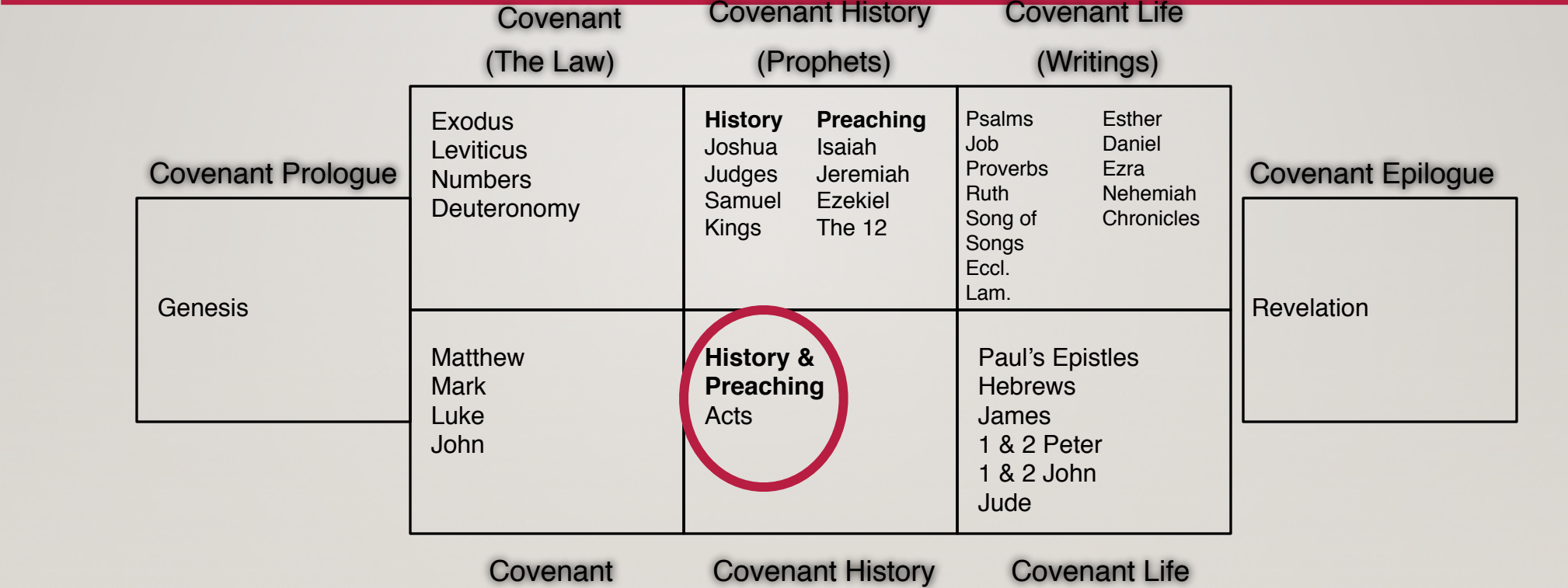


Equipped for Ministry

OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

THE COVENANTAL ARRANGEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN BIBLE

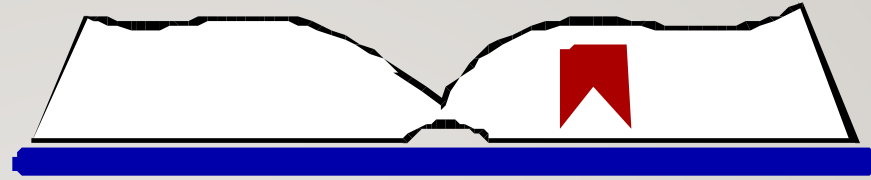


Luke 24:44

INTRODUCTION

- Book of Acts is a bridge between all that Jesus began to “do and teach” (Acts 1:1) as told in the gospels with what he continued to do through the apostles.
- Geographically, the book spans Jerusalem to Rome
- Historically, it spans the first 32 years of the Church
- It supplies the account of the life of Paul through which we can learn the basis of his letters

DATE:



-
- **Likely AD 63 to AD 68. Paul not yet killed and temple not recorded as being destroyed.**
 - **It seems unlikely that the book would have not mentioned the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD if it had yet happened.**
 - **Acts 1:19 talks of Jerusalem as though it has not yet been destroyed.**
 - **Book covers the first 32 years after the death of Christ.**

THEMES AND OUTLINE

- 1) to present a history
- 2) To give a defense (perhaps Luke wrote it while Paul was awaiting trial in Rome),
- 3) To encourage Christians for the mission
- 4) to depict the triumph of Christianity in the face of bitter persecution—it was the work of God

OUTLINE

- I) Peter and the beginning of the Church in Palestine: Chps 1-12
- II) Paul and the Expansion of the Church from Antioch to Rome: Chps 13-28

CHAPTER 1

1:1-5 Wait in Jerusalem for the Promise. We are children of the Promise

Acts 1:8 -proclaim Jesus

- in Jerusalem (chapters 1-7),
- Judea and Samaria (8-10);
- ends of the earth (chaps. 11-28).

Vs 24: Choosing of Matthias-"You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen"

Casting of lots in the Bible

- (1) the selection of the scapegoat ([Lv 16:8-10](#));
- (2) the allocation of the tribal inheritance in the Promised Land ([Nm 26:55](#));
- (3) the determination warriors who had to go to war where only a percentage was required ([Jgs 20:9](#));
- (4) the order of the priests and their duties ([1 Chr 24:5-19](#));
- (5) The determination of an offender



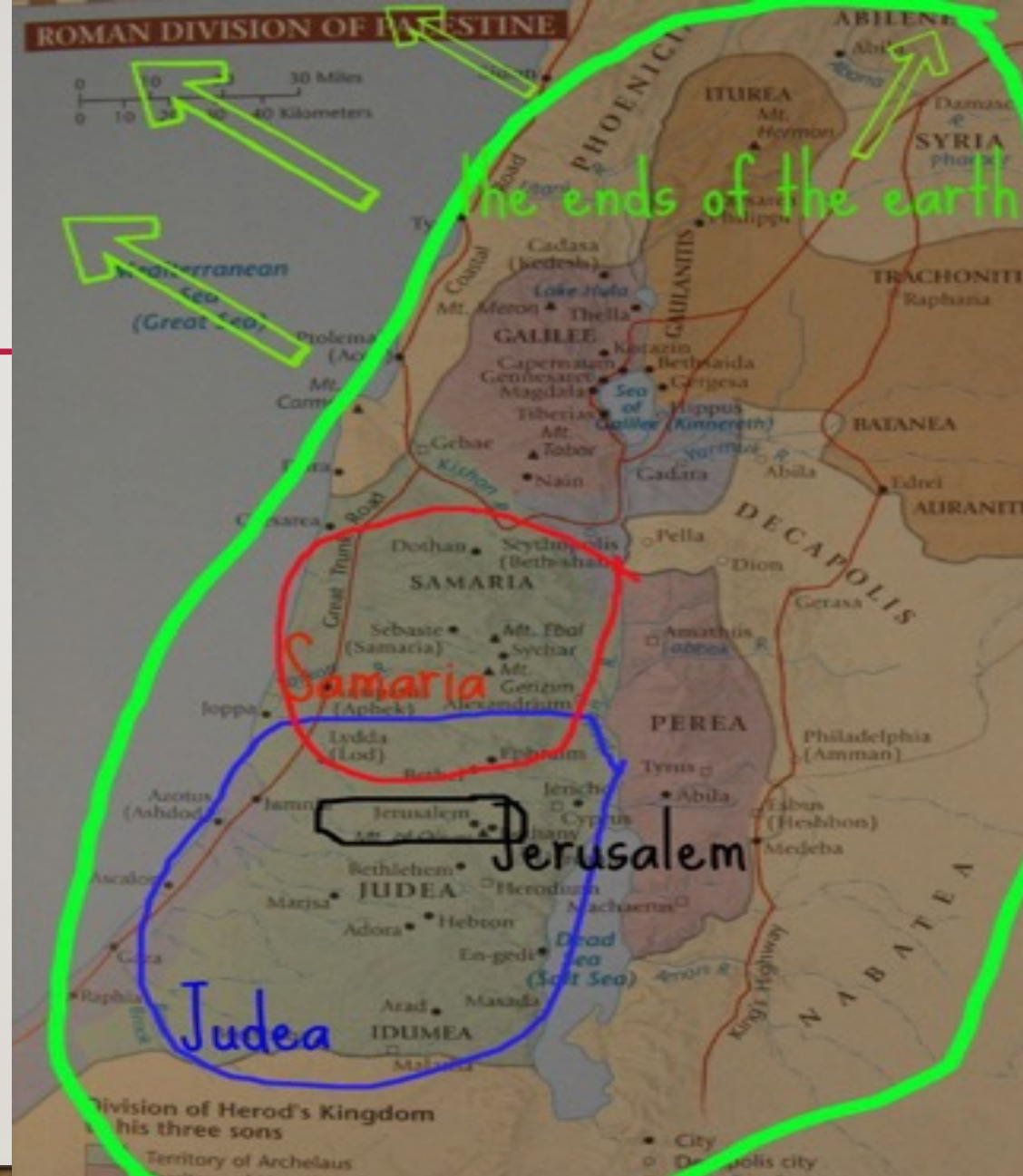
ACTS 1:1- MANY CONVINCING PROOFS




Without it...

- Preaching is empty (1 Cor 15:14)
- Faith is empty (1 Cor 15:14)
- Christians are still in their sins (1 Cor 15:17)
- Christians who die are lost forever (1 Cor 15:18)
- Christians are of all people, most to be pitied (1 Cor 15:19)
- There is no justification (Romans 4:25)

1:8 YOU WILL BE MY
WITNESSES....

