

THE BOOK OF ACTS

*But ye shall receive power, after that the **Holy Ghost** is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

Acts 1:8

THE BOOK OF ACTS - BACKGROUND

- Written by Luke, the sequel to the Gospel of Luke (Luke Ch 24)
 - Written to Theophilus or “Lover of God”
- Date 63 A.D.
- Acts is both History and Theology
- Acts chronicles the spread of the Gospel
- Bridges the Gospels and the Epistles
- This new church grew through a pattern of conflict followed by membership
- **It is really the “Acts” of the Holy Ghost**

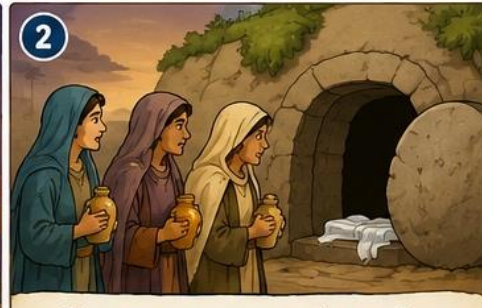
LUKE CHAPTER 24 - SUMMARY

- Jesus has been crucified and The women come to the tomb to anoint the body
- Jesus is risen – Angels ask “Why do you seek the Living among the dead”
- The other Apostles are told of the events and go to the tomb to investigate
- Jesus appear to two disciples travelling for Jerusalem to Emmas
 - They did not recognize him and expected Jesus to be Israel’s political leader
 - Jesus brake Bread (Communion) with them, opened the eyes of their understanding and explains the scriptures
- Jesus appears to the disciples who were afraid and thought it was a spirit
- Jesus eats food to prove it is him in the flesh and opens their understanding
 - Teaches the fulfillment of the scriptures (Moses, Prophets, Psalms)
 - Instruct them to wait for the Promise
- Jesus bless them and is carried off to Heaven

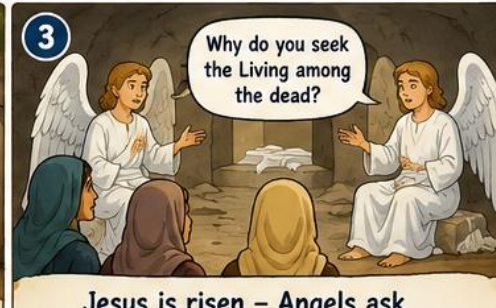
LUKE CHAPTER 24 – THE RISEN LORD



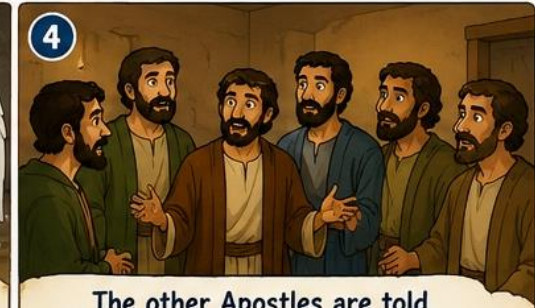
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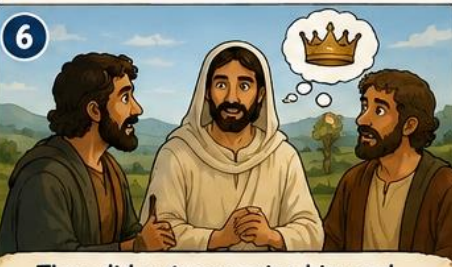
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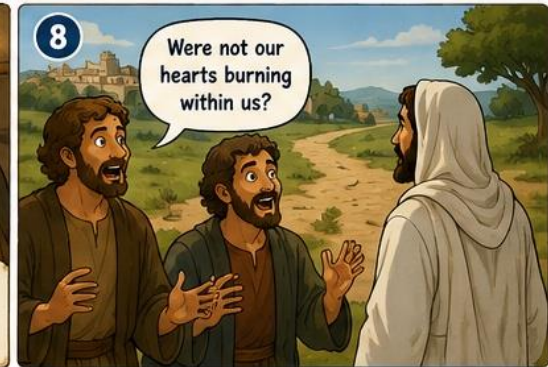
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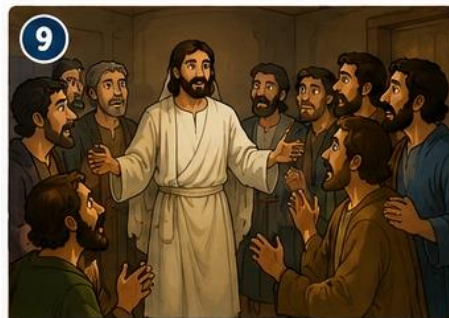
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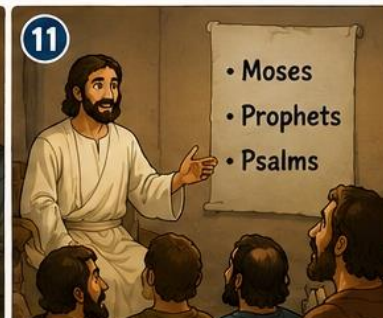
Were not our hearts burning within us?



