



Acts Chapter 16 Part 2 Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey

Moving into Acts chapter 16 part two... we find Paul now moving out and away from Jerusalem and it's vicinity where the largest concentration of Jews were living. And we now see Paul moving into Gentile country, where Jewish people are getting harder and harder to find because Paul's journey is now taking him away from Jerusalem and it's surrounding communities.

Most Biblical scholars call Acts chapter 16 Paul's 2nd missionary journey, and to better understand the travels of the Apostle Paul I've included some maps for you in this PDF file that will help you to better understand the many journey's that Paul had to make.

Paul and the Apostles covered not hundreds.. but thousands of miles between places like Tarsus and Jerusalem and Cyrene and Syria Antioch. Paul would soon be crossing back and forth across the Mediterranean Sea, and getting shipwrecked and bitten by snakes and beaten and imprisoned, and all kinds of trials and tribulations were awaiting him.

To see just the sheer distances that these men had to cover in order to get this Gospel message out the people was a miracle in itself. I would submit to you that no man would have been able to go through the trials and tribulations that these men had to go through with out the hand of God upon them.

And we see earthquakes happening and prison doors being opened by angles, and people being healed along the way.. and crippled men walking and sick people being made whole again, so I just want us to keep these things in mind as we move forward.

The hand of God was surly with these men as they ventured out into these unknown gentile regions, and with out the hand of God.. I would submit to you that these men would have never undertaken such a monumental project.

Just to give us a little bit of a sneak peak as to just some of the trials and tribulations that Paul would soon be experiencing I'd like us to turn to Corinthians chapter 11 verse 25:

2Co 11:23 Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death.

2Co 11:24 Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one.

2Co 11:25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea;

2Co 11:26 on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers;

2Co 11:27 in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

2Co 11:28 And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.

For anyone to read this book.. and to then proclaim that there is no God.. is just simply foolishness. These men would never have allowed themselves to be beaten and imprisoned, and shipwrecked, and bitten by snakes, and mocked, and even given their very lives with out being sure that our Messiah was exactly who he said he was.

And so I just want to show you these maps, and bring these things to your attention to better bring you into the story line, and to help us really put ourselves in the shoes of Paul and the Apostles and what we're seeing here in these scriptures.. because it's so important for us to have a firm grasp of the reality of what took place over two thousand years ago that made this one book called the "Bible" the number one best seller year after year, and why it's message is so vitally important to every man, woman, and child.

And so as we move forward here in the 16th chapter of the book of Acts I want us to realize that up until this point in time... Paul was still teaching and preaching to a mostly Jewish population, that had a few gentiles mixed in.

But now.. once again I just want to stress... that Paul's journey's would take him to a much different culture. Most of the people that he would be speaking to from this point on were not going to be God fearing Jews.

Although there would be some Jews in the mix... the majority of those who Paul would be trying to reach would be gentiles. Most of the population where Paul was headed to now, were going to be gentile pagans who had no idea what the Torah or the Tanakh, or the writings of the prophets was all about.

So Paul would literally be taking the light of truth into the pitch black darkness of paganism, and so I want us to understand this as we listen to some of the things that Paul says and does from hear on out.

And I also want us to understand that Paul is well aware of the fact that there are still those from the Circumcision Group that are following him around trying to distort the Gospel message that he's trying to deliver.

So Paul's fighting against two main fronts of darkness. One is the die hard Jews who insist on trying to justify their salvation through the law and circumcision... and the other resistance is going to be coming from those who are steeped in paganism and the worship of these Hellenistic pagan gods and idols, who have no idea what a Jew even is let alone what the Torah is or why its so important.

We have to remember that back then there were hundreds of gods to choose from, and we've already seen this slave girl in Acts chapter 16 who had this spirit of divination and was making her owners rich by fortune telling (and we'll get deeper into that as we move forward).

Fortune telling, divination, sorcery, Gnosticism and the worship of angles and demons, and magic along with it's astrology and all kinds of things were going on in these cultures that Paul was about to be introduced to.. and none of it was good.

So Paul and the Apostles really had their work cut out for them not just in trying to survive the journey itself.. but they also had to fight the spiritual warfare that was often times even more dangerous then the journey itself.

We'll soon find out that Paul is very a strong willed individual, and Paul is not one to take any guff, or static from anyone. In verses 36 and 37 we see Paul's jailers trying to free him and Silas from prison after beating them for calling the demon out of the slave girl who had the spirit of divination... and instead of Paul being glad to get out of prison.. he stands his ground and tells his jailer to go get his accusers and make them come and free him from prison.

Now most of us after being stripped naked and beaten with rods and thrown into prison would have just been glad to get out of there... but not Paul. Instead of turn tailing and running while he had the opportunity... Paul stand his ground and fires back at them because he is a Roman citizen, and back in those days it was illegal for them to beat a Roman citizen with out being taken to the Roman authorities.

You see Roman citizens were treated with more dignity than were those who had come from other places. So once again we see Paul making this an issue and by the time Paul is done with them they're begging Paul and Silas to forgive them and to leave the area quietly.

But this is who Paul was... he was not a man of few words, nor was he a man that would put up with false doctrine, lies, deception, or any other kind of wrong doing in his presents. Paul was no pacifist by any means, and neither was his Messiah by the way (and if you think he was, you might just want to read John 2:15, or Matthew chapter 23 for that matter).

Our Messiah didn't put up with that kind nonsense and Paul wasn't about to put up with it either, and we'll find that out as we move forward. One of the last words that someone might use to

describe Paul... would be “timid”.

So Paul begins to plant these churches in places all along the Aegean Sea like the church of Philippi (from the book of Philippians), Corinth, (from the book of Corinthians), and Thessalonica (from the book of Thessalonians), and Berea which Paul mentions but doesn't have a book or chapter of it's own.