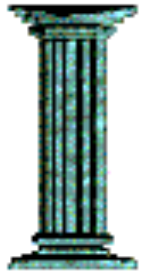




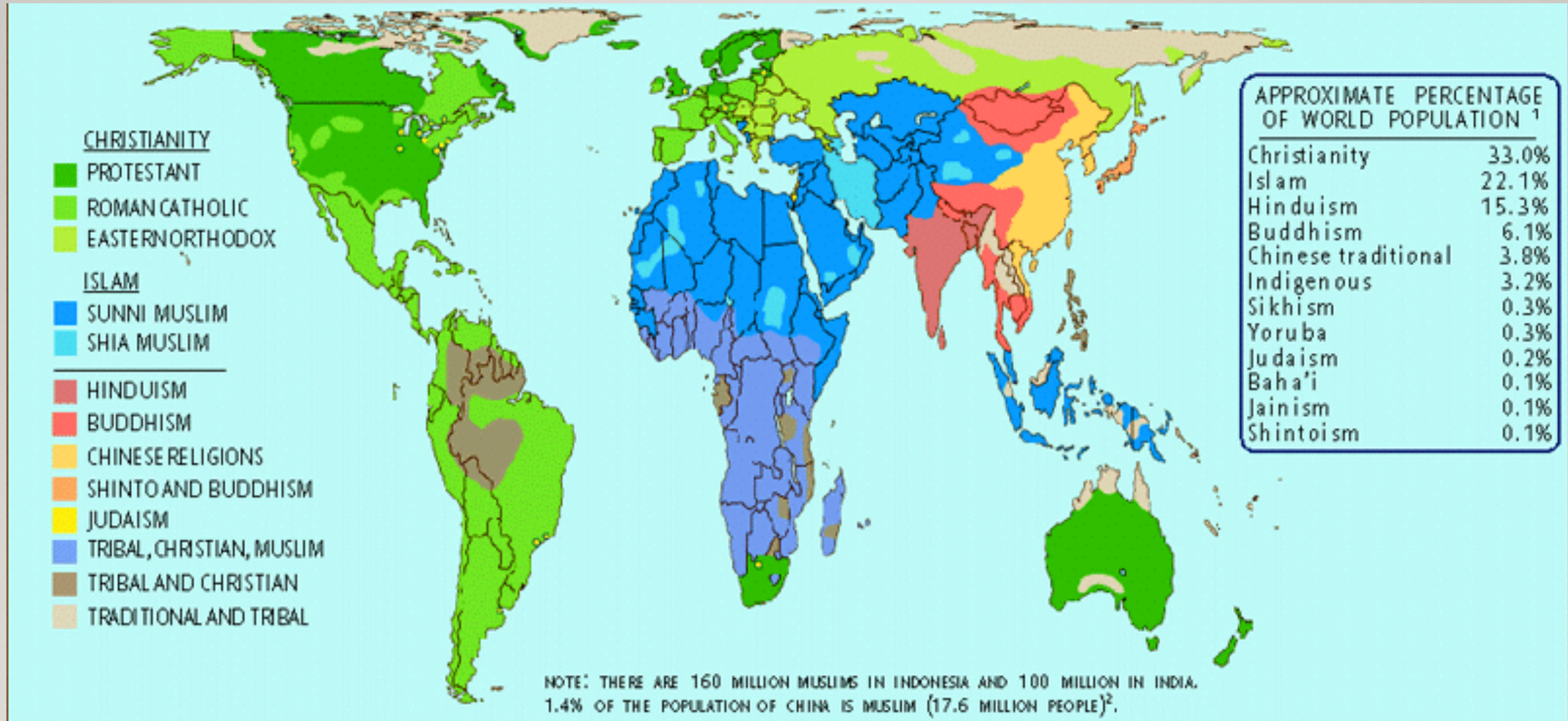


The Journeys of Paul

- First Journey
- Second Journey
- Third Journey
- Journey to Rome



FAITH FELLOWSHIP: THE WORLD IS A KALEIDOSCOPE



COMPARATIVE RELIGION

❑ Islam:

- Derived from Arabic word, “Salema”-peace, purity, submission, obedience. 5 pillars.
- Everything and every phenomenon is in “islam” state, except human beings who must make conscience decisions to become “muslim”
- Islam has been revealed through prophets: Adam, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Mohammed,



❑ Hinduism

- roots and customs date back more than 4,000 years, about 900 million followers,
- Actually believe in one god with many forms, you chose the from you want

❑ Judaism

- monotheistic, Abrahamic religion with the Torah as its foundational text.
- Jews do not belief that Jesus fulfilled the requirements of the Messiah
- Jewish people follow 613 commandments (mitzvahs ,“instructions”)=Life itself



Star of David

CHAPTER TWO: THE DAY OF PENTECOST

	Children of Israel	US	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Passover in Egypt -<u>15th Nisan</u> <u>1,173BC</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus-Passover lamb- • <u>15th Nisan 27AD</u>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Passover lamb unblemished• Killed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus ---sinless• Jesus degraded, humiliated, killed	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 50 days later-Law at Mt Sinai (feast of weeks, Shimcath Torah (joy of the law))• Promulgation of law to create a nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 50 days later-Pentecost,• Jesus glorified• Promulgation by the Spirit to create a people	

SOME INTERESTING PARALLELS

The same day that the Jews were celebrating God's giving of His Torah on tablets of stone, the Holy Spirit came and wrote His Torah on people's hearts! (Jeremiah 31: 31)
1,200 years apart, to the day!

Both events occurred on a mountain (Mt. Sinai and Mt. Zion) known as the mountain of God – Exodus 24:13 & Isaiah 2:3

The Exodus marked the birth of the Israelite nation while the Pentecost events recorded in Acts 2 marked the birth of Christianity.

The Israelites left Egypt on Passover and 40 days later arrived at Sinai. Then Moses went up on a mountain to see God (Mt. Sinai). Ten days later Moses came down with the Torah and the Israelites broke the covenant and 3,000 people died as a result.

Jesus died on Passover and 40 days later went up on a mountain (Mt. Of Olives). Ten days after Jesus ascended, the Holy Spirit came down and 3000 people were saved!

The Torah attempted to change people from the outside. The Holy Spirit changes from within.

VS 8:YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES....

Obedience: GO make disciples of every nation Matthew 28:19-
“Here I am, send me” Isaiah 6:8

Attitude: The harvest is plentiful, the workers are few Matthew 9:
37

Gratitude: *“Give praise to the Lord, proclaim His name;
make known among the nations what He has done” Psalm 101:5*

Opportunity: *“As well as in the marketplace, to whoever happened
to be there....”Acts 17:17*

Empowerment: *“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all
Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the world” Acts 1:8*

THE TOMB IS EMPTY!!!!

Clip



CHAPTER 3: IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST OF NAZARETH, WALK

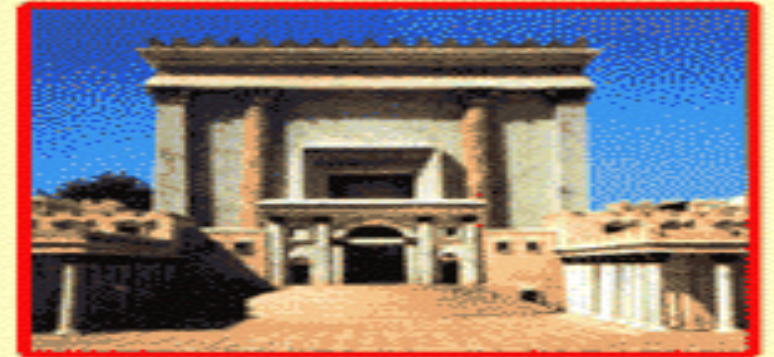
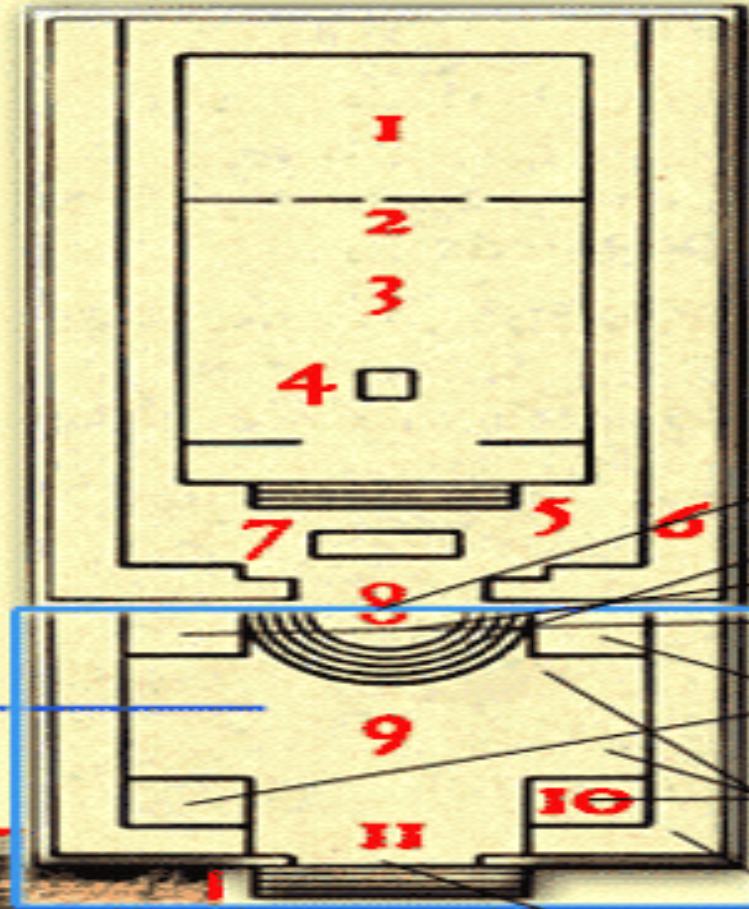
The cripple was by the
gate called Beautiful
and Jesus was about to
make his life truly
beautiful
Like Peter and John,
we too have
“something” to offer a
sick world

THE TEMPLE

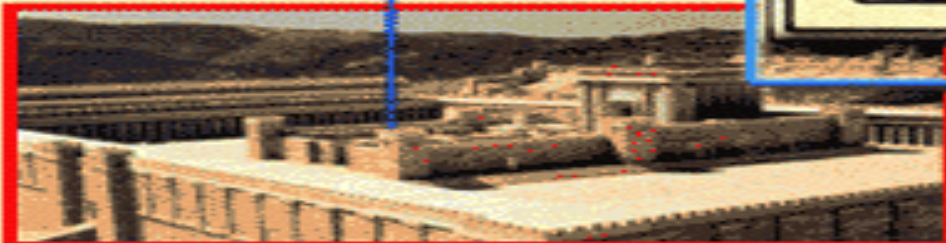
Jerusalem Temple

Sketch after plan of
Avi-Yonah's model.

1. Holy of Holies
2. Vail (Curtain)
3. Holy Place
4. Altar of Incense
5. Court of Priests
6. Court of Israel
7. Altar of Sacrifice
8. Nicanor Gate
9. Court of Women
10. Temple Treasury
11. Gate Beautiful
12. Court of Gentiles
13. Solomon's Porch
14. Royal Porticos
15. Western Wall



14 Women's
Court



- Nicanor Gate
- Circular Steps
- Levite Choirs
- Oil of Yah Court
- Nazarite Court
- Leper's Chamber Court
- Woodshed Court
- Colonnades
- Balconies
- Chel
- Beautiful Gate



“Love” not mentioned
in Acts, but is full of
acts of love

What are the physical
and emotional needs
we can meet?

