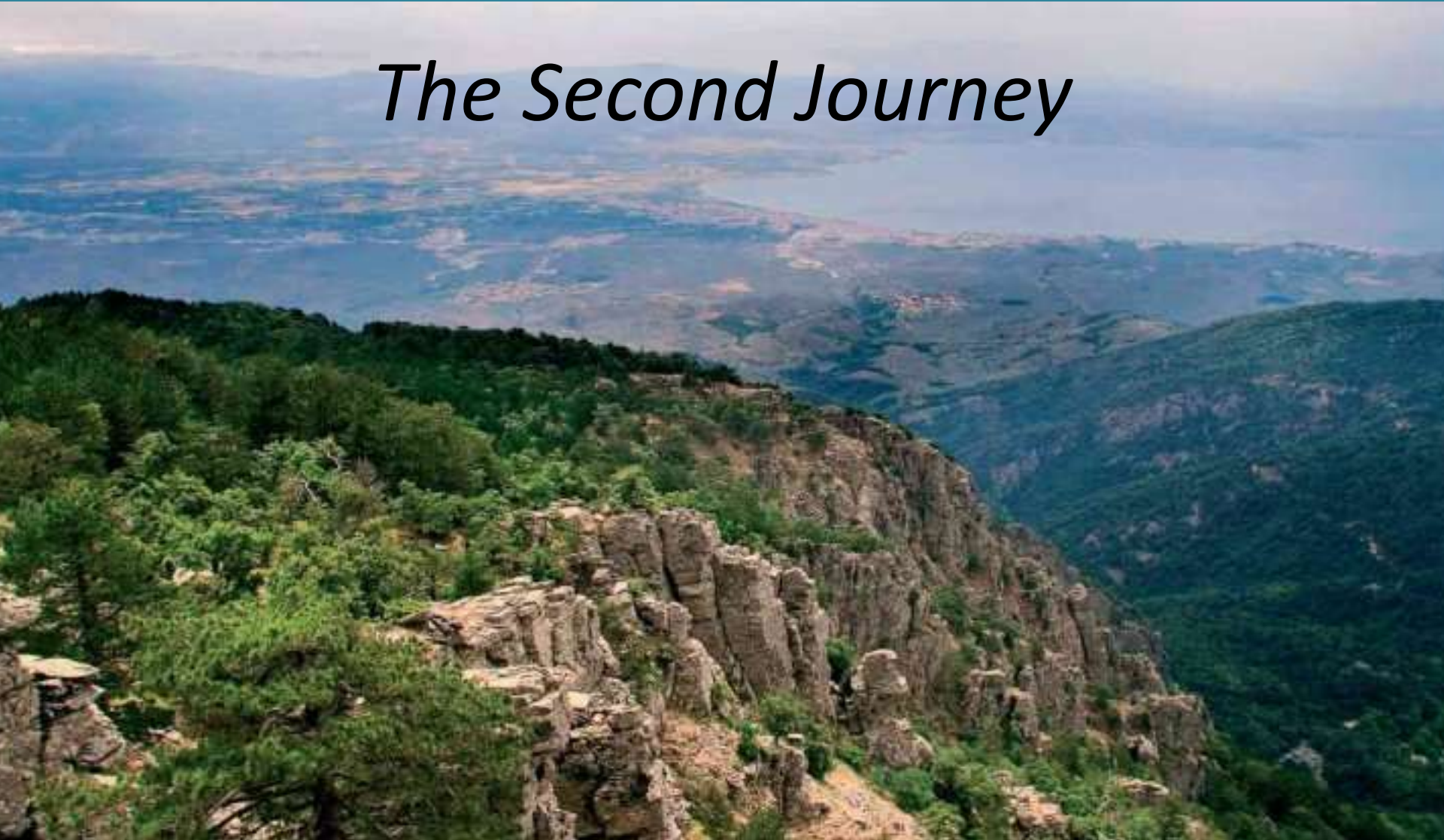


# The Mission Journeys of St. Paul

## *The Second Journey*



# The Mission Journeys of St. Paul

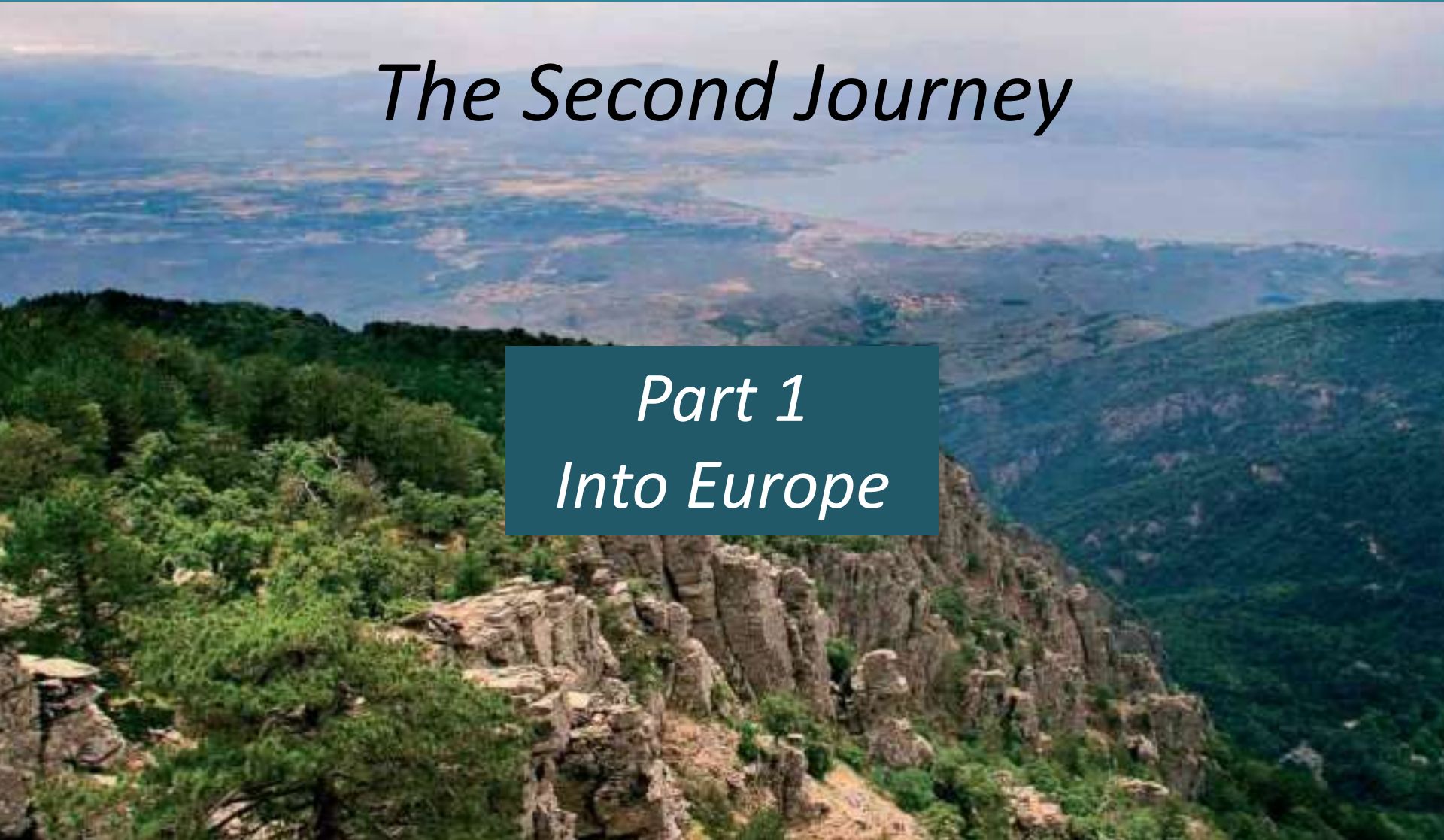
## *The Second Journey*

*A “Lessons To Go” Bible Study  
by Mark S. Pavlin*

# The Mission Journeys of St. Paul

## *The Second Journey*

### *Part 1 Into Europe*



# The end of the first journey



After going through Pisidia, they came into Pamphylia, and when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.

From Attalia they sailed **back to Antioch...**

Arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them... how He had **opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.**

They stayed a long time there with the disciples.

*- Acts 14: 24-28*

# Important interlude

**But** some men from Judea were teaching, “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.”

This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them.

- *Acts 15:1-2*



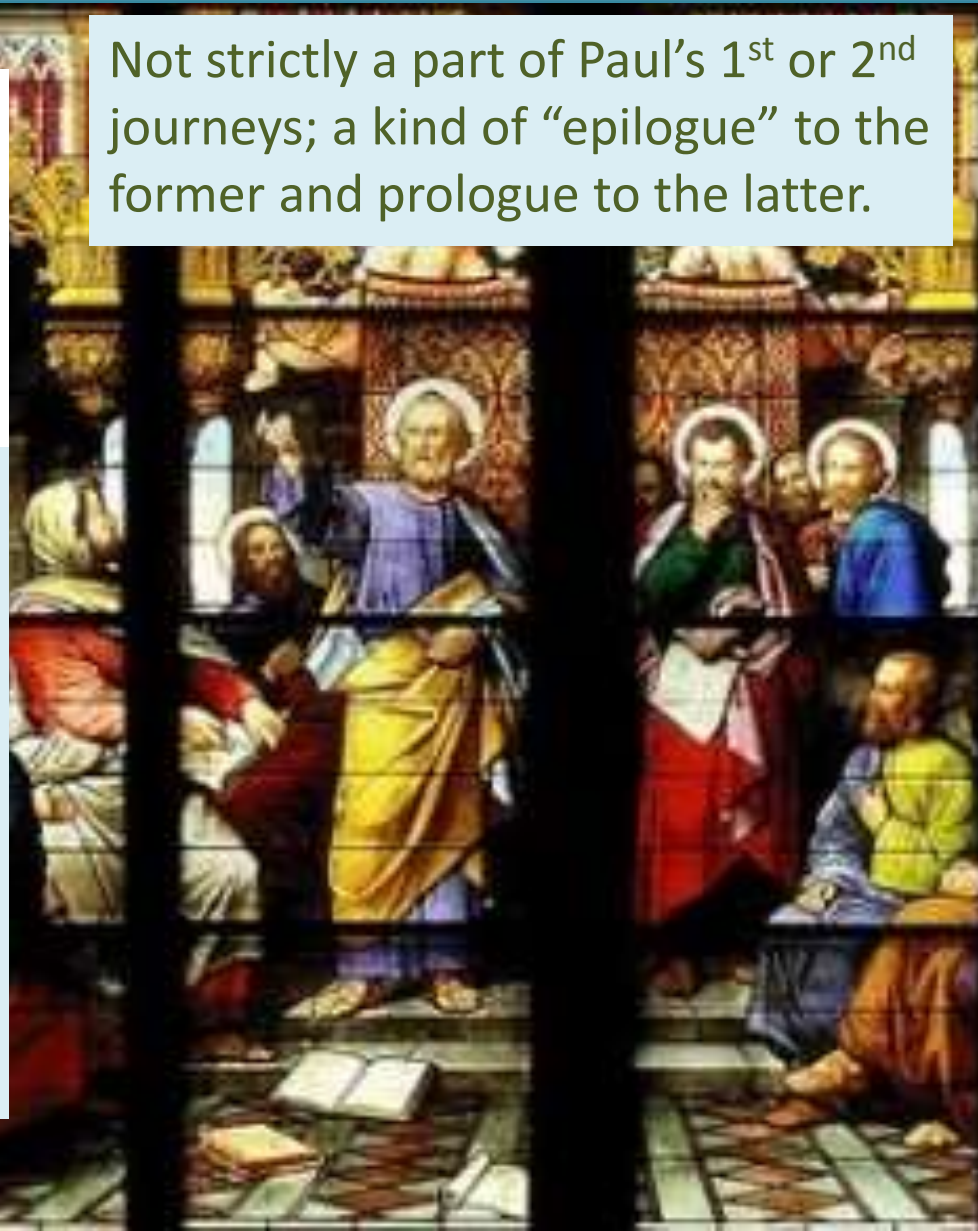
# Council in Jerusalem

**But** some men from Judea were teaching, “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.”

Paul and Barnabas, sure they are in the right, are sent by the Antioch church to Jerusalem to check with the apostles on this critical issue.

On the way there, they tell others of how by their witness many non-Jews came to believe in the Jesus as Savior.

