

THE BOOK OF GALATIANS - INTRODUCTION



Paul: Apostle to Gentiles

IMPORTANCE

This short letter is the most consequential writing in the history of Europe since Rome. The replacement of paganism by Christianity was a tectonic shift that defined faith, culture, and polity in Europe for a millennium and a half. This was made possible by Paul's preaching of the Gospel to the Gentiles.

Paul broadcast a message to the Greek speaking world how the coming of the Messiah changed everything: salvation was available for the asking and Greek competitiveness, lasciviousness, and slaver mentality was exchangeable for a communal ethos that upheld godly virtue and the dignity of all persons.

It is not farfetched to suggest the concept of universal human rights can be traced to this book. Europe's world leadership in banning slavery and adopting constitutions that balance the interests of all members of society owes a debt to Paul and ultimately to Jesus Christ. Paul's declaration "**It is for freedom that Christ has set us free**" (Gal. 5 v 1) ought to be inscribed over the entrance of every parliament in Europe.

MESSAGE FOR CHRISTIANS

Paul wrote: "**I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain**" (Gal. 4 v 11). Christians can't lose their salvation but they can lose eternal rewards if they live contrary to the truth of the Gospel. Paul said "**If you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing**" (Gal. 5 v 2). His issue was not with cutting off the foreskin, per se, but with the formation of sects in the Body of Christ who separate themselves based on teaching with no origin in the plain words of Jesus. Christendom today is fragmented into a thousand such sects. The Body of Christ has been hacked to pieces by theologians with axes to grind. What is a saint to do? What did Paul do? "**When Peter came... I withstood him to his face...**" Because "**he was to be blamed... even Barnabus was carried away with their hypocrisy**" (Gal. 2 v 11, 13).

VERSE BY VERSE EXEGESIS

Using advanced analytics on our site further study reveals deep insights into Paul's Gospel (see page 9).



Stoning of Stephen

PAUL (SAUL)

Before he was Paul the Apostle, he was Saul of Tarsus. He was a member of the Sanhedrin, the highest religious ruling body in Jerusalem, and cast votes on the death penalty (Acts 26 v 10)¹.

He vigorously persecuted the followers of Jesus. He was present at the stoning of Stephen, a Greek who passionately testified the Jews killed their own Messiah. Saul consented to his death (Acts 8 v 1).

Following the martyrdom of Stephen Saul led a violent persecution of believers in Jerusalem.

On the road to Damascus Christ appeared to Saul in a blinding light. Saul realized he had rendered a wrong theological opinion in condemning Stephen. His life as leader of religious Jews was over.

Paul received his sight again by the laying on of hands by Ananias, a disciple in Damascus. The LORD told Ananias that Paul was “a chosen vessel of mine to bear my name before the Gentiles” (Acts 9 v 15).

These experiences taught Paul the pitfalls of forming religious councils to guide believers. His life as a Pharisee, which relied on the analysis of theological arguments to form opinions, was demolished.

Paul became committed to a new spiritual life that depended on the inner voice of the Holy Spirit. For a number of years Paul retreated from religious life among Jews and sojourned in Arabia to seek the Lord.

The only authority in divine matters Paul recognized was direct revelation of Jesus and the Holy Scripture. He was determined the Gentiles would hold on to the spiritual life and not get suckered into the religious life.

¹ It is unclear if he was in the meeting where the Sanhedrin voted to condemn Jesus. He might have been out of town. On the road to Damascus Saul recognized the voice of Jesus. He could have been in the presence of Jesus on other occasions. He was a young man. He may have been appointed to the Sanhedrin after Jesus died. We don't know.

Celts 3rd Century BC

THE GALATIANS

The Gauls (Galli above) were a Celtic group with a large footprint on continental Europe. A splinter group of Gauls (Galati above) migrated and settled in far off Anatolia during the period when Alexander's Empire was split into four successor kingdoms. The Galati are the Galatians Paul wrote to in his letter.

The origin of Gauls was the Hallstatt culture, 650 – 450 BC, located north of the Alps around modern Bavaria. They were an advanced society able to operate deep salt mines, smelt ores, smith swords, and build chariots. They were a warrior culture which built hill forts. Burials reveal chieftains possessed silver, gold, and jewelry.