SPEECHES IN ACTS

- There are 32 speeches in Acts and make up about a third of the book. Ten major speeches are:
 - 1. Peter: 2:14-36 to Jews in Jerusalem
 - 2. Peter: 3:11-26 again to Jews in Jerusalem
 - 3. Peter: 10:34-43 to Gentiles in Cornelius's household
 - 4. Stephen: 7:1-53 to Jews in Jerusalem
 - 5. Paul: 13:16-47 to Jews in Pisidian Antioch
 - 6. Paul: 17:22-31 to Gentiles (Greeks) in Athens
 - 7. Paul: 20:18-35 to the Ephesian church elders
 - 8. Paul: 22:1-21 to Jews in Jerusalem
 - 9. Paul: 24:10-21 to Felix
 - 10. Paul: 26:1-29 to Agrippa

CHAPTER 4: WE CANNOT HELP SPEAKING ABOUT WHAT WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD...

Different Jewish groups in 1st Century

Pharisees

Essenes

Sadducees

Herodians

Zealots

The Sadducees did not believe in resurrection—
disturbed about the message

Wanted to stop “this thing” from spreading any further

RELIGIOUS SETTING OF THE EARLY CHURCH

PHARISEES

Law

Interpretations of the Torah

Middle Class

Resurrection of the Dead

Belief in Afterlife

Rejected the Jewish Leaders



SADDUCEES

Temple

Torah Alone

Upper Class

No Resurrection

No Afterlife

Supported Jewish Leaders



Herod the Great
Governor of Galilee (r. 47–37 B.C.E.)
King of the Jews (r. 37–4 B.C.E.)

Jesus

HE TRIED TO KILL

OTHER WIVES

Doris

Phaedra

Pallas

unknown

Elpis

unknown

Herod the Great's Family Tree

Mariamne I
a Hasmonean princess

Malthace
the Samaritan

Mariamne II
of Jerusalem

Cleopatra
of Jerusalem (not Egypt)

WIVES

Herod Antipas
2nd husband of Herodias

Herod Archelaus

Herod Philip
1st husband of Herodias

Philip the Tetrarch

CHILDREN

King Herod Agrippa I

Herodias

HE REBUKED THIS MARRIAGE

GRANDCHILDREN

Berenice

King Herod Agrippa II

Antonius Felix

Drusilla

Salome

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Peter

Paul

John the Baptist

James the son of Zebedee

HE EXECUTED

HE IMPRISONED

HE LEFT PAUL IN PRISON

SHE ASKED FOR HIS HEAD

GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING



PRAYER IS THE BEGINNING OF GREAT THINGS HAPPENING

- Great boldness-4:29
 - Great power-4:33
 - Great wonders -6:8, 8:13
 - Great joy in the city -8.8
 - Great numbers-11:21, 24, 26, 14.1
 - Great eagerness for message-17:11
 - Great humility-20:19
 - Great uproar-23:9
- Great Sacrifice-Acts 4:36
Barnabas



CHAPTER 5: HIGH STANDARDS

Vs 1-11

“But....” ESV.

Compare Barnabbas and Ananias

Ananias (Hebrew, "the Lord is gracious") and Sapphira (Aramaic, "beautiful")



Great fear comes on the whole church. This is the first reference in Acts to the body of Christians as the "church" (*ekklesia*). This term is used in secular Greek to describe citizen assemblies

Vs 27-29, : “If it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God”
Gamaliel (of the House of Hillel vs House of Shammai)



Result: Vs 13-14: They were held in esteem
No one dared to join them
More believers were added to their numbers

BE CAREFUL ABOUT THE MOTIVES

The story of Ananias and Sapphira is a reminder to us today that

- God sees the heart ([1 Samuel 16:7](#)),
- He hates sin (hypocrisy, double-mindedness, lying, deceit)
- He is concerned for the purity of His church ([1 Corinthians 11](#); [1 John 5](#)).
- Jesus to Thyatira, “All the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds” ([Revelation 2:23](#)).

EQUIPPED FOR MINISTRY

1. Conviction about the risen Christ
2. Prayer for boldness
3. Courage
4. Walking with Christ
5. LOVE

CHAPTER 6: CHURCH ORGANISATION

The seven deacons: S 3Ps 2Ns and T

Stephen: The first martyr

Philip: Preached in Samaria, converted Ethiopian Eunuch

Nicolaus: Founder of the Nicolaitans, heretical sect condemned in Revelations

Nicanor: Cyprian Jew, died a martyr in 76AD

Prochorus: Nephew of Stephen, later Bishop of Nicomedia, martyred in Antioch.

Timon: Hellenized Jew (Judaism + Greek Culture), became Bishop of Greece. Martyred with fire

Would you die for a lie?



Peter and Paul

Both martyred in Rome - 66 AD under Emperor Nero. Paul was beheaded. Peter was crucified,

Andrew

Preached in Soviet Union. Crucified in Greece,

Andrew

Preached in Soviet Union. Crucified in Greece

Philip

Converted the wife of a Roman proconsul who brutally killed him.

Bartholomew

Martyred in Armenia after converting King

James

the son of Alphaeus. stoned and then clubbed to

Simon the Zealot

Persia. Killed after refusing to sacrifice to the sun god.

Ministered in Persia and Ethiopia. Stabbed to death in Ethiopia.

Matthias

Burned in Syria.

JERUSALEM, JUDEA, SAMARIA AND TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD

Acts 7: Stephen Martyred. They listened for 53 verses but could not take the introduction of Jesus..."stiff-necked" people

Acts 8: Church scattered. God knows the plan, the process might be uncomfortable.

Ethiopian Eunuch—the role of the Spirit in Evangelism (*Matthew 10: 23—"When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another"*)

Acts 9: Saul's Conversion --Gods instrument for the gentiles.



PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS



Lifestyle



Matthew 5:11-12 *“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

CHAPTER 10-11: CHRISTIANITY FOR THE JEWS AND GENTILES

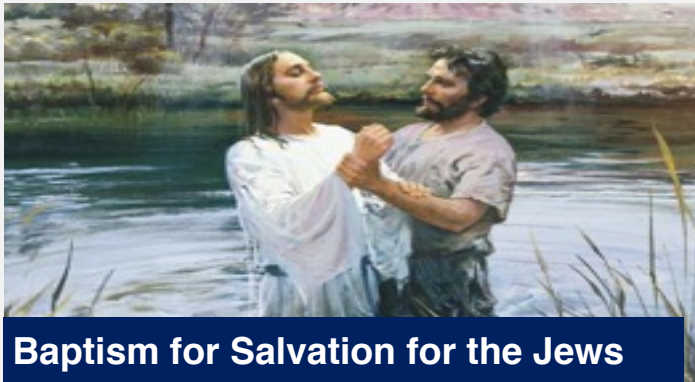
ACTS 2:1-

JEWS ONLY

JERUSALEM



Outpouring of the Holy Spirit



Baptism for Salvation for the Jews

9 YEARS APART

Cornelius, a devout, God-fearing Roman Centurion. God sees our deeds done in love for others
Ceaserea, Headquarters for the Roman forces of Occupation, named after Augustus Ceaser.

Acts 11:18

‘ So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life’

ACTS 10:1-

GENTILES

CEASEREA



Outpouring of the Holy Spirit



Baptism for Salvation for the Gentiles

ACTS 12-15

PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY AND THE
COUNCIL IN JERUSALEM

ACTS 11-12: EXIT PETER, ENTER SAUL

Acts 11: 25-

- Who am I Barnabbas to?
- Who is your Barnabbas

Acts 12: 1

Peter's Miraculous escape from Prison. The Church praying.

Herod's death 12:23- This is Herod Agrippa 1.

ACTS 13:1-3

- Barnabbas was leader at Antioch
- First instance of fasting in Church-to seek God's aid and guidance
- **Paul, Barnabbas** and **John Mark**, Barnabbas' cousin set off for the first missionary journey.
- Journey ends in Acts 14:28
- Almost 3,000 kilometers by sea and road
- AD 46-48
- Today Antioch is called Antakya within Turkey
- Ancient Antioch was excavated in 1935



1ST MISSIONARY JOURNEY ACTS 13: 4-5, 6-11

Cyprus

- Bar-Jesus (aka Elymas) received a major rebuke from Paul
- Sergius Paulus- 'senator' of Cyprus 'county' believes
- Converting opinion leaders was the norm`
- Saul became 'Paul' and gained prominence
- Tribute to Paul's growth and Barnabbas humility



Perga (capital of Pamphylia Province)



vs 4-5-

Perga was capital of Pamphylia-5 miles inland
John Mark left and returned to Jerusalem.

Paul's dissatisfaction-Acts 15: 37-39 causing split.

PISIDIAN ANTIOCH

vs 16-end

Pisidian Antioch-110 miles from
Perga

Named after Antiochus, King of Syria
Roman Colony with a large Jewish
population

The hub of good roads and trade
Paul preaching at the synagogue
mirrored Peter's in Acts 2
vs 46



1ST MISSIONARY JOURNEY: ACTS 14:1-

Iconium

- Iconium was a District east of Pisidia, part of Roman Province of Galatia
- Many believed
- Jews poisoned the gentiles
- Vs 5 Plot to ill-treat and stone the two



LYSTRA AND DERBE IN LYCAONIA

ACTS 14: 8-13



Lystra-A Roman colony.
Probably home of Timothy.

20 miles from Iconium

Healing of the cripple from birth

Barnabbas-'Zeus' Patron of the
city-more imposing

Paul -'Hermes'-spokesman

A myth that the two gods would
visit the general area sometime

Vs 19 Paul stoned-'caught up
in the third heaven'

synonymous with paradise
(2cor 12:2)



The Greek *god Zeus*



The **Greek** god **Hermes**

Was the son of Zeus (before he married Hera) and of the nymph Maia .

He was the god of shepherds, travellers, merchants, and even thieves.

He also had the role of herald (messenger) of the gods.

His Roman name was Mercury.



432 BC: Famed classical sculptor Phidias in Olympia sculpts the Statue of Zeus at Olympia in Greece.
(One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.)

