

# Paul's Mission Chapter 29-Acts

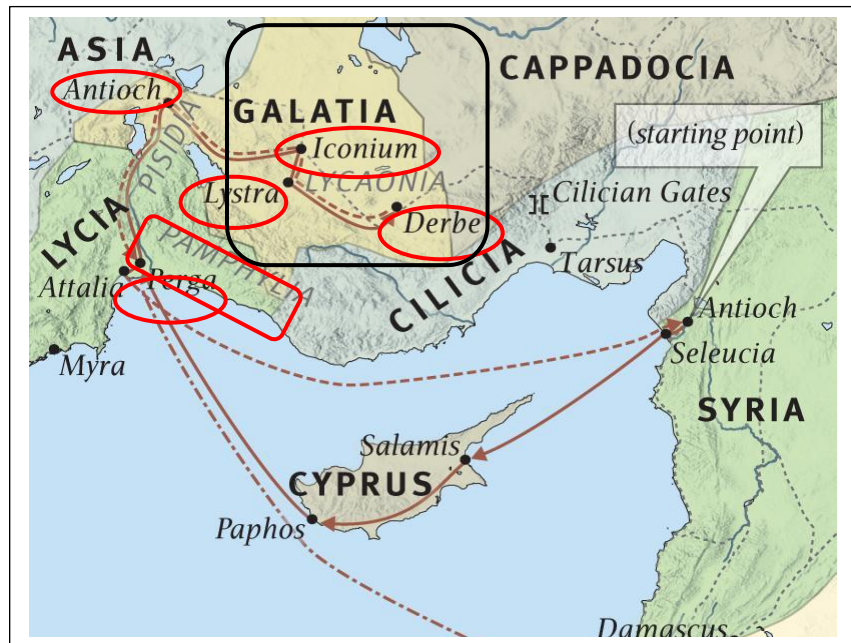
## The Book of Acts

### The First Missionary Journey

#### Chapter 11- Antioch

##### Vs. 19-22

- Many Christians fled **Jerusalem** to Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch. This was due to the Christian persecution.
- Christians came from Cyprus and Cyrene (North West Africa) and preached to those in Antioch.



<http://www.lahistoriaconmapas.com/atlas/syria-map/aleppo-syria-news-map.htm>

- Paul was from Tarsus
- Antioch was located on the Orontes River about 300 miles from Jerusalem and was the capital of the Roman province of Syria.
- Antioch was the **third** largest city in the Roman Empire, with a population of about 500,000.
- Antioch was one of the most cosmopolitan centers of the world and a center for commerce. Seleucia was Antioch's seaport.

- **Antioch** replaced Jerusalem as the number one Christian city and became the center for early missionary activity.
- Believers were first called "**Christians**" in Antioch (Acts 11:26).
- Christ's commission in Acts 1:7-8 was now being fulfilled through persecution.

## **Chapter 13- First Missionary Journey 47-48 A.D.**

### **Vs. 13-36- Cyprus, Pamphylia/Pisidia**

- While in **Antioch**, the Holy Spirit directed Paul and Barnabas to preach the Gospel.
- They took John Mark (the writer of the Gospel of Mark) with them.
- They went to Seleucia, then on to Cyprus.
- After preaching throughout Cyprus, Paul, Barnabas, and Mark travel to **Perga** in the region of Pamphylia (see map above).
- Mark **left** Paul and Barnabas and went back to Jerusalem.
  - This was going to cause tension later between Paul and Barnabas.
- From Perga, Paul and Barnabas went to Antioch in the region of Pisidia (see map above). This was a different Antioch than Paul's launching base in Syria.
- Paul usually met with the **Jewish** leaders of a city before meeting with the Gentiles.
- Paul delivered a sermon about the Jewish history and the coming of Christ.

### **Vs. 46-52- Paul Preaches to the Gentiles**

- Since the Jews refused to become spiritual "lights of the world," Paul turned to the **Gentiles**. Since the Jews rejected their Messiah, the Church Age was born.
  - We are living in the **Church Age** today.
  - The Church today is the body of Christ composed of anyone who believes in Jesus. The Church's mission is to spread the Gospel throughout the world (Matthew 28:19-20).
- The Gentiles received the Gospel message with great joy.
- The Jews incited the devout and prominent **women** and the leading men of the city. They revolted against Paul and Barnabas and drove them out of their district.
- Paul and Barnabas went on to Iconium.