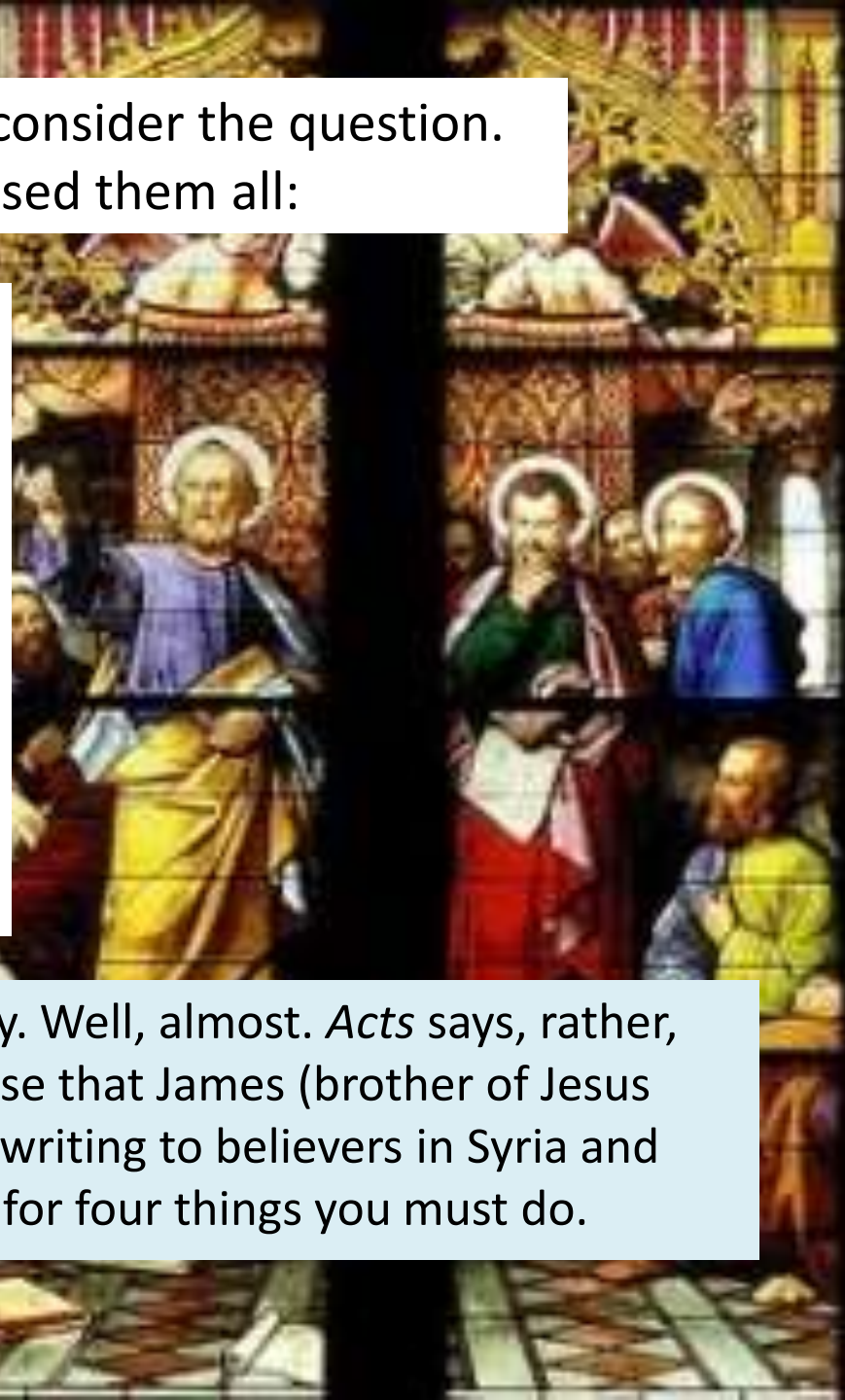
Not strictly a part of Paul’s 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> journeys; a kind of “epilogue” to the former and prologue to the latter.



The apostles and the elders met to consider the question. After much discussion, Peter addressed them all:

“God who knows the heart showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.... No! We believe it is **through** the **grace** of our Lord Jesus that **we are saved**, just as they are.” *- Acts 15: 4-11*

And so the Pauline position won the day. Well, almost. *Acts* says, rather, they agreed on a face-saving compromise that James (brother of Jesus and Jerusalem church leader) issued in writing to believers in Syria and Galatia – you are **saved by faith except** for four things you must do.



# Truce

The Council's *Apostolic Decree* was that the *Mosaic Law* was not obligatory for Gentile converts for the most part (still for Jews?).

However, the Council retained **prohibitions** against all Christians: (1) eating meat containing blood or (2) meat of animals not properly slain and (3) against "fornication" and (4) "idol worship".

In effect the *Decree* sanctioned a flexible and pragmatic stance.

Or you could say it created a double standard for Jewish Christians and Gentile converts.

For this reason it represented a major step in the differentiation of Christianity and Judaism and (soon) the cutting off of Christianity from its Jewish roots.





## Paul's account differs (Gal. 2)

I went up again to Jerusalem... with Barnabas...(and) Titus... I went in response to a revelation... presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles... Titus... was (not) compelled to be circumcised.

This matter arose because false believers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves.

We did not give in to them for a moment....

God, who was at work in Peter as an apostle to the circumcised [Jews], was also at work in me as an apostle to the [uncircumcised] Gentiles.

[They]... gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the [uncircumcised] Gentiles, and they to the circumcised [Jews].

All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along [no mention of blood, etc.]

# Back home in Antioch

Paul and Barnabas {returned to and} remained in **Antioch** where they and many others taught and preached the word of the Lord.

- Acts 15: 35



# Antioch

In that city of 500,000 (third largest in the Empire after Rome & Alexandria) Christians were a tiny minority.



Founded ca. 320 BCE after the death of Alexander by one of his generals (Seleucus I Nicator), it was serviced by excellent paved roads and by the port of Seleucia.

# Split

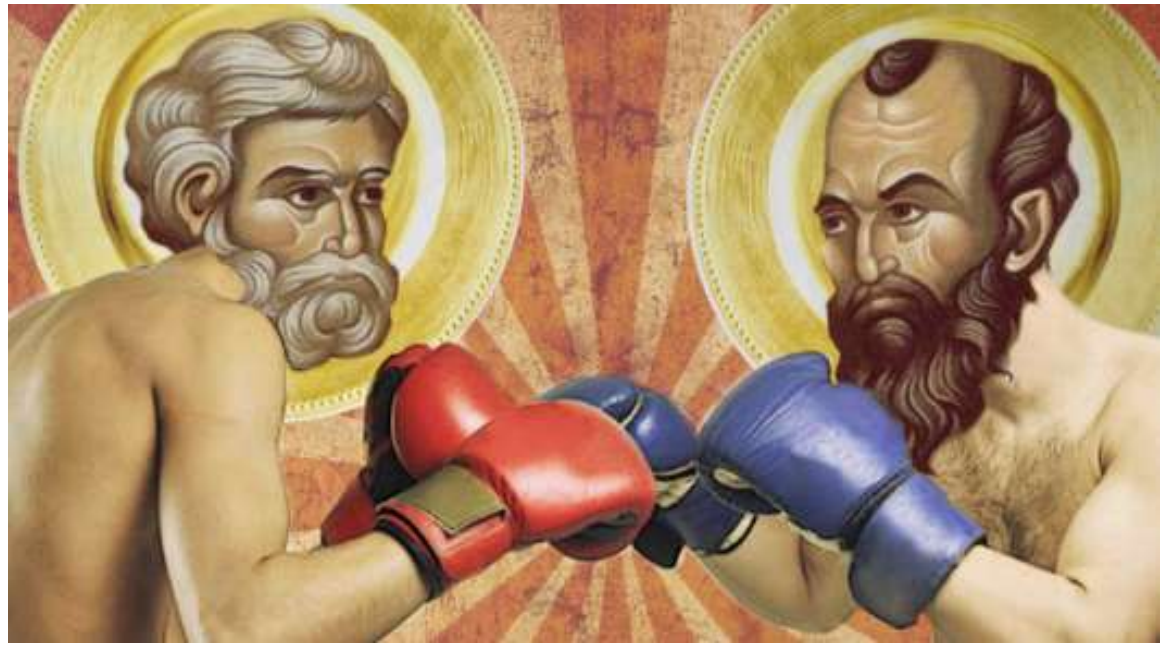
Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.”

Barnabas wanted to take John (called Mark) with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work.

They had such a **sharp disagreement that they parted company.**

Barnabas took Mark and sailed (*southwest*) for Cyprus. Paul chose **Silas** (*and headed northwest*), commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord.

- Acts 15:35-40



# St. Silas (Silvanus)

## **2Cor. 1:19**

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, was preached among you by us—by me and **Silas** and Timothy...

## **1Thes. 1:1**

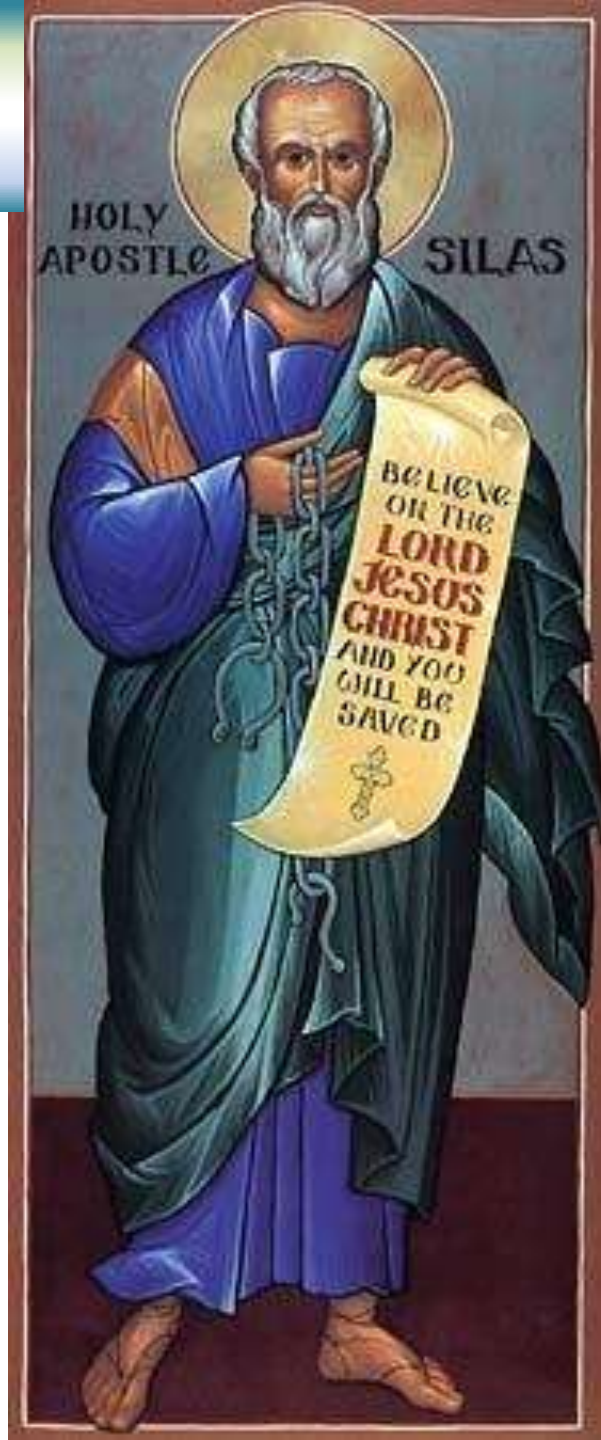
Paul, **Silas** and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

## **2Thes. 1:1**

Paul, **Silas** and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

## **1Pet. 5:12**

With the help of **Silas**, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying...



# The start of a new journey



# Consider your own journey

- ❖ If we are to learn from Paul, we must think about our own spiritual journey...
- ❖ Accept a Divine call like that of Paul? Not a complete change of personality but a dedication of our passions and talents to His service and the service of others, to God be the glory?
- ❖ Spend significant time in preparation and study, from His Word and from the teaching and example of others, not in our case Apostles, but great men and women of Christian history?
- ❖ Overcome (with grace) bumps along the road, unexpected twists, U-turns, but always and everywhere the Word preached and good done to others in Jesus Name (not our own name)?
- ❖ Suffer for the Gospel? Not ordinary illness and injury but danger, deprivation, and/or emotional stress coming from the very people we want to help?

# Timothy signs on

Paul came to **Derbe** and then to **Lystra**, where **Timothy**, a disciple, lived. His mother was Jewish and a believer {a Christian} but whose father was a Greek {a pagan}.

Believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him so Paul wanted to take him along on the journey.

**He first circumcised him** because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. - *Acts 16:1-3*

How strange after all of that fuss in Jerusalem! **What do you think?** Did Paul “cave in” to the Judaizers?





