

1 **The Age of the Apostles,
Part 2**

2 **The Ministry of Paul**

- Paul's background
 - Hellenistic Jew from the city of Tarsus in Asia Minor
 - Pharisee
 - Roman citizen
- Missionary travels
 - First journey: Cyprus, Asia Minor
 - Second and third journeys: Asia Minor, Macedonia, Greece
- Paul often witnessed to Jews in synagogues, but he focused on spreading the gospel among the Gentiles.
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- Paul's emphasis on salvation by grace through faith was influential in leading the church to exempt Gentiles from following the Law.
- Paul wrote several epistles (letters) to the churches he founded and to individuals he discipled; these epistles became part of the New Testament.
- Paul's death
 - After his third journey, Paul was arrested by Jewish officials in Jerusalem.
 - He requested a trial in Rome, and was probably martyred there during Nero's persecution about AD 64.

4 **Reasons For the Growth of the Church**

- Jews were distributed throughout the Roman Empire, spreading knowledge of the true God.
- Many Gentiles—"God-fearers"—were attracted to Judaism.
 - Many were skeptical about the pagan gods.
 - Many were disgusted by the moral corruption of the Empire.

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- Increasingly popular mystery religions made concepts such as resurrection and a struggle between good and evil familiar to many in the empire.
- The power of the Holy Spirit was at work.

6 **Geographical Growth from Jerusalem**

- North to Syria and Asia Minor
- North and west to Greece, Italy, and Gaul (France), and later to Spain and Britain
- South and west to Egypt, and North Africa
- East to India
- The entire Empire was evangelized by the end of the AD 200s.

- The church was strongest in the East and in urban areas.