

# THE SUFFERING OF PAUL THE APOSTLE

From A Chronological Perspective

... An Evidential Study

... With Today's Medical Application



# BIBLE QUOTATIONS (NASB) RE SUFFERING GENERALLY

Acts 9: 15, 6

But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles, and kings and the sons of Israel;

for I will show him how much he must **suffer** for My name’s sake.”

1 Corinthians 4: 11 ff

To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed and are roughly treated, and are homeless

... reviled ... persecuted ... slandered ...  
scum of the world, the dregs of all things....

2 Corinthians 11: ff

... imprisonments ... beaten many times without number ... five times thirty-nine lashes ... beaten with rods ... stoned ... shipwrecked ... cold and exposure ....

| OCCASION                      | CAMPBELL | GILBERT  | HENSHAW  | KÜMMEL                  | RAMSEY   |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------------|----------|
| PAUL'S<br>CONVERSION          | 33       | 32       | 32       | 31 OR 32                | 32       |
| 1 <sup>st</sup><br>JOURNEY    | 37       | 45 TO 47 | 47 TO 48 |                         | 46 TO 48 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup><br>JOURNEY    |          | 49 TO 51 | 49 TO 52 | 48 TO 51, 2             | 50 TO 53 |
| 1, 2 THESS<br>WRITTEN         |          |          | 50 TO 51 | 50;<br>50 OR 51         | 51 TO 53 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup><br>JOURNEY    |          | 52 TO 56 | 52 TO 56 | 51 or 52<br>To 55 or 56 | 53 TO 57 |
| 1 COR<br>WRITTEN              |          |          | 55 OR 56 |                         | 56       |
| 2 COR<br>WRITTEN              |          |          | 55 OR 56 |                         | 56       |
| JERUSALEM<br>VISIT,<br>ARREST |          | 56       | 56       | 55 OR 56                | 57       |

## SELECTED CHRONOLOGIES (A. D.)

# BIBLE QUOTATIONS (NASB) HEALTHY; FIRST JOURNEY (A)

Acts 9: 28 – 30

And he was with them [disciples] **moving about freely** in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord.

And he was **talking and arguing** with the Hellenist(s); but they were attempting to put him to death

But when the brethren learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and **sent him away to Tarsus.**

Acts 13: 9

But Saul, who was also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, **fixed his gaze upon him....**

Acts 14: 9

This man [at Lystra] was listening to Paul as he spoke, who, when he had **fixed his gaze upon him, and had seen that he had faith to be made well....**

# BIBLE QUOTATIONS (NASB) HEALTHY; SUFFERING FIRST JOURNEY (B)

Acts 14:12

And they began calling Barnabus, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes [Mercurius], because he was the **chief speaker**.

Acts 14: 19

But Jews came from Antioch [of Pisidia] and Iconium, and having won over the multitudes, **they stoned Paul** and dragged him out of the city [Lystra], supposing him to be dead.



# BIBLE QUOTATIONS (NASB) SECOND JOURNEY – SUFFERING; ATHENS

## Acts 16: 22 – 23

And the [Philippi] crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them [Paul and Silas], and proceeded to order them to be beaten with rods.

And when they had **inflicted many blows** upon them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely.

## Acts 17: 14 – 15

And then immediately the [Berea] brethren sent Paul out to go as far as the sea; and **Silas and Timothy remained there.**

Now those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens; and receiving **a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible**, they departed.

# BIBLE QUOTATIONS (NASB) SECOND JOURNEY EVIDENCE (A)

## Acts 17: 18

And also some of the [Athens] Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were conversing with him. And some were saying, “What would this **idle babbler** wish to say?” Others, “He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,” –because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.

## 1 Corinthians 2: 1 – 3

And when I came to you [Corinthian], brethren, I did not come with superiority of **speech** or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.

For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

And I was with you in **weakness and in fear and in much trembling.**

# BIBLE QUOTATIONS (NASB) SECOND JOURNEY EVIDENCE (B)

## 1 Thessalonians 3: 1 – 4; 7

Therefore when we could endure no longer, we thought it best to be left behind at Athens alone; and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith;

So that no man may be disturbed by **these afflictions; for you yourselves know we have been destined for this.**

...for this reason, brethren, in all our **distress and affliction** we were comforted about you through your faith....

## 2 Thessalonians 3: 17

I, Paul, write this **greeting with my own hand**, and this is a distinguishing mark in every letter: this is the way I write.



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## SELECTED CHRONOLOGIES (A. D.)

# APPLICATION OF MODERN MEDICINE

## Medical Evidence

### First Journey

Identified as Hermes (Greek god of communication, or thought)

Stoned ... Concussion?

### Second Journey

Beaten with rods within weeks prior to Athens arrival

Athens: 'asap' ...The concern was at Athens

Described as 'idle babbler' in Athens – A speaking contrast to Lystra / First Journey

Weakness, fear, much trembling ... descriptions

Thessalonians: affliction / distress

Agraphia (writing difficulty)

| OCCASION                      | CAMPBELL | GILBERT  | HENSHAW  | KÜMMEL                  | RAMSEY   |
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## SELECTED CHRONOLOGIES (A. D.)

# BIBLE QUOTATIONS (NASB) THIRD JOURNEY: MEDICAL EVIDENCE (A)

## 2 Corinthians 1: 8 – 10

For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our **affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life;**

Indeed **we had the sentence of death within ourselves** in order that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead;

... who delivered us from so great a peril of death....

## 2 Corinthians 7: 6 – 8

But God, who comforts the **depressed**, comforted us by the coming of Titus;

And not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted in you as he reported to us your longing, **your mourning, your zeal for me** so that I rejoiced even more.