# Timothy: a brief biography

- ❖ **Timothy** (Τιμόθεος; **Timótheos**, "honored by God") went with Paul through Asia Minor and Greece
- ❖ Jewish mother (Eunice), Greek father. His grandmother (Lois), known for piety and faith, was probably a Christian (2Ti. 1:5)
- ❖ Praised for OT knowledge; knew Scriptures since childhood (2Ti. 3:15)
- ❖ Was jailed at least once as implied by the writer of Hebrews; his release is mentioned at the end
- ❖ Weak constitution? (1Ti. 5:23, "...use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.")
- ❖ According to tradition, Paul consecrated him **Bishop of Ephesus** in 65 AD, and he served for 15 years, until....
- ❖ In 80 AD, he tried to halt a pagan ceremony and procession of idols but his preaching of the gospel caused angry pagans to drag him through the streets and stone him to death.

# Strengthening churches

As they traveled from town to town they delivered the decisions the apostles and elders in Jerusalem reached for the people to obey.

[Does this imply the early development of a central authority in the new faith?]

So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers. [note, again, the triumphalist tone in the narrative]

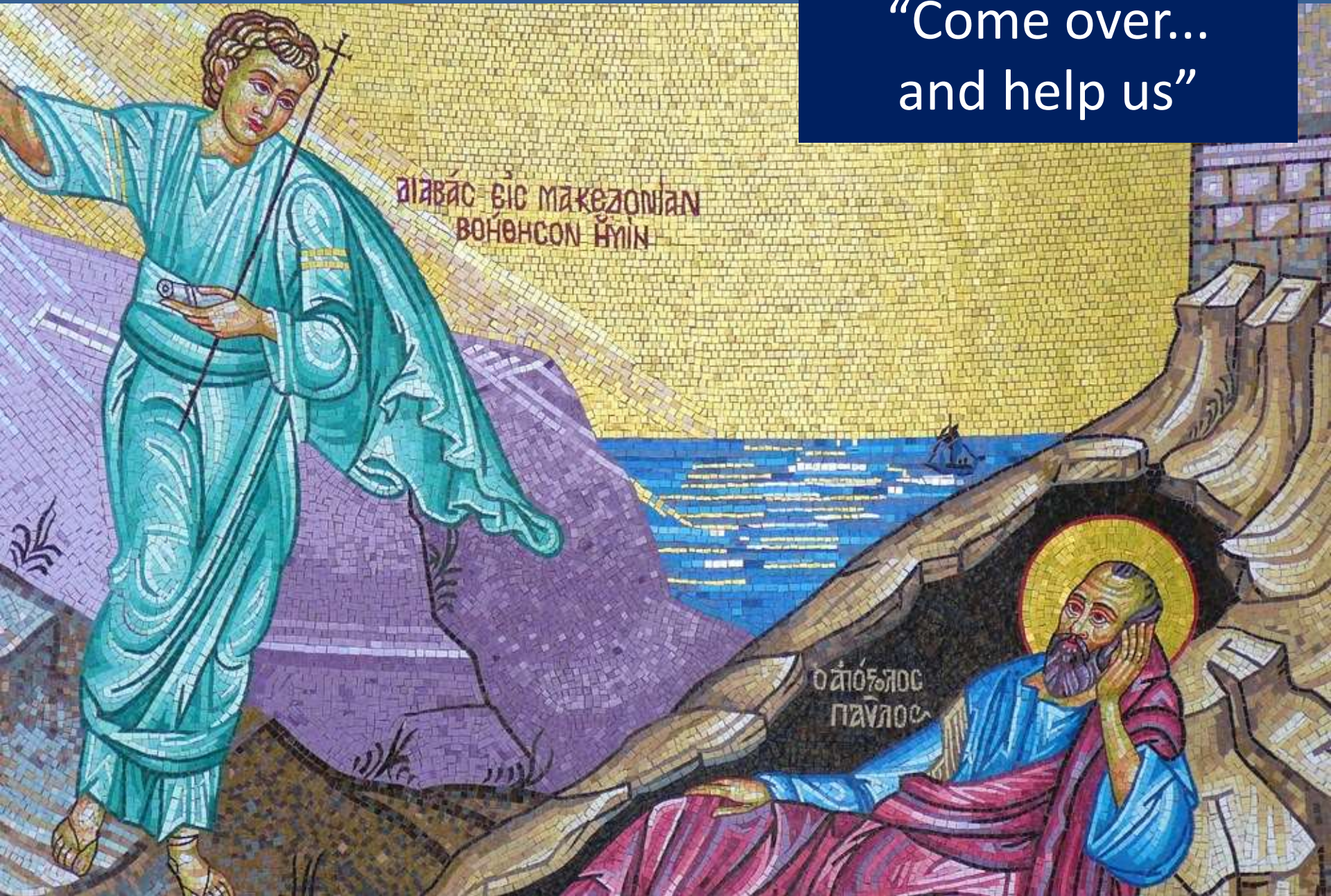
Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, [central Turkey] having been **kept by the Holy Spirit** from preaching the word in the province of Asia [why should this be?]

- Acts 16:4-6



**CHURCH**  
**WORKDAY**

“Come over...  
and help us”



# Mystery man of Macedonia

When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.

During the night Paul had a vision **of a man of Macedonia** standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”

After Paul had seen the vision, **we** got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

*- Acts 16:7-10*

Many puzzling, unanswered questions about this passage. The phrase “spirit of Jesus”, the mysterious man of Macedonia, and the abrupt shift from third to first person narration. **What do you think** about each of these things?



# Europe

- ❖ Use of the term "Europe" developed only gradually throughout history
- ❖ Greek historian **Herodotus** mentioned that the world consisted of 3 parts, Europe, Asia, and Africa
- ❖ The eastern frontier of Europe was set in the 1<sup>st</sup> century by geographer **Strabo** at the River Don
- ❖ **Flavius** described the continents as the lands given by Noah to his three sons
- ❖ Europe in the 8<sup>th</sup> century was all of Christendom & Byzantium as vs. Islam
- ❖ Later limited to northern Iberia, the British Isles, France, western Germany, Alpine regions & northern, central Italy
- ❖ Later In 1730 the Swedish geographer and cartographer **von Strahlenberg** proposed Ural Mt. as the most significant eastern boundary.



Macedonia then was a region of Hellas, the land of the Greeks, what is today...



# The Hellenic Republic (Greece)

- ❖ Country in Southern Europe, capital and largest city is **Athens**
- ❖ Land borders with Albania, the Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria to the north, and Turkey to the east
- ❖ A broad peninsula jutting into the Mediterranean Sea, whose extension are the Aegean Sea (to the east) and the Ionian Sea (to the west)
- ❖ Has the 11th longest coastline in the world at 8,500 miles
- ❖ Controls 1,400 islands, 227 of which are inhabited, including Crete
- ❖ 80% consists of mountains, of which Mt. Olympus is the highest at 9,570 ft.
- ❖ 97% of Greeks self-identify as Orthodox Christians

*Holy Trinity monastery, in Meteora, Thessaly*



# Samothrace

“From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for **Samothrace**, and the next day we went on to Neapolis.” *- Acts 16:11*

- ❖ Island in the northern Aegean Sea, part of Greece
- ❖ 11 miles long, area of 69 sq. mi; population 2,723 (2001)
- ❖ Main industries are fishing and tourism
- ❖ Resources on the island include granite, basalt
- ❖ One of the most rugged Greek islands, with Mt. Fengari rising to 5,290 ft.





# Dr. Luke, the companion

According to tradition, he was the writer of one of the Gospels (his symbol is an ox, background, picture at right)

These verses are all we know about him (almost nothing):

Our dear friend **Luke**, the doctor, and Demas send greetings. *Col. 4:14*

Only **Luke** is with me.

*2Tim. 4:11*

..So do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and **Luke**, my fellow workers.

*Philm.1:24*



*“St. Luke”, by Sir Edward Burne-Jones (1833 – 1898) British artist and stained glass designer.*

# Philippi - Φίλιπποι

“...to Neopolis. From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.”

– *Acts 16:11-12*

When a French traveler visited Philippi in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, there was nothing there but ruins which served the locals as a stone quarry.



# Philippi - Φίλιπποι

- ❖ Eastern Macedonia city established by King Philip II (356 BC)
- ❖ Near the head of the Aegean Sea at the foot of Mt. Orbelos ca. 8 m NW of Kavalla
- ❖ On the *Via Egnatia*
- ❖ Abandoned in the 14<sup>th</sup> century after the Ottoman conquest.



The present small town of **Filippo** is located near the ruins of the ancient city and it is part of the region of E. Macedonia and Thrace.

# Lydia, the first European Christian



Open-air chapel at the spot where tradition says Paul baptized Lydia

# Businesswoman and woman of faith

On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer.

We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there.

One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth.

She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.

When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home.

- *Acts 16: 13-15*



# Businesswoman and woman of faith

- ❖ Was most likely Greek
- ❖ Name means just “woman of Lydia” (likely not her real name)
- ❖ Was evidently a well-to-do agent of a purple dye firm in Thyatira...
- ❖ ...which was a city SE of Pergamum, about 40 miles inland across the Aegean Sea from Athens.
- ❖ Was possibly a widow
- ❖ Was a righteous Gentile or ‘God-fearer’ attracted to Judaism
- ❖ Was one of a group of believers in the one God drawn to - but who did not want to convert to - Judaism”
- ❖ Paul, et. al. stayed with her until their departure from Philippi.



# Tyrian Purple

- ❖ Also known as **royal purple**, **imperial purple**
- ❖ Purple-red natural dye extracted from sea snails
- ❖ Possibly first produced by the Phoenicians.
- ❖ Prized in antiquity because it did not fade
- ❖ Became more intense with weathering, sunlight



- ❖ Expensive! One 4<sup>th</sup> century BC historian reported, "*Purple for dyes fetched its weight in silver*"
- ❖ Purple-dyed textiles became status symbols
- ❖ Production was subsidized by imperial courts and use restricted to coloring imperial silks
- ❖ Production was tightly controlled in Byzantium
- ❖ A child born to a reigning emperor was "born in the purple."

# Paul and Silas cause trouble

We... met a slave who was possessed by a spirit that predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money fortune-telling.... Paul became annoyed... he said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ, I command you- come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her.

When her owners realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and... brought them before the magistrates charging, “These men... are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.”

The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison and the jailer ordered to guard them carefully....

- *Acts 16: 16-26*





# Paul pulls rank

(At) daylight, the magistrates... order: “Release those men.” The jailer told Paul, “... Now you can leave. Go in peace.”

But Paul said to the officers: “They beat us publicly without a trial, even though **we are Roman citizens**, and threw us into prison. And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? No! Let them come themselves and escort us out.”

The officers reported this to the magistrates, and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were alarmed.

They came to appease them and escorted them from the prison, requesting them to leave the city.

After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia’s house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left.

