

Galatians

Grace, Faith, &
Freedom

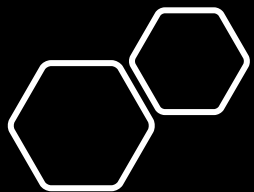
John A. Beck, Ph.D.
For Shepherd of the
Hills Lutheran Church
November 2020

Goals

- Enable independent reading and understanding of Galatians
 - By shining a spotlight on its primary subject—the gospel
 - By highlighting the thought structure within the letter
 - By providing Bible background insights
- Offer a forum for questions and concerns about the content of the letter

Content

- Session One: Introduction to the Letter and its Key Content
Galatians 1:1—9
- Session Two: Paul's Credibility and Gospel-Alone Integrity
Galatians 1:10—2:21
- Session Three: Old Testament Illustrations and Cultural Analogies
Galatians 3:1—4:31
- Session Four: Faith Brings the Freedom to Live in Love
Galatians 5:1—6:18



Class Sessions

Insights into Galatians

6:45

7:25

Questions, Comments, and Concerns

- Chat
- Live



Content Focus—the Gospel

- The gospel entails all the things God has DONE for us that assures our eternal life.

It is the forgiveness of sins acquired for us by Christ, given to us by grace, and received by faith that frees us from the curse of the law.

Problem that Motivated the Letter

- Jewish-Christian missionaries (Judaizers) from Jerusalem asserted Paul was wrong.
 - Paul: gospel-alone theology
 - Judaizers: gospel-plus theology

Problem that Motivated the Letter

“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.”

(Galatians 1:6-7 NIV)

The Vital Question

Are we saved by what God has done or are we saved when we do something in addition to what God has done?

A stylized graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a solid yellow circle (representing the sun or moon) partially obscured by a large black arc that sweeps across the top right. Above the yellow circle, several short, curved yellow dashes are arranged in an arc, suggesting rays of light or a celestial path.

Paul's Credibility and Gospel-Alone Integrity

Galatians 1:10—2:21


Issues Addressed

- Paul's gospel-alone theology lacked credibility because Paul's credentials were deficient.
- The gospel-alone theology lacks integrity because it promotes sin.



The Attack on Paul's Credentials

“Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.”
(Gal 1:10 NIV)






**Who is
authorized?**

The Attack on Paul's Credentials

- The Jewish-Christian missionaries saw Paul's credentials as deficient because he had not been taught or authorized to teach by the apostles in Jerusalem.





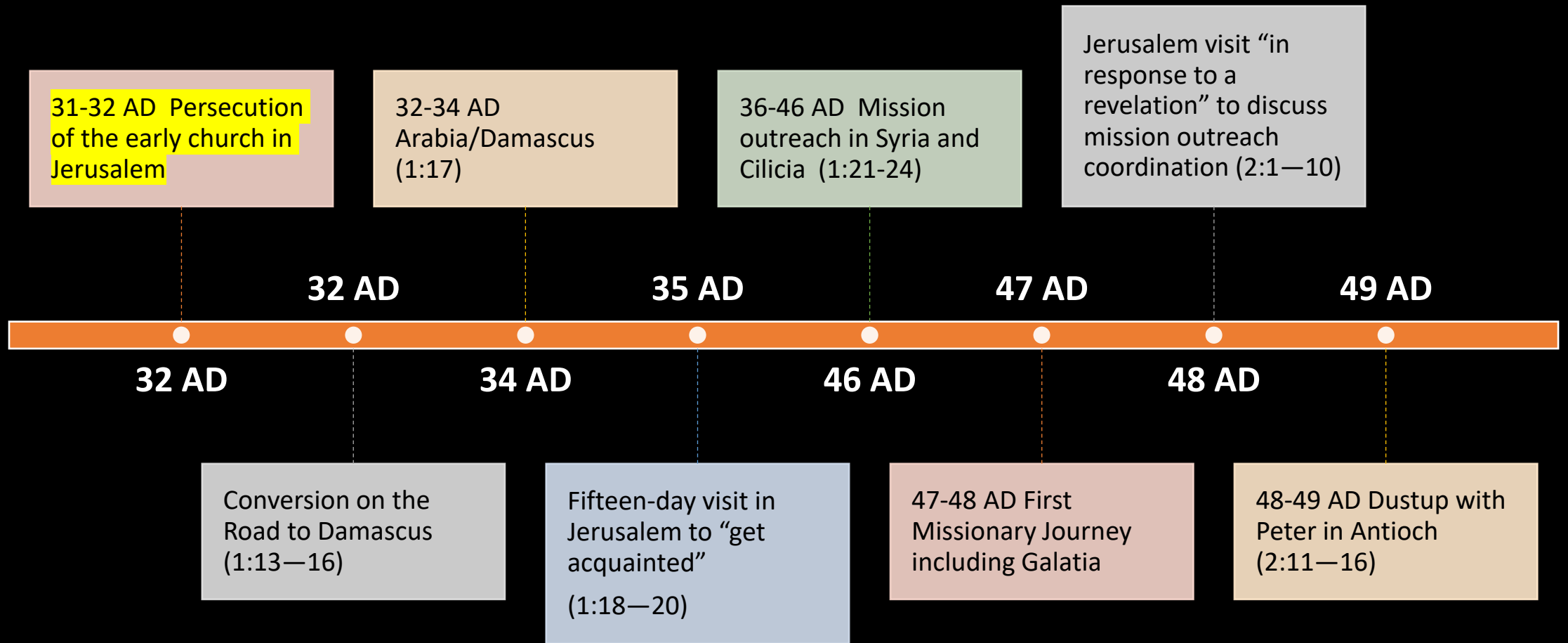
Authority Linked to Person not Place

“I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.”