1ST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

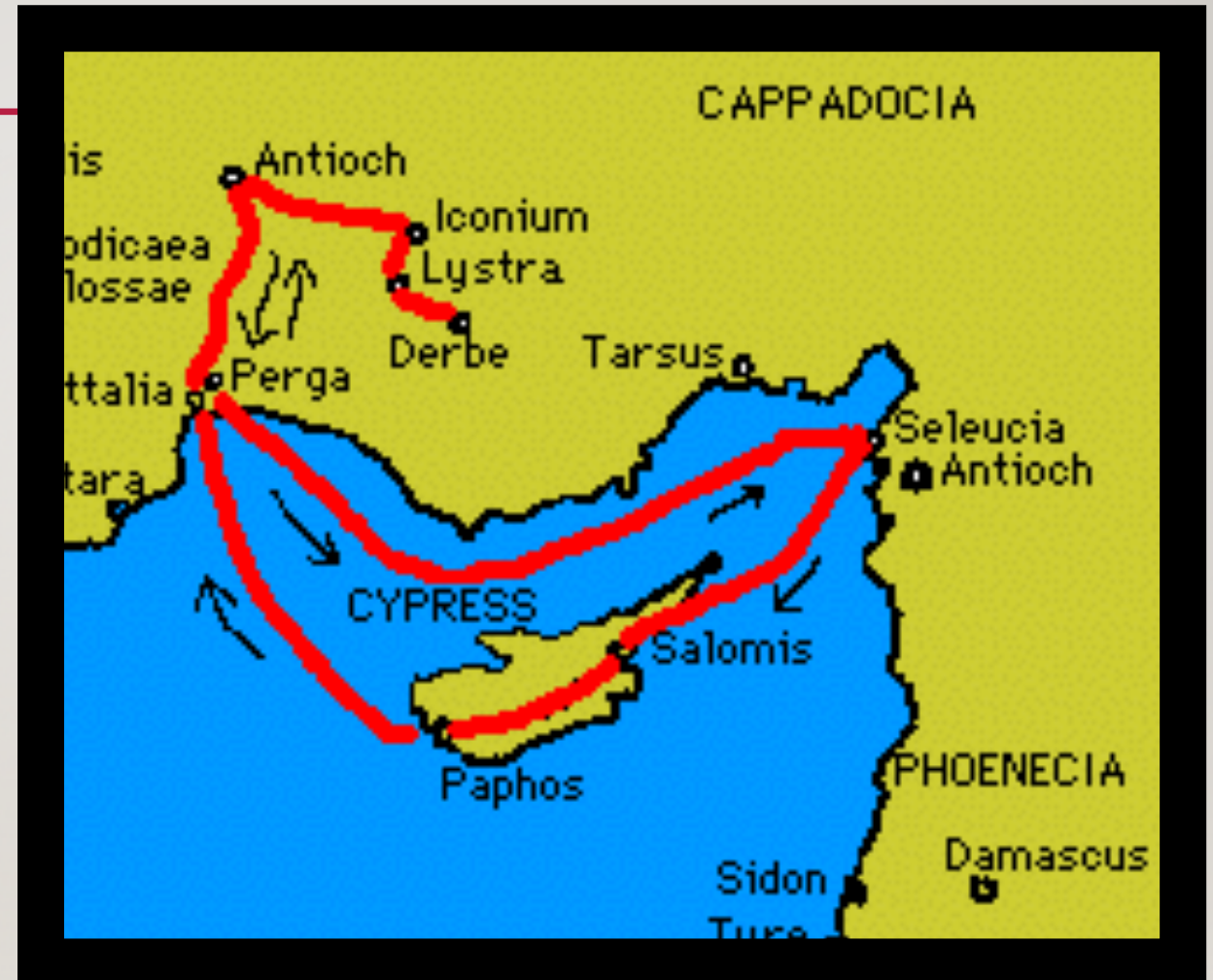
Return to Antioch in Syria

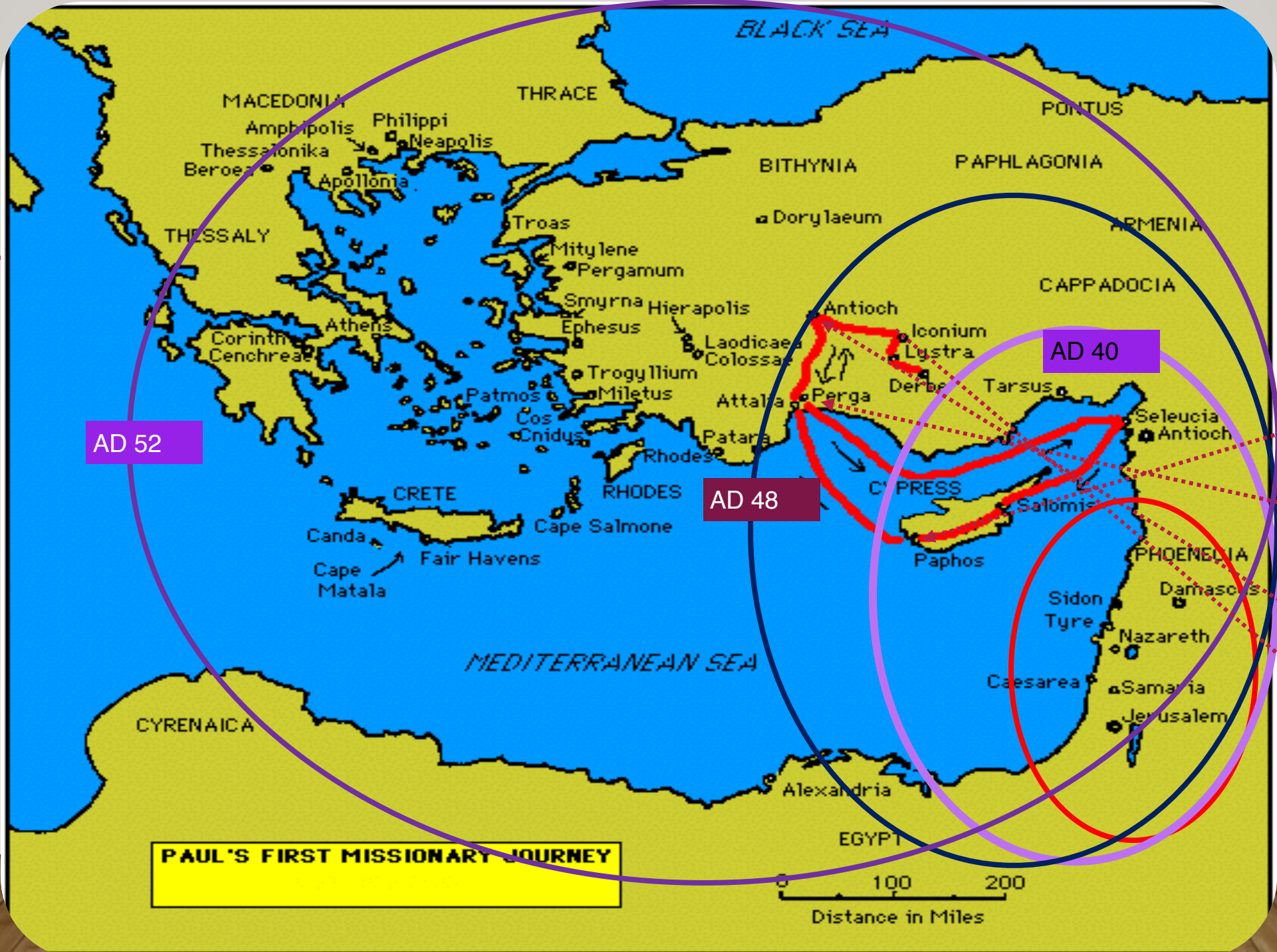
14: 21-23

Went back through the same cities strengthening disciples and appointing elders!

Passed through Attalia-an important seaport in Pampyllia

Sailed directly from there to Syrian Antioch





PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Acts 13: 8-
Elymas the
Sorcerer

Acts 13: 13
John Mark left

13:49
Thrown out!

13: 5
Fled!

ACTS 15:1- COUNCIL IN JERUSALEM

- Date- About 50AD
- Judaizers came with a different “gospel” vs 1-6

“Christianity is Jewish. To be saved, one must believe in Jesus of Nazareth as the Christ, but in order to be a part of this covenant community, which is entered into by circumcision, which obligates the individual to keep the Law of Moses”

They had come to Christianity with ‘baggage’ from the past’

- Prejudice- Judea/Galilee/Samaria/Gentile



Peter describes his experience of Acts 9-10

James (Jesus' brother-leader in Jerusalem then) quotes Amos 9:11-12-"***we cannot harass the gentiles'***

James is advocating a contrast, not just a pared-down version of synagogue rules-salvation by grace not through observation of legalism

The decree was needed because there was a conflict between God's work and Pharisaic teaching. The decree is needed to counteract the harassing rules of the Pharisees





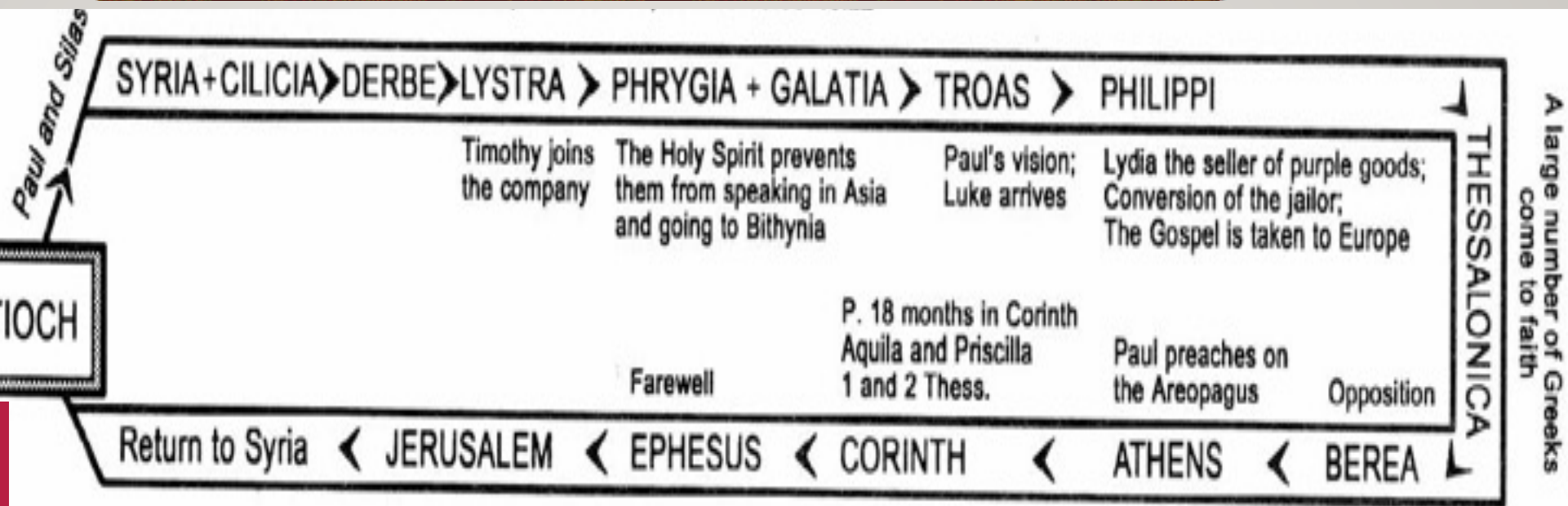
- Decision-Make it easy for the gentiles but for :
 - food sacrificed to idols,
 - sexual immorality,
 - meat of strangled animals
 - Blood
- Jews were repulsed by these among the gentiles,
- believed them to be Pre-Moses divine instructions
- Leviticus source Chp 17-instructions there-in including gentiles.
- Silas and Judas (Barsabbas) chosen to accompany Paul and Barnabbas back to Antioch with letter Vs24-

Paul's Second Missionary Journey





Paul and Silas



Paul's Second Missionary Journey





THE CITY OF ANTIOCH IN SYRIA (51 A.D.)