## **Chapter 14- Iconium/ Lystra/ Derbe**

- Paul and Barnabas preached within the regions of Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe (see map above). While in Lystra, **unbelieving** Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and turned the crowds against Paul and Barnabas.
- The people **stoned** Paul and dragged him out of the city.

- They supposed him to be dead.
- The Lord **miraculously** restored Paul and he reentered the city.

### **The Churches Within the Region of Galatia**

- The cities of Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe were located within the region of **Galatia** (see map above).
- It is possible that the book of Galatians was written to the churches within the Galatian region sometime after Paul's first missionary journey.
- If so, the Galatian letter was probably written from Antioch in A.D. 49, making it the **earliest** of Paul's epistles.

## **The Book of Galatians**

### **Chapters 1-2**

#### **Vs. 1-10-Paul's Amazement**

- Paul sent his letter to the various churches throughout the region of **Galatia**.
- Galatians 1:6 indicates that Paul was **amazed** that the new believers had already turned from the sound teachings of the Gospel.
  - This did not mean they had lost their salvation, but they were beginning to go back to Jewish traditions.
- After Paul's **miraculous** stoning, recovery, and after the many miracles God wrought through Paul and Barnabas, it was hard to believe they had left the Gospel message so quickly.
- Human nature tends to quickly **revert** to old lifestyles and habits. Jesus states in Luke 9:23, "...If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross **daily** and follow Me" [NASV].

## **The Second Missionary Journey**

### **The Book of Acts**

#### **Chapter 15**

#### **Vs. 36-41-Paul and Barnabas Separate**

- After some time in Antioch, Paul wanted to **revisit** the churches from the first missionary journey.
- Barnabas wanted to take **Mark** with them.
- Paul was adamant against taking Mark since he had abandoned them during the first journey.

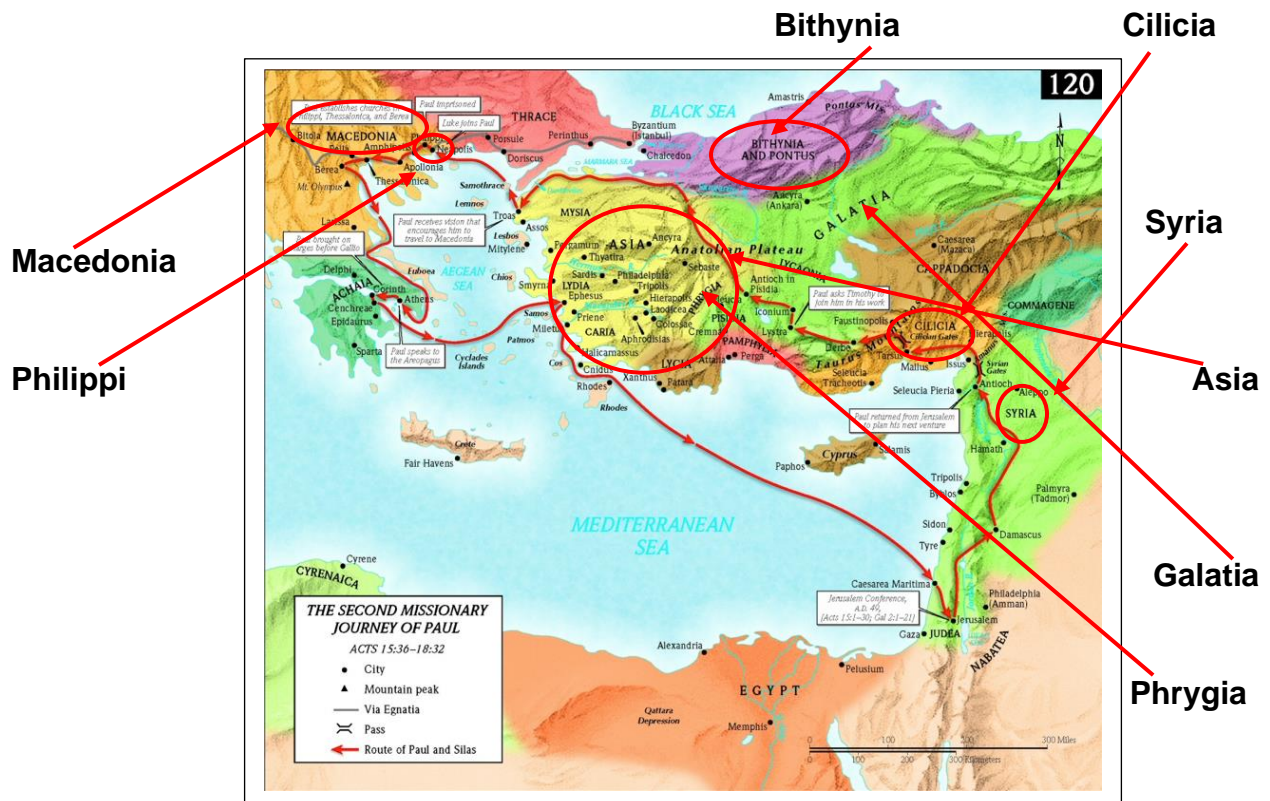
- Because of this disagreement, Paul and Barnabas **separated**.
- Barnabas took Mark with him to Cyprus while Paul chose Silas as a missionary companion.