All of these churches, or congregations were set up around Ephesus and it was these churches that helped to further the Gospel message that Paul had given them, but the problem was that there were always men coming into the churches after Paul would leave... and they would try to either convert the people back to their old pagan religion.. or they would claim to be Apostles themselves and would distort the Gospel that Paul had just taught them.

So we often times see Paul having to either return to these churches to straighten things out, or he would write letters to them to re-confirm what he had already taught them in order to keep them out of the clutches of these wolves in sheep's clothing that were trying to steal their faith, and we can see that in the epistles of Paul time and time again.

So with that being said lets get back to this slave girl that had this spirit of divination that keeps following Paul and Silas around:

*Act 16:16 As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of **divination** (Puthon) and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling.*

Act 16:17 She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation."

Act 16:18 And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

Once again what we see written in our Bible's is not as accurately described as what is written in the original Greek manuscripts. The word “**divination**” used in verse 16 is translated from the Greek word “Puthon” which means Python or snake spirit.

Πύθων

Puthōn

Thayer Definition:

- 1) in Greek mythology the name of the Pythian serpent or dragon that dwelt in the region of Pytho at the foot of Parnassus in Phocis, and was said to have guarded the oracle at Delphi and been slain by Apollo
- 2) a spirit of divination

Part of Speech: noun masculine

Thayers Greek Definitions

Now a Greek historian by the name of “Strabo” who died just about the same time that Yahshua was born says that the Python guarded the Delphic Oracle whose name was Pythia.

The Delphic Oracle was a prestigious office held by a succession of Greek women, and the Delphic Oracle would preform as a priestess at the shrine of Delphi, and this Delphic Oracle was known as the most powerful woman among the Greeks.

So what is being alluded to here in the book of Acts is that this slave girl may have been one of these Delphic Oracles, or priestesses, and there's no doubt that she was making these business men a ton of money by telling fortunes because of the demon that she had.. and this is why they were so angry when Paul exorcised the demon out of her.

They're business model just went out the window along with their ability to make any more money from her. So these businessmen drag Paul and Silas before the Magistrate, and instead of telling the Magistrate the truth... they lie and they say that Paul and Silas were disturbing the city, and they start perpetuating this lie about Paul and Silas advocating customs that were not lawful for Romans to keep.

The truth as far as we can see here in the scriptures is that the only people that Paul and Silas were disturbing were these businessmen.. and just like today... these Magistrates were most likely filling their pockets with the money that these businessmen were making from their demonically possessed fortune-telling slave girl.

And so they strip them of their clothes and beat Paul and Silas with rods and through them into prison Of course this all happens so quickly that the Magistrate fails to recognize that Paul and Silas are both Roman citizens... and by Roman law... he wasn't allowed order Paul and Silas to be beaten... so when Paul calls him on what he did to them in verse 37 they become afraid because if the Roman authorities find out that this Magistrate ordered to have not one but two Roman citizens beaten with rods.. it could mean that he himself could meet the same fate.

It was rare that a Jew would be a Roman citizen; so rare that such a possibility wasn't even considered by the townspeople. The fact that Paul was a Jewish Roman citizen was extremely rare but because he was a Roman citizen... this gave him the unusual power to stand up to local politicians, local authorities, and even kings.

Paul knew how to pick and choose his words and when to speak them, and he knew the rights that he had as a Roman citizen, and how to demand justice. And once again we can clearly see that this was all part of Gods plan. We're told in Galatians chapter 1 verses 15 through 17 that God chose Paul before he was even born for this very task that he had given him.

Gal 1:15 But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace,

Gal 1:16 was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone;

Gal 1:17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

Another thing to keep in mind is what happened after Paul and Silas were thrown into jail.

Act 16:23 And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely.

Act 16:24 Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

Act 16:25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them,

Act 16:26 and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.

Act 16:27 When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.

Act 16:28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here."

Act 16:29 And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas.

Act 16:30 Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Act 16:31 And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Act 16:32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

Act 16:33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.

Act 16:34 Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

So what we see here is Paul and Silas in prison just after being striped of their clothes and beaten with rods... and what are they doing?.... they're singing songs! And even the prisoners at that point probably thought that they were both crazy... that is up until an earthquake shakes the foundations of the building and all their shackles fell off of them and the doors of the prison fly open.

But even with their shackles falling off of them and the doors of the prison opened.. they still just sit there. Of course when the jailer saw that the door was wide open he figured that they all had escaped.. so he's ready to kill himself because he knows the penalty for allowing a prisoner

to escape is death according to Roman law... but Paul stops him and leads him and his whole family to the Messiah.

So I want us to think about this for just a moment. Here is this Roman Guard.. about ready to kill himself because he thought that he'd lost all of his prisoners... so he's next to death one minute...and the next minute.. he's inviting the prisoners to his house to feed them and to mend their wounds... and he has been given the free gift eternal life from a Messiah that he never even knew he had.

It was because Paul and Silas stayed in the prison. even though they could have escaped... that this Roman gentile guards whole family was delivered. Once again... the power of God knows no bounds. Most men would have taken off the minute the shackles fell off and the doors flew open... but not Paul.

Paul was a lot like what we would describe today as a John Wayne or Clint Eastwood type of guy. Paul had gravel... and you didn't mess with Paul because Paul lived a life of boldness and he knew that he knew what he knew.

He knew when to speak and he knew when to be silent, he knew when to move.. and he knew when to stay put, he knew who was the real deal and who was a fraud, and he held no punches. Paul spoke his mind and he had no reservation about correcting someone who stepped out of line or went against his Messiah's Gospel truth.

Gal 2:11 But when Cephas (Peter) came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.

Gal 2:12 For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party.