- *Acts 16: 35-40*

# A Roman citizen had the right to...



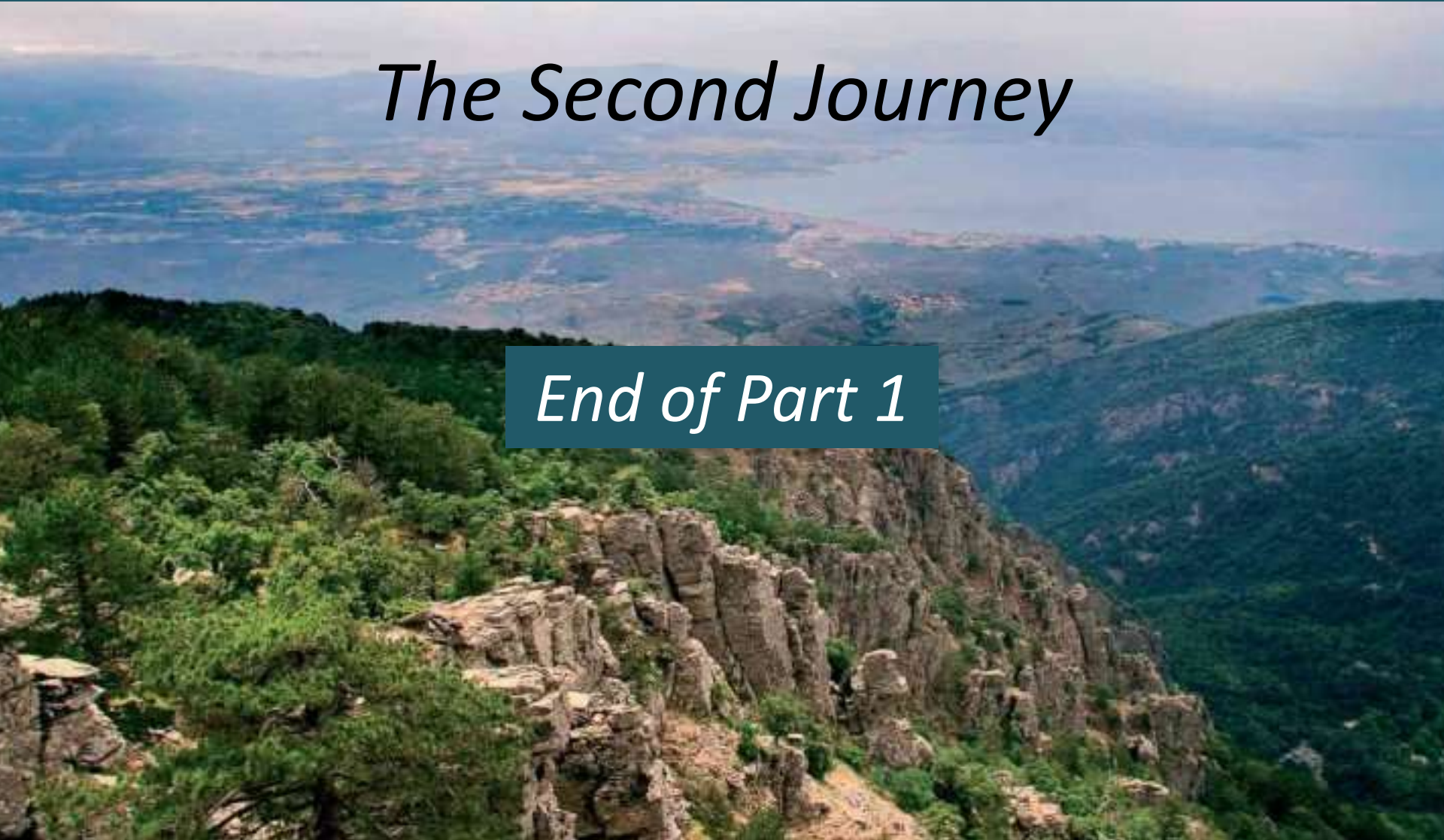
- Vote in the Roman assemblies
- Stand for civil or public office
- Make legal contracts, hold property
- Have a legal marriage, the children of such marriage granted Roman citizenship
- Sue in the courts and the right to be sued
- Have a legal trial, i.e. appear before a proper court and defend oneself
- Appeal decisions of magistrates and lower courts
- Not be tortured or whipped
- Receive the death penalty only if guilty of treason
- If accused of treason, had the right to be tried in Rome, and if sentenced to death, could be sentenced to die on the cross.

**Citizenship** in the Roman Empire was a privileged political/legal status afforded to individuals born into free citizen families. Citizens wore togas.

# The Mission Journeys of St. Paul

## *The Second Journey*

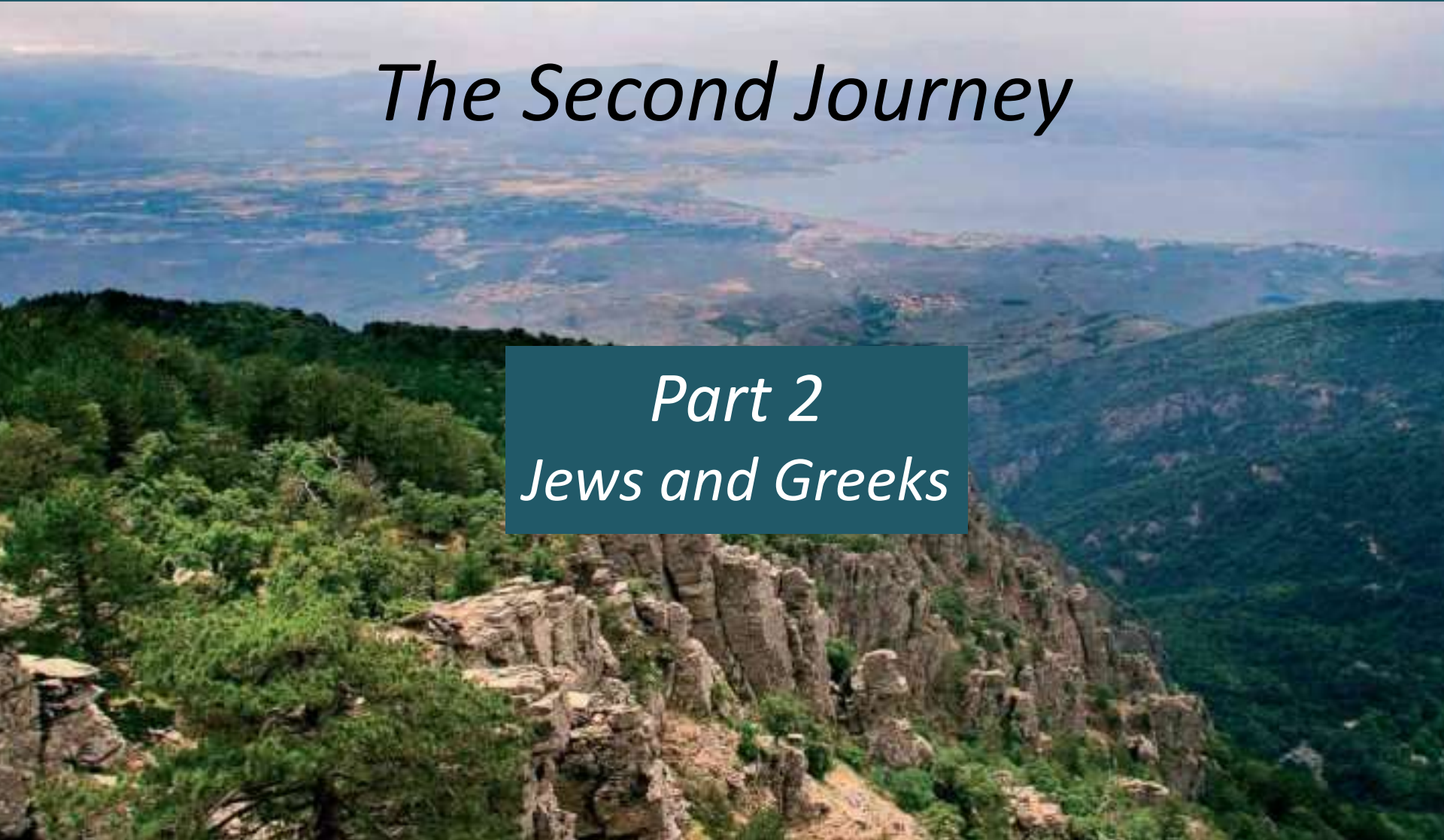
*End of Part 1*



# The Mission Journeys of St. Paul

## *The Second Journey*

### *Part 2* *Jews and Greeks*



# Thessalonica

An aerial photograph of Thessalonica, Greece. The city is densely packed with buildings, mostly multi-story apartment blocks and commercial buildings. The city is built on a hillside that slopes down towards the sea. In the foreground, there is a large body of water, likely the Aegean Sea, with a pier and several buildings with red roofs. The background shows more of the city and the surrounding hills.

Modern Thessalonica is a city of over 300K people (metro area >1 million)

# On the *Via Egnatia*



The Via Egnatia was a major Roman highway through Greece, 20 ft wide, paved with large stone slabs or covered with a hard layer of sand. It ran for about 700 miles.

# On the *Via Egnatia*



When Paul and his companions passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to **Thessalonika** where there was a Jewish synagogue.

- Acts 17:1-4

# In The News

Subway work unearths ancient road in Thessalonika, Greece

Monday, June 25, 2012



Archaeologists uncovered a 230-ft section of a marble-paved road built by the Romans that was the main travel artery nearly 2,000 years ago. It was 23 ft below ground in the center of the city. Some of the marble paving stones were etched with children's board games, others were marked by horse-drawn cart wheels. Also discovered were remains of tools and lamps.



# Thessalonica

- ❖ Founded around 315 BC by the King Cassander of Macedon.
- ❖ He named it after his wife Thessalonike, a half-sister of Alexander the Great and princess of Macedon as daughter of Philip II
- ❖ Under Macedon rule it retained its own autonomy and parliament and evolved to become the most important city in Macedon.
- ❖ After the fall of Macedon (168 BC) it became a free city of the Roman Republic, grew to be an important trade-hub located on the *Via Egnatia*
- ❖ At the southern end of the main north-south route through the Balkans along river valleys, thereby linking the Balkans with the rest of Greece
- ❖ Later became capital of one of the four Roman districts of Macedonia
- ❖ Later it became the capital of all the Greek provinces of the Roman Empire due to the city's importance in the Balkan peninsula
- ❖ Under Galerius Maximianus Caesar, where Galerius commissioned an imperial palace, a new hippodrome, a triumphal arch and a mausoleum

# Church of St. Demetrios

(original built in the 5<sup>th</sup> Century)



# On the road again

When Paul and his companions passed through Amphipolis and then Apollonia, they came to **Thessalonica**....

As was his custom, Paul went to the synagogue. On three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead.

“This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,” he said.

Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.

*- Acts 17:1-4*

Note - again - that Paul's preaching attracts not just his target audience (Jews) but Greek pagans, especially, women.

What about Paul's message attracted non-Jews? Not an argument from Scripture- they had little knowledge of it.

# Trouble in Thessalonica

Other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city.



They rushed to Jason's house\* in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd.

But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other believers before the city officials...

- Acts 17:5-7

*\*Jason is never identified in any way. The passage was evidently longer in the original but was shortened for reasons unknown.*

# Trouble in Thessalonica

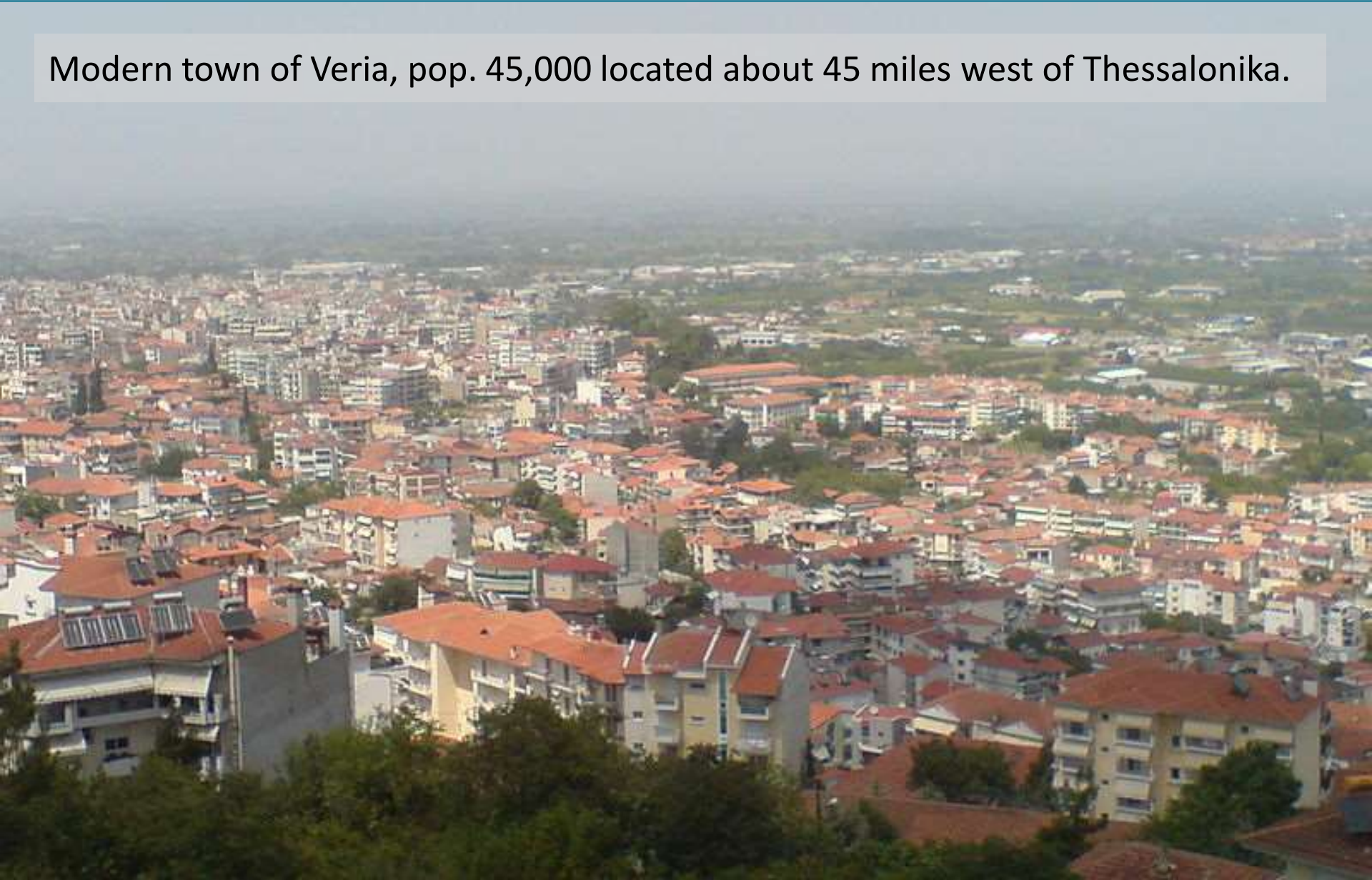


“These men have caused trouble all over and now come here! Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar’s decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus.”