## The Churches Revisited

### Chapter 16

#### Vs. 1-5-Timothy Accompanies Paul

- Paul and Silas traveled up through Syria and Cilicia and **strengthened** the believers.
- During their travels, they revisited Derbe and Lystra. Lystra was the city where Paul was stoned during the first missionary journey.
- While at Lystra, Paul became acquainted with **Timothy**.
- Paul had Timothy accompany him on the rest of the journey.
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy was written by Paul to Timothy (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 1:1-2).



<http://quotesgram.com/apostle-paul-quotes-about-death/>

## Ch. 16-10-The Call to Europe

- Paul traveled throughout the Phrygian and Galatian regions. However, he was **forbidden** by the Holy Spirit to go into Asia (Asia Minor today).
- After journeying into the region of Mysia, Paul and Silas prepared to go into Bithynia. However, the Holy Spirit prevented them from making those plans.
- Paul continued west and came to the port city of Troas.
  - Troas was the launching point for those entering **Macedonia**.
- Paul received a vision of a man giving an appeal for Paul to preach in Macedonia.
- Paul immediately made plans for Macedonia.

## Vs. 11-15-Philippi

- Paul went to the island of Samothrace, then to Neapolis, and on to **Philippi**.
- King Philip of Macedonia founded the city of Philippi.
  - Philip was the father of **Alexander the Great**.
  - Philippi eventually became a Roman colony and a military outpost.
- Paul established the first European church at **Philippi**.
- Because of Paul's preaching, the chief magistrate had Paul and Barnabas beaten with rods and thrown into prison.
- At midnight, as Paul and Silas were **singing** hymns and praying, a great earthquake shook the prison doors open.
- The punishment of death was given to a Roman guard who lost a prisoner.
  - Paul stopped the guard from committing suicide when he shouted that none of the prisoners had escaped.
- Immediately, the guard brought Paul and Silas to his house, washed their wounds, and became a **believer** (Acts 16:31).

## The Book of Philippians

- Paul eventually wrote the book of Philippians while in prison at **Rome**.
- His writing occurred after the third missionary journey.
- The Philippians had remained faithful to Paul.
- Twice, the Philippians sent money to Paul while he ministered in **Thessalonica** (Phil. 4:16).
- Philippians 4:19- "And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." [NASB]
- A church that gives to missionary work will have its **needs** met.

## Chapter 17

- From Philippi, Paul traveled through Amphipolis, Apollonia, and **Thessalonica**.



<http://quotesgram.com/apostle-paul-quotes-about-death/>

## The Books of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians

### 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians

- After Paul left Thessalonica, he traveled down to **Athens**.
  - From Athens, Paul sent Timothy back to Thessalonica to encourage the believers.
  - Since Paul and Silas had to leave the city so quickly, they were concerned with the believers' spiritual well-being.
  - Paul traveled to **Corinth** after Timothy left for Thessalonica.
  - Timothy went to Corinth and gave Paul a **positive** report about the church.
  - At Corinth, Paul meets Aquila and his wife Priscilla.
  - Paul was very pleased about the report and wrote 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians.
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- 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 3:1-2, 5-8-Paul gives an account of his contact with the Thessalonians.



- From Corinth, Paul left Priscilla and Aquila at Ephesus and quickly left for Jerusalem.

## Third Missionary Journey

### The Book of Acts

#### Chapter 18-Paul's Third Journey Begins

- After spending time in Antioch, Paul left for his **third** missionary journey.
- Paul went through the Galatian and Phrygian sections of Asia strengthening all the disciples.