(Gal 1:11—12 NIV)



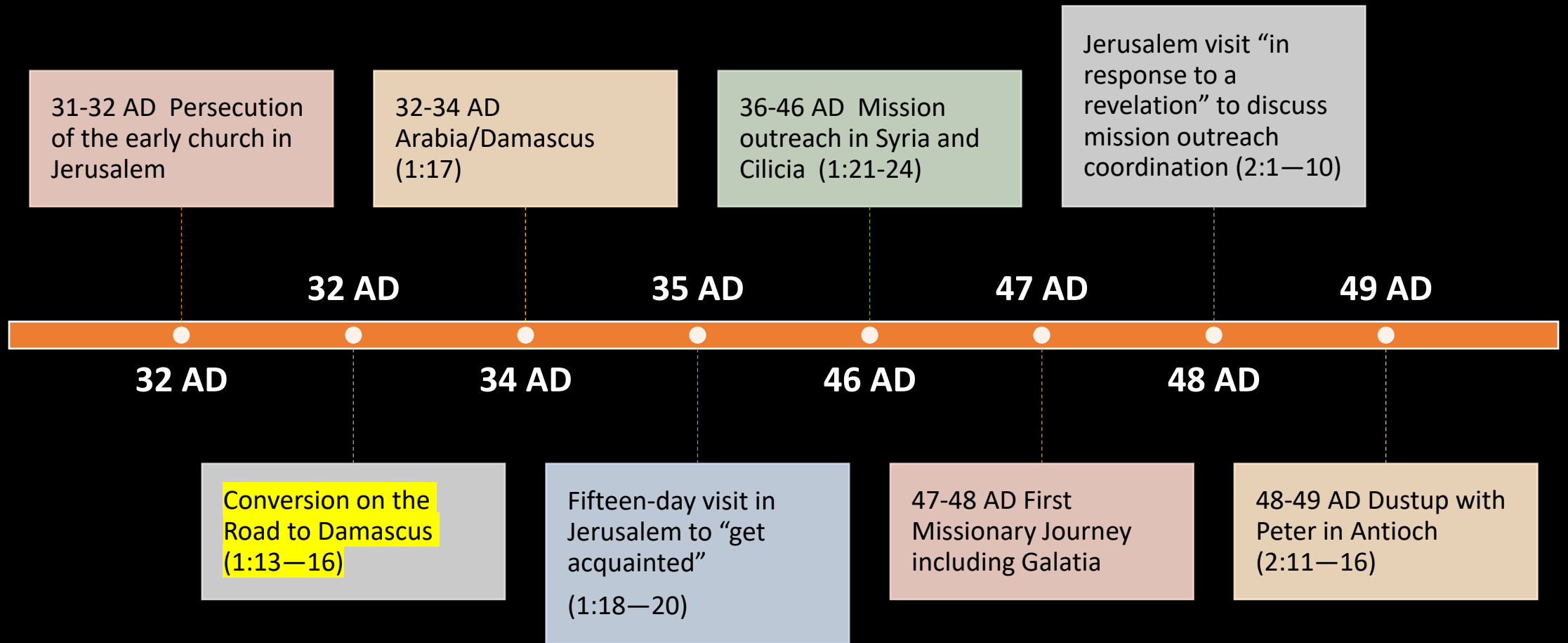
Paul's Timeline



Saul the Persecutor



Paul's Timeline





MEDITERRANEAN
SEA

Sidon
Tyre

Ptolemais

Caesarea Maritima
Antipatris
Ioppa

Gaza

Jerusalem

Studied under Gamaliel

Dead Sea

Damascus

Proclaimed Jesus to be the
Son of God (Acts 9:20-22)

Saul's conversion (Acts 9:3-9)