Hearing this, the crowd and city officials were thrown into turmoil. They made Jason and the others post bond, then let them go.... At night the believers sent Paul and Silas away to **Berea**. - Acts 17:6-9

# Berea

Modern town of Veria, pop. 45,000 located about 45 miles west of Thessalonika.



# Converts in Berea

{In Berea}... they went to the Jewish synagogue... the Berean Jews... received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

As a result, many of them (Jews) believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek men and women (i.e. pagans).

- Acts 17:10-12

*The Jewish  
synagogue  
in Berea*

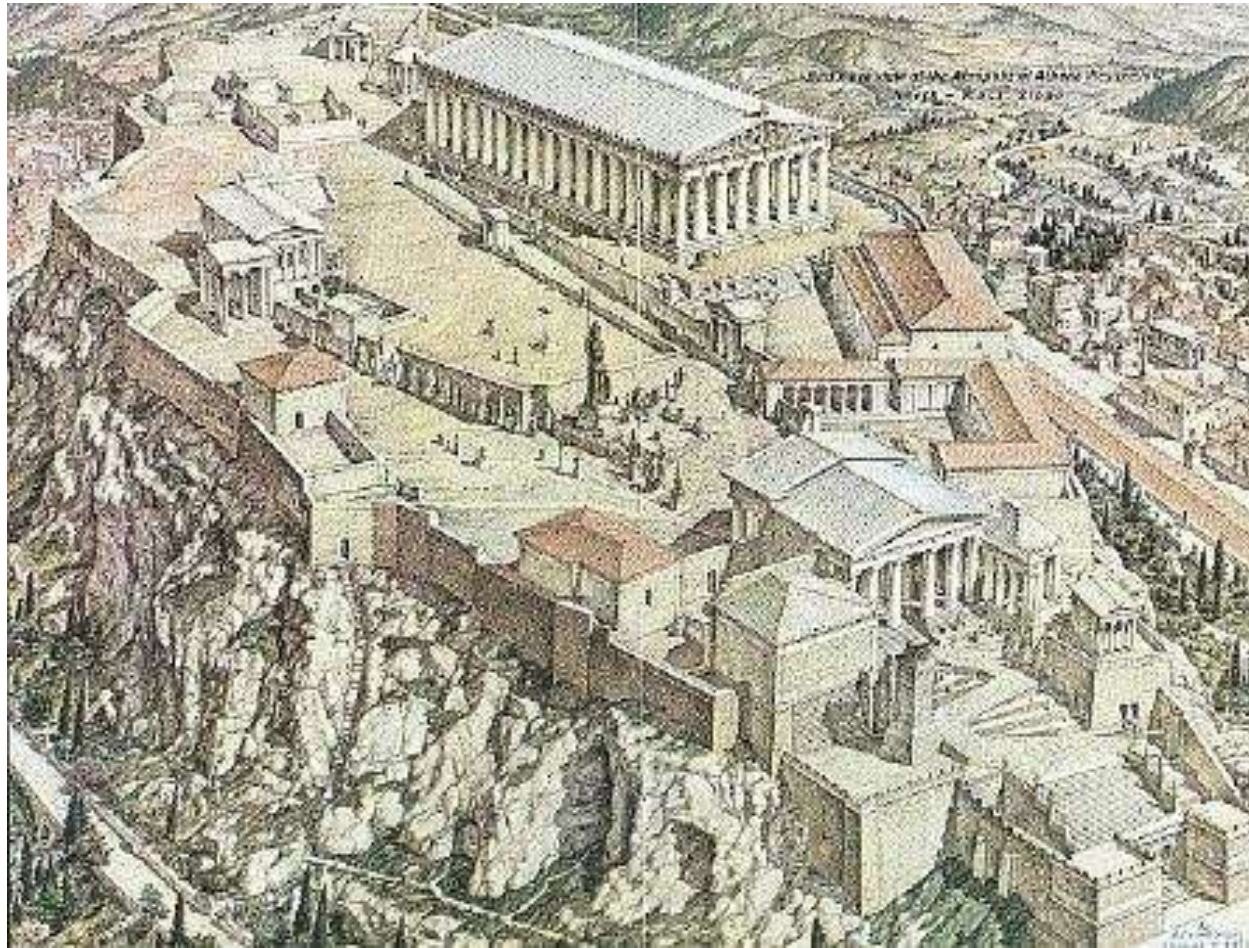


# Next: Athens

When Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching the word of God at Berea, some of them went there, agitated the crowds, stirring them up {against Paul}.

The believers immediately sent Paul to the coast but Silas and Timothy stayed. Those escorting Paul brought him to **Athens** and then left with instructions for Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible.

- Acts 17:13-15





# Athens, Greece

Ruins of the Parthenon on the Acropolis of Athens



# Athens

- ❖ Capital of Greece, population >3 million; named after goddess Athena
- ❖ One of the oldest cities in the world; 3,400 yr. recorded history
- ❖ Home of arts, philosophy, democracy, law, architecture & science
- ❖ Host of the first modern-day Olympic Games in 1896



# Preaching to Athenian philosophers

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols.

He reasoned in the synagogue with Jews and God-fearing Greeks, and in the marketplace....

**Epicurean and Stoic philosophers** began to debate with him. Some of them asked, “What is this **babbler** (“seed-picker”) trying to say?”

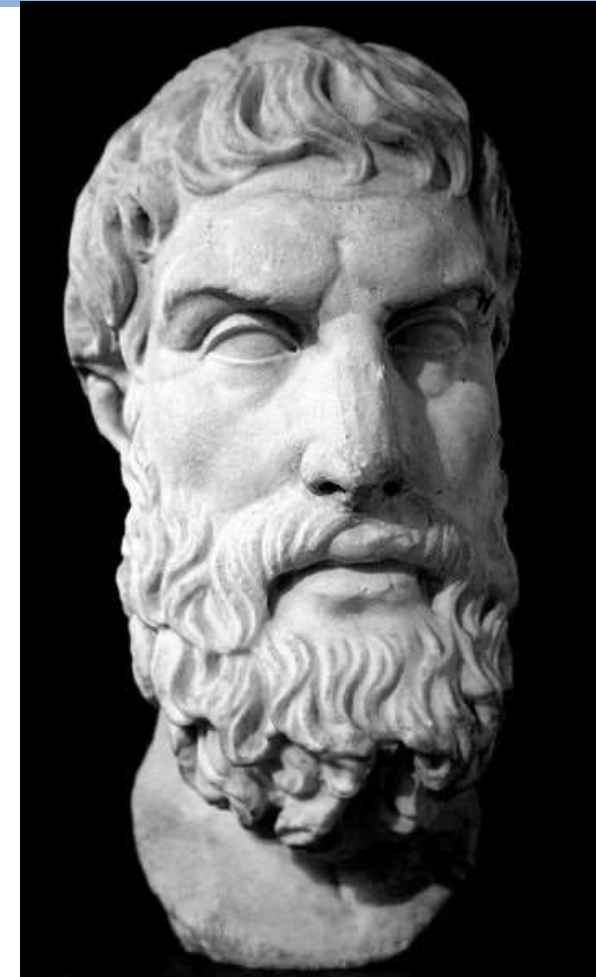
Others remarked, “He seems to be advocating foreign gods.” They said this because Paul was preaching about Jesus and the resurrection.

- Acts 17:16-18



# Philosophy 101: Epicureanism

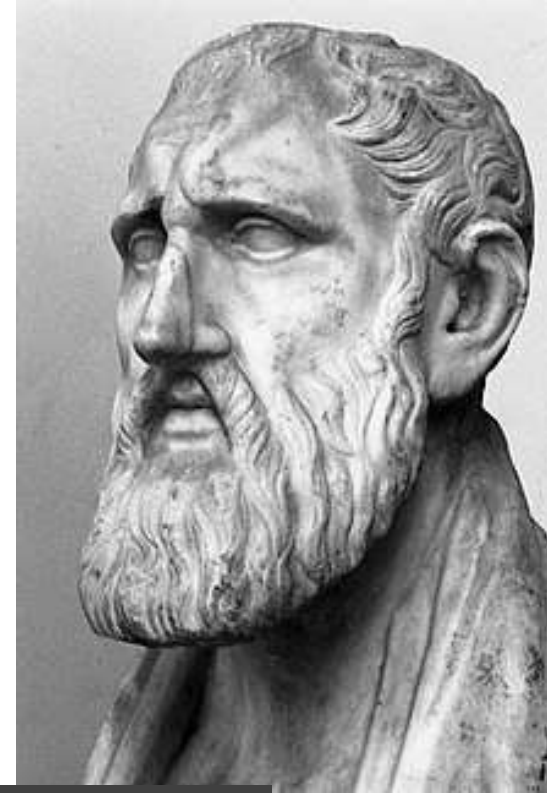
- ❖ Philosophy based upon the teachings of Epicurus (ca. 307 BC)
- ❖ A form of **materialism** (matter is all that exists); attacks superstition, divine interventions
- ❖ A form of **hedonism** (pleasure is a good); was not extreme; was not about wild partying
- ❖ Best way to attain pleasure is to live modestly, gain knowledge of the world, practice control of emotions, and avoid politics
- ❖ Goal is to attain a state of tranquility and freedom from fear, absence of bodily pain
- ❖ Originally was a challenge to Platonism, later became the opponent of Stoicism
- ❖ Flourished in the time of Paul and during the later Roman era



*Epicureanism died out as an active way of thinking when Christians gained power and suppressed it (Christians opposed all pagan philosophy).*

# Philosophy 101: Stoicism

- ❖ Founded in Athens by Zeno of Citium (early 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC)
- ❖ Taught that destructive emotions come from errors in judgment
- ❖ People of moral and intellectual perfection would not commit such errors, not suffer such emotions
- ❖ So a Stoic was immune to misfortune and exhibited calm (attitude today called "stoic")
- ❖ Concerned with maintaining personal free will
- ❖ Later Stoics (e.g. Seneca and Epictetus) emphasized "virtue is sufficient for happiness"
- ❖ Emperor Marcus Aurelius was himself a noted Stoic thinker.



Emperor Justinian I closed all philosophy schools (529 AD) ruling that their pagan character was at odds with Christian faith.

*Even today, people of faith are suspicious of disciplines other than religion including philosophy, sociology, and psychology as being "pagan."*

# Alone in Athens



- ❖ Paul awaited Timothy and Silas from Berea (was Luke with him?)
- ❖ Athens wasn't on his itinerary; he wasn't planning to stay long, but while waiting he did a little sightseeing
- ❖ He was cultured and could appreciate the famous buildings and statues
- ❖ Even though old and in decline, Athens was a beautiful, fascinating place
- ❖ Then holding only about 10,000 people yet packed with as many as 30,000 altars and statues to many gods
- ❖ Imagine Paul looking around and thinking: "idols." Ugh! They need Jesus!