Jesus appears to the disciples who were afraid and thought it was a spirit



Jesus eats food to prove it is him in the flesh and opens their understanding



Teaches the fulfillment of the scriptures (Moses, Prophets, Psalms)



Instruct them to wait for the Promise



Jesus bless them and is carried off to Heaven

POWER OF THE RESURRECTION

- **Jesus is risen – Angels ask, “Why do you seek the Living among the dead?”**
 - Jesus physically died and by the power of God, brought back to life
 - Do we view our Spiritual life as a Memorial or a Resurrection?
 - The central theme and Power of Christianity is the Resurrection
- **The Scarlett Thread of the Resurrection and Redemption**

Scriptures	Threads	References
Gen 3:15	Enmity between Satan and Jesus	Rev 12:17
Numbers 21:9	The son of Man Lifted up	John 3:14
Duet 18:15	God will Raise up a Prophet	Acts 3:22
Psalms 2; 16; 22; 69; 72; 110, 118	Multiple Prophecies of a res Savior	Multiple
Isaiah 7; 14; 9:6; 40:10-11; 53	Multiple Prophecies of the Messiah	Multiple
Dan 9:24-25	Apocalyptic timeline to anoint the most Holy	John 4:25
Luke 24	Do not look for a resurrected Jesus among the dead	Multiple
1 Corinthians 15	Paul teaches on the Resurrection	Multiple

THE HOLY SPIRIT / HOLY GHOST

- The Holy Spirit and Holy Ghost are the same third part of the Trinity.
- The Holy Spirit is revealed in a very personable form as the Holy “Ghost” throughout the New testament (John 7:38-39).
- Translations
 - Ghost – Phantasma or apparition (Matt 14:26)
 - Spirit – Pneuma or breathe (Luke 24:39)
- God breathed life (Spirit/ pneuma) into all humans (to include Jesus on earth).
- The Holy Spirit is the individual Spirit of Jesus Christ
 - When we die our spirit return to God...
 - When Jesus died his Holy Spirit ascended and returned to earth (Eph 4:8-10)

If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. John 14:15-17

SEVEN PILLARS OF THE HOLY GHOST

- **The Holy Spirit is characterized by Seven distinct spiritual traits (Isaiah 11:1-2):**
 - The Spirit of the LORD
 - The Spirit of wisdom
 - The Spirit of understanding
 - The Spirit of counsel
 - The Spirit of power
 - The Spirit of knowledge
 - The Spirit of the fear of the Lord
- **The Seven Spirits highlighted in Revelation:**
 - Seven spirits given to the churches in Asia (1:4-5)
 - Jesus holds the seven spirits (3:1)
 - Revealed as seven blazing lamps (4:5)
 - The Lamb with seven horns and eyes (5:6)

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S CHARACTERISTICS

- The Holy Spirit is a personal being just as the Father and the Son.
 - He has intelligence (1 Cor. 2:10-11).
 - He has emotions (Eph. 4:30 – “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit”)
 - He has will (1 Cor. 2:11)
 - He teaches us (John 14:26).
 - He commands (Acts 8:29).
 - He intercedes for us in prayer (Rom. 8:26).
 - He can be insulted - Blaspheming the Holy Spirit is spoken of as unforgivable—the eternal sin. (Mark 3:29)

INTERACTION WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- To be Baptized in the Holy Ghost (Matt 3:11; Acts 1:5))
- Blasphemy against the Holy Ghost (Matt 12:31-32)
- Receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 2:38)
- To be Filled with the Holy Ghost (Lk 1:67; Lk 2:25; Lk 4:1; Acts 4:8; Acts 6:3)
- Manifestation of the Holy Ghost
 - Receiving power (Acts 1:8)
 - Receiving Boldness (Acts 4:31)
 - Tangible evidence (Acts 8:17-19)
 - Speaking in other tongues/languages (Acts 2:4; Acts 10:46)