Capernaum

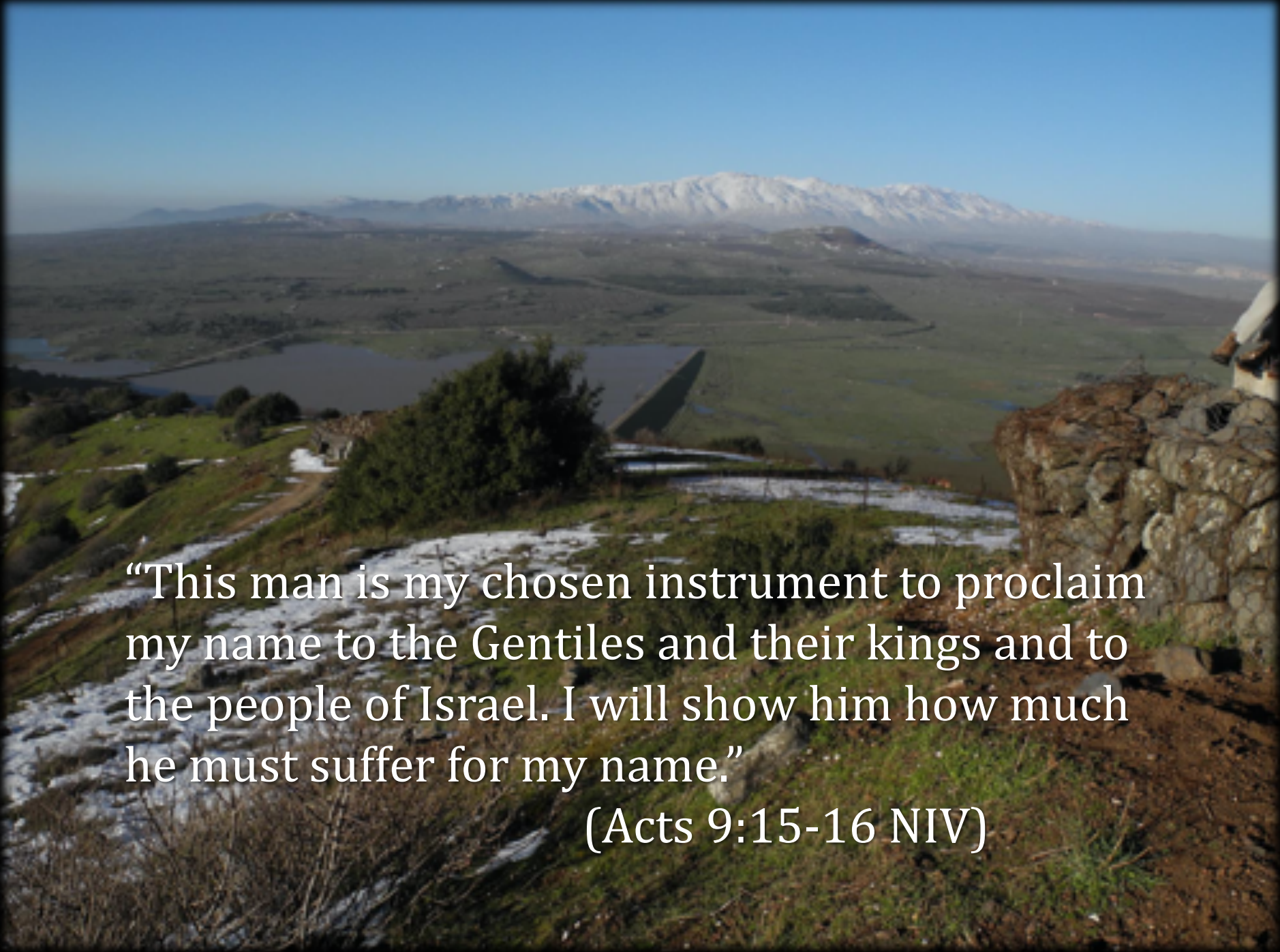
Scythopolis

Jordan R.

Sychar

ARABIAN
DESERT

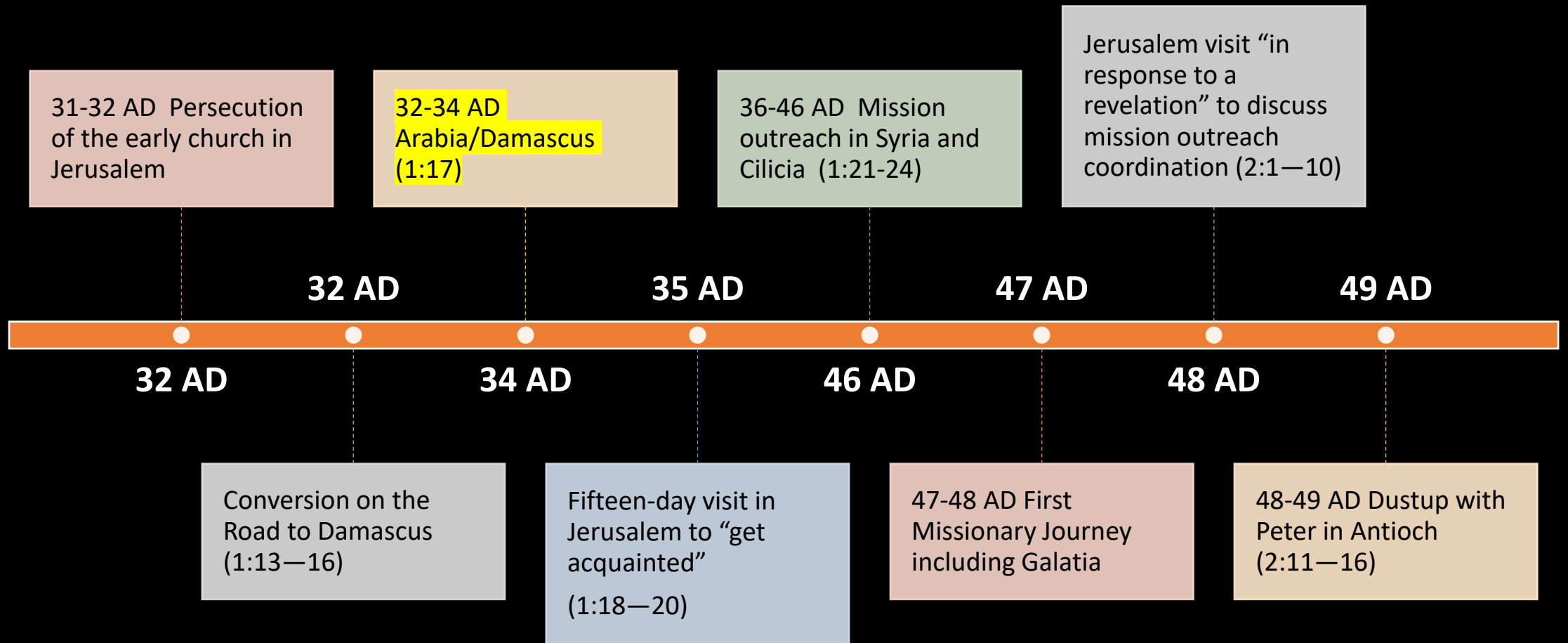
Wilderness experience
(Gal. 1:17)