Gal 2:13 And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.

Gal 2:14 But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

So this is just a prime example of how Paul handled things... he confronted Peter right to his face... right out in the open in front of everyone. Once again Paul would not put up with anyone who was teaching, or preaching, false doctrine, nor would he put up with Peter kissing the feet of the circumcision group in front of his new gentile converts.. and you can bet that Paul's public confrontation with Peter snapped Peter out of his wreckless stupor in a New York minute.

Paul was a force to be reckoned with, and the sword of truth that he wielded was not prejudice in any way shape or form. Be you an Apostle or a Pagan, Paul knew that the Gospel Message of

his Messiah trumped what ever color, creed, or nationality that you hailed from, and we'll see more of Paul's bold and seemingly fearless disposition as we move forward in the book of Acts.

The Journey's Of The Apostle Paul

The Christian Classics Ethereal Library

Taken from: <http://www.ccel.org/bible/phillips/CN092MAPS1.htm>

including the New Testament Letters:

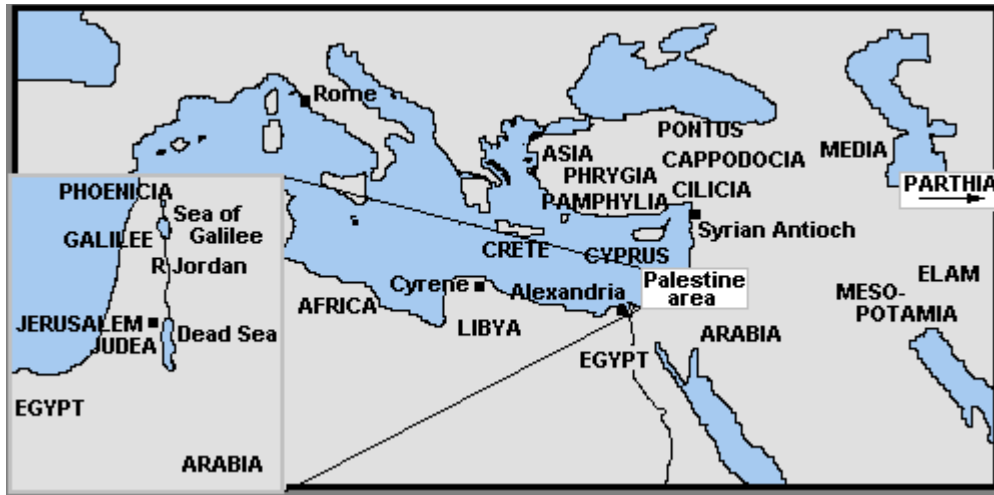
The Letters are not in their normal New Testament Order, but in the date order generally agreed by most scholars. Paul's Letters are integrated into the story of the Acts of the Apostles at the points in his journeys when they are generally believed to have been written

SETTING THE SCENE

Map 12. The Travel Areas of the Acts of the Apostles; also where Paul Sent his Letters
(city names in "stamped envelopes", the one province "unstamped")



Map 13. Some of the Many centers of Jewish Population Outside Israel - the "Dispersion" or "Diaspora"



THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEYS

Map 14. The Earliest Missionary Journeys - Philip the Evangelist



Taken from Acts 8:1b-40 - On that very day (the death of Stephen) a great storm of persecution burst upon the Church in Jerusalem [1]. All Church members except the apostles were scattered over the countryside of Judea [2] and Samaria [3]. While reverent men buried Stephen and mourned deeply over him, Saul (later the apostle Paul) harassed the Church bitterly. Those who were dispersed by this action went throughout the country, preaching the good news of the message as they went. Philip (the "deacon" and Evangelist), for instance, went down to the city of Samaria [4] and preached Christ to the people there.

(Philip continues preaching in Samaria; the Apostles Peter and John join him there before returning to Jerusalem; Philip is then directed to another task)

But an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go south down the road which runs from Jerusalem to Gaza [5], out in the desert."

Philip arose and began his journey. At this very moment an **Ethiopian eunuch**, a minister and in fact the treasurer to Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, was on his way home after coming to Jerusalem to worship. He was sitting in his carriage reading the prophet Isaiah.

(Philip explains a prophecy of Isaiah, preaches the Gospel of Jesus to him, and at the eunuch's request baptises him)

When they came up out of the water the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away suddenly and the eunuch saw no more of him, but proceeded on his journey with a heart full of joy. **Philip** found himself at Azotus [6] and as he passed through the countryside **he went on telling the good news** in all the cities until he came to Caesarea [7] (where we meet him 25 years later during a visit by Paul).

Map 15. The Conversion and Earliest Journeys of Saul (Paul) of Tarsus c AD34-45



Taken from Acts 9:1-30 - But Saul (of Tarsus [1]), still breathing murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord, went to the High Priest (in Jerusalem [2]) and begged him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus [3], so that if he should find there any followers of the Way (of Jesus Christ), whether men or women, he could bring them back to Jerusalem as prisoners

Damascus - Capital of modern Syria. "The Pearl of the East", an ancient and important city of Syria, standing at over 2,000 feet in a large oasis. One of the city-states of The Decapolis, and a great centre of trade.

Tarsus - Capital of Cilicia in Asia Minor, and Paul's home. A Greek-speaking, Roman province in south-eastern Asia Minor, an important city and major centre of learning. Tarsus was on the highway linking Syrian Antioch and the rest of the Middle East, with the provinces of Galatia and Asia to the west.

On the road to Damascus Jesus appears in a vision to Saul who is blinded, and directs him to continue his journey to Damascus where he is healed and baptised.