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- He selectively and conditionally indwelt in certain people.
- The Spirit's indwelling enabled people to perform amazing tasks.
- The Holy Spirit could cease to indwell a person because of their disobedience.
 - The Spirit left Saul (1 Sam. 16:14).
 - When David sinned, he pleaded that the Spirit not be taken from him (Psalm 51:11).
- God promised through the prophets that He will pour out his Spirit on the Israelites and all People (Ezekiel 39:29, Joel 2:28-32)

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE GOSPELS

- Elizabeth and Zechariah (John the Baptist's parents) were filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:41-42, 67)
- He was the Agent of Christ's virgin birth (Luke 1:35)
- The Holy Ghost revealed to Simeon , a just man, that he would not see death before he saw the Lord's Christ (Luke 1:25)
- He empowered Christ's ministry (Matt. 12:28; Luke 4:1,18)
- Ascended on Jesus during His Baptism (Matt 3:16)
- He was the Power of Christ's Resurrection (Rom. 1:4; 8:11)

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- **He is Central to Salvation**

- He directs and enables evangelistic efforts (Acts 1:8)
- He convicts the unbeliever of sin (John 16:8-11)
- He seals (eternally secures) the Believer.

- **He Baptizes (places) the person into the body of Christ**

- **He is central in sanctification (How we grow)**

- **He “Fills” Believers**

- The “filling of the Spirit” describes the crucial work of God enabling the believer to live a transformed life.
- The Holy Spirit that gives a Christian the capability to change and grow in righteousness or put to death the deeds of the body” Rom. 8:13; the fruit of the Spirit” (Gal.5: 22,23)
- We are either controlled by our self-centered flesh or by the Holy Spirit who indwells us (Rom.8:4-11; Gal.5:16,17).
- Ephesians 5:18 describe this empowering ministry of Spirit as the “filling” of the Spirit.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- **He gives spiritual gifts to believers.** (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:7-16; 1 Peter 4:10,11)
 - Spiritual gifts are God-given abilities to serve. The Greek word for spiritual gift (*charisma*) is a form of the word “grace.” So these special abilities are privileges and not something earned.
 - Spiritual gifts are not particular talents or positions. Youth leaders or nursery worker are not spiritual gifts although those ministries definitely can put to use spiritual gifts such as teaching, serving, etc.
- **Facilitates True Worship** (John 4:23-24)
- **Teaches us All Things** (John 14:26)
- **He gives us the words to say at the right time** (Luke 12:12)
- **He Represents us Before the Father** (John 14:15-18)

THE UPPER ROOM

- **On “One Accord” – used over 11 times in the Book of Acts.**
 - To be in agreement, to be of one in heart and mind, in harmony
 - An accord is a French word that means "chord" in music.
 - In music a chord is made of at least 3 notes that are in harmony not unison
 - *Unison is when multiple people sing the same note at the same time*
 - *Harmony is when multiple people sing different notes together*
- **Completing the Circle**
 - Is there a distinction between the original 12 apostles and Church age apostles (Eph 4:11)?
 - Psalms 69:25 prophecy: “ *Let their habitation be desolate; and let none dwell in their tents*”
 - They must select someone who followed Jesus from the Baptism of John until He was taken up
 - He must be ordained to be a witness of Jesus’ Resurrection
 - Matthias chosen to replace Judas as 12th Apostle to fulfill Matthew 19:28 and Rev 21:14

PREPARATION AND GROWTH

■ A Pattern of Spiritual Obedience

- The Holy Spirit is how Jesus communicated with the Chosen Apostles (v.2)
- The Apostles were commanded to (v.4, v.8):
 - Be **Still and Wait** (active waiting) for God's Promise -- "The Promise of the Holy Ghost"
 - Receive **Power** through the Holy Spirit
 - Be **Witnesses** to Judea, Samaria and the Uttermost part of the earth.