A scenic landscape view from a high vantage point, showing a valley with a lake, snow-capped mountains in the distance, and a stone wall in the foreground.

“This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim
my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to
the people of Israel. I will show him how much
he must suffer for my name.”

(Acts 9:15-16 NIV)

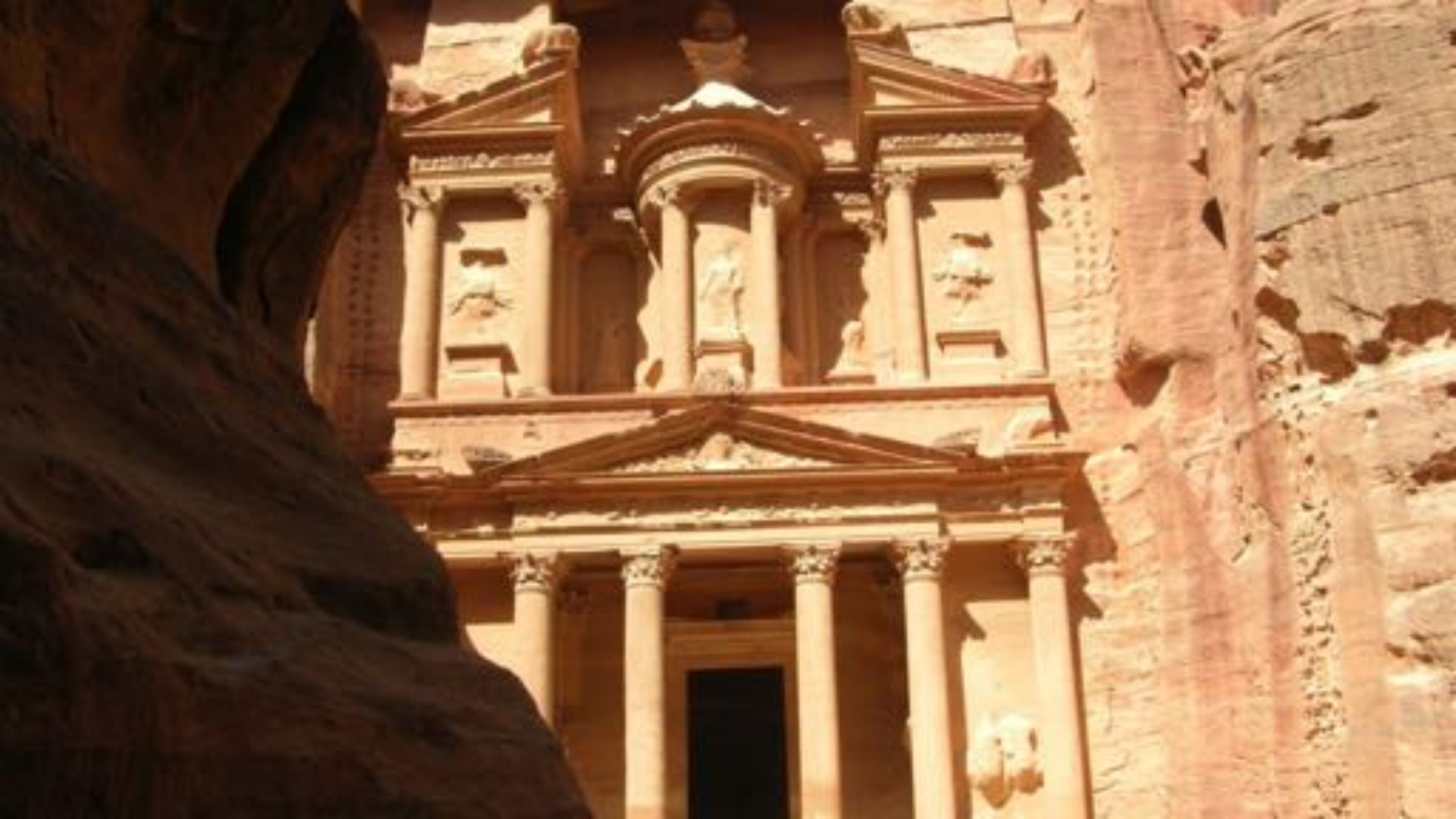
