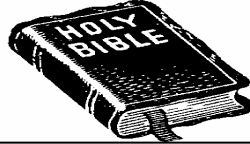


CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

1 A

THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



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THE APOSTLE PAUL - LESSON 1

- Early Life & Education** Paul was likely born about A.D. 1-3. Paul is *Roman* and Saul is *Jewish*. He was from the tribe of Benjamin and may have been named for the famous Old Testament King Saul, also a Benjamite (1 Sam 9; Esth 2:5). Paul was born in a Roman city and claimed Roman citizenship. Scholars tell us that a Roman citizen would usually have *three* names similar to our first, middle, and last names. The NT records only the name Paul which would have been the middle or last name, since the first name was usually indicated only by the initial. (Acts 22:3) *"I am verily a man which am a _____, born in _____, a city in _____, yet brought up in this city at the feet of _____, and taught according to the _____ of the law of the fathers, and was _____ toward God, as ye all are this day."*
- Gamaliel** Who was Gamaliel (Acts 5:34)? _____ What relationship had he sustained to Paul earlier (Acts 22:3)? _____ Did this give Paul impeccable credentials in both formalized education and in "law"? _____
- Paul's Earliest Years** Tarsus still exists in southern Turkey a few miles inland from the Mediterranean Sea. This was Paul's home. It was in what province (Acts 21:39)? _____ Religiously, how was Paul raised (Acts 26:5ff)? _____
- Paul's Hebrew Credentials** Paul was (Phil 3) _____ when he was 8 days old. Why (Lev 12:2-3)? _____ The biblical account of the division of the united kingdom can be found in (1 Kings 11:9-12:33; 2 Chron 10:1-11:4). Was this tribe originally in the divided kingdom of Judah or of Israel? _____ We recommend you study TPBS Lesson #71, The Tribes Of OT Israel. The Benjamites had the reputation of being strong men of war.
- Paul's Vigor & Application To Learning** Paul likely was sent to be taught by Gamaliel when he was 13-18 years old. Was he an energetic student (Gal 1:14)? _____ This was because he was *"more exceedingly _____ of the traditions of my _____."* Is there any reason to doubt his sincerity? _____ Was this a trait that would always be a part of his character? _____
- As A Persecutor** Who wrote Acts? _____ What is the scene when we first find Paul (Saul) in (Acts 7:58)? _____ (Acts 8:1) *"And Saul was _____ unto his _____"* and *"at that time there was a _____ against the _____."* (V3) *"As for Saul, he made _____ of the church, entering into every _____, and haling men and _____ committed them to prison."*
- His Conversion** Three accounts, told to a different audience on separate occasions, tell of Paul's experience on the Damascus road and his subsequent conversion: (Acts 9:3-19; 22:6-21; 26:13-23) Account #1 (Acts 9) is narrated by _____. Account #2 (Acts 22) is told *where?* _____ Account #3 (Acts 26) is before _____. *Conversion* means change.