*Serpent at the foot of Athena, patron goddess of Athens (modern replica in the Nashville Parthenon).*

# On the hill of the god of war

*Areopagus* means “Boulder of Ares” (the god of war)

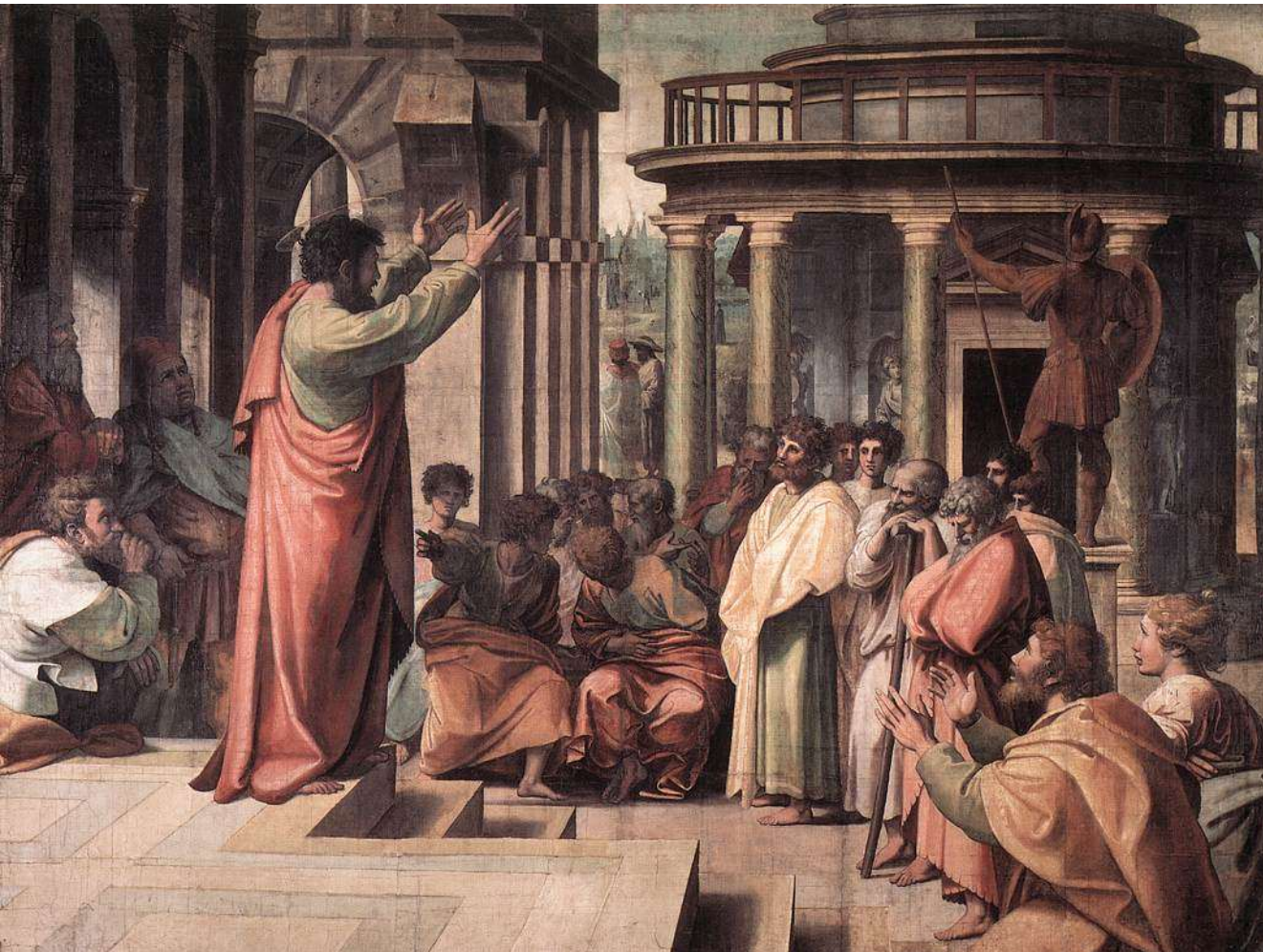
Then {the philosophers} took Paul to a meeting of the Areopagus.\* {The Greeks there} said to him, “May we know more about this new teaching that you are presenting? You are bringing to our ears some strange ideas and we would like to know what they mean.”

- Acts 17:19-20

*\*The term refers to both the place where the judicial body of Athenian nobles met and the judicial body which met there.*

# Paul makes his pitch

Paul then stood up in the meeting and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with



this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.

So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship! This is what I am going to proclaim to you.

- Acts 17:22-24



# Paul's witness to Greek intellectuals

- ❖ God, who made the *cosmos*, is Lord of heaven and earth
- ❖ God does not live in temples built by people nor is He served by people as if he needed things done for Him
- ❖ God gives all people life and everything else they need to live
- ❖ God made people of all nations from one origin, intending them to inhabit the earth; He “marked out” their appointed times and lands
- ❖ All this He did so that people would seek him and reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one.
- ❖ Don't think that Divine Being is “stuff” like gold, silver, stone or can be given an image conceived by human imagination
- ❖ Because we are God's offspring, we should know better; in the past God overlooked such ignorance (not “sin”), but now he commands all people everywhere to repent
- ❖ For he has set a day to judge the world with justice by the **Man He Appointed...** want proof? He raised this **Man** from the dead



## Greek & Roman gods

Many deities, great and small

A lord of the land, another of the sea, of the sky, of the underworld, etc.

Lordship is local, limited

## Christian God

One supreme Divine Being

One Lord of heaven and earth

Lordship is universal, unlimited



## Greek & Roman gods

Needed people to sacrifice to them before they granted favors

Had nothing much to do with creation; were themselves “born”

Tolerated humans, sometimes take advantage of them, abuse them

## Christian God

Needs nothing but gives freely - all life, breath and everything

Uncreated Creator of all things visible and invisible

Loves all people, desires good for them, interacts with the cosmos



## Greek & Roman gods

Didn't want humans to bother them

Actions were capricious, often unscrupulous, deceitful

Lived far away on Mt. Olympus, appeared from time to time to people

## Christian God

Wants all to seek Him, pray to him, grow in a relationship with Him

Underpins the moral law in the hearts of mankind

Knows each, everyone as Father to child, is close to all, is ever-present

# A cool response

When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.”

At that, Paul left the Council.

Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman, Damaris, and a number of others.

- *Acts 17:32-34*



*The restored Stoa of Attalos in Athens*

# Success or Failure in Athens?

*Was Paul's preaching in Athens successful? What do you think?*

- ❖ There were a few converts, but *Acts* makes no mention again of a church there and we know of no Pauline “Letter to the Athenians”
- ❖ Was his preaching too “philosophical” and not emotional enough? His argument was not logically rigorous and he made no threat of damnation for unbelief and no “proof” except a claim (incredible) of the resurrection of an executed Jewish prophet.
- ❖ What must **we** hear/see to be moved to accept the Christian faith today? A “powerful” (i.e. emotional) message? A healing? A threat?
- ❖ What **can** one person say to another to draw them into a closer relationship with God?



Goodbye  
Athens,  
Hello  
Corinth



# Next up, Corinth

Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he met a Jew named **Aquila**, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife **Priscilla**, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome.

- Acts 18: 1-2



Emperor Claudius (r. 41-54) was an able, efficient administrator, ambitious builder of roads, aqueducts, and canals, an active but not ambitious conqueror (took control of the south of England) and a religious reformer. In a famous edict, he affirmed the rights and freedoms of all Jews in the Empire, one reason scholars dispute the expulsion of Jews from Rome in this passage.



# Paul Gets to Work

Because Paul was a tentmaker (*leather-worker: see photos*) as they were also, he stayed and worked with them. Every...

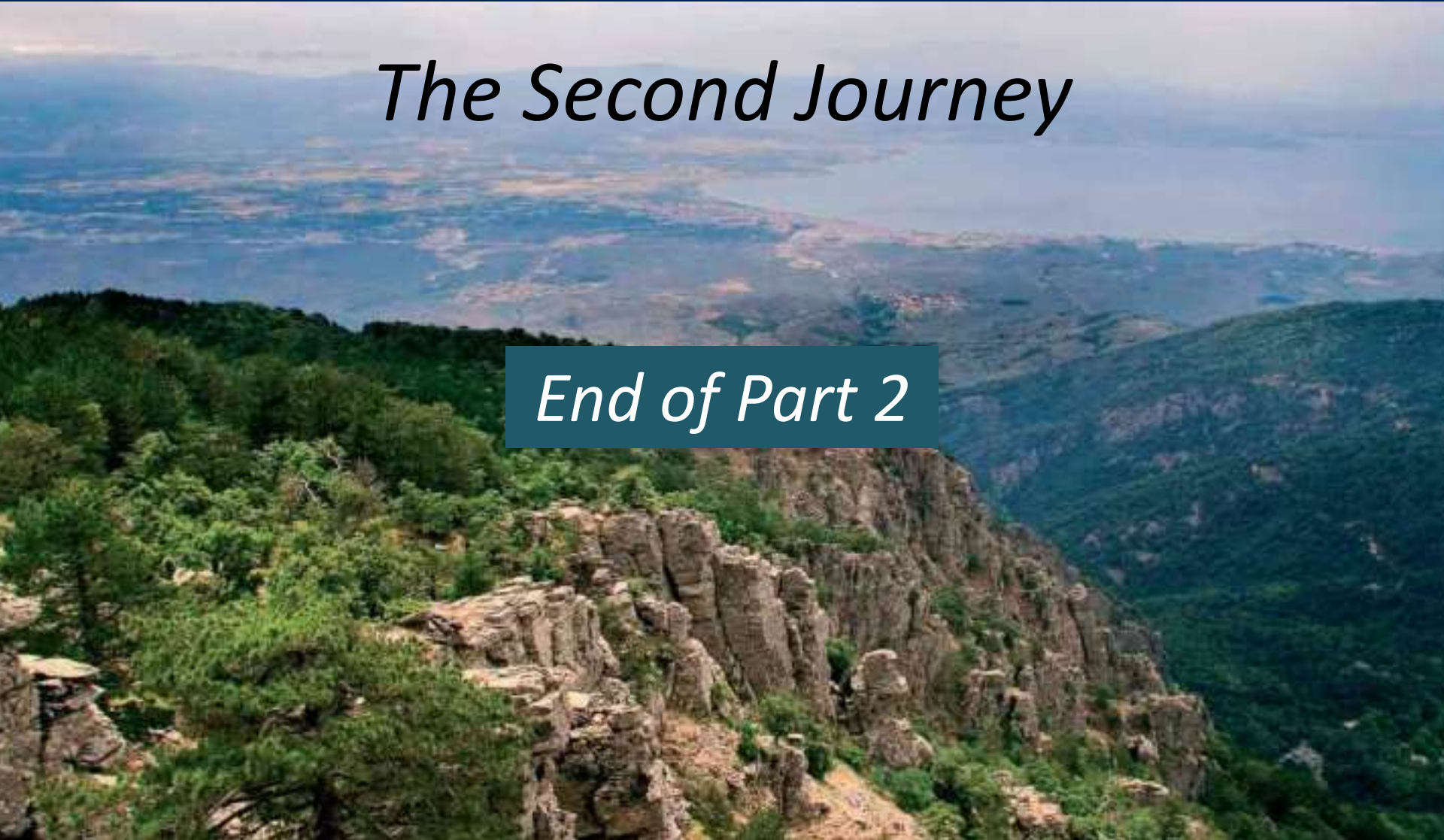


...Sabbath, he **reasoned** in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks. - Acts 18: 3-4

# The Mission Journeys of St. Paul

## *The Second Journey*

*End of Part 2*



# The Mission Journeys of St. Paul

## *The Second Journey*

*Part 3*  
*Back to Antioch*

# Where we left off: Paul in Corinth

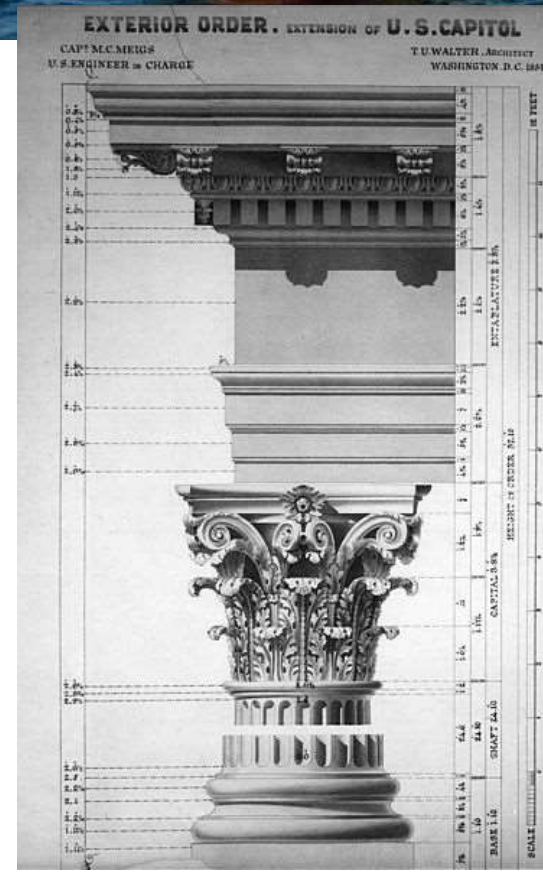
Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he met a Jew named **Aquila**, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife **Priscilla**.... Every Sabbath, he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