Paul's Timeline



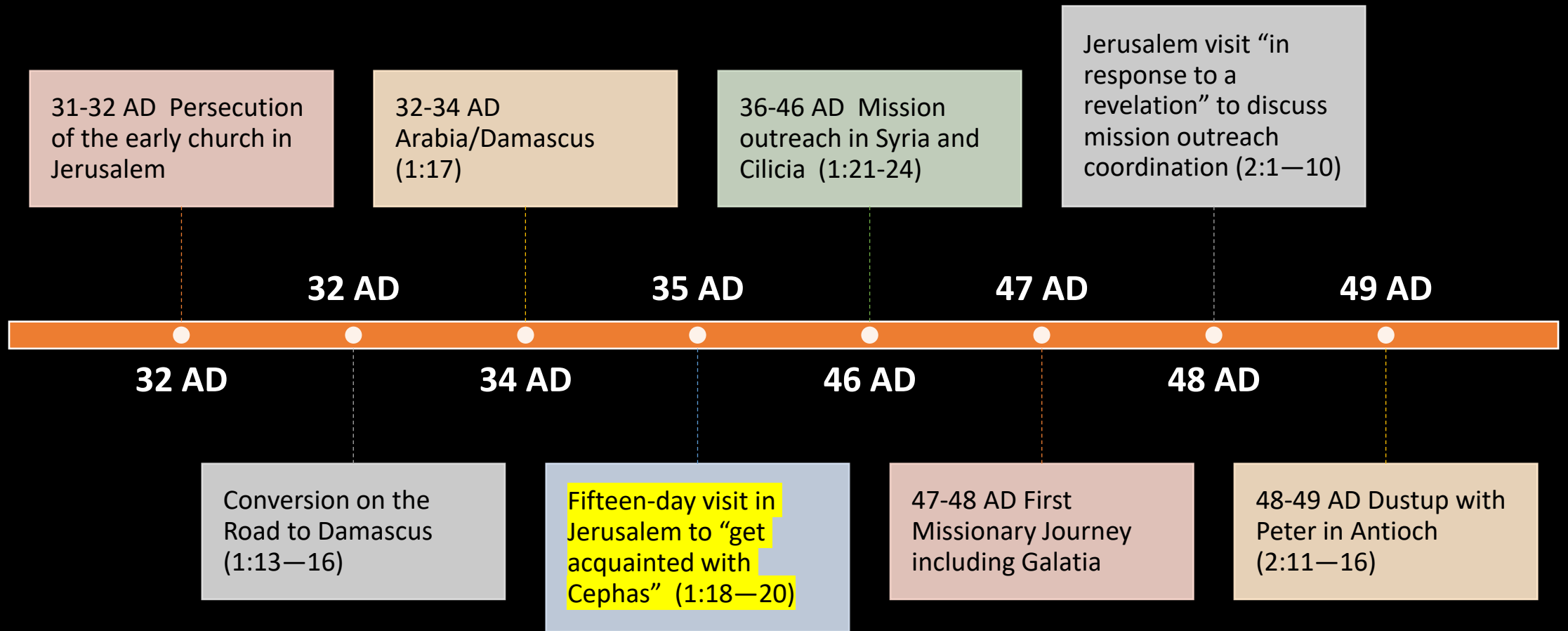
An aerial photograph of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, showing the large, flat, paved area and the surrounding stone walls. A large red prohibition symbol (a circle with a diagonal line) is overlaid on the image. The word "Jerusalem" is written in a bold, red, serif font across the center of the image, partially obscured by the red symbol.