## Acts 19: 22

And having sent into Macedonia two of **those who ministered to him**, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

# BIBLE QUOTATIONS (NASB) THIRD JOURNEY: EVIDENCE (B)

## 2 Corinthians 10: 10

For they say, “His letters are weighty and strong, but his **personal presence is unimpressive**, and **his speech contemptible.**”

## 2 Corinthians 11: 6

Even if **I am unskilled in speech**, yet I am not so in knowledge; in fact, in every way we have made this evident to you in all things.

# BIBLE QUOTATIONS (NASB) THIRD JOURNEY: EVIDENCE (C)

## 2 Corinthians 12: 9 – 10

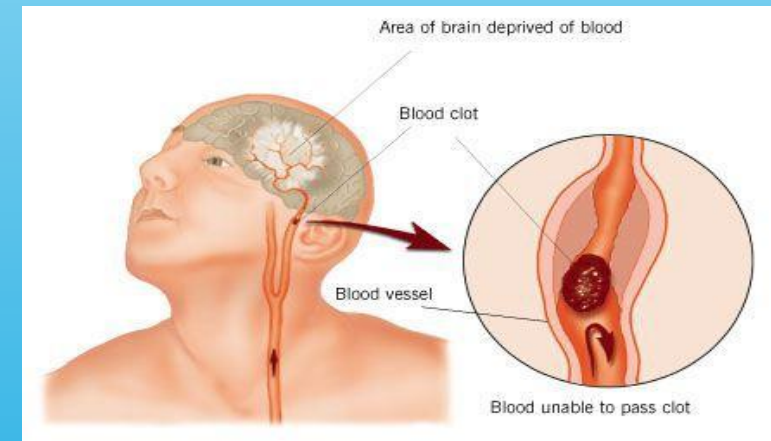
And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness,” that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

Therefore I am well content with **weaknesses**, with **insults**, with **distresses**, with **persecutions**, with **difficulties**, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

## Greek Translations, Meanings

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Weaknesses   | Infirmities, Sicknesses  |
| Insults      | Verbal insolence   |
| Distresses   | Difficulties to perform personal tasks such as eating, personal hygiene, getting dressed |
| Persecutions | Harmful threats or acts  |
| Difficulties | A metaphor for extreme afflictions or dire calamities                                    |

# MODERN MEDICAL APPLICATION SUMMARY



First Journey – ‘Hermes’

Stoned, left for dead

Second Journey – Beaten with rods, ‘Idle Babbler,’ Weakness, Fear, Much Trembling, Writing Difficulty (Agraphia), Speech difficulty (Dysarthria)

Third Journey – Affliction ‘came to us’ in Asia Despaired of life Depression (Left Brain) Not Mania – Right Brain: Phil. 3: 8 – 11 I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, ... and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, ... that I may know Him... being conformed to His death ... in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.) ~ 62 A. D. “Prison Epistle”

Contemptible Speech

Those who ministered to Paul

Weaknesses

Insults

Distresses Persecutions

Difficulties (Gr. – Dire Calamities)

**Ischemic Stroke** (Two, the second more severe, in Brocca region / left brain where speech is controlled)

# OBSERVATIONS

Contribution: Application of modern medicine to scripture – evidence-based

Extended stays in Corinth, Ephesus

Paul could see by faith the higher purpose of his life on earth (Ephesians 3: 20, 21)

Paul preferred to be regarded a steward of God's mysteries, a servant of Christ (1 Corinthians 4:1)

His adequacy was from God (2 Corinthians 3: 5, 6)

In Paul's afflicted body there was a manifestation of the life of Jesus (2 Corinthians 4:10 – 12)

Paul resorted to writing, even to those visited; we today have much of the New Testament



## QUESTIONS, COMMENTS ?



Audience question: Many people in Paul's day could not write; was he one of those?

Answer: True, many could not; for example, Rome had 300,000+ slaves in the city. It is doubtful they were learned, But, Paul was well-educated. He knew several languages and was known by authorities for his great wisdom (Acts 26: 24 – King Festus). More, Paul had his own parchments. The conclusion: Paul was literate.

| PAUL'S LIFE             | DATE (A. D.) | WRITING    | PAUL'S LIFE             | DATE (A. D.) | WRITING                          |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------|-------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| BIRTH                   | 1            |            | 3 <sup>rd</sup> JOURNEY | 54           |                                  |
| CONVERSION              | 31           |            | ARRIVE<br>EPHESUS       | 55           | 1 Cor;<br>Gal (56)               |
| SILENT<br>YEARS         | 34 – 44      |            | ARRIVE<br>GREECE        | 57           | 2 Cor; Romans;<br>1 Timothy      |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> JOURNEY | 46 – 48      |            | ARRIVE<br>JERUSALEM     | 58           |                                  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> JOURNEY | 50           |            | CAESAREA<br>CAPTIVITY   | 58 – 60      |                                  |
| ARRIVE<br>TROAS         | 50           |            | SEA VOYAGE<br>TO ROME   | 60           |                                  |
| ARRIVE<br>PHILIPPI      | 50           |            | ROME<br>CAPTIVITY       | 61 – 63      | Col; Philemon<br>Ephes; Phillip. |
| ARRIVE<br>THESSALONICA  | 50           |            | DEATH                   | 64           | Hebrews; Titus;<br>2 Timothy     |
| ARRIVE ATHENS           | 50           |            |                         |              |                                  |
| ARRIVE<br>CORINTH       | 51           | 1, 2 Thess |                         |              |                                  |
| ARRIVE<br>ANTIOCH       | 53           |            |                         |              |                                  |

TABULATION OF  
PAUL'S LIFE

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November, 2017