From their heartland the Gauls expanded West during the La Tene culture period, 450 – 1 BC. It appears expansion followed the rivers along which trade flowed: along the Marne to modern Paris then along the Seine to the sea; South along the Rhone to modern Marseilles.

By 400 BC Gauls had settled in Northern Italy along the Po River. Under Brennus the Gauls sacked Rome around 387 BC. Our knowledge of Gaul lifestyle is informed by the accounts of Roman writers.

The Romans describe the Gauls as fierce warriors who eschewed diplomacy. They wore trousers. They were physically strong. They drank and feasted excessively. They lived in walled towns called oppida.

Druids served as wise men. The word means 'oak-knower'. They practiced healing arts, divination, sacrifice, and notary. Knowledge consisted of verses transmitted in secrecy by word of mouth. They had the power to banish men. They administered the death penalty by drowning, hanging, or burning. Druids taught 'the gods must be worshipped, no evil done, and manly behavior maintained' (Leurtius).

Gauls mostly worshipped local gods found in each region. Over 400 different names of gods are recorded. Many gods were venerated in only one shrine. Male and female pairs were common. A mother goddess was widespread. Gauls had gods similar to Mercury and Jupiter. Caesar wrote Mercury was the most popular.



Jerusalem Council

DATING KEY EVENTS

We propose Paul wrote his letter to the Galatians soon after the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15):

- 30 AD Cross of Christ (Isaiah 1 v 30) “**You will be like a garden... without water**”
- 33 AD Stephen martyred (Isaiah 2 v 2) “**the mountain of the LORD’s temple... will be raised...**”
- 36 AD Saul is converted (Isaiah 2 v 5) “**Come, O house of Jacob... walk in the light of the LORD**”
- 37 AD Paul in Arabia (Isaiah 2 v 7) “**You have abandoned your people**” (Year 1)
- 38 AD Paul in Arabia (Isaiah 2 v 8) “**Their land is full of horses**” (Year 2)
- 39 AD Paul in Arabia (Isaiah 2 v 9) “**Their land is full of idols**” (Year 3)
- 40 AD Paul has a short visit with Peter (Gal. 1 v 18) Paul in Syria and Cilicia (Gal. 1 v 21)
- 40 AD Paul and Barnabus [P&B] in Antioch (Acts 11 v 25)
- 41 AD P&B take gift to distribute to brothers in Judea (Acts 11 v 30) [a personal penance]
- 44 AD P&B return to Antioch with John Mark (Acts 12 v 25)
- 44 AD Prophets and teachers in Antioch (Isaiah 2 v 13) “**all the cedars in Lebanon, tall and lofty**”
- 45 AD P&B 1st missionary journey: Cyprus
- 46 AD P&B: Perga, Psidian Antioch: meet resistance (Acts 13 v 46) “**we now turn to the Gentiles**”
- 47 AD P&B: Iconium: spend considerable time, Jews plot to mistreat and stone them
- **48 AD** P&B: Lystra: (Acts 14 v 11) crowd shouts “**the gods have come down to us in human form**”
- **48 AD** P&B: Derbe: (Acts 14 v 21) preached Gospel won a large number of disciples (Isaiah 2 v 17)
- 49 AD P&B: Psidia, Pamphylia, Perga: (Acts 14 v 24) ministering on return trip to Antioch
- 50 AD P&B: Antioch: (Acts 14 v 26-28) back for a long time; (Acts 15 v 1-2) dispute with circumcisers
- 51 AD P&B: Jerusalem: (Acts 15) Council debates circumcision; Apostle’s letter to Gentile believers

First contact with Galatians appears to be at Lystra in 48 AD where the local people spoke ‘**the Lycaonian language**’. The locals spoke a non-Greek language as we would expect Galatians to do.

Aware the Apostle’s letter to the Gentiles did not address the important issue of circumcision directly we propose Paul wrote his letter to the Galatians, churches in the vicinity of Lystra and Derbe, as early as 51 AD. The letter addressed his ministry, relation to the Apostles, and the doctrine of salvation by faith alone.



Jacob's Blessing

SCRIPTURE LINK

Galatians is the 48th book in the Bible. The spiritual number 48 means 'Father's Blessing'. The 48th chapter of the Bible is Genesis 48 where Jacob blesses Ephraim and Manasseh, the sons of Joseph.