Jerusalem

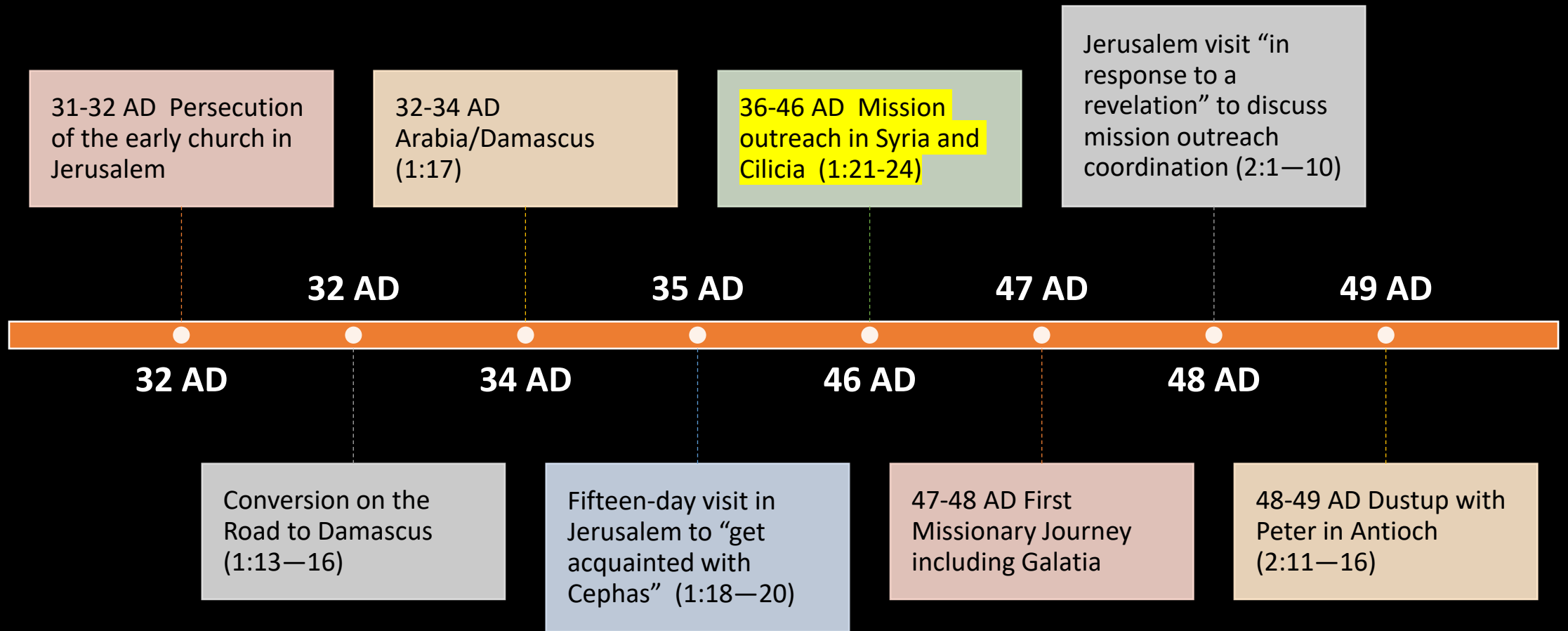




Paul's Timeline



Paul's Timeline



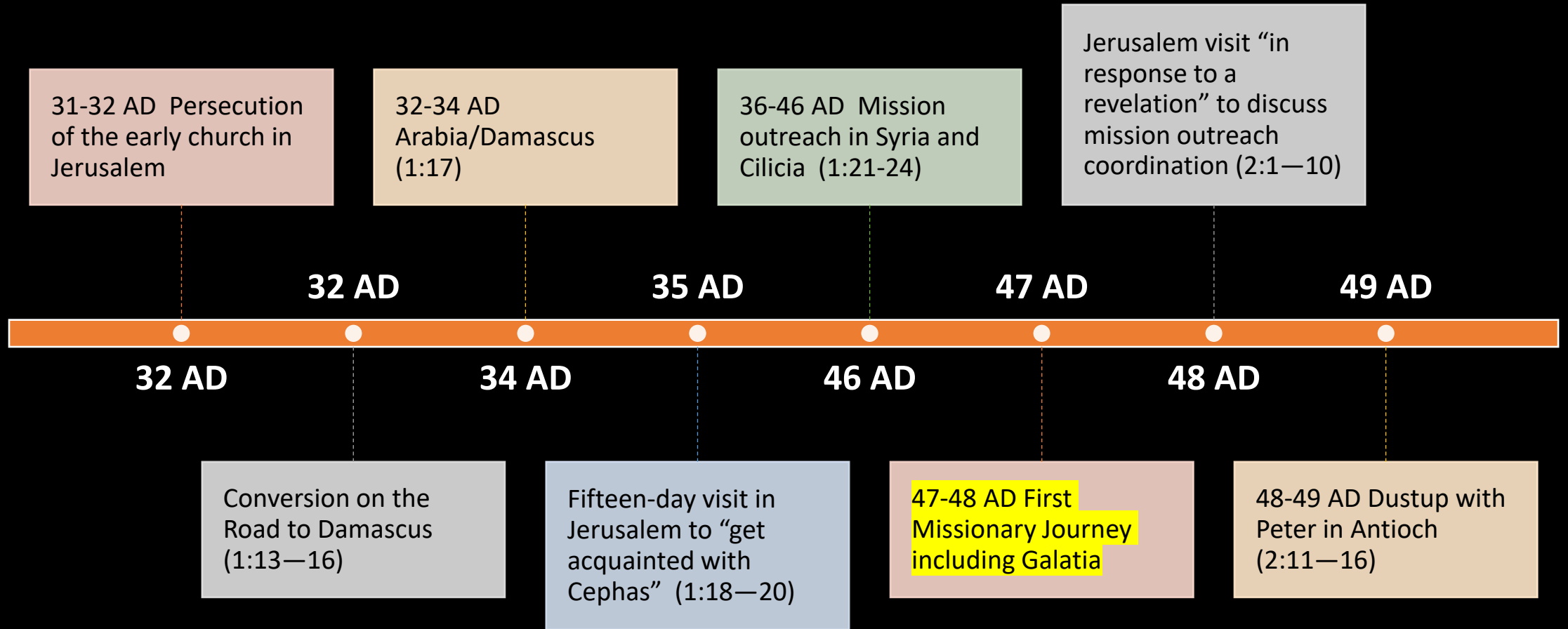
Cilicia

Syria





Paul's Timeline

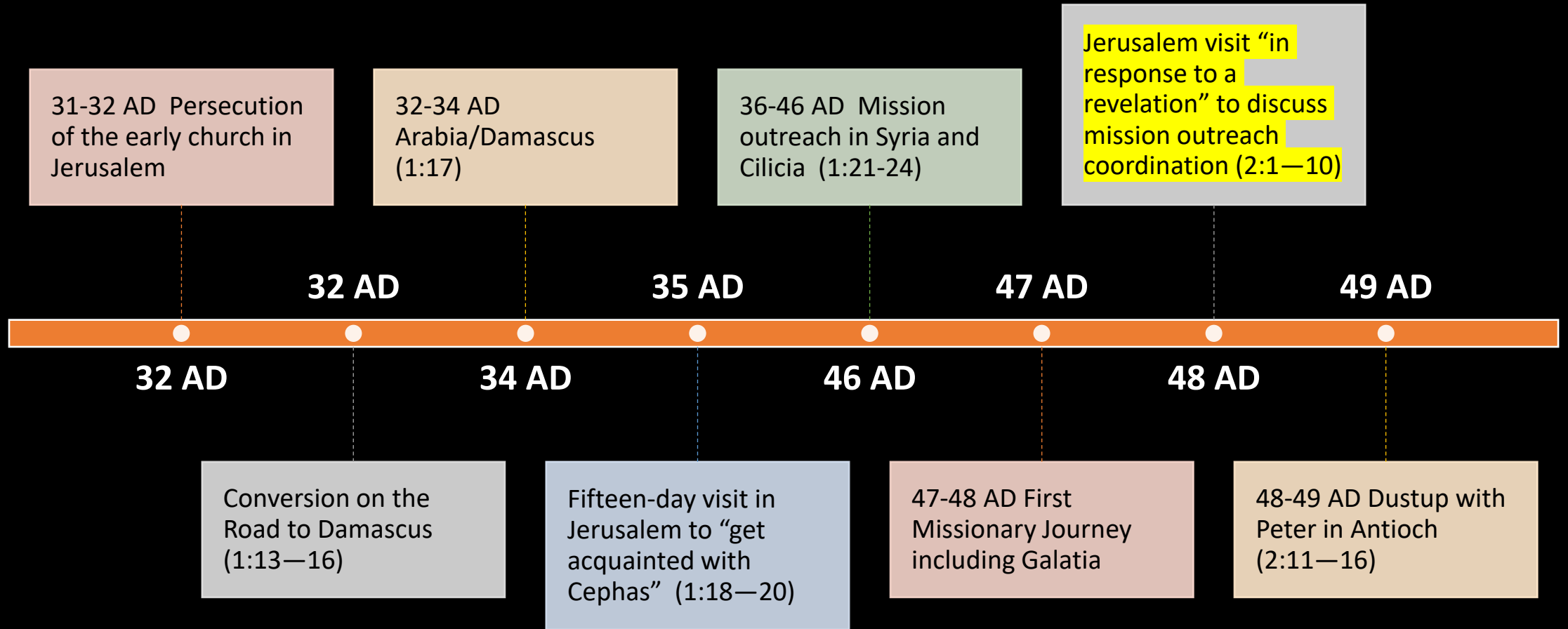


Galatia



Paul's First Missionary Journey

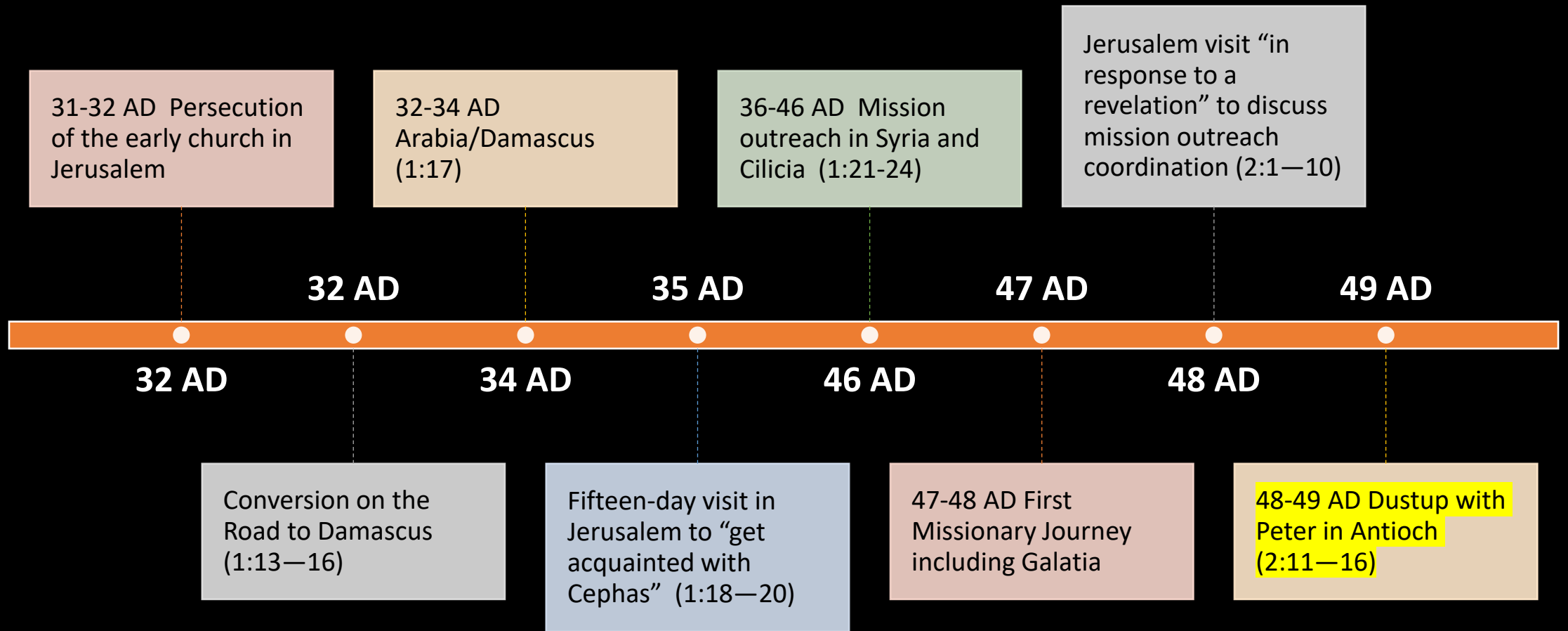
Paul's Timeline



Jerusalem 48 AD Visit

- In response to a revelation (2:6)
- Circumcision not required for Titus (2:3)
- Added nothing to Paul's message (2:6)
- James, Cephas (Peter), and John respected Paul's unique calling (2:9)
- Shared an outreach vision that was complimentary rather than competitive (2:9)

Paul's Timeline



Galatia



Paul's First Missionary Journey



Dustup with Peter in Antioch

- Prior to arrival of Jewish Christians from Jerusalem, Peter ate with Gentiles.
- After their arrival, he refused to eat with Gentiles suggesting “real” Christians kept the Jewish dietary laws.
- A gospel-plus problem

Gospel-Alone Manifesto

“We who are Jews by birth and not ‘sinful Gentiles’ know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.” (Gal 2:15-16 NIV)

Gospel-Alone Manifesto