According to Paul's own account in his Letter to the Galatians 1:17, he then went away to Arabia [4], before returning to Damascus [5]

In the Acts account, Paul immediately starts proclaiming Jesus in the synagogues of Damascus, before being forced to escape to Jerusalem

(Acts continues) When Saul reached Jerusalem [6], he tried to join the disciples. But they were all afraid of him, finding it impossible to believe that he was a disciple. Barnabas, however, took him by the hand and introduced him to the apostles, and explained to them how he had seen the Lord on his journey, and how the Lord had spoken to him. He further explained how Saul had spoken in Damascus with the utmost boldness in the name of Jesus. After that Saul joined with them in all their activities in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. He used to talk and argue with the Greek-speaking Jews, but they made several attempts on his life. When the brothers realised this they took him down to Caesarea [7] and sent him off to Tarsus [8]

(... after which he preaches in Cilicia [9] and Syria [9], Galatians 1:21. Sometime later still, Paul is brought from Tarsus by Barnabas to work in Syrian Antioch [10], Acts 11:25).

Map 16. The Earliest Missionary Journeys - the Apostle Peter



Taken from Acts 9:31-10:48 - The whole Church throughout Judea [1], Galilee [2] and Samaria [3] now enjoyed a period of peace.

..... Now it happened that Peter, in the course of travelling (from Jerusalem [4]) about among them all, came to God's people living at Lydda [5].

There he found a man called Aeneas who had been bed-ridden for eight years through paralysis. Peter said to him "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you! Get up and make your bed."

He got to his feet at once. And all those who lived in Lydda and (the Plain of) Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

Then there was a woman in Joppa [6] (who is also healed).

.... There was a man in Caesarea [7] by the name of Cornelius, a (Gentile) centurion in what was called the Italian Regiment. He was a deeply religious man who revered God, as did all his household. He made many charitable gifts to the people and was a real man of prayer. (He is told by an angel to send for Peter, who still in Joppa receives a vision showing that Christ is for all men - Jew and Gentile. Peter welcomes Cornelius' messengers ...)

On the next day he got up and set out with them, accompanied by some of the brothers from Joppa, arriving at Caesarea on the day after that. (Peter teaches Cornelius, his family and friends about Jesus, they receive the Holy Spirit, and he baptises them. Peter later visits Jerusalem [8] where he explains his reasons for teaching and baptising Gentiles)

* * * * *

Apart from his journeys with Jesus, and the visit with the apostle John to Samaria after the work of Philip the Evangelist, Peter can be linked to three other locations:

- (1) According to Galatians 2:11, he visited Syrian Antioch;
- (2) He may have visited Corinth according to 1 Corinthians 1:12 as he was certainly known there;
- (3) Traditionally he lived in Rome, and was martyred there in c AD64 or 67

Map 17. The Church in Syrian Antioch Grows and Gains Gentile Converts



Taken from Acts 11:19-30 - Now those who had been dispersed by the persecution which arose over Stephen travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and (Syrian) Antioch, giving the message as they went to Jews only.

However, among their number were natives of Cyprus [1] and Cyrene [2], and these men, on their arrival at (Syrian) Antioch [3], proclaimed their message to the (Gentile) Greeks as well, telling them the good news of the Lord Jesus.

The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. News of these things came to the ears of the Church in Jerusalem [4] and they sent Barnabas to (Syrian)Antioch [5].

Syrian Antioch - present day Antakya in southern Turkey. This Antioch was known as "Queen of the East", capital of the province of Syria, and the third largest city in the Roman Empire after Rome and Alexandria. With a population of over half a million people, it was located on the River Orontes, and a junction of trade routes between East and West. It should not to be confused with Pisidian Antioch, a Phrygian town in the Roman province of Galatia -

.... Then Barnabas went to Tarsus [6] to find Saul (Paul). When he found him he brought him up to Antioch [7]. Then for a whole year they met together with the Church and taught a large crowd. It was in Antioch that the disciples were first given the name of "Christians".

During this period some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them by the name of Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there was to be a great famine throughout the world. (This actually happened in the days of Claudius). The disciples determined to send relief to the brothers in Judea, each contributing as he was able. This they did, sending their contribution to the elders there (in Jerusalem [8]) personally through Barnabas and Saul (who later return to Syrian Antioch [9]).

The **Letter of James** is generally believed to have been the first Letter of the New Testament to be written, probably some time before the Council at Jerusalem (see Map following)

PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS and LETTERS

Map 18. Paul's First Missionary Journey, with Barnabas to Cyprus and Asia Minor c AD46-48 and Its Sequel, the Council at Jerusalem c AD49



Taken from Acts 13:4-14:28 - So these two (Barnabas and Paul) went down (from Syrian Antioch [1]) to Seleucia [2] and from there sailed off to Cyprus. On their arrival at Salamis [3] they began to proclaim God's message in the Jewish synagogues, having John (Mark) as their assistant.

As they made their way through the island as far as Paphos [4] they came across a man named Bar-Jesus, a Jew who was both a false prophet and a magician. This man was attached to Sergius Paulus, the proconsul (or Roman governor of the island province of Cyprus), who was himself a man of intelligence. (Barnabas and Paul are summoned before Sergius, clash with Bar-Jesus, and Sergius Paulus becomes a believer.)

(Barnabas and Paul then sail to Asia Minor and continue on to Galatia)

Galatia - A large Roman province in Asia Minor, extending almost from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean through the mountains and plains of modern central Turkey. Settled by Gauls from central Asia in the 3rd century BC, Galatia included the Phrygian town of Pisidian Antioch; not to be confused with Syrian Antioch

Then Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and went to Perga [5] in Pamphylia. There John (Mark) left them and turned back to Jerusalem, but they continued their journey through Perga to the Antioch in Pisidia [6]. They went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day and took their seats. (On this occasion the Gospel of Jesus is well received. A week later it is rejected and Paul and Barnabas are expelled from the district ...)