■ A Pattern of Spiritual Growth

- Saved, but focused on the cares of the world (1:9-11)
 - *Looking for an earthly kingdom and gazing in the air (passive waiting)*
- Saved and have knowledge of the Scriptures (1:16-28)
 - **HUA** – Hear the Word, Understand something need to be done, Acknowledge the Command
- Saved and able to effectively be a witness through the Power of the Holy Spirit (2:14-38)
 - *Explain Jesus to others though the use and application of Scripture*
 - *An instrument to bring souls to Christ (Peter's words pricked the audience's hearts)*

PETER'S SPIRITUAL MATURITY

I don't F#&!&
know him!
(Matt 26:74)



When will you restore
the kingdom
(Acts 1:6)



Psalms
69:25

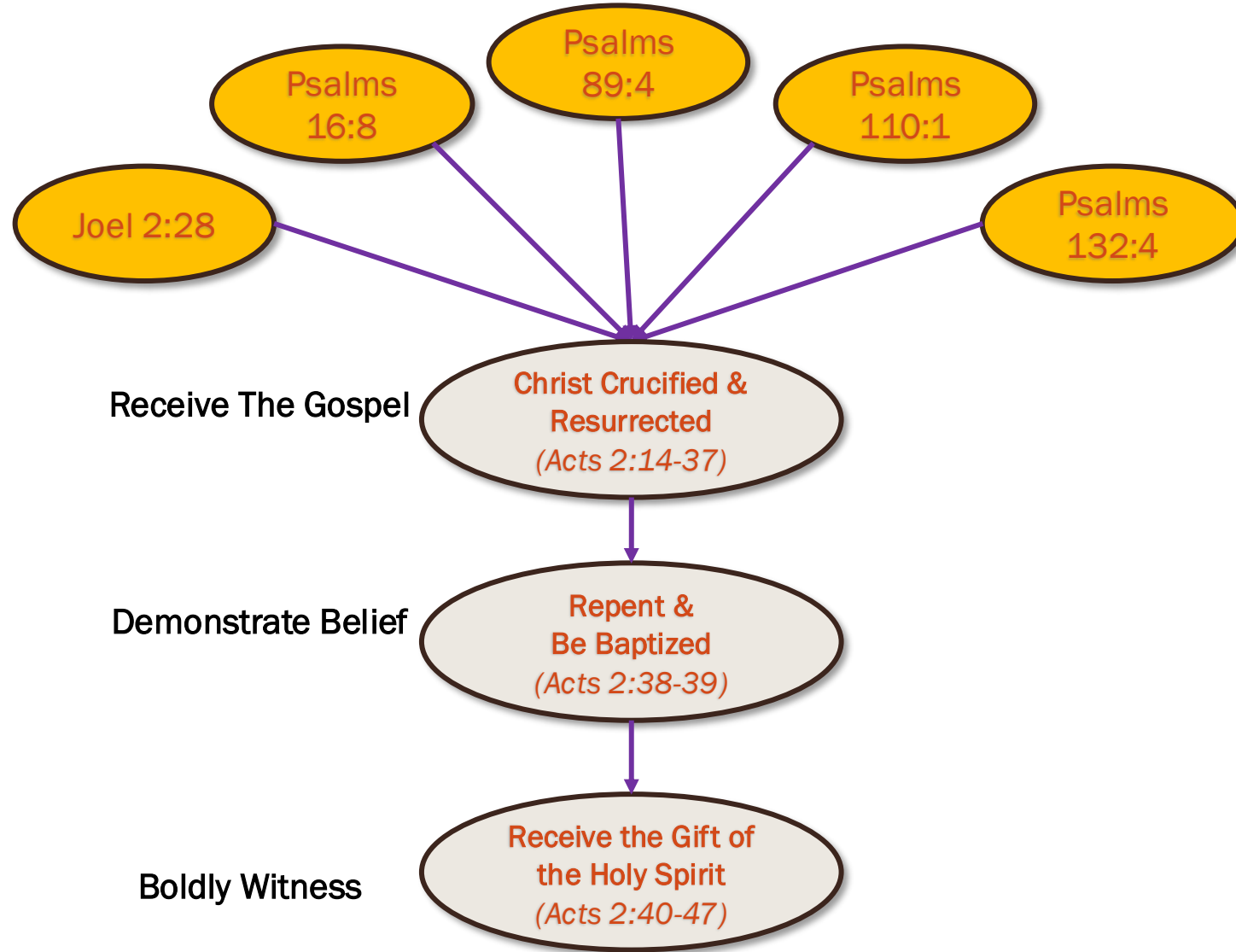
Hey, we need to
replace Judas
(Acts 1:16-19)



