

Cast of Major Characters

- Abi** A friend of **Hester's** (see below). A Jewess in her late 30s who converts to Christianity several months after Paul has been expelled from the synagogue. (A fictional character.)
- Achaicus** an aging steward in **Sosthenes's** (see below) home. (Based on a person mentioned in 1Cor 16:17. The name "Achaicus"—meaning "from Achaia"—was the kind of name usually given to slaves.)
- Aquila** A Jew from the region of Pontus. A leather-worker by profession, he also made tents—they were related skills in the ancient world. (Based on the person mentioned by both Luke and Paul—see Acts 18:1-3, 18; 1Cor 16:19. He and his wife Prisca [see below] were expelled from Rome by the Emperor Claudius.) In the narrative, Aquila became a Christian in Rome. He and Prisca moved to Corinth where, less than a year later, they met Paul. In his mid-thirties.
- Berekiah** A Jew vying with **Crispus** (see below) and **Sosthenes** (see below) for control of the synagogue. Physically large and aggressive. He became one of Paul's principle adversaries. About 40 years old. (A fictitious character.)
- Cratulus** A Roman soldier serving as optio (sergeant major) of the Fifteenth Legion (the legion garrisoned at Corinth to keep peace in the province of Achaia). One of Paul's 'agora' converts. Cratulus would have been about 50 years of age. (A fictitious character.)
- Crispus** A Jew. Synagogue Ruler at the time Paul arrived in Corinth. Perhaps Paul's first convert in Corinth. The same age as Paul himself—early 50s. (Based on the person mentioned in Acts 18:8; 1Cor 1:14.) In the narrative, Crispus is married to **Hester** (see below).
- Demeas** A Greek tanner and early convert. In his 30s. Married with children, Demeas represents the kind of low-class, hard-working laborer who would have comprised the bulk of the Corinthian congregation. (A fictitious character.)
- Fortunatus** A young slave in the household of **Stephanas** (see below). Seventeen. Orphaned when his father was lost at sea while on a mission for his master Stephanas. (Based on a person mentioned in 1Cor 16:17. The name "Fortunatus"—

meaning “Lucky”—was exclusively a slave’s name in the ancient world.)

Gaius Titius Justus A rich Roman merchant. One of the “God-fearing” converts from the synagogue. In the narrative, Gaius is in his early 30s. (This character is a compilation of the “Gaius” in 1 Corinthians—1:14—and the Titius Justus of Acts—18:7. Some scholars suggest these names—the familiar ‘pronomen’ used by Paul, the formal ‘nomen’ and ‘cognomen’ used by Luke—may refer to the same person.)

Gallio The Roman governor of Achaia. An influential jurist in Rome and ‘friend of Claudius.’ Brother to the famous philosopher Seneca. A man at the height of his career. Early 40s. He was reputed to be a hypochondriac. (Mentioned in Acts 18:12-18. An inscription mentioning his name, uncovered in Delphi, is important for dating the time of Paul’s ministry in Corinth.)

Hester A Jewess. The wife of **Crispus** (see above). About 45 years old. A woman of formidable strength and conviction. (A fictitious character.)

Lucius Mummius The Roman general and ex-consul of Rome who destroyed Corinth in 146 B.C.. (An historical character not mentioned in Scripture, but attested to in historical and archaeological records.)

Paul A Jew from Tarsus. The “Apostle to the Gentiles.” The author of our 1st and 2nd Corinthians and the main character of Acts. ‘Paul’ is the Romanized form of the Hebrew ‘Saul.’ The names are used interchangeably in the narrative. Jews, until they come to know him better, refer to him as ‘Saul;’ Gentiles as ‘Paul.’ Paul was probably 50 or older at the time of his ministry in Corinth.

Portensus A Gentile slave from the region of the Black Sea. A man of prominence in his former life, Portensus illustrates a reality about slavery in the ancient world. The primary source of slaves was military conquest. Thus, slaves came from every strata of society. Many were highly skilled and educated. Portensus is the same age as Paul and Crispus (50ish) and a very capable man. One of Paul’s converts. (A fictitious character.)

Prisca A Jewess. Wife of **Aquila** (see above). Early 30s. In the narrative, she became a Christian in Rome, before moving to Corinth under the expulsion decree of the Emperor Claudius. ‘Prisca’ (the formal name) is also known in Scripture as

'Priscilla' (the familiar or diminutive form). (See Acts 18:1-3, 18; 1Cor 16:19.)

Quintus Cornelius Pulcher A high-ranking Roman soldier. In his early 40s when we meet him in the story. Although the name of the man who actually rebuilt Corinth is lost to us, some character like Quintus would have been responsible for the task. He was given the work in 44 B.C. following a decree from Julius Caesar establishing the ruined city as a Roman colony. (A fictitious character)

Saul (see Paul)

Silas A Jew. One of Paul's missionary partners. A learned man in his mid-40s. Often traveled with **Timothy** (see below). (See Acts 15-18.)

Sosthenes A Jew from Corinth. The man who replaced **Crispus** as Synagogue Ruler and brought Paul up on charges before Gallio. Late 50s. (See Acts 18: 17 and 1Cor 1:1.)

Stauria A prostitute from the region of Dacia (an area to the north of Macedonia). One of Paul's first converts among the Gentiles. Stauria is 29. (A fictitious character.)

Stephanas A wealthy Corinthian merchant. About 45 years old. Another of Paul's "God-fearer" converts from the synagogue. **Achaicus** and **Fortunatus** (see above) served as slaves his household. (See 1Cor 1:16; 16:15-18.)

Timothy One of Paul's missionary partners. A young half-Greek, half-Jew from the town of Lystra in the province of Asia (modern Turkey). In his early 20s. (See Acts 16-20; 1Cor 4:17; 16:10.)