..... and went on to Iconium [7]. And the disciples continued to be full of joy and the Holy Spirit. Much the same thing happened at Iconium. But when a hostile movement arose from both Gentiles and Jews in collaboration with the authorities to insult and stone them, they got to know about it, fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra [8] and Derbe [9], and the surrounding countryside - and from there they continued to proclaim the Gospel.

(In Lystra, they heal a crippled man and are nearly worshipped as gods)

Then some Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium and after turning the minds of the people against Paul they stoned him and dragged him out of the city thinking he was dead. But while the disciples were gathered in a circle round him, Paul got up and walked back to the city. And the very next day he went out with Barnabas to Derbe, and when they had preached the Gospel to that city and made many disciples, they turned back to Lystra [10], Iconium [11] and Antioch [12]. They then crossed Pisidia and arrived in Pamphylia. They proclaimed their message in Perga [13] and then went down to Attalia [14]. From there they sailed back to Antioch (in Syria) [15] When they arrived there they called the Church together and reported to them how greatly God had worked with them and how he had opened the door of faith for the Gentiles. And here at Antioch they spent a considerable time with the disciples.

Map 19. Paul's Second Missionary Journey, with Silas returning to Asia Minor and on into Europe c AD49-52



Taken from Acts 15:40-18:23a - Paul chose Silas and set out on his journey (from Syrian Antioch [1]) He travelled through Syria [2] and Cilicia [3] and strengthened the churches.

He also went to Derbe [4] and Lystra [5]. At Lystra there was a disciple by the name of Timothy..... (who) was held in high regard by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium, and Paul wanted to take him on as his companion. As they went on their way through the cities they passed on to them for their observance the decisions which had been reached by the apostles and elders in (the Council at) Jerusalem. ...

They made their way through Phrygia [6] and Galatia [7], but the Holy Spirit prevented them from speaking God's message in Asia. When they came to Mysia [8] they tried to enter Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them. So they passed by Mysia and came down to Troas [9], where one night Paul had a vision of a Macedonian man standing and appealing to him in the words: "Come over to Macedonia and help us!"

.... So we set sail from Troas and ran a straight course to (the island of) Samothrace [10], and on the following day to Neapolis [11]. From there we went to Philippi [12], a Roman garrison-town and the chief city in that part of Macedonia. We spent some days in Philippi

Philippi - The ruins of Philippi are near modern Kavalla in northern Greece. It was then a city of Macedonia founded by Philip, the father of Alexander the Great. A Roman colony and military centre, governed directly from Rome, Philippi was situated on the Via Egnatian, the highway running east and west linking Rome to Byzantium (Istanbul):

(Here Paul and Silas, Timothy and sometimes Luke bring the Gospel to Lydia from Thyatira, are in conflict over a girl with a spirit of clairvoyance, are beaten and imprisoned, survive a destructive earthquake and convert their gaoler. The magistrates release them, but on learning that Paul is a Roman citizen, apologize to them and) after taking them outside the prison, requested them to leave the city (of Philippi)

Next day they journeyed through Amphipolis [13] and Apollonia [14] and arrived at Thessalonica [15]. Here there was a synagogue of the Jews which Paul entered, following his usual custom.

Thessalonica - Modern Salonika or Thessalonika. A free city, capital of the Roman province of Macedonia in northern Greece. Thessalonica was a major port, and like Philippi, located on the east-west Egnatian highway, and thus an important centre of trade by land and by sea:

(The teaching of Paul and Silas converts a large number of the people, but also infuriates many Jews. The city is in uproar) Without delay the brothers despatched Paul and Silas off to Berea (or Berea) [16] that night. On their arrival there they went to the Jewish synagogue. The Jews proved more generous-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they accepted the message most eagerly

But when the Jews at Thessalonica found out that God's message had been proclaimed by Paul at Berea as well, they came there too to cause trouble and spread alarm among the people. The brothers at Berea then sent Paul off at once to make his way to the sea-coast (near Berea) [16], but Silas and Timothy remained there.

The men who accompanied Paul took him as far as Athens [17] and returned with instructions for Silas and Timothy (still in Berea) to rejoin Paul as soon as possible.

Paul had some days to wait at Athens for Silas and Timothy to arrive (and while there, addresses some of the many philosophers of Athens, most of whom reject his teaching ...)

Before long Paul left Athens and went on to Corinth [18] where he found a Jew called Aquila, a native of Pontus. This man had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla because (the emperor) Claudius had issued a decree that all Jews should leave Rome. They all worked together, for their trade was tent-making. Every Sabbath Paul used to speak in the synagogue trying to persuade both Jews and Greeks. By the time Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia Paul was completely absorbed in preaching the message, showing the Jews as clearly as he could that Jesus is Christ. However, when they turned against him and abused him he shook his garments at them, and said, "Your blood be on your heads! From now on I go with a perfectly clear conscience to the Gentiles."

Corinth - The original Corinth is near modern Corinth in southern Greece. An ancient Greek city, and chief town of the Roman province of Achaia, it was at this time governed by proconsul Gallio. Located near the narrow strip of land separating the Adriatic from the Aegean Seas, and through which ran the north-south highway linking the rest of Greece with the southern Peloponnesus, Corinth was a vital centre of commerce. A cosmopolitan city with the temple of Aphrodite - goddess of love and fertility - and with two nearby ports including Cenchrea, Corinth was well known for its sexual immorality -

Then he left them and went to the house of a man called Titius Justus, a man who revered God and whose house was next door to the synagogue. Paul settled down there (in Corinth) for eighteen

months (his second longest recorded stay in a city during his three Missionary Journeys) and taught them God's message.