Jacob said "**Bless the lads; Let my name be named upon them... and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the Earth**" (Gen. 48 v 16)

Jacob also said "**He [Manasseh] shall become a people and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother [Ephraim] shall be greater, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations.**" (Gen. 48 v 19)

Ephraim and Manasseh were among the lost tribes of Israel who were swept away by the Assyrians and never returned. The LORD said concerning Paul that he "**is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear my Name before Gentiles, kings and the children of Israel**" (Acts 9 v 15). Who were the 'children of Israel' if the original Israelites were deported by Assyria and vanished centuries ago? The 'children of Israel' were Ephraim and Manasseh because Jacob [Israel] blessed them and said 'Let my name be named upon them'.

As the Gospel spread into Europe, Christian nations appeared. Europe became the 'Israel of God' (the Jews had no nation and lost their typology as Judah). Each of the sons of Jacob [Israel] is a type of a Christian nation. During the Middle Ages, Manasseh is type of England and Ephraim is a type of France. After the French Revolution France cut off its Christian heritage and Ephraim became a type of the United States. The US is a Union of many states: a 'multitude of nations'. (See: [Map of Tribes in the Desert](#)).

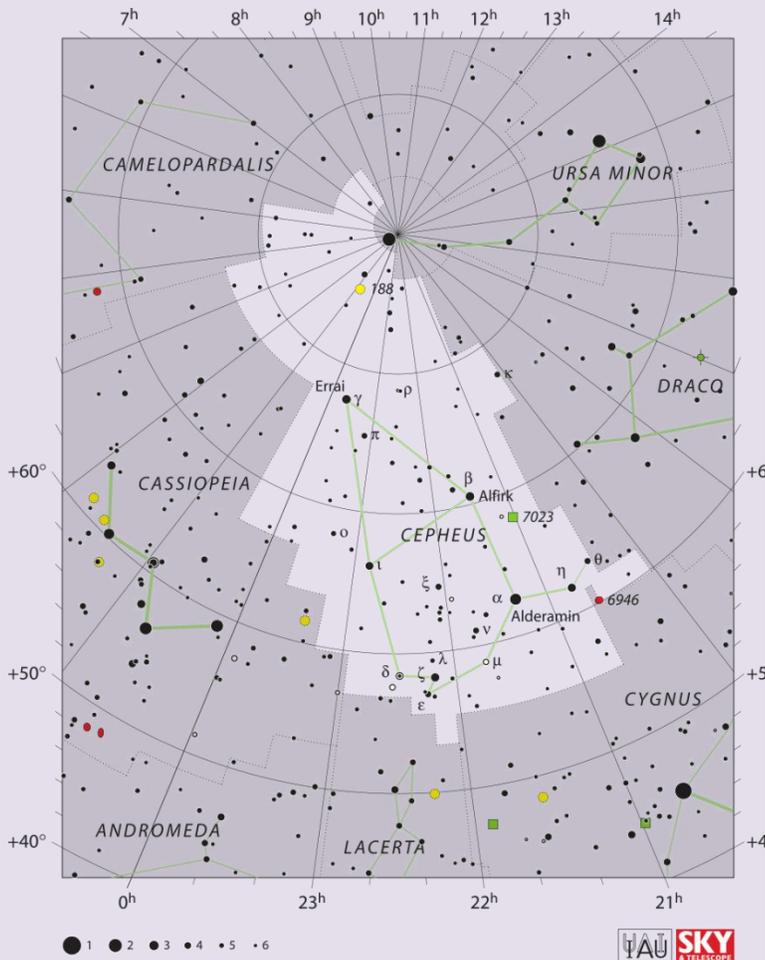
The letter of Galatians is addressed to '**the churches [called out ones] of Galatia**' [Gal. 1 v 2]. Galatia was home to Gauls. Gauls were the predominant Gentile people group of Europe! Gauls were found in France, Germany, Austria, Italy, England, and Spain. The wider group of Celts reached Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

Paul is not writing his letter only to believers in Anatolia that accepted Jesus in 48 AD. Paul is writing his letter to all the saints in Europe and the Americas who would accept Jesus.

Joseph is a type of the Catholic Papacy. (See: [I Am Joseph](#)). Reuben is a type of the Holy Roman Empire; Simeon of the Crusader kings. Jacob said "**Ephraim and Manasseh... are mine as Reuben and Simeon**" (Gen. 48 v 5). The HRE was a polity of many smaller states. Normans established colonies overseas.

