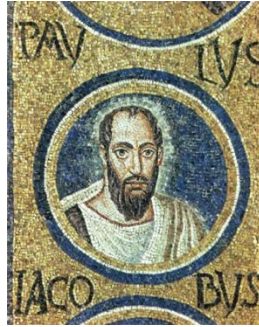


FMZBC



In the footsteps of Paul

Start:

The Book of Acts places Saul at the stoning of Stephen, a member of the Jesus movement. Stoning was used as a form of capital punishment in Ancient times.

Acts 7:55-60

55But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. **56**"Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

57At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, **58**dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." **60**Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 8:1

1And Saul was there, giving approval to his death.

After leading purges to drive the Jesus movement out of Jerusalem, Saul decided that he wanted to prevent the movement from spreading in other cities. He set out from Jerusalem to extend his persecutions to the city of Damascus. But somewhere along the way he had an epiphany: a vision of Jesus. It was a life change moment and it would be a pivot point in the history of the Jesus movement.

Acts 9:1-19

Saul's Conversion

¹Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

⁵"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

⁷The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

¹⁰In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

¹¹The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹²In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

¹³"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. ¹⁴And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

15But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. **16**I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

17Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."
18Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, **19**and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul now nurtured the conviction that he had a special mission, that he had been chosen by Jesus, not for his own salvation, but in order to spread the word of Jesus.

Paul met another believer named Barnabas and together they began to proselytize in city of Antioch, the capital of Syria. It was there that the term Christian was first used.

Acts 11:25-26

25Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, **26**and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

Paul and Barnabas reached out to other cities. The beginning of their first mission took them on a boat to the Island of Cyprus along the coast of Turkey to a town called Salamis.

Acts 13:4-5

On Cyprus

4The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. **5**When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.

City of Salamis Ruins



Salamis Ruins

photo by: [Ersin Taser](#)

Salamis was the most important ancient city in Cyprus, and the ruins are still impressive today.

Early History of Salamis

Legend tells how Salamis was originally founded by a hero from the Trojan War, Teucer, son of the King of Salamis. The city flourished, and was soon minting its own coinage. The citizens of Salamis resisted the Persian invasion during the fifth century BC, and helped Alexander the Great. However, the last king of Salamis committed suicide and burned his palace to the ground rather than submit to the Egyptian king Ptolemy I in 295BC.

The Roman Remains of Salamis

The remains we see today at Salamis are from the Roman period, when Salamis was the main commercial centre of Cyprus. Salamis was a base for early Christianity, as the Apostle Barnabus lived and died in the city. In 116AD the Jews in Salamis revolted, and as a result all Jews were expelled from Cyprus.

When the Byzantines took over Cyprus, Salamis became the capital of the island, but the combined disasters of earthquakes and tidal waves in the fourth century, Arab raids in the seventh century and the gradual loss of the harbour due to silt from the river meant that nearby [Famagusta](#) grew in prominence. Salamis fell into decline, with medieval builders raiding the site for building stone.

The remains at Salamis in North Cyprus today



Salamis Ruins From Air

photo by: [TRNC Ministry of Tourism](#)

The site of ancient Salamis was first excavated in 1882, but after the main excavations stopped in 1974, much of the site still remains to be uncovered from the sand dunes that have spread across the deserted city.

Salamis in North Cyprus: the Gymnasium

The gymnasium complex was a school and modern-style wellbeing centre rolled into one. It is marked by elegant porticoes, which still have their Byzantine mosaic pavements but the marble statues have all lost their heads. The western colonnade was reassembled in the 1950s after earthquake damage, but the mismatch of columns dates from the Byzantine period. The Byzantines didn't care much if columns matched or not, so they just raided spare ones as replacements from elsewhere in Salamis! Behind the gymnasium are the latrines, accommodating up to 44 in one sitting!

Salamis in North Cyprus: the Roman baths



Salamis Ruins From Air
photo by: [TAK News Agency](#)

The original Roman baths were remodeled by the Byzantines, but you can still see the plunge pools of the caldarium, or cold room. Only rediscovered in 1926, the original hot room was at the east end of the hall. Underneath its restored pool you can see some mosaics with floral and geometric designs. The south hall of the baths has the best mosaics, one featuring the legend of Leda and the swan, and another depicting a hunting scene, possibly with Apollo at the centre. These are late mosaics dating from the early fourth century, just before Christianity became adopted officially by the Roman authorities.

Salamis in North Cyprus: the amphitheatre



Salamis Theatre
photo by: [Kenan Erden](#)

The amphitheatre at Salamis originally held over 15,000 people, and it's still an impressive site from the very top of its restored eighteen rows of stone seats (there were originally 50 rows). Part of a complex that included the odean

(a concert venue) and possibly a small stadium, the amphitheatre is host to open air performances during the summer months.

Salamis in North Cyprus: the basilicas

Walking down the main path into the heart of the site, you pass a Roman villa before reaching the Ayios Epifanios basilica, which is marked by the stumps of its once towering pillars. This was once the largest basilica in Cyprus. Just opposite, the pile pink granite columns originally from Aswan in Egypt, mark the site of a second forum,

Towards the sea at the far end of the site is the Kambanopetra (Campana Petra) basilica, which originally housed the sarcophagi of important church dignitaries, and whose white marble still glistens in [the bright North Cyprus sunshine](#). Beyond the basilica are the jumbled remains of another bathhouse, which has one of the best mosaics in Salamis, a circular floor of black and white triangles that make the eyes go dizzy!

Salamis in North Cyprus: the forum

A 56km long aquaduct brought water from Kythrea to a vast Byzantine cistern which sat beside the Roman forum, holding sufficient water for the needs of 120,000 people. Presiding over the forum, thought to be the largest in the entire Roma Empire, was the Temple of Zeus.

1st Destination: Paphos

Saul and Barnabas traveled 90 miles across Cyprus from Salamis to Paphos. Walk in Saul's (soon to be Paul's) footsteps 90 miles then click on destination #1 to receive your next packet.