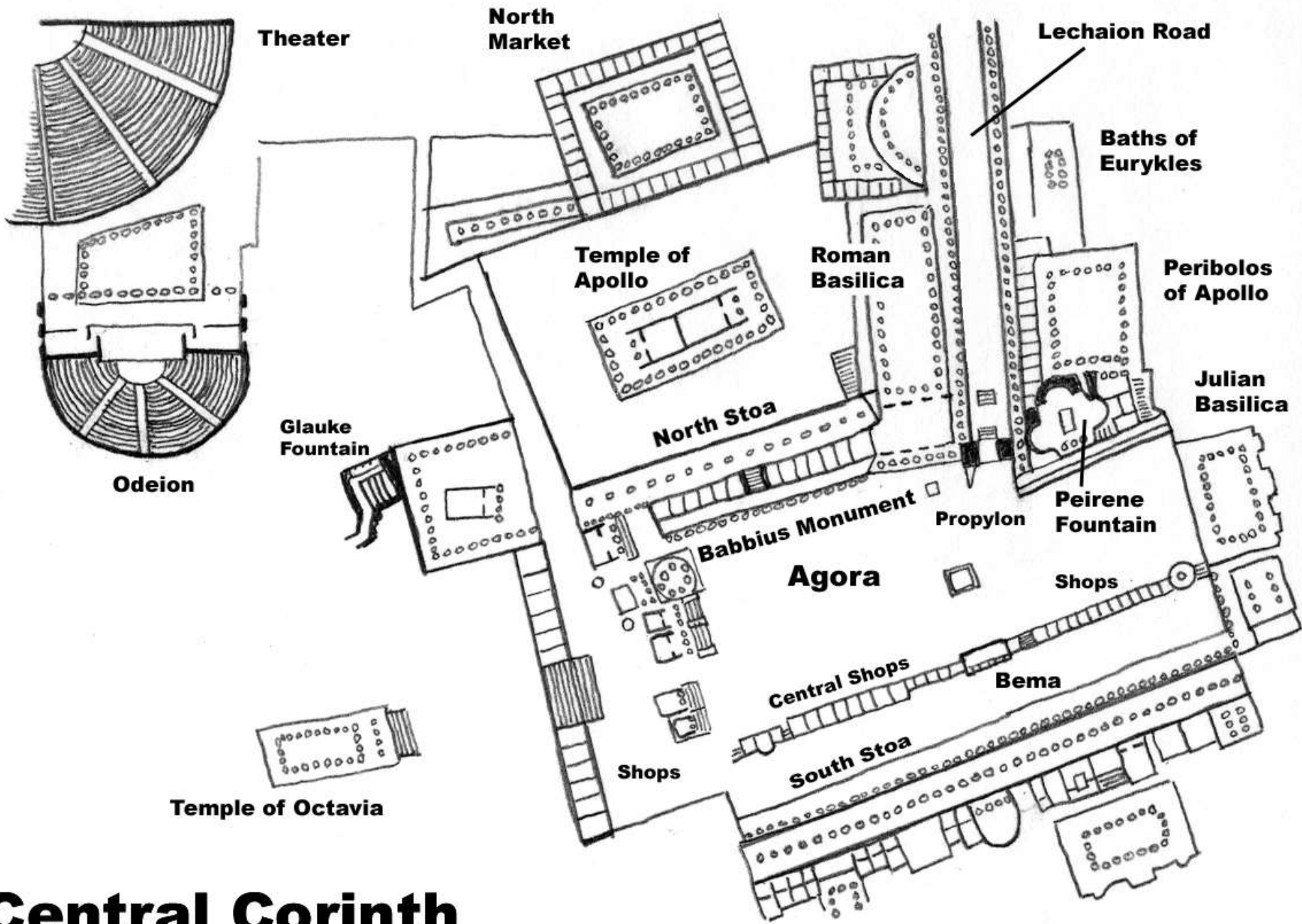
- Acts 18: 1-4



# Corinth in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD

- ❖ History goes back 6,500 years
- ❖ Important city-state since 8<sup>th</sup> century BC
- ❖ Rivalled Athens and Thebes in wealth from Isthmian traffic, trade
- ❖ Developed the trireme sailing vessel →
- ❖ Hosted the Isthmian Games.
- ❖ Developed the Corinthian order, the third of the classical support architectures (after the Ionic and the Doric) →
- ❖ Renowned for the temple prostitutes of Aphrodite, who serviced wealthy merchants, officials and travelers
- ❖ Under the Romans, Corinth was rebuilt as a major city and had a large mixed population of Romans, Greeks, Jews.





# Central Corinth



Delphi

Patara

4

Athens

1

Corinth

2

3

Olympia

Peloponnese

- 1. Lechaion
- 2. Cenchreae
- 3. Saronic Gulf
- 4. Gulf of Corinth

Mediterranean Sea

HolyLandPhotos.org

# The Canal of Corinth





# Canal of Corinth

- ❖ Connects the Gulf of Corinth & the Saronic Gulf in the Aegean Sea
- ❖ Cuts the Isthmus separating the Peloponnesian peninsula from Greece
- ❖ 4.0 miles long / 70 feet wide / Entirely at sea level (no locks)
- ❖ Conceived first in 7<sup>th</sup> century BC, begun by Julius Caesar, continued by Nero when 6,000 Jewish captives dug a mere 1/10<sup>th</sup> the distance
- ❖ A memorial of the attempt in the form of a relief of Hercules left by these men can still be seen in the canal cutting
- ❖ Modern construction began in 1881 but geological and financial problems bankrupted the builders; was completed in 1893
- ❖ Failed to attract profitable level of traffic and had issues of tidal currents, geologic instability, closures for repairs, and disruptions from WW1 and WW2
- ❖ Impassable for most modern ships so of little economic importance today, except for tourist excursions

# Where we left off: Paul in Corinth

How did he reach people? By what power did he bring people into a relationship with Christ? He, himself, tells us in a letter...

Paul left A... w named  
Aquila, a... Italy with his  
wife Priscilla... Every sabbath, he reasoned in the synagogue, trying  
to persuade Jews and Greeks. - Acts 18: 1-4



# Paul on Paul's preaching power

*I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power. Your faith, then, rests not on human wisdom but on God's power.*

- [1Cor. 2:3-5](#)



Christ... {sent me to } preach the gospel but not with wisdom and eloquence lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its **power**. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the **power** of God....



The Bearing of the Cross  
Tamas Galambos (1997)

Jews demand signs, Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles. But to those God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the **power** and wisdom of God.

For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

- *1Cor. 1:17-25*

# Opposition again

When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah<sup>1</sup>.

But when they opposed Paul and became abusive, he... said to them... From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”

Crispus, the [Jewish] synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord.<sup>2</sup>

Many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized so Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.<sup>3</sup>

- Acts 18: 5-11

- (1) Apparently Paul retired from leather-working and devoted himself to evangelism fulltime.
- (2) His conversion means not all Jews rejected the Gospel; see 1Cor. 14.
- (3) Again there is an obvious triumphalist tone in the narrative.

# The secular arm throws out the complaint

While Gallio [more about him next slide] was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews of Corinth made a united attack on Paul and brought him to the place of judgment.

“This man,” they charged, “is persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law.”

...Gallio said to them, “If you Jews were making a complaint about some misdemeanor or serious crime, it would be reasonable for me to listen to you.

But since it involves questions about words and names and your own law, settle the matter yourselves.

I will not be a judge of such things.”

- Acts 18: 12-15

This is the second time we see Acts presenting a high Roman official in a favorable light.

# Dating the second journey



Gallio was son of the rhetorician Seneca the Elder and brother of the philosopher Seneca (left) who dedicated works to him and wrote of his virtue

Seneca became an advisor, then an opponent of the Emperor Caligula and was probably banished by the Emperor Claudius

The brothers returned together to Rome when Agrippina tapped Seneca to be Nero's tutor.

Gallio was appointed proconsul of the newly constituted senatorial province of **Achaea**

He survived his brother who was famously put to death by order of Nero in 65 AD.

**Gallio's tenure is dated to 51-53 AD, therefore, so too can the events of Acts 18. This is the most accurately known date in the life of Paul**





Ruins of the *berna* where Paul stood before Proconsul Gallio





## On to Ephesus

Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time then he left the brothers and sisters and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila.

Before he sailed, he had **his hair cut off\*** at Cenchreae because of a vow he had taken.

They arrived at Ephesus.

- Acts 18: 18-19

\*How very odd. Can you think of an explanation of Paul's behavior?

# Ephesus

2<sup>nd</sup> in importance only to Rome, seat of government, commerce and culture, home to 200K people, whose theater could seat 25K.



Ephesus was the center of worship of the  
Goddess Artemis (Roman: Diana)

## The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus



# The seven wonders

The earliest surviving list of “wonders” was from a poem by the Greek writer **Antipater of Sidon**, ca. 140 BC:

*I have gazed on the walls of impregnable Babylon along which chariots may race, and on the Zeus by the banks of the Alpheus, I have seen the hanging gardens, the Colossus of the Helios, the great man-made mountains of the lofty pyramids, and the gigantic tomb of Mausolus; But when I saw the sacred house of Artemis that towers to the clouds, the others were placed in the shade, for the sun himself has never looked upon its equal outside Olympus.*

—Greek Anthology IX.58

Another 2nd century BC observer, the mathematician **Philon of Byzantium**, wrote a short account entitled *The Seven Sights of the World*. However, the incomplete surviving manuscript only recounted six of them.

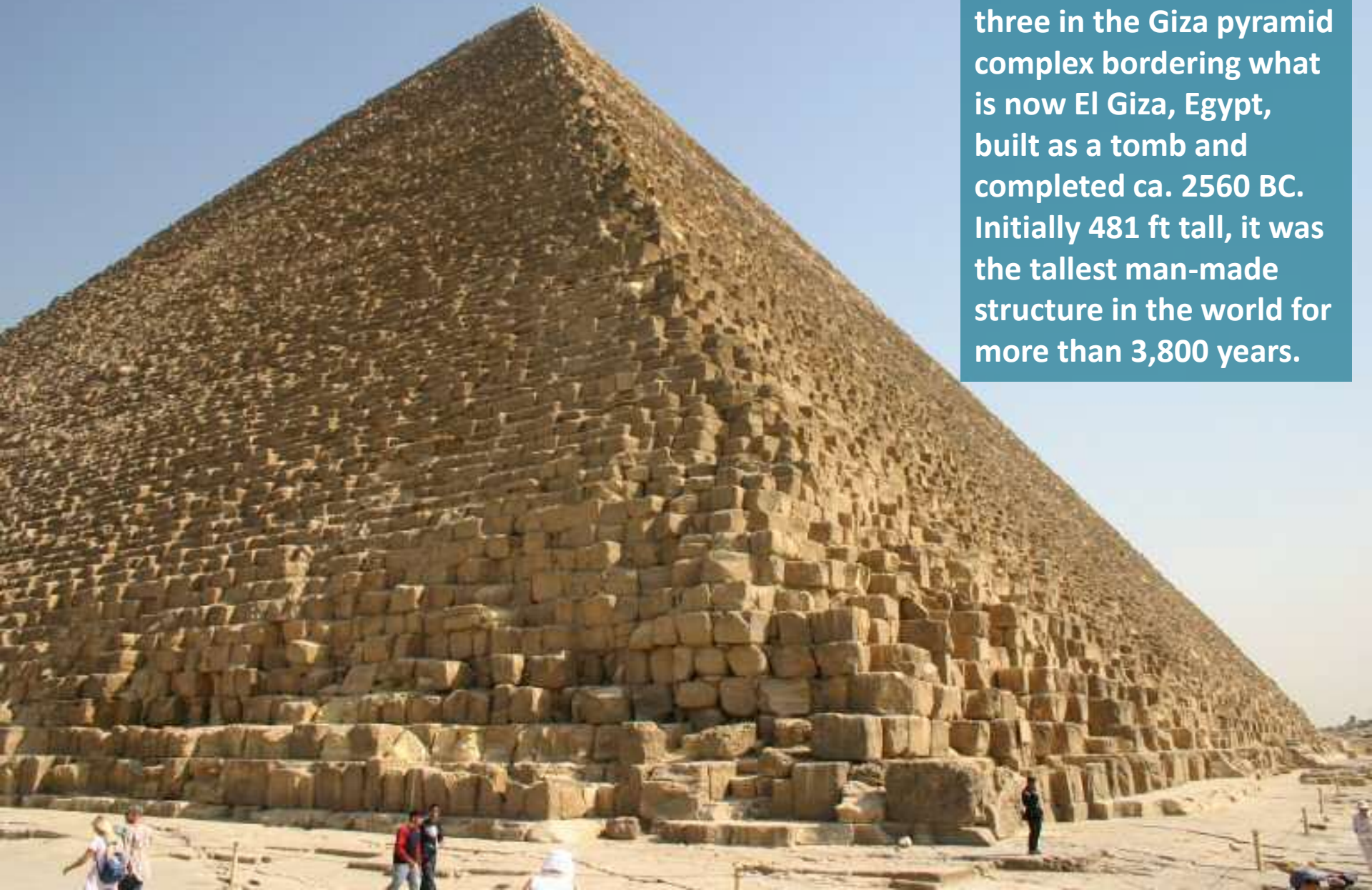
WONDER	DATE Construction	BUILDER	DATE Destroyed	Why Destroyed	LOCATION
Pyramid at Giza	2584–2561 BC	Egyptians	<i>Still in existence</i>	<i>Still in existence</i>	Egypt
Hanging Gardens	c. 600 BC	Chaldeans	1st century BC	Earthquakes	Iraq
Temple of Artemis	c. 550 BC, & 323 BC	Lydians Greeks	356 BC then in 262, Goths	Arson, Plundering	near Selçuk, Turkey
Statue of Zeus	435 BC	Greeks	5th–6th century	Flood	Olympia, Greece
Tomb of Mausolus	351 BC	Carians, Greeks	by 1494	Flood	Bodrum, Turkey
Rhodes Colossus	292–280 BC	Greeks	226 BC	Earthquake	Rhodes, Greece
Pharos Lighthouse	c. 280 BC	Egypt, Greeks	1303–1480	Earthquakes	Alexandria, Egypt

# “Hanging” Gardens of Babylon



**Attributed to Nebuchadnezzar II (r. 605-562 BC) - built to please homesick wife, Amytis of Media who longed for the plants of her homeland**


# The great pyramid at Giza



Oldest and largest of three in the Giza pyramid complex bordering what is now El Giza, Egypt, built as a tomb and completed ca. 2560 BC. Initially 481 ft tall, it was the tallest man-made structure in the world for more than 3,800 years.