48th STAR SIGN: CEPHEUS

Since Galatians is the 48th book of the Bible it links to the 48th constellation: Cepheus. Cepheus is pictured as a glorious King seated on his throne. Beside him is the exalted woman Cassiopeia. Paul interprets the scene in Galatians 4 where he speaks of the “**Jerusalem that is above... that is mother of us all**” (Gal. 4 v 26). The book of Hebrews clarifies it: “**when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high**” (Heb. 1 v 3). And the book of Ephesians adds: “**But God who is rich in mercy... made us alive together with Christ... and raised us up together and made us sit in the Heavenly places in Christ Jesus.**” (Eph. 2 v -6)



Cepheus is the highest constellation in the stars besides only **Ursa Minor [UM]**, which symbolizes the Law of Moses. No throne in UM, only a Judge’s Gavel, which renders a verdict: “**The Law says... all the world (is) guilty before God**”. (Rom. 3 v 19)

Hebrews says: “**Man is appointed to die once but after this to face the judgment**” (Heb. 9 v 27). Christ stood before the Sanhedrin and received condemnation on our behalf then He paid for our sin by His sinless sacrifice on the Cross.

Christians who put their faith in Christ no longer await a trial for our sins. We have been transferred from standing before the Judge of our Souls (the northern most point in the Heavens is a type of Father God) to being seated with Christ.

Cepheus sits at declination 60. Number 60 means “King”. It is centered at longitude 22h. Number 22 means “Light”. Christ is the “**Light of Men**” (John 1 v 9)

Cassiopeia is the free woman, “**the Jerusalem that is above**” (Gal. 4 v 26). She is Sarah and all the Old Testament believers who trusted God for a Messiah to save us from our sins and rescue us from the curse Adam received in the Garden.

Preachers who teach keeping the Law or circumcision are “**accursed**” (Gal. 1 v 9). Galatians who fall into legalism are the children of Hagar, the slave woman. They have no part in Christ’s inheritance: “**The son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the free woman**” (Gal. 4 v 30). They don’t sit with Christ: “**You have become estranged from Christ... you have fallen from grace**” (G 5 v 4). Legalism is heresy.

HISTORICAL LINK

Galatians 1 is the 1092nd book in the Bible. We know the order of the books of the Bible has prophetic fulfilment in the years AD. Genesis 1 is 1 AD, Genesis 2 is 2 AD, etc.

Galatians has 6 chapters therefore spans the period in history: 1092 AD -1097 AD. What happened?

Islam had expanded rapidly and occupied many lands with Christian believers (established churches):

- 622-632 AD – Arabia, Yemen, Aden
- 632-661 AD – Rashidun Caliphate: Levant, Babylon, Persia, Egypt, Libya
- 661-750 AD – Umayyad Caliphate: North Africa, Spain, Afghanistan, Pakistan
- 750-1258 AD – Abbasid Caliphate: emphasis on commerce and culture
- 934-1062 AD – Buyid Empire: Persia, Mesopotamia
- 985-1308 AD – Seljuk Empire: Anatolia, Levant, Mesopotamia, Persia, Central Asia

Islam was in longstanding conflict with Christian Europe:

- 711 AD – Umayyad invasion of Spain – Emirate of Cordoba (756 AD) established
- 732 AD – Umayyad invasion of Gaul – suffers defeat at the battle of Tours
- 902 AD – Islamic conquest of Balearic Islands (off coast of Spain)
- 1090 AD – Grand Count Roger conquers the Emirate of Sicily in a 30 year campaign

With its origins in Arabia, Islam retained the sign of circumcision for the physical descendants of Abraham as a central tenet of the religion. Nations who waged war against Islam and saw their citizens enslaved.

Galatians features a conflict between Christians and a Circumcision sect! Paul taught grace by faith for Gentile converts and the Circumcision sect taught Gentile converts must be circumcised.

Paul was insistent with white hot intensity: **“If anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed!”** (Gal 1 v 9). Paul considered circumcision of Gentile believers to be religious enslavement: heresy to the gospel and the enemy of the true faith.

