

Galatians 2:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also.

Analysis

Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also. The phrase *dia dekatessarōn etōn* (διὰ δεκατεσσάρων ἐτῶν) marks a significant chronological gap—fourteen years after Paul's conversion or perhaps after his first Jerusalem visit. This timeline establishes Paul's independence from the Jerusalem apostles; his gospel came by revelation, not human instruction.

Paul brings Barnabas (Βαρναβᾶς), his trusted ministry partner, and Titus (Τίτος), an uncircumcised Greek convert—a living test case for the gospel of grace. The verb *anebēn* (ἀνέβην, "I went up") echoes the sacred journey to Jerusalem, yet Paul emphasizes this was by divine revelation (v. 2), not apostolic summons. His deliberate inclusion of Titus signals the theological battle ahead: will Gentile believers be free in Christ, or bound by the law?

This verse sets the stage for the Jerusalem Council debate—the most pivotal controversy in early Christianity. Paul's measured timeline and careful selection of companions reveal his strategic wisdom and unwavering commitment to the gospel of justification by faith alone, apart from works of law.

Historical Context

This visit likely corresponds to the Jerusalem Council of Acts 15 (circa AD 48-49), though some scholars place it earlier during the famine relief visit (Acts 11:30).

The fourteen-year gap demonstrates Paul's extensive ministry experience independent of the Jerusalem leadership. He had already established multiple Gentile churches before seeking formal recognition from the apostles.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Why would Paul wait fourteen years before consulting with the Jerusalem apostles about his gospel message?
2. What strategic purpose did bringing the uncircumcised Titus serve in Paul's mission?
3. In what ways does God's timing in your spiritual journey differ from human expectations or institutional timelines?

Interlinear Text

Ἐπειτα	διὰ	δεκατεσσάρων	ἐτῶν	πάλιν	ἀνέβην	εἰς
Then	after	fourteen	years	again	I went up	to
G1899	G1223	G1180	G2094	G3825	G305	G1519
Ἱεροσόλυμα	μετὰ	Βαρναβᾶ	συμπαλαβῶν	καὶ	Τίτον·	
Jerusalem	with	Barnabas	and took	also	Titus	
G2414	G3326	G921	G4838	G2532	G5103	

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 2:3 (Parallel theme): But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised:

Galatians 2:13 (Parallel theme): And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.

Titus 1:4 (Parallel theme): To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

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