Then, while Gallio was governor of Achaia the Jews banded together to attack Paul (but Gallio) flatly refuse(s) to be judge in these matters. Paul stayed for some time (in Corinth) after this incident

..... and then (Paul) took leave of the brothers and sailed for Syria, taking Priscilla and Aquila with him.

At Cenchrea [19] he had his hair cut short, for he had taken a solemn vow. They all arrived at Ephesus [20] and there Paul left Aquila and Priscilla, but he himself went into the synagogue and debated with the Jews. When they asked him to stay longer he refused, bidding them farewell with the words, "If it is God's will I will come back to you again" (which he does on his Third Missionary Journey). Then he set sail from Ephesus and went down to Caesarea [21]. Here he disembarked and after paying his respects to the Church in Jerusalem [22], he went down to Antioch [23]. He spent some time there before he left (on his Third Journey)

Map 20. Paul Writes his Two Letters to the Thessalonians (during his Second Journey)



Map 21. Paul's Third Missionary Journey, returning to Asia Minor and Greece c AD53-58



Taken from Acts 18:23b-20:3a - (After spending some time in Syrian Antioch [1], Paul starts on his Third Missionary Journey, and) proceeded to visit systematically throughout Galatia [2] and Phrygia [3] putting new heart into all the disciples as he went.

Now a Jew called Apollos, a native of Alexandria and a gifted speaker, well-versed in the scriptures, arrived at Ephesus. This man began to speak with great boldness in the synagogue. but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him they took him aside and explained the Way of God to him more accurately.

Then as he wanted to cross into Achaia, the brothers gave him every encouragement and wrote a letter to the disciples there, asking them to make him welcome.

Ephesus - South of modern Izmir or Smyrna in Western Turkey, and at that time capital of the Roman province of Asia. One of the three greatest cities of the eastern Mediterranean with a population of perhaps 250,000 - the other two being Alexandria in Egypt and Syrian Antioch, Ephesus was an important port with good access to the interior of Asia Minor. As a centre for the worship of Artemis or Diana - the Asian goddess of fertility, her temple was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The great theatre could hold 25,000 people:

While Apollos was in Corinth Paul journeyed through the upper parts of the country (the high inland plateau of Asia Minor) and arrived at Ephesus [4]. There he discovered some disciples (... who he baptises in the Holy Spirit),

Then Paul made his way into the synagogue there (in Ephesus) and for three months he spoke with the utmost confidence But when some of them hardened in their attitude towards the message and refused to believe it Paul left them, and withdrew his disciples, and held daily discussions in the lecture-hall of Tyrannus. He continued this practice for two years (... Paul's longest recorded stay in any one location during his three Missionary Journeys), so that all who lived in Asia (not just Ephesus, but the surrounding country), both Greeks and Jews, could hear the Lord's message. (Paul continues to preach and also to heal, and with such success that a number who previously practised magic publicly burn their highly-prized books)

(Towards the end of his 3 year stay in Ephesus, Paul probably wrote his First Letter to the church in Corinth)

After these events Paul set his heart on going to Jerusalem by way of Macedonia and Achaia, remarking, "After I have been there I must see Rome as well." .

Then he despatched to Macedonia (the province that included the cities of Philippi and Thessalonica) two of his assistants, Timothy and Erastus, while he himself stayed for a while in Asia.

(Paul is now publicly attacked by the many craftsmen whose livelihood depends on the worship of the goddess Diana and a near-riot ensues)

..... After this disturbance had died down, Paul sent for the disciples and after speaking encouragingly said good-bye to them, and went on his way to Macedonia [5]. As he made his way through these districts (... of Macedonia, Paul probably wrote his Second Letter to the Corinthians after Titus' return from Corinth) he spoke many heartening words to the people and then went on to Greece [6] (including Corinth), where he stayed for three months.

(During his stay in Corinth, Paul is believed to have written his Letter to the church in Rome. According to this Letter, either on his way from Macedonia or during his three months stay in Greece, Paul led or organised a mission to Illyricum or Dalmatia - the area of the old Yugoslavia.)

PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY CONCLUDED; THE RETURN TO JERUSALEM c AD58

Taken from Acts 20:3b-12 - 21:15 - Then (after staying in Greece [6] ...) when he (Paul) was on the point of setting sail for Syria the Jews made a further plot against him and he decided to make his way back (by land) through Macedonia [7]. His companions on the journey were Sopater a Berean ... two Thessalonians ... Gaius from Derbe, Timothy, and two Asians..... This party proceeded to Troas to await us there while we sailed from Philippi [8] after the days of unleavened bread. and joined them five days later at Troas [9], where we spent a week.

(At Troas, Paul's lengthy teaching almost leads to the death of a young man Eutychus who goes to asleep and falls out of window!)

Meanwhile we had gone aboard the ship and sailed on ahead for Assos, intending to pick up Paul there since he himself had planned to go overland. When he met us on our arrival at Assos [10] we took him aboard and went on to Mitylene [11]. We sailed from there and arrived off the coast of Chios [12] the next day. On the day following we crossed to Samos [13], and the day after that we reached Miletus [14]. For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus with the idea of spending as little time as possible in Asia. He hoped, if it should prove possible, to reach Jerusalem in time for the day of Pentecost.