From 1092 AD to 1097 AD the intensity of the Christian struggle with Islam rose to the boiling point:

- 1095 AD Pope Urban II received an ambassador from the Byzantine Empire seeking aid. The expansionist Seljuk Empire had taken over most of Anatolia, formerly Christian lands
- 27 Nov 1095 AD Pope Urban calls for a Crusade against Islam. The audience cries: ‘God wills it!’
- Pope Urban II promises remission of sins to all those undertaking to liberate the Eastern churches

Even though Pope Urban’s theology was horribly wrong and mangled, the essential issue of the conflict of Christianity and the sect of Circumcision (in whatever form it might take) was at the forefront.

ANALYTICS

Gematria is the [numerical value of Greek and Hebrew letters](#). Using [Bible Numbers](#) we can [connect the numerical value of verses to Bible chapters](#) and to a unique meaning for each number.

The truth of God is revealed in the stars. Each Bible book maps to one of the 50 constellations in the Heavens. Each Bible chapter maps to a constellation. These topics are covered in depth on our site. See [STARS](#).

Tables:

BOOK IN BIBLE	48	FATHER'S BLESSING: INHERITANCE
HEAVENLY SIGN	48	CEPHEUS

BOOK	GEMATRIA			Number Meaning	Bible Chapter
	Total	Rotations	Remainder		
	Whole				
	1,268,614	1,066	1,140	HIGH PRIEST, KING OF PEACE, ETERNAL RULER OF ALL	Heb 7

Note: A whole rotation of chapters is 1189 (number of chapters in the Bible)

CHAPTERS

1	213,843	179	1,012	A BRANCH THAT DOES NOT BEAR FRUIT IS CUT OFF	Joh 15
2	225,292	189	571	ETERNAL THRONE	Psa 93
3	251,569	211	690	ROOT OF JESSE SHOOTS UP	Isa 11
4	228,189	191	1,090	BOASTER OF GOD HUMILIATED	2 Cor 12
5	180,076	151	537	PROWLING DOGS HUNT AT NIGHT	Psa 59
6	169,645	142	807	FATHER EATS THE CHILDREN	Eze 5

CHUNKS

v 1-3	690,704	580	1,084	YOKING WITH UNBELIEVERS: AGREEING WITH BELIAL	2 Cor 6
v 4-6	577,910	486	56	HARD HEART	Exo 6

Note: 1,268,614 = 2 [DIVISION] x 634307 [51663rd PRIME]. 51,663 = 51 x 1013.

Chapter	Count	Number Meaning	Sign		Heavenly Sign
			Link		
GAL 1	1092	CURSES ON HIM WHO TURNS THE GOSPEL INTO A LIE	42	Perseus	Mouth of Cave [Death] (Belligerent)
GAL 2	1093	GENTILES CIRCUMCIZED: CHRIST DIED FOR NOTHING	43	Eridanus	River of Fire (Destiny: Hell)
GAL 3	1094	OBSERVING THE LAW NULLIFIES THE CROSS OF CHRIST	44	Corvus	Boat in Storm (Betrayers/Murderers)
GAL 4	1095	SONS OF GOD FREE FROM LAW DRAWN BACK TO SLAVERY	45	Orion	Sacrificial Altar / Male Goat (Defender of the Faith)
GAL 5	1096	THE LAW PRODUCES SLAVES TO ENMITY AND LUST	46	Pegasus	Camel Carries Burden (Unclean Service Animal)
GAL 6	1097	BOAST IN THE FLESH	47	Centaur	Knight With Lance (Forced Submission)

Note: A rotation of Signs is 50. The Sign Link is the remainder after subtracting whole rotations.

EXEGESIS

The following papers examine Galatians verse by verse. The meaning of the written words of Scripture is magnified by links to other verses and Bible chapters which are derived from Gematria Analysis.

The Exegesis documents are posted on our page [99 BIBLE](#) (scroll down to 48th Book of Bible)

[Exegesis – Galatians 1](#)

[Exegesis – Galatians 2](#)

Exegesis – Galatians 3

Exegesis – Galatians 4

Exegesis – Galatians 5

Exegesis – Galatians 6

The Gematria Calculation documents are direct linked here:

[Gematria Calculation – Galatians 1](#)

[Gematria Calculation – Galatians 2](#)

[Gematria Calculation – Galatians 3](#)

[Gematria Calculation – Galatians 4](#)

[Gematria Calculation – Galatians 5](#)

Gematria Calculation – Galatians 6

(All papers are PDF documents – safe to download.)