PAUL AND BARNABAS SEPARATE...

They disagree over whether to take John

Mark – Ac 15:37-38

Barnabas was determined to take John

Mark (his cousin) – Co 4:10

Paul insisted that he was not
reliable Ac 13:13



Paul's Second Missionary Journey

Black Sea

PAUL AND BARNABAS SEPARATE...



PAUL AND SILAS BEGIN THEIR JOURNEY...

Paul selected Silas to
accompany him
- Ac 15:40

Silas:

- One of the two men sent by Jerusalem with the letter regarding circumcision
 - Ac 15:22-23,27
- Who himself was a prophet
 - Ac 15:32
- Who had stayed in Antioch
 - Ac 15:34
- **His name may indicate him to have been a Hellenistic Jew.
Roman citizen (Acts 16:37).
Some of the early Fathers consider Silas to have been Bishop of Corinth,**



Paul's Second Missionary Journey



They pass through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches - Ac 15:41

* From which Paul was from - Ac 22:3

* Where he had spent time preaching before - Ga 1:21

. IN DERBE AND LYSTRA...

Missionary Journey

Black Sea



Where Paul
healed a lame
man, and was
stoned, on his
first journey -
Ac 14:6-20

IN DERBE AND LYSTRA...

Paul desires Timothy to go with him - Ac
16:1-3

Timothy

His mother was a Jew, his father a Greek
- cf. 2 Ti 1:5; 3:15-16

Who had a good reputation
among the brethren



Timothy

Whom Paul had circumcised
in deference to the Jews

Galatians 5:2

Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all.



Why did Paul circumcise Timothy?



IN PHRYGIA AND GALATIA...



Paul's Second Missionary Journey



Paul's Second Missionary Journey

IN MYSTIA AND TROAS...

Near Mysia they were not permitted by the Spirit to head north toward Bithynia - Ac 16:8

No

Introduction
About the Map
Overview
Acts 15-16
Acts 17
Acts 18
Conclusion

They arrive in Alexandria Troas - Ac 16:9-10
Where Paul has a vision, a man of Macedonia asking him to help them. Understood as the Lord sending them in that direction



Luke:

Luke, author of Acts, now joins Paul and his company

He was a physician (Co 4:14),
author also of the gospel which bears his name, and
was with Paul in his last days - 2 Ti 4:11

St. Luke was not a Jew.

He was probably a native of Antioch

He was already an Evangelist when he met Paul in
Philippi.



Paul's Second Missionary Journey



From Troas they cross over to Samothrace, and then to Neapolis (Ac16:11). They have now entered the continent of Europe, and come into Europe.



the Purple Seller

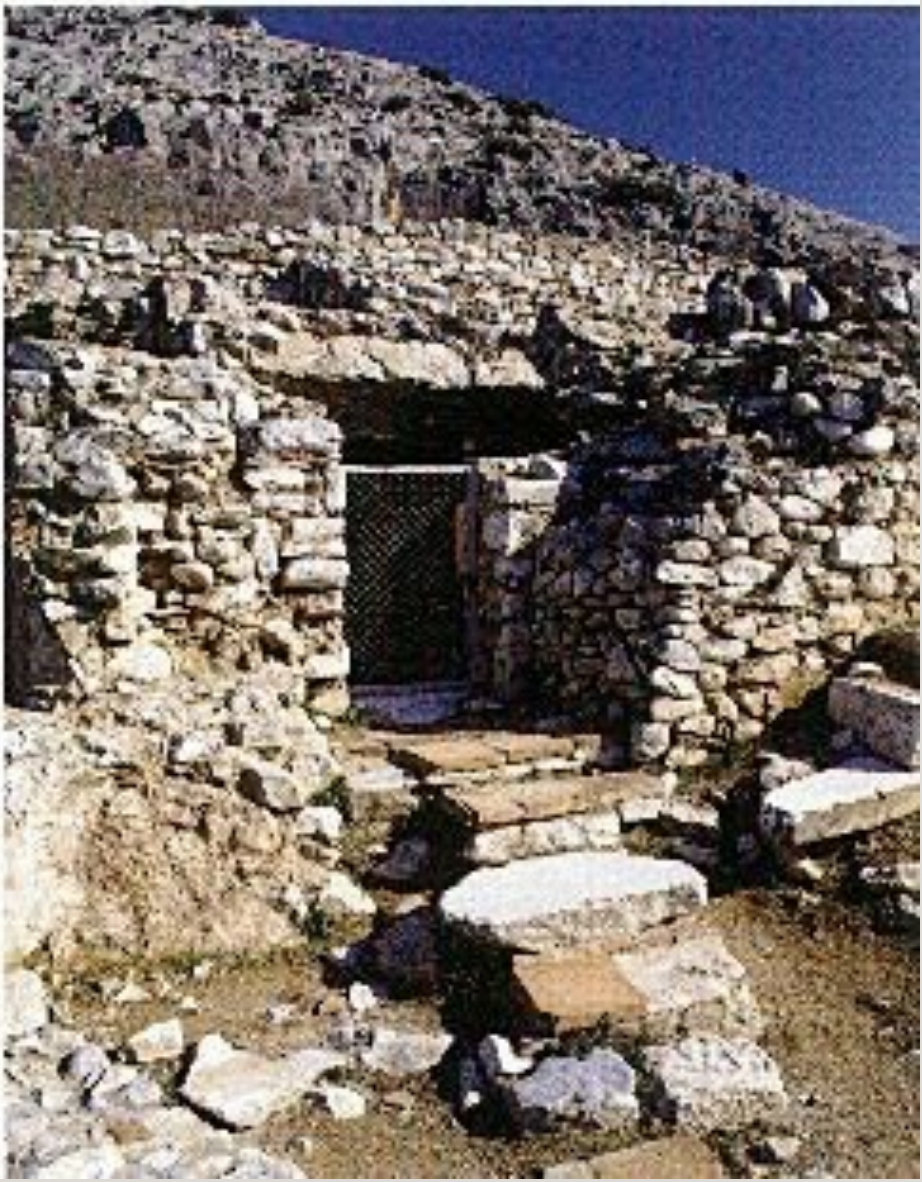
Acts 16:12-15, 40.



Lydia, from the city of Thyatira,
a seller of purple goods,
who was a worshiper of God.

Dyed goods were imported from Thyatira to the parent
city Philippi, and were dispersed by pack animals among
the mountaineers of Haemus and Pangaeus.



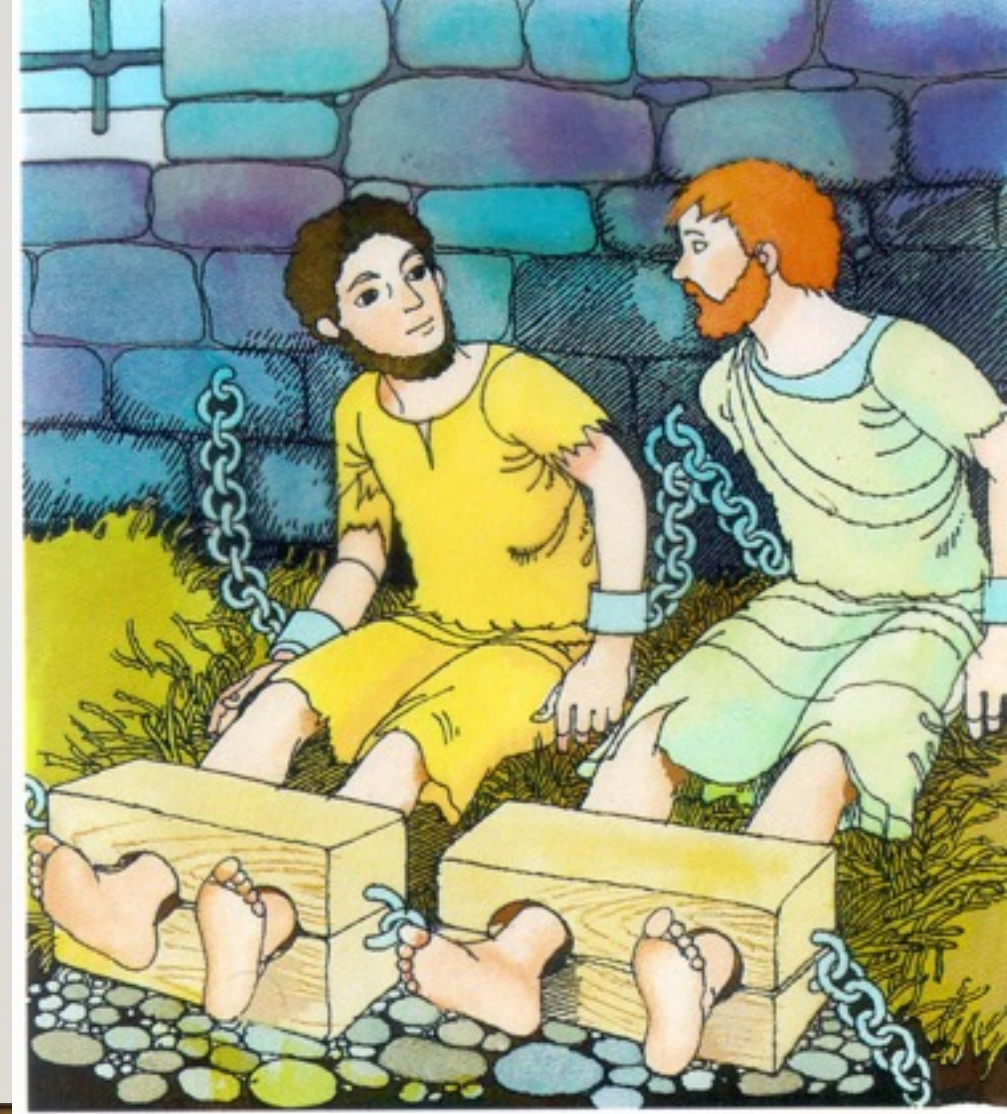


Traditional prison of Paul in Philippi .