# Colossus of Rhodes

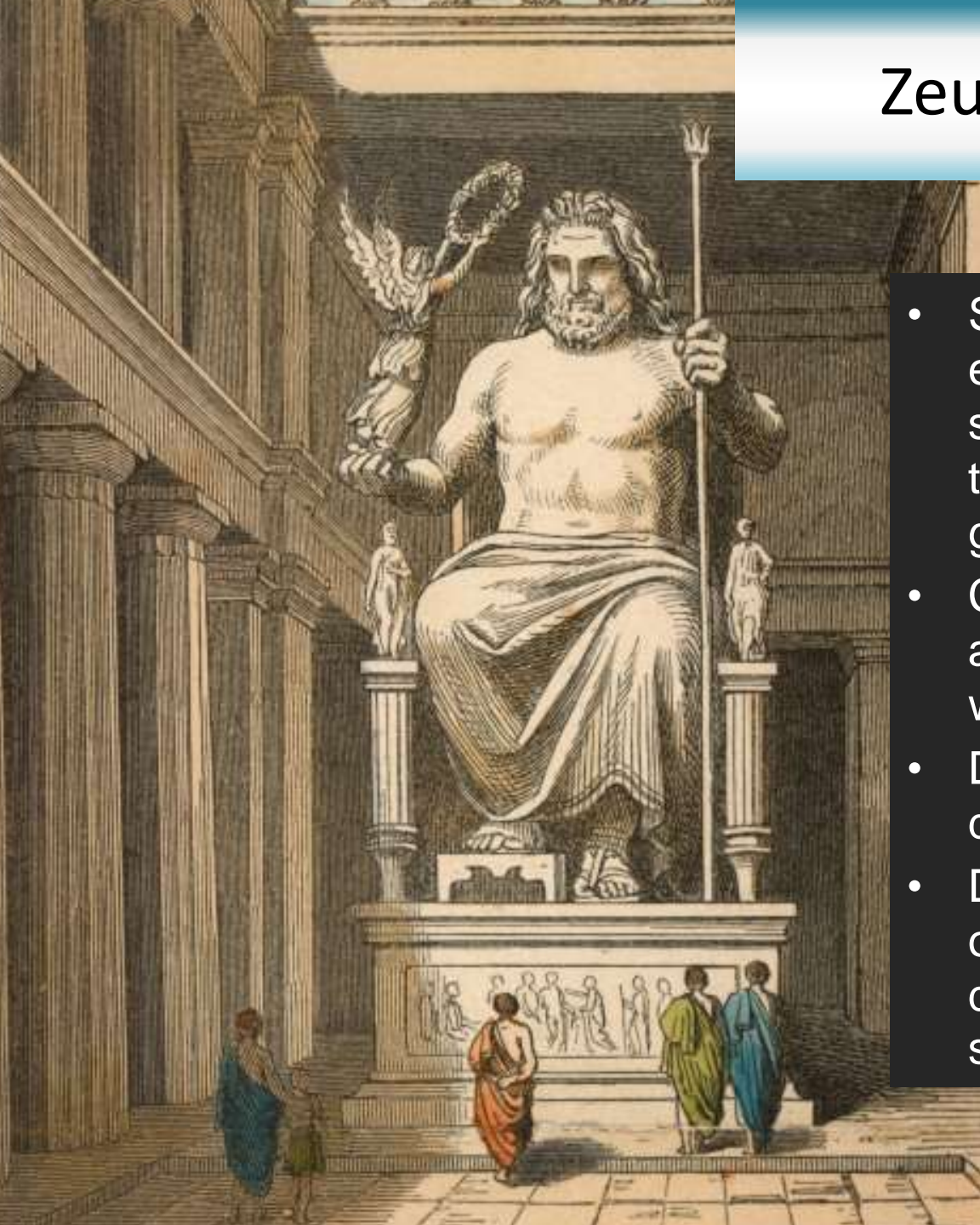
Statue of the sun-god Helios erected on the Greek island of Rhodes by Chares of Lindos in 280 BC. Alluded to in the Emma Lazarus paean to the Statue of Liberty it matched it in height (110 ft).



Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand  
Glowes world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command  
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.  
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she  
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"



# Zeus at Mt. Olympus



- Seated figure, ca. 43 ft tall erected by the Greek sculptor Phidias in 435 BC in the temple of the ruler of the gods on Mt. Olympia, Greece
- Constructed of ivory plates and gold panels over a wooden framework
- Destroyed and the ruins lost during the 5th century AD
- Details of its form are known only from ancient Greek descriptions and representations on coins

# The Lighthouse of Alexandria



- Built during the reign Ptolemy II (280–247 BC) on the small island of Pharos at the edge of the Nile delta at the entrance to the harbor of Alexandria, Egypt
- It stood ca. 330 ft) tall, for many centuries one of the tallest man-made structures in the world
- Damaged by earthquakes between AD 956-1323, it was abandoned and its building stones scavenged.

# The Mausolus at Halicarnassus



- Built for Mausolus, a satrap of the Persian Empire in 350 BC by his sister-wife, Artemisia
- Designed by famed Greek architects, Satyros and Pythius of Priene, it stood 148 ft high.
- Each of the four sides was adorned with sculptural reliefs by four other famous Greek sculptors.
- The word *mausoleum* has now come to be used for any grand tomb.

# Just passing through



Ruins, the Library of Celsus, Ephesus

They came to Ephesus, where Paul left them {Priscilla and Aquila} there.

He went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

When they asked him to spend more time with them, he declined. As he left, he promised, “I will come back if it is God’s will.”\*

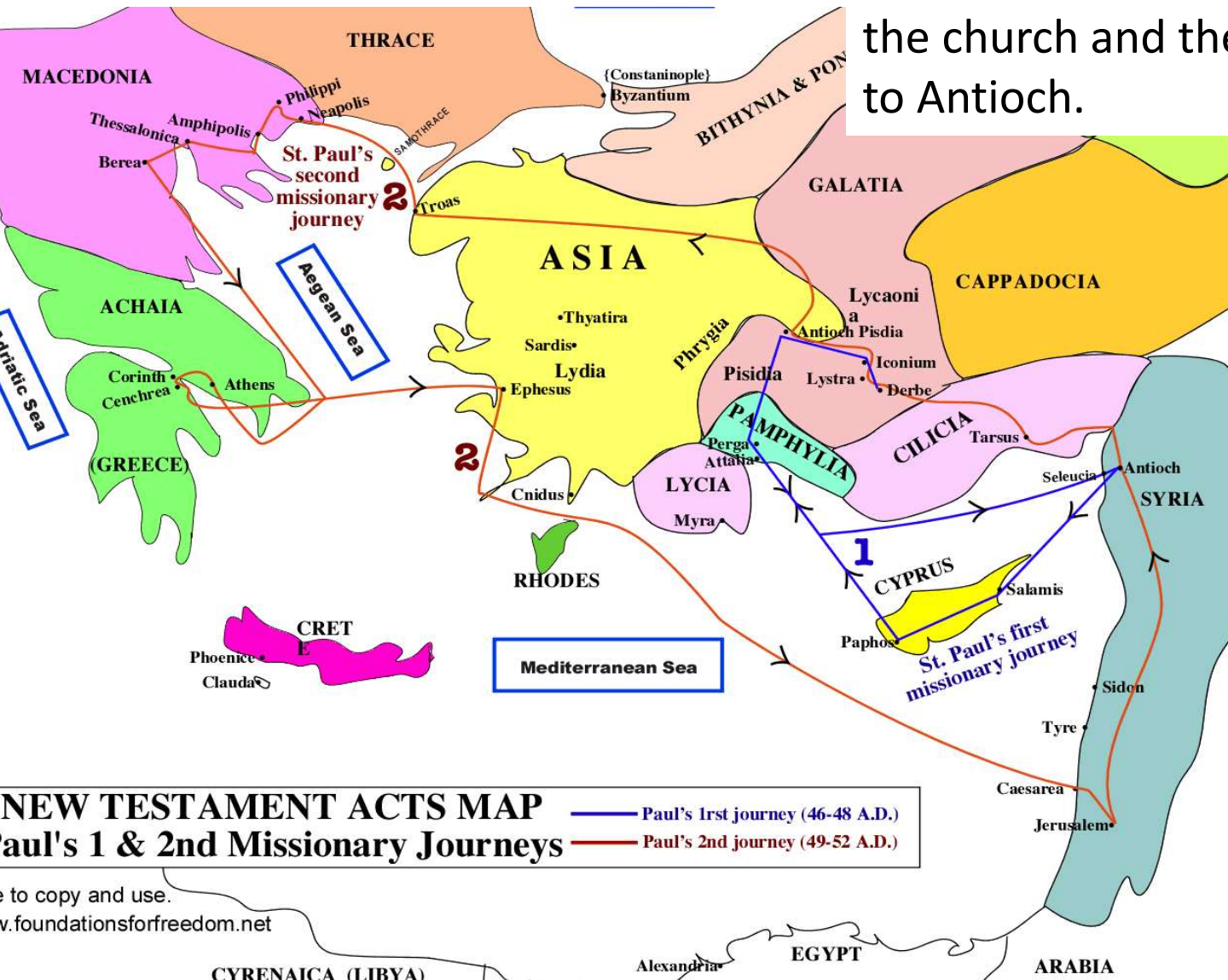
Then he sailed from Ephesus.

- Acts 18: 19-21

*\*Paul did return and soon - at the start of his third missionary journey.*

# Full Circle; second journey completed

When Paul landed at Caesarea, he went up to Jerusalem and greeted the church and then went down to Antioch. *- Acts 18:22*



*Paul's letters make no mention of a stop-over in Jerusalem, so we have no clue why he went there. It must have been important since it was a significant departure from the direct route to Antioch.*

**NEW TESTAMENT ACTS MAP**  
**Paul's 1 & 2nd Missionary Journeys**

— Paul's 1st journey (46-48 A.D.)  
 — Paul's 2nd journey (49-52 A.D.)

# Second journey summary

- ❖ Acts 15:36 - to – Acts 18:22
- ❖ No apparent itinerary; plan was to just “*visit the brethren in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord and see how they are*”. (Acts 15:36)
- ❖ Silas accompanied Paul but not Barnabas or Mark; later picked up Timothy and (we assume) Luke
- ❖ The Spirit pushes them forcefully into Greece (Macedonia) which results in the first Christian converts and churches in Europe
- ❖ Asia Minor is not neglected – historical records suggests that many others spread the Word throughout that region
- ❖ Churches founded on trip include those to which Paul writes the letters we prize: Philippi, Thessalonica, and Corinth but not Athens
- ❖ Paul goes to synagogues where he find converts and conflicts; also preaches to passers-by from his marketplace booth
- ❖ *Ekklesia*/churches end up consisting mostly of non-Jewish Greeks.

# For reflection and discussion



*What do you think?*

For what kind of life did Paul's training prepare him?

In what skilled trade was Paul proficient?

Contrast these with his calling and life's work

What was St. Paul's legacy, his influence on Christianity?

For what kind of life did your training prepare you? / In what skills are you proficient? / Contrast these with your calling as a Christian  
What will be your legacy?

# The Mission Journeys of St. Paul

*The end of part 3 and  
“The Second Journey”*

The story of Paul’s life and travels continues in *“The Mission Journeys of St. Paul: Third and Afterward”*, also available in the “Lessons To Go” Scripture studies series on SlideShare