Sharing the Gospel
with Boldness
(Acts 2)



PETER'S SPIRITUAL MATURITY



Sharing the Gospel
with Boldness
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I don't F#&!&
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(Mt 26:74)



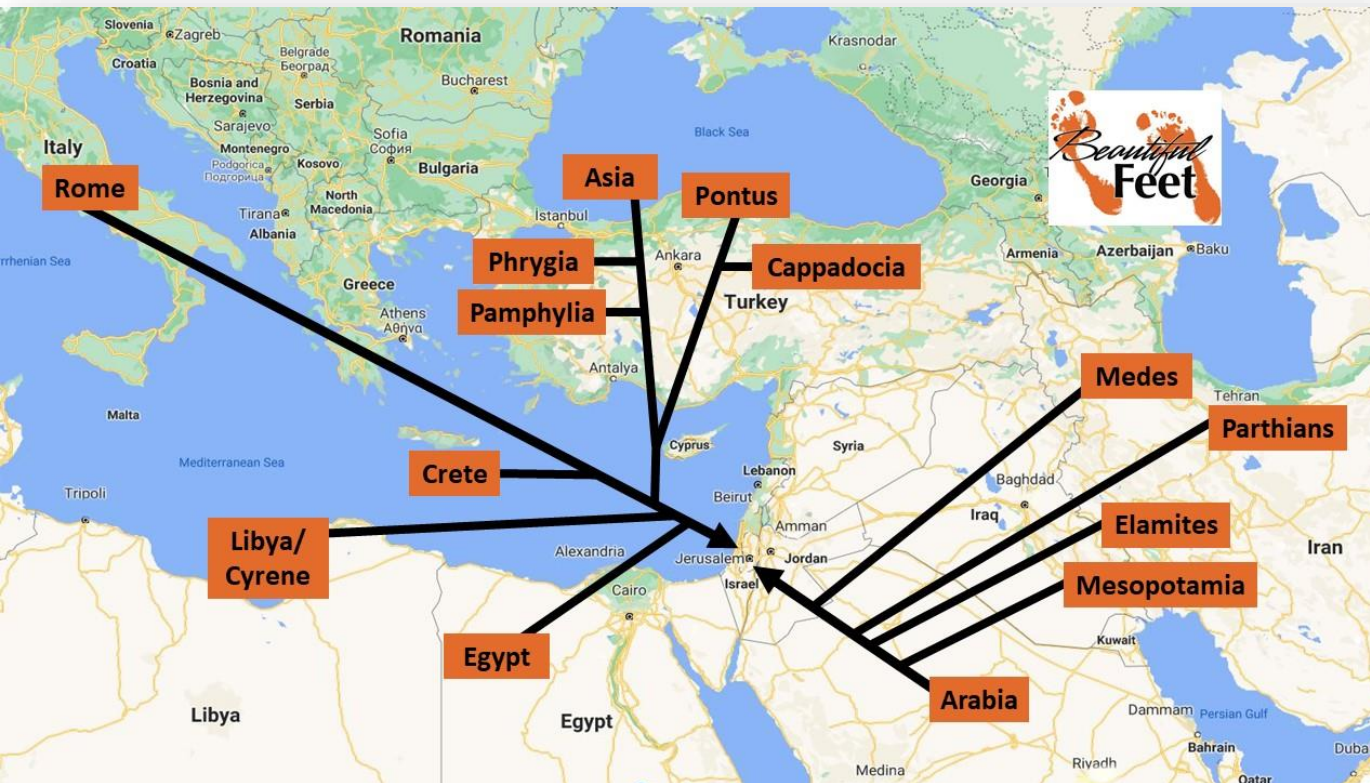
Just 50 days prior, Peter was cursing and denying having known Jesus!

SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL IN JERUSALEM (CH 2:1 – 8:4)

- Pentecost (Ch. 2)
- Peter's Sermons (Ch. 2)
- Peter & John Arrested for proclaiming in the Name (Ch. 3 &4)
- Ananias and Sapphira lying to the Holy Spirit (Ch. 5)
- The Apostles 2nd Arrest and Gamaliel's Counsel (Ch. 5)
- Choosing the Seven Grecian Deacons (Ch. 6)
- Stephen's Arrest, Defense and Martyrdom (Ch. 7)
- Phillip – The Evangelist (Ch. 8)

THE NATIONS AT PENTECOST -