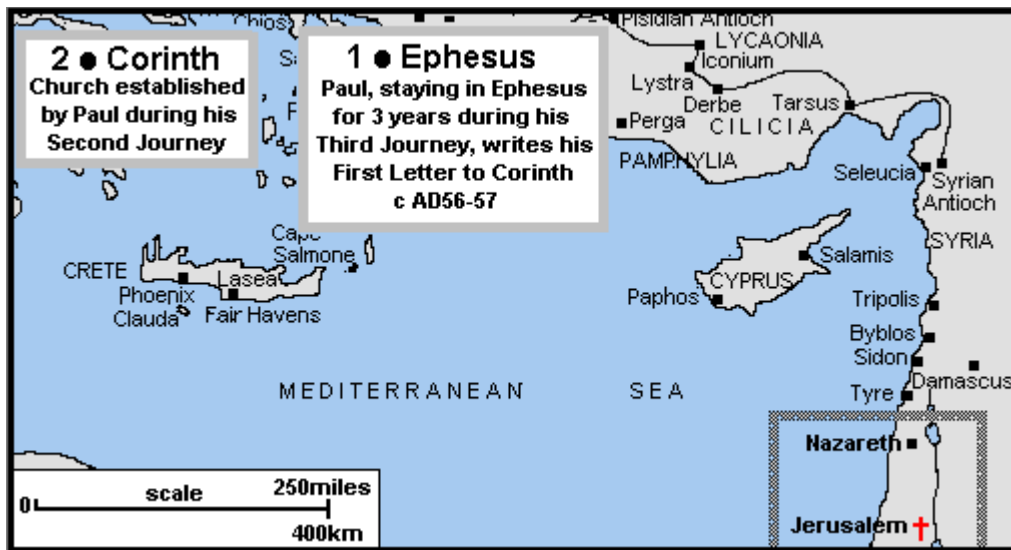
At Miletus he sent to Ephesus to summon the elders of the Church. On their arrival he addressed them What saddened them most of all was his saying that they would never see his face again.....

When we had finally said farewell to them we set sail, running a straight course to Cos [15], and the next day we went to Rhodes [16] and from there to Patara [17]. Here we found a ship bound for Phoenicia, and we went aboard her and set sail. After sighting Cyprus [18] and leaving it on our left we sailed to Syria and put in at Tyre [19], since that was where the ship was to discharge her cargo. We sought out the disciples there and stayed with them for a week (... the disciples warn Paul not to go up to Jerusalem). We sailed away from Tyre and arrived at Ptolemais [20]. We greeted the brothers there and stayed with them for just one day. On the following day we left and proceeded to Caesarea [21] and there we went to stay at the house of Philip the evangelist (... again he is warned of the dangers of returning to Jerusalem).

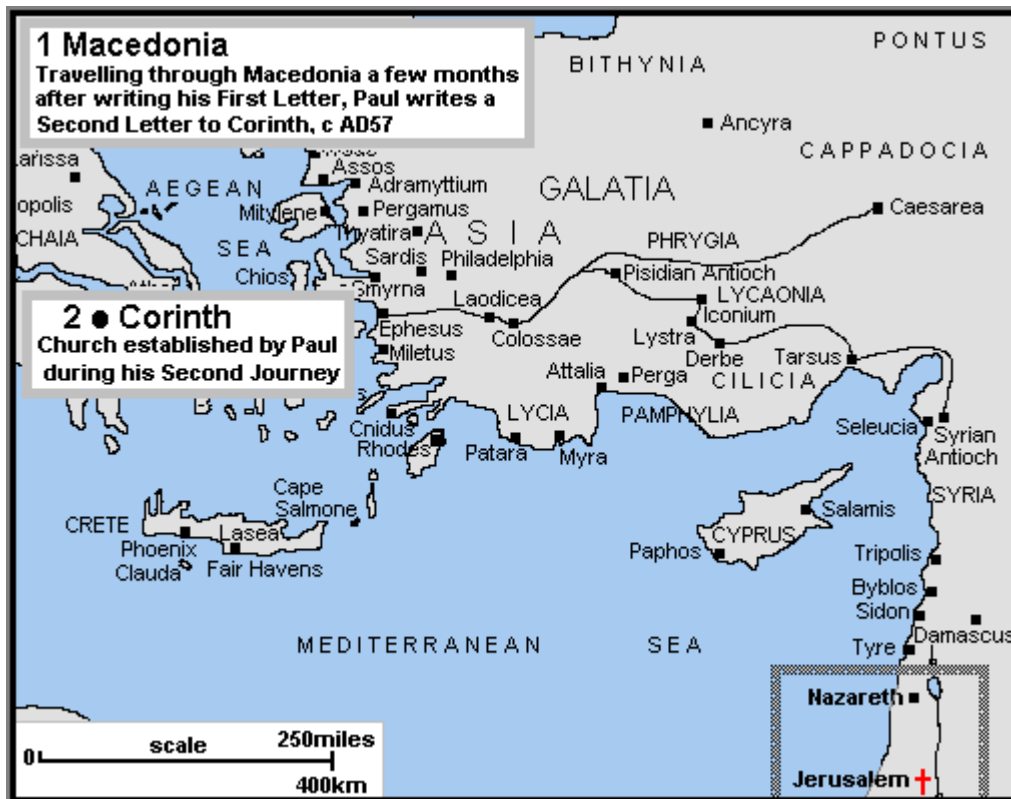
After this we made our preparations and went up to Jerusalem [22].

PAUL'S LETTERS

Map 22. Paul Writes his First Letter to the Corinthians



Map 23. Paul Writes his Second Letter to the Corinthians



Map 24. Paul Writes to the Galatians



Taken from Acts 27:12 - 28:31 - (two years after Paul's original arrest in Jerusalem [1] and his journey to Caesarea [2]), Paul and some other prisoners were put in charge of a centurion named Julius..... We embarked on a ship hailing from Adramyttium, bound for the Asian ports, and set sail.

On the following day we put in at Sidon [3], where Julius treated Paul most considerately by allowing him to visit his friends and accept their hospitality.