“We who are Jews by birth and not ‘sinful Gentiles’ know that a person is not **justified** by the **works of the law**, but by **faith in Jesus Christ**. So we, too, have put our **faith in Christ Jesus** that we may be **justified** by **faith in Christ** and not by the **works of the law**, because by the **works of the law** no one will be **justified**.” (Gal 2:15-16 NIV)

The Attack on Paul's Credentials

- The gospel Paul preached came not from the apostles in Jerusalem but directly from the mouth of Jesus.
- Paul was not corrected by the Jerusalem church but encouraged by it.
- Paul corrected Peter. Peter did not correct Paul.

Issues Addressed


- Paul's gospel-alone theology lacked credibility because Paul's credentials were deficient.
- **The gospel-alone theology lacks integrity because it promotes sin.**



The Attack on Gospel Integrity

“But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we Jews find ourselves also among the sinners, doesn’t that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not!”

(Gal 2:17 NIV)



A diamond-shaped graphic with a grid pattern. In the center, the word "SIN" is written in large, bold, black letters. The background of the diamond is a lighter, textured brown color.

SIN

Mistaken Premise:

If we teach justification by grace rather than grace plus works, then people will live however they want; and they will want to live sinful lives.



Key Verses of Response

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”

(Gal 2:20 NIV)



Corrected Premise:

If we teach justification by grace rather than grace plus works, then people will live however they want; and they will want to live lives free from sin.

Life in the Spirit

Issues Addressed

- Paul's gospel-alone theology lacked credibility because Paul's credentials were deficient.
- The gospel-alone theology lacks integrity because it promotes sin.

A stylized graphic featuring a bright orange background. On the left, a solid yellow circle represents the sun, with several short, curved yellow lines above it suggesting rays. To the right of the sun is a large, dark blue semi-circle representing the moon. The title text is positioned within the dark blue area.

Paul's Credibility and Gospel-Alone Integrity

Questions, Commends, and Concerns