#### Chapter 19

#### Vs. 1-7-Paul's Mission in Ephesus

- After ministering throughout the Galatian and Phrygian regions, Paul went to **Ephesus**.



<https://www.understandchristianity.com/timelines/pauls-third-missionary-journey/>

- The Gospel possibly came first to Ephesus after Paul left Priscilla and Aquila there on his second missionary Journey.
- Ephesus was known as a **commercial**, political, and religious center.

- The great temple of **Artemis** (Diana) was the central point of Ephesus' religion.
- Ephesus was a major trading center much like Alexandria and Antioch.

## **The Book of Ephesians**

- Paul wrote the book of Ephesians while **imprisoned** in Rome around A.D. 61.
- The book was possibly a **circular** letter in that it was meant to be sent to various churches throughout Asia.
- Reasons for being circular:
  - Ancient manuscripts do not contain the word "Ephesus" in the introduction.
  - There is an absence of a controversy within any church.
- Paul preached in Ephesus for about **three** years during the third missionary journey. The fact that this letter does not mention specific names appears to indicate that it was meant to be passed on.

## **Chapter 20**

### **Vs. 1-6-Paul Ends His Third Missionary Journey**

- While in Ephesus, a riot broke out due to Paul's evangelism. The silversmiths were losing money since people were not buying the souvenir statues of the goddess Diana.
- After the uproar, Paul left for **Macedonia** (see map above).
- From Ephesus, Paul went to Troas and followed the same route to Corinth as he did on the second missionary journey.
- Paul wrote the book of Romans while in Corinth (see map above) during his **third** missionary journey. Paul intended to take an offering to the poor in Palestine. He intended to deliver the money while in Jerusalem.
- From Jerusalem, Paul planned on visiting the Roman church while on his way to **Spain** (Romans 15:24)
- This plan did not materialize according to Paul's plans since he was arrested while in Jerusalem and sent to Rome as a **prisoner**.
- It was during this Roman imprisonment that Paul wrote the books of Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.



## Summary

Ephesus was a very large and wicked city. However, it was this city in which Paul was able to spread the Gospel throughout Asia. Demetrius, the silversmith, caused Paul much trouble. Despite his opposition, God was in control. We may not fully **understand** why certain trials and tribulations come our way. Even when there appears to be no “end in sight,” our hope must rest in God. Psalm 23 states, “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me...” [NASB].

## Discussion Questions

### Chapter 29

1. Read Acts 1:7-8.
  - a. What method did God use to carry out this command in the early church?
  - b. Has God's work ever come from a bad situation in your life? Explain.
  - c. Has God ever placed you in an unusual situation to proclaim His Word? Explain.
  
2. Antioch replaced Jerusalem as the primary Christian city and became the center for early missionary activity.
  - a. Why do you think Antioch became the hub of Christianity (look on your map)?
  - b. How might the Christians in Jerusalem felt to see a Gentile city become the hub of Christianity?
  - c. Do you think God can make a paradigm shift in our life? In other words, do you think God can exchange long established habits or ministries for new ones? Explain?
  - d. Why do we tend to fight change?
  
3. Mark left Paul and Barnabas during the first missionary journey. It is felt by many that Mark's courage faltered during this Journey? Paul and Barnabas split up in deciding whether to take Mark on the second missionary journey.
  - a. Did Mark's failure eventually turn out for his good? Hint-the Gospel of Mark was written by him.
  - b. Read 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:9-11. At the end of Paul's life, what was his view of Mark's usefulness?
  - c. What do you think caused a change in Mark's life?
  
4. After Paul's stoning, he reentered the city.
  - a. What gave Paul such courage?
  - b. Do you think you have this kind of courage? Do you think you might have such courage if the situation arose?
  - c. God often waits to give us faith or courage until we need it. Have you ever experienced an unusual amount of faith or courage in a difficult situation? Explain.
  
5. Why do you think the Holy Spirit did not allow Paul to preach in Bithynia or Asia during his second missionary journey?
  - a. Do you have unsaved family members or friends? Is it frustrating when they do not respond to the Gospel? Explain.
  - b. Why is it important to keep praying for them? Is it possible that God might use someone other than yourself to lead them to Christ?

c. Why do you think God sent Paul to Greece instead of Bithynia?