

Paul the Apostle to the Gentiles... Jews

Paul was commissioned to take the Gospel to the Gentiles (Ac.9:15; Ep.3:1-12), but we find him starting his ministry among the Jews (Ac.13:14; 14:1; 17:1; 18:4; 18:19; 19:8). Read also Romans 9:1-3; 10:1. Also there is the Biblical principle of going to the Jew first (Ro.1:16). That the Gospel was to go to the Gentiles is first revealed to Peter, but the task was given to Paul.

Paul did not live to see the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Some say Paul alluded to the coming destruction in 1Th.2:16. "Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost." Paul's zeal to win the Jews is obvious. If God's wrath and/or judgment is upon them, why does Paul continue to go to them, usually first, upon entering a city?

TO THE JEWS

- "But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down." (Ac.13:14) — **Antioch**
- "And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed." (Ac.14:1) — **Iconium**
- "Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews." (Ac.17:1) — **Thesalonica**
- "And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks." (Ac.18:4) — **Corinth**
- "And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews." (Ac.18:19) — **Ephesus**
- "And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God." (Ac.19:8) — **Upper coasts near Ephesus**

When Paul preached in the synagogue he would read a portion of the Old Testament Scripture and explain the meaning with reference to Jesus Christ as the Messiah.



Paul preached to the Jews using the Old Testament Scriptures

TO THE GENTILES

- ... ¹⁵"And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:
¹⁶Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways.
¹⁷Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness. ..."
(Ac.14:8-18) — **Lystra**
- ... ²⁴"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;
²⁵Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;
...
²⁸For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.
²⁹Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device..."
(Ac.17:16-34) — **Athens**

When Paul preached to Gentiles, he began with the God of creation, because they could relate to it. They had little or no knowledge of the Old Testament.



Paul preached to the Gentiles using Creation