.

Acts 9 Timeline



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