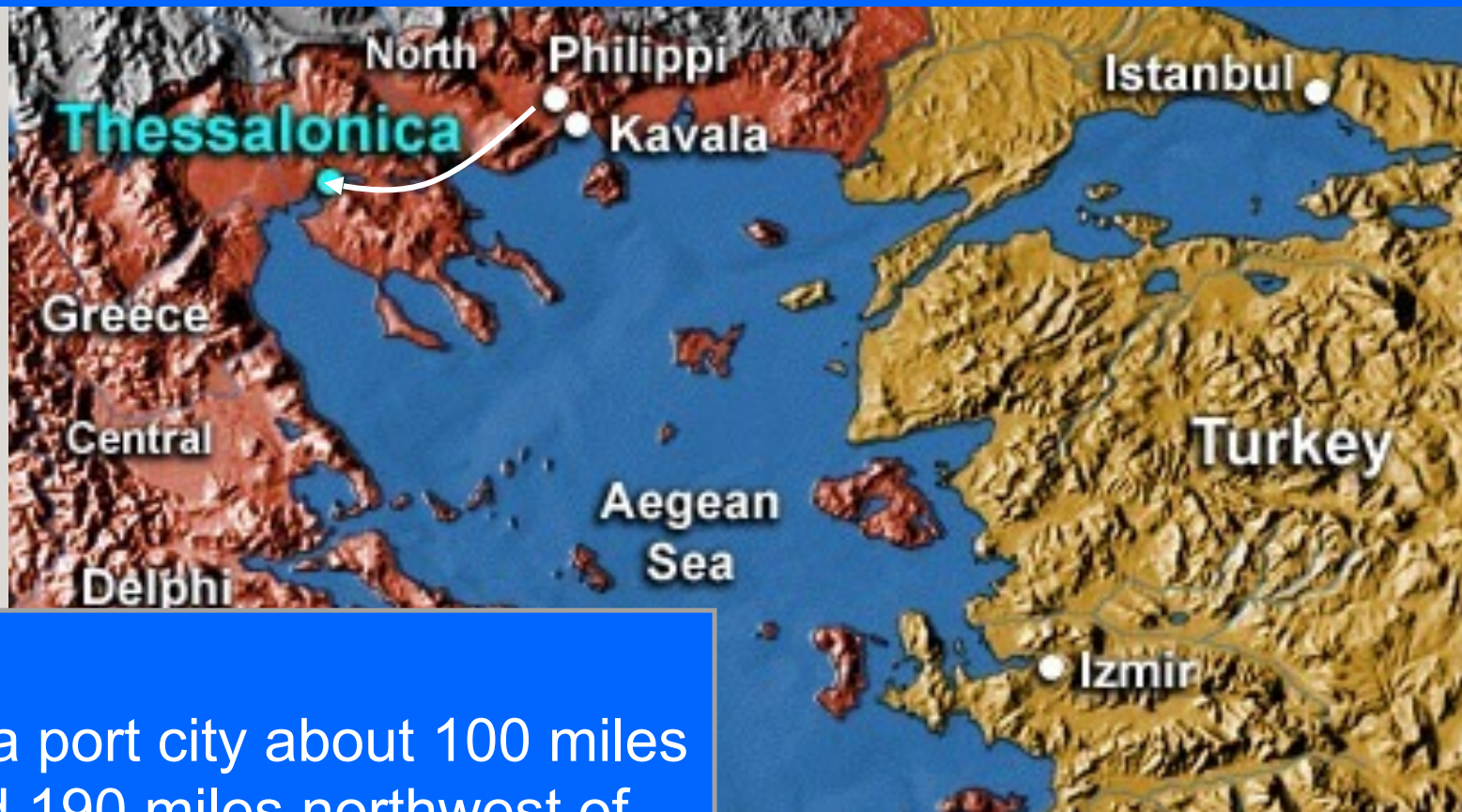
Paul and Silas
beaten and
imprisoned - Ac
16:19-24

a. Paul refers to
this in his letter to
the Thessalonians
1 Th 2:2

b. Also in his
letter to the
Philippians - Ph
1:30

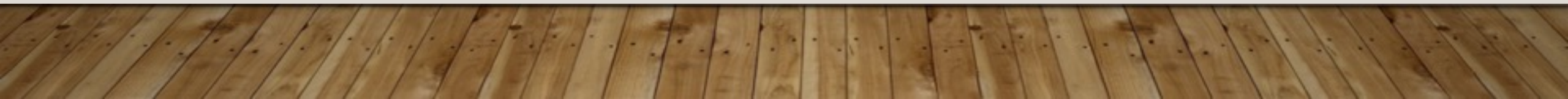


Passing through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they come to
Thessalonica - Ac 17:1



Thessalonica

Thessalonica was a port city about 100 miles west of Philippi and 190 miles northwest of Athens. The city was founded about 315 BC by King Cassander of Macedon, who named it after his wife Thessalonikeia, a half-sister of Alexander the Great.



IN THESSALONICA...

Paul visits the synagogue and reasons with the Jews for
three Sabbaths - Ac 17:2-4

a. Proclaiming Jesus as the Christ

b. Some of whom who were persuaded, along with a
great multitude of Greeks

Unbelieving Jews gather a mob, and attack the house of
Jason - Ac 17:5-9

IN THESSALONICA...

Paul and Silas sent away by the brethren - Ac 17:10

Elsewhere, we learn the following about Paul's stay in Thessalonica...

- a. He supported himself, aided by the Philippians - 1 Th 2:9; 2 Th 3:6-10; Ph 4:16
- b. The dedicated nature of his ministry - 1 Th 2:1-10
- c. The faithfulness and love of the Thessalonians - 1 Th 1:1-8; 2:13-16; 4:9-10



IN BEREA...

1. The Jews are more fair-minded than those at Thessalonica - Ac 17:11-12
 - a. They received the word with all readiness
 - b. They searched the Scriptures daily to see if what Paul said was true
 - c. Many believed, along with prominent Greeks

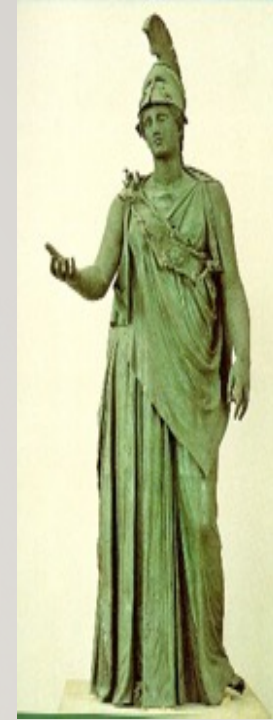




Athens was named for the goddess Athena.



Inside this 100 by 230 ft. architectural marvel was a 40 ft. gold and ivory statue of Athena Parthenos (the virgin).



IN ATHENS...

1. Paul sends for Silas and Timothy - Ac 17:15
2. Moved by the idolatry, Paul disputes with both Jews and Greeks - Ac 17:16-17
 - a. In the synagogue with Jews and other devout persons
 - b. In the market place daily
3. Invited by the Epicurean and Stoic to speak at the Areopagus - Ac 17:18-21

"To the Unknown God"

The above altar is located on Palatine Hill, Rome, where once stood the palaces of the Caesars. It dates from about 100 B.C. and has the inscription, '**To the unknown God.**'

Act 17:23

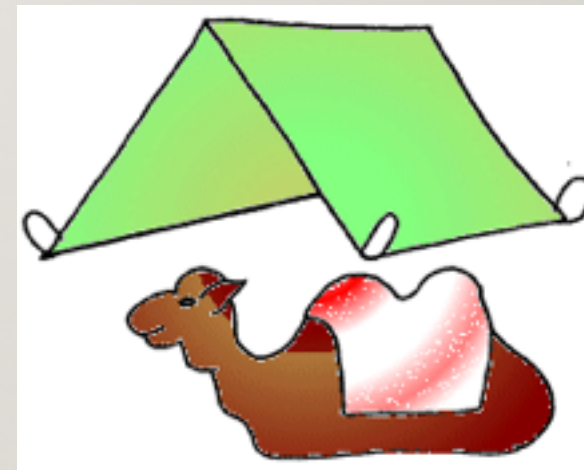
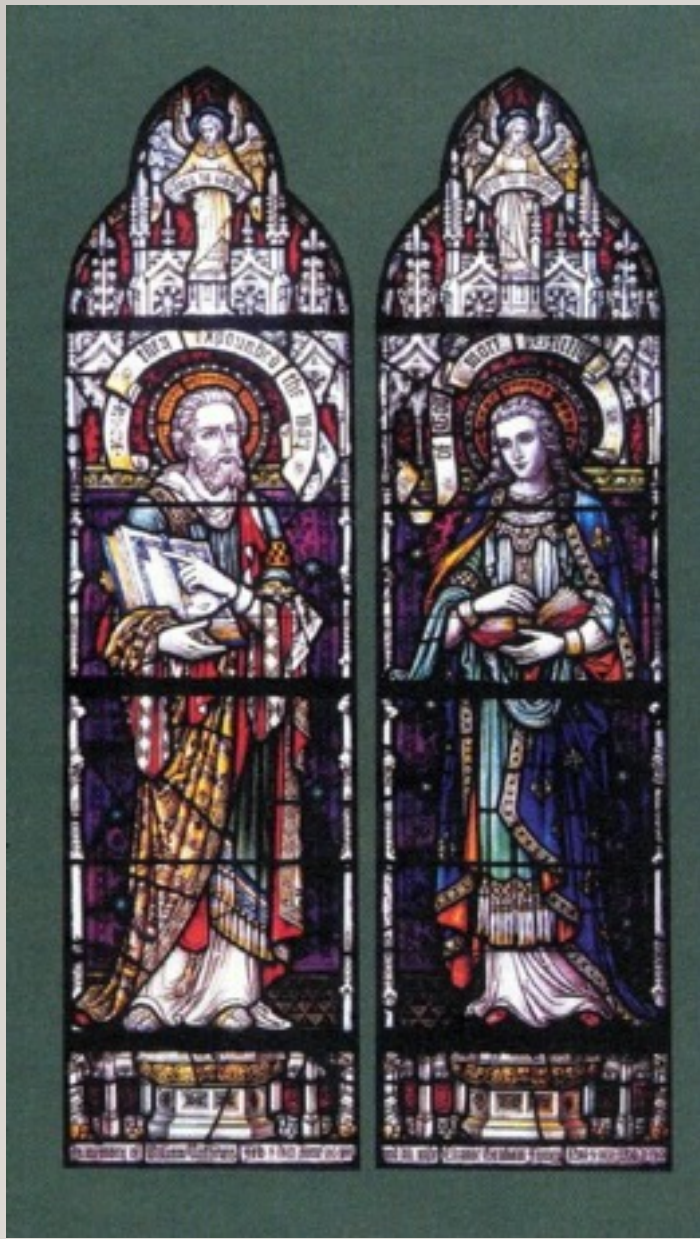


IN CORINTH...