From Sidon we put to sea again and sailed to leeward of Cyprus [4], since the wind was against us. Then, when we had crossed the gulf that lies off the coasts of Cilicia [5] and Pamphylia [6], we arrived at Myra [7] in Lycia. There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship bound for Italy and put us aboard her. For several days we beat slowly up to windward and only just succeeded in arriving off Cnidus [8]. Then, since the wind was still blowing against us, we sailed under the lee of Crete, and rounded Cape Salmone [9]. Coasting along with difficulty we came to a place called Fair Havens [10], near which is the city of Lasea.

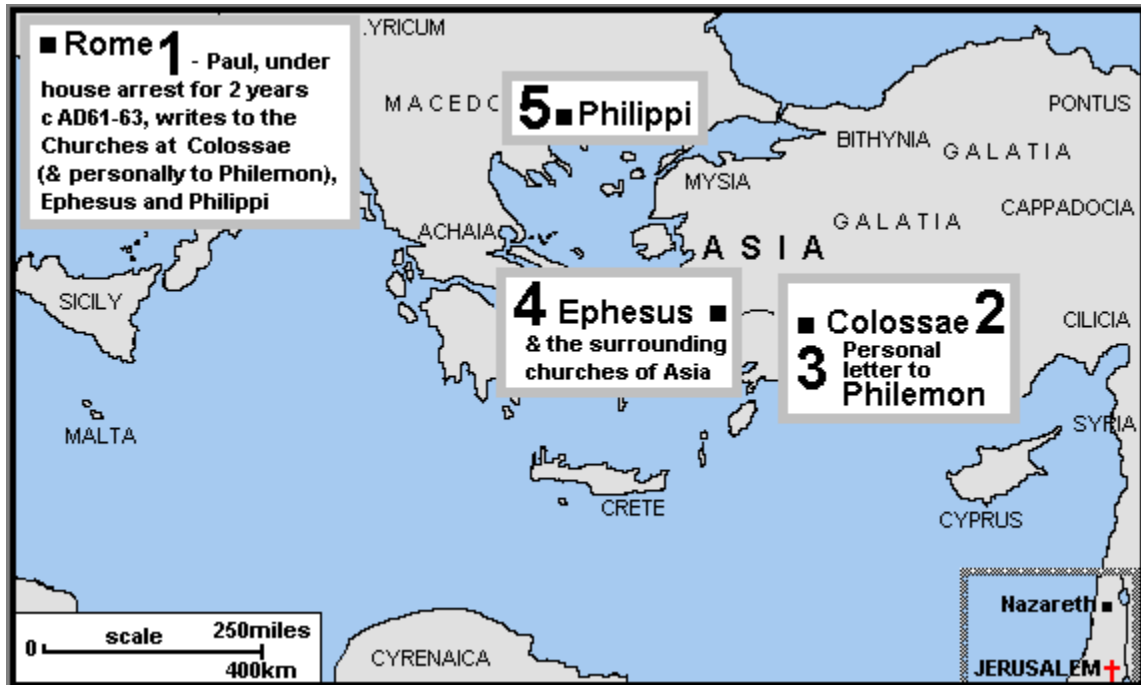
(In spite of Paul's warnings, the ship continued on its way) the majority were in favour of setting sail again in the hope of reaching Phoenix [11] and wintering there. Phoenix is a harbour in Crete, facing south-west and north-west. So, when a moderate breeze sprang up, thinking they had obtained just what they wanted, they weighed anchor, and coasted along, hugging the shores of Crete. But before long a terrific gale, which they called a north-easter, swept down upon us from the land. The ship was caught by it and since she could not be brought up into the wind we had to let her fall off and run before it. Then, running under the lee of a small island called Claudia [12], we managed with some difficulty to secure the ship's boat. After hoisting it aboard they used cables to brace the ship. To add to the difficulties they were afraid all the time of drifting on to the Syrtis banks [13], so they shortened sail and lay to, drifting. (The writer of Acts then describes the terrible storm which finally casts them up alive on the shore of Malta) On the fourteenth night of the storm, as we were drifting in the Adriatic [14], about midnight the sailors sensed that we were nearing land.

After our escape we discovered that the island was called Melita [15]. ... (Paul's stay on Malta is described) It was no less than three months later that we set sail in an Alexandrian ship which had wintered in the island We put in at Syracuse [16] and stayed there three days, and from there we tacked round to Rhegium [17]. A day later the south wind sprang up and we sailed to Puteoli [18], reaching it in only two days. There we found some of the brothers and they begged us to stay a week with them, and so we finally came to Rome.

The brothers there had heard about us and came out from the city to meet us, as far as the Market of Appius [19] and the Three Taverns [20].

When we reached Rome [21] Paul was given permission to live alone with the soldier who was guarding him (where he stayed for at least two years after which he was either executed or released).

Map 27. Paul writes from Prison in Rome - to Colossians, Philemon, Ephesians and Philippians



Map 28. Paul Writes his First Pastoral or Teaching Letter to Timothy



Map 29. Paul Writes his Pastoral or Teaching Letter to Titus



Map 30. Paul Writes his Second Pastoral or Teaching Letter to Timothy



GENERAL LETTERS and REVELATION

Only the **First Letter of Peter** and the **Book of Revelation** is included here. The **Letter of James** is generally believed to have been the first Letter of the New Testament to have been written, probably some time before the Council at Jerusalem. The **Letter to the Hebrews** and the other General or Catholic Letters - **Second Letter of**

Peter, First, Second, and Third Letters of John, and the Letter of Jude, although written around this time are not included.

Where Hebrews, 2 Peter and Jude were written and their destinations are generally very uncertain. The three Letters of John were probably written in Ephesus probably all to addresses in the Province of Asia (see Map 31 following)

Map 31. Peter Writes His First Letter, to the Christian Jews of Most of Asia Minor



[to top of page](#)

Map 32. Book of Revelation - John Writes to Seven Churches in the Province of Asia



