

# Galatians 1:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter,  
and abode with him fifteen days.

## Analysis

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**Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.** "Then after three years" (epeita meta tria etē, ἔπειτα μετὰ τρία ἔτη)—Paul carefully documents timeline proving minimal contact with Jerusalem. Three years passed between conversion (Acts 9) and first Jerusalem visit (Acts 9:26-30), demonstrating his gospel wasn't learned from apostles but received independently. "I went up to Jerusalem" (anēlthon eis Hierosolyma) finally acknowledges what verse 17 denied—but only after three years of independent ministry.

"To see Peter" (historēsai Kēphan, ἱστορῆσαι Κηφᾶν) uses significant verb. Historeō (ἱστορέω) means "visit to become acquainted with, inquire of"—where we get "history." Paul wanted to meet Peter personally, learn about Jesus's earthly ministry, compare experiences. But this was fraternal consultation between equals, not student receiving instruction from master. Paul uses Peter's Aramaic name Cephas, showing familiarity and perhaps emphasizing Jewish context.

"And abode with him fifteen days" (kai epemeina pros auton hēmeras dekapente)—brief visit, not extended training. Fifteen days allowed fellowship and mutual edification but insufficient for comprehensive theological instruction. Paul's gospel was already formed; he sought confirmation, not formation. The time limitation proves he wasn't Peter's disciple.

## Historical Context

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Acts 9:26-30 describes this visit: Barnabas introduced Paul to apostles (only Peter and James according to verse 19); believers feared him initially; he debated Hellenistic Jews who tried to kill him; brethren sent him to Tarsus for safety. The Jerusalem church's initial suspicion validates Paul's point—they didn't know him. If he'd learned gospel from them, there'd be no suspicion. His sudden appearance after three years, claiming conversion and apostleship to Gentiles, would have seemed presumptuous without divine credentials. Peter's acceptance after fifteen days' fellowship confirmed Paul's gospel aligned with Jerusalem's, though Paul emphasizes he brought his gospel to Jerusalem rather than receiving theirs.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. What balance exists between proper respect for church leaders and confidence in your direct relationship with Christ through Scripture?
2. What role should comparing doctrinal understanding with mature believers play in confirming truth received from God's Word?
3. Can brief but meaningful fellowship with other believers strengthen faith without creating unhealthy dependence?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἔπειτα	μετὰ	ἔτη	τρία	ἀνῆλθον	εἰς	Ἱεροσόλυμα
<b>Then</b>	<b>after</b>	<b>years</b>	<b>three</b>	<b>I went up</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>Jerusalem</b>
G1899	G3326	G2094	G5140	G424	G1519	G2414
ἱστορήσαι	Πέτρον,	καὶ	ἐπέμεινα	πρὸς	αὐτὸν	ἡμέρας
<b>to see</b>	<b>Peter</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>abode</b>	<b>with</b>	<b>him</b>	<b>days</b>
G2477	G4074	G2532	G1961	G4314	G846	G2250
δεκαπέντε						
<b>fifteen</b>						
G1178						

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