IN CORINTH...

1. Paul arrives and lives with Aquila and Priscilla - Ac 18:1-4
 - a. He worked together with them as a tent-maker - cf. 1 Co 9: 6-15
 - b. He also received support from Philippi - cf. 2 Co 11:7-10; Ph 4:15
 - c. He reasoned with the Jews every Sabbath - cf. 1 Co 2:1-5



Aquila & Priscilla

Colonnade derived much wealth from its many pagan temples and shrines where homage was paid to foreign as well as civic deities like Isis, Serapis, Astarte, Artemis, Apollo, Hermes, Heracles, Athena and Poseidon.

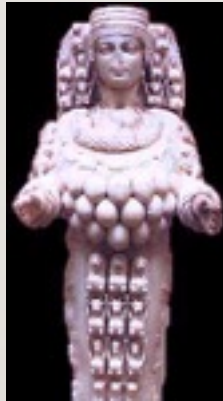


Serapis



Astarte

Artemis



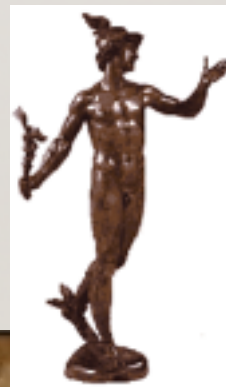
Heracles



Athena



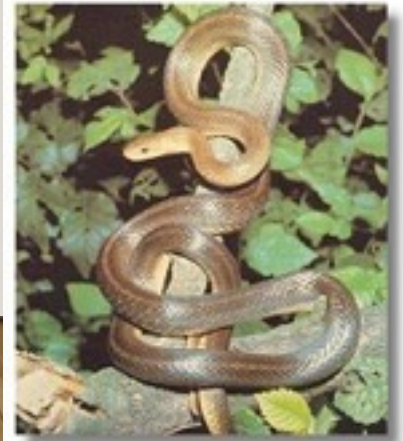
Apollo



Hermes



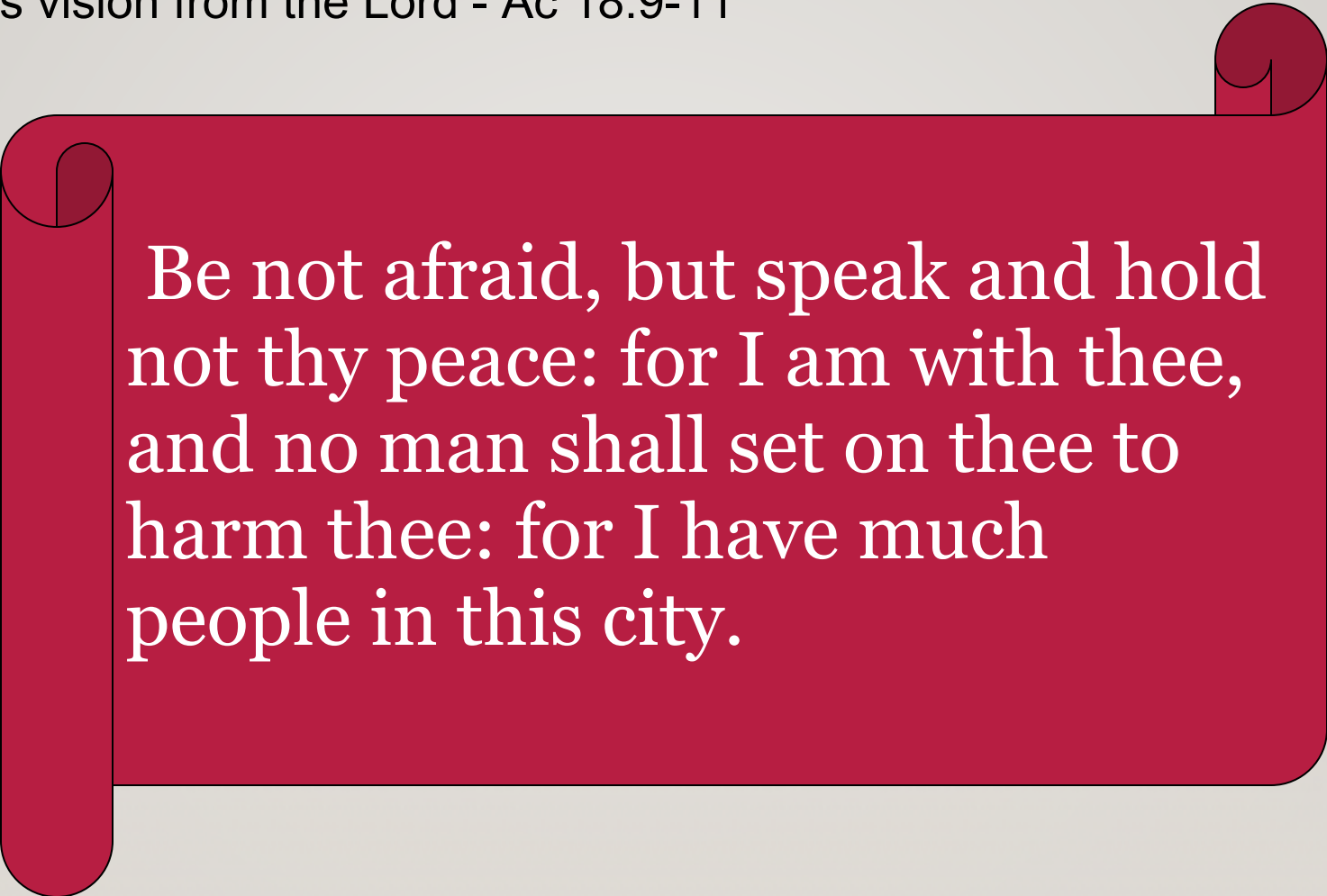
It had a famous temple dedicated to **Aesklepius**, the god of healing where patients left terra cotta replicas of body parts with the hope that their ailments would be healed.



The most significant pagan cult in Corinth, however, was to **Aphrodite** whose temple was located atop the Acrocorinth. It had more than 1000 temple prostitutes dedicated to the goddess. In the evening they would descend the acropolis to ply their trade on the city streets. According to historian Strabo, it was because of them that the city was "crowded with people and grew rich." It is little wonder that Paul had so much to say in his first letter to the Corinthians about the sacred



Paul's vision from the Lord - Ac 18:9-11



Be not afraid, but speak and hold not thy peace: for I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to harm thee: for I have much people in this city.

So Paul remains a year and six months (52-53 A.D.)



Inscription with the name "Erastus" mentioned in Romans 16:23, found in a paved square east of the theater. Note the word "ERASTVS" at the start of the first line.



IN CORINTH...

First Thessalonians (52 A.D.) - 1 Th 1:1



1) Purpose:

- a) To praise them for their steadfastness under persecution
- b) To instruct them concerning holy living
- c) To correct any misunderstanding, especially about the second coming of Christ

2) Theme: Holiness In View Of The Coming Of Christ

3) Brief Outline:

- a) Personal reflections - 1 Th 1:1-3:13
- b) Apostolic instructions - 1 Th 4:1-5:28



FROM CORINTH TO EPHESUS...

Joined by Aquila and Priscilla - Ac 18:18

Cut his hair in Cenchrea (near Corinth), for Paul had taken a vow - Ac 18:18; cf. Ro 16:1

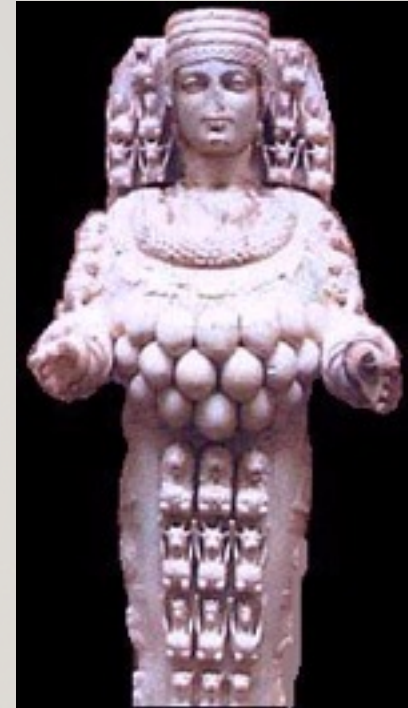
In Ephesus - Ac 18:19-20

Left Aquila and Priscilla there

The Temple of Artemis in Ephesus-one of the 7 Great Ancient Wonders of the World



Silversmith
called
Demetrius
accused Paul
of discrediting
Artemis,
causing a
tumult.



I have set eyes on the wall of lofty Babylon on which is a road for chariots, and the statue of Zeus by the Alpheus, and the hanging gardens, and the colossus of the Sun, and the huge labour of the high pyramids, and the vast tomb of Mausolus; but when I saw the house of Artemis that mounted to the clouds, those other marvels lost their brilliancy, and I said, "Lo, apart from Olympus, the Sun never looked on aught so grand", [2] Antipater of

Paul's Second Missionary Journey

Black Sea

FROM EPHESUS TO JERUSALEM...

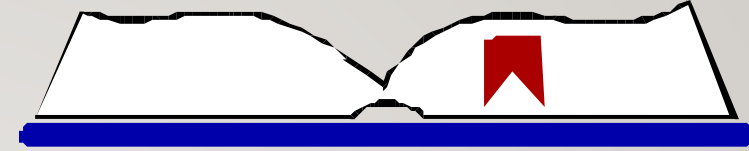
Anxious to get to Jerusalem in time for the feast
(Pentecost?) - Ac 18:21; cf. 20:16

Sailed from Ephesus to
Caesarea – Ac
18:21-22

Went "up" (elevation-wise)
to Jerusalem and visited
the church - Ac
18:22

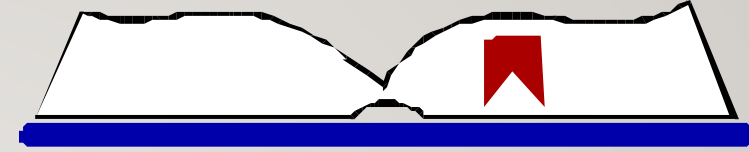


QUICK REVIEW



-
- 1 - Ascension of Jesus, Replacement of Judas as Apostle
 - 2 - Peter's Sermon in Jerusalem
 - 3 - Beggar Healed, Preaching in Jerusalem
 - 4 - Apostles Persecuted
 - 5 - The Death of Ananias & Sapphary
 - 6 - Servers (Deacons) Chosen
 - 7 - Stephen stoned
 - 8 - Philip in Samaria, Ethiopian eunuch converted.

