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Events Between First Corinthians and Second Corinthians



A chronological list of events that took place between the writing of the two **Corinthian** letters is most helpful. Many of the details will be more fully discussed in the commentary itself under **Special Problems** in [Ac - Second Corinthians from a Messianic Jewish Perspective](#). No reconstruction of events, however, meets with universal agreement.

1. After they received **First Corinthians**, the believers at **Corinth** probably rectified most of the practical abuses for which **Paul** had reprimanded them in **his** letter, **First Corinthians**. For example, **he** says nothing further in **Second Corinthians** about the abuse of **the Lord's Supper** (see the commentary on **First Corinthians**, [to see link click Ca - The Problem: The Abuse of the Lord](#)), or about litigation among believers (see the commentary on **First Corinthians** [Bb - Failure to Resolve Personal Disputes](#)).

2. **Titus** visited **Corinth** to help start the relief fund for the poor Messianic believers in Jerusalem (**Second Corinthians 8:6a** and **12:18**), implementing the directions **Paul** had given **him** in **First Corinthians 16:2**. **Paul** outlined **his** plans for a visit to **Corinth**, which would coincide with the **Corinthians'** finalization of the collection for the poor. **He** would leave **Ephesus** after Shavu'ot (in the spring), travel through **Macedonia** during the

summer and fall, and arrive in **Corinth**, where **he** would spend the winter before being sent on **his** way to Jerusalem (**First Corinthians 17:5-6**).

3. However, because of the arrival of **false prophets** (see [Af - The Problem of the False Apostles](#)) from Judea, **Paul** ended up making a second brief, unscheduled visit directly across the Aegean Sea to **Corinth** in 55 AD, but one that was unsuccessful in reducing the level of opposition against **him**, especially from one particular individual (**Second Corinthians 2:1** and **13:2**). During this visit **Paul** was personally attacked by one of the members (**Second Corinthians 2:5-8** and **10, 7:12**). It was a **painful visit** for both **Paul** and some of **his** spiritual children in **Corinth** (see [Ao - Paul's Painful Visit](#)).

As a result of the continued division caused by **the false apostles** who claimed apostolic authority, **Paul** sent a severe **letter to them** (not preserved for us) written with **many tears**. It was delivered by **Titus** and pleading with **the Corinthians** to change **their** behavior and to mend **their** relationship with **him** (**Second Corinthians 2:3-9; 13; 7:6-15; 8:6**). Apparently, this **letter** was quite effective in producing repentance from **his** rivals (**Second Corinthians 7:8-13a**). In addition, **Paul** probably instructed **Titus** to try to revive the collection, which had gone by default since the arrival of false **apostles** and had begun to divide **their** support from the **Corinthian** church (**11:7-12** and **20, 12:14**).

4. **Paul's** other proposed visit from number 2 above (**First Corinthians 16:1-8**) never came to pass. What seemingly changed **his** mind was the fact that the second visit was so **painful**, that **he** wanted to give the offender and his followers time to repent. **He** needed to be certain that things had calmed down before **he** dared to come again - and it was left to **Titus** to bring the whole situation under control (**Second Corinthians 2; 12-13, 7:5-7, 13b-16**).

5. **Paul** left **Ephesus** shortly after the **Demetrius** riot in the spring of 56 AD (see the commentary on **Acts Ch - Idol-Makers Start a Riot in Ephesus**), and began to evangelize in **Troas** (**Second Corinthians 12-13**), and then suffered **hardships in the province of Asia** (**1:8**).

6. **Paul** crossed over into **Macedonia** in the spring or summer of 56 AD (**Second Corinthians 2:13** and **7:5**) and engaged in pastoral activity (**Acts 20:1-2**) while organizing the collection in the **Macedonian** churches (**Second Corinthians 8:1-4** and **9:2**).

7. **Titus** arrived in **Macedonia** from **Corinth** in the summer of 56 AD with **his** welcomed report of the **Corinthians** responsiveness to the "severe letter" (see [Bl - The Effects of the Severe Letter](#)).

8. On returning to **Macedonia**, **Paul** wrote **Second Corinthians** and sent the letter to **Corinth** in the fall of 56 AD with **Titus** and two unnamed colleagues who would help to complete the collection (**8:6b, 16-24, 9:3-5**).