QUICK REVIEW:



-
- 9 - Paul's Conversion
 - 10 - Cornelius' Conversion
 - 11 - Cornelius' Conversion Reported
 - 12 - James Martyred, Herod Dies.
 - 13 - Paul's First Missionary Journey
 - 14 - Paul & Barnabus Preach in Various Cities
 - 15 - Council in Jerusalem, Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey

1st Missionary Journey Acts 13 & 14

**Paul's stories take
place both in Israel
and abroad.**

Modern Day Turkey



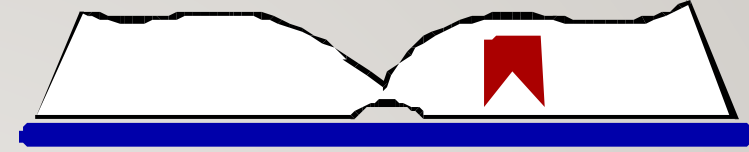
Satellite Image - NASA

INDEX

Paul's Second Missionary Journey



QUICK REVIEW:



- **16 - Conversion of Philippian Jailer**
- **17 - Paul at Athens**
- **18 - Paul at Corinth**
- **19 - Paul at Ephesus**
- **20 - Paul at Macedonia & With Ephesus Elders**
- **21 - Paul Journeys Back to Jerusalem**

Acts 18:23

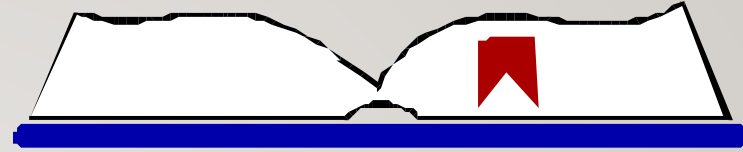
Acts 21:40

3RD
MISSIONARY
JOURNEY

Apostle Paul's Third Missionary Journey 53 - 58 A.D.



LONG OUTLINE:



-
- **22 - Paul Tells of His Conversion in Jerusalem**
 - **23 - Paul Before Sanhedrin, Plot to Kill him**
 - **24 - Paul Before Felix**
 - **25 - Paul Before Festus, Appeals to Caesar**
 - **26 - Paul Tells of His Conversion to King Agrippa**
 - **27 - Paul Shipwrecked**
 - **28 - Paul Goes to Rome**

ACTS 21-22: PAUL SPEAKS OF HIS CONVERSION

- 21:17-Harmless customs??
- 21: 27 –Was Paul teaching against the jews?
- 21:38 Egyptian terrorist
- 22: 1- Paul had the option of speaking Hebrew-he chose Greek not 'to loose anyone'
- Gamaliel-the equivalent of a Principal-the most honored rabbi of the 1st Century. Belonged to the more conservative school of Hillel
- 22:16-Pauls baptism
- 22: 22-29 Roman law prohibited degrading a Roman citizen. Becoming a Roman Citizen:
 - i)Receive it as a reward for outstanding service
 - ii) Pay a large sum of money
 - iii) Be born into a family of Roman citizens

Paul's Father or earlier ancestor could have gained citizenship

- ❖ Vs 2 High priest Ananias-47-59 AD
- ❖ Vs 6 Did Paul “not know” Ananias was the high Priest?
- ❖ Plot to kill Paul
- ❖ Transferred to Caesarea
- ❖ Caesarea was the HQ for Roman rule in Judea and Samaria
- ❖ 470 men were assigned to guard Paul
- ❖ Governor Felix-(AD 52-) formerly a slave.
- ❖ Married 3 queens one of them Drusilla, daughter of Herod Agrippa 1.
- ❖ She had married Azizus, King of Emesa at 15 but abandoned him for Agrippa.
- ❖ Cilicia-Paul’s home province was not under Felix’s jurisdiction

ACTS 23: BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN



Roman Troops

1. Common infantryman
2. Infantryman on the march
3. Decurion
4. Centurion
5. Infantryman -- primum pilum
6. Centurion
7. Horn signalman



Mitre
Exodus 28:38-39

Blue Lacer
Exodus 28:38-39

Golden Clasp
Exodus 28:7, 9-14

Urim—Thummin
Exodus 28:30

Breastplate
Exodus 28:15-29

Linen Girdle
Exodus 39:29

Linen Breeches
Exodus 28:42-43

Curious Girdle
Exodus 28:8

Ephod
Exodus 28:5-7

Upper Robe
Exodus 28:31-35

**Golden Bells
Pomegranates**
Exodus 28:31-35

Linen Robe
Exodus 28:4



Vestments

Exodus 28:2-4



24:1- BEFORE FELIX

- Charges against Paul: troublemaker, ringleader of a Nazarene sect, desecrate the temple.
- “Sects”---Pharisees, Sadducees represented in the Sanhedrin, now “Nazarenes”?
- Paul’s defence-vs 10-21
- Felix adjourns the hearing until several days later.
- Governor Felix was familiar with the Way-having been a governor in the area for 6 years.
- ‘Keep him under guard but give him some freedom’---as a Roman citizen who had not been found guilty.
- Vs 24-27 ‘When I find it **convenient**, I will send for you’
- Felix hoped for a bribe-Paul had insinuated that he had access to funds.
- 2 years....

Charges which

ACTS 25:1-BEFORE FESTUS

they could not

prove

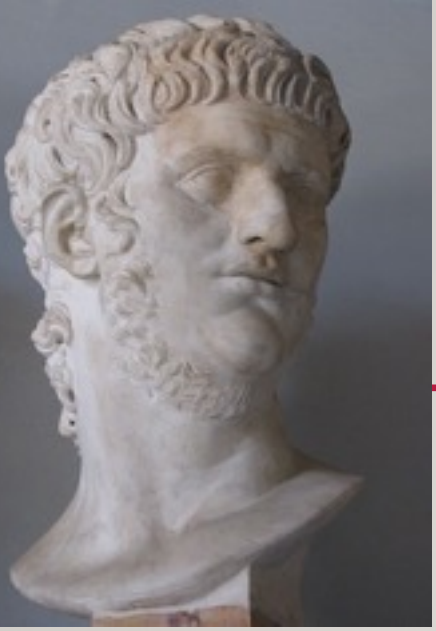
Vs 10-12 'I

appeal to

Ceasar!'



EMPEROR NERO



Nero Claudius Caesar
Augustus Germanicus

- 15 December 37 AD – 9 June 68 AD was the last emperor of the Julio-Claudian dynasty.
- Five years into his reign, he had his mother murdered.
- He made public appearances as an actor, poet, musician and charioteer.
- Many Romans believed that the 6-days Great Fire of Rome (AD 64) was instigated by Nero. He is said to have seized Christians as scapegoats for the fire and burned them alive, seemingly motivated not by public justice but by personal cruelty.
- He committed suicide on June 9, 68 A.D., when he learned that he had been tried in absentia and condemned to death as a public enemy, making him the first Roman Emperor to commit suicide



KING AGRIPPA



King Agrippa II and Bernice came to pay respects to the new ruler, Festus

Agrippa ruled in the area N. and NE. of Sea of Galilee

Bernice was his sister.

Rumors that they had an incestuous relationship.

Vs 15-22.

Agrippa had been wanting to hear Paul.

Vs 26-27 Festus wanted to get 'something to write to His Majesty'



WHO WERE THE HERODIANS?

- History: Maccabbees-134-104 BC Judea conquered Edom. Edomites integrated into Judean Nation
- Edomite Antipas appointed Governor of Edom
- His son, Antipater (father of Herod the Great) appointed by Julius Ceaser to be procurator of Judea 47BC-43BC
- Herod the Great: 43BC-4BC (Herod during Jesus' birth)
- His sons were given tetrarchy's to rule
 - Herod Antipas: 39BC—Having the head of John the Baptist
- Agrippa 1-grandson of Herod the Great got the title “King” over Judea-courtesy of friendship with Rome
- Agrippa II-His son, Acts 26. In the trial of Paul. Died in 92 AD. Ending the Herodian Dynasty



**Marcus Julius
Agrippa**

ACTS 26: 1-BEFORE KING (HEROD) AGRIPPA II

-
- 1-10 Glimpses of Paul's early life: Born in Tarsus, grew up in Jerusalem (under Gamaliel?), strict pharisee
 - Paul is clear on his mission on earth vs 17-open peoples' eyes, turn them from darkness... vs 19-20
 - Vs 24: he was learned....what I am saying is "true and reasonable"
 - Agrippa's problem: time
 - 24-29: We wish everybody would become a Christian-**now**

DIFFERENT RESPONSES TO GODS WORD IN ACTS

Person	Passage in Acts	Response
Sanhedrin	Acts 7: 54-55	Gnashed their teeth
Elymas (Bar Jesus)	Acts 13: 6-8	“Dog in the manger”
Felix	Acts 24: 24-27	Convenience
Agrippa II	Acts 26: 26-30	Time
Ethiopian Eunuch	Acts 8: 25-30	What should I do?
The Jailer	Acts 16: 25-30	What must I do?
Apollos	Acts 18: 24-26	...more adequately



Acts 27-28

Journey to Rome

61-62 A.D.

Centurion Julius' kindness

Paul's advise ignored

Paul's encouragement- vs21

Under house arrest for 2 years
Waiting for his accusers.
Spent the time preaching

Paul's life saved
Shipwrecked
Viper
Publius Father healed of fever

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Ethiopian Eunuch	Acts 8: 25-30	“What should I do?”
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*The Voyage of Paul
the Apostle to Rome*

Under house arrest for 2 years
Waiting for his accusers.
Spent the time preaching



AFTER ACTS 28, WHAT?

-
- By 63 AD Christianity had spread enough in Rome for Caesar Nero to blame the Christians for the great fire.
 - Tradition has it that Paul spread the gospel to Spain and Britain in a 'Fourth Missionary Journey'

Acts 18:5 52 AD
1 & 2 Thessalonians written from Corinth

Acts 19:22 56 AD
1 Corinthians written Ephesus

Acts 20:2-3 57 AD
Romans, Galatians, 2 Corinthians written from Macedonia

Acts 28 61-63 AD
2 year Roman imprisonment:

Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, Philemon (and Hebrews, if Paul wrote it) written during while in prison.

"Acts 29" 63-64 AD
"4th Missionary Journey": Crete, Miletus, Colossae, Troas, Philippi, Corinth, Nicopolis. 1 Timothy, Titus & Philemon written from Corinth

"Acts 30" 66 AD

2nd imprisonment: Paul arrested sometime after being in Corinth and taken to Rome and writes 2 Timothy.

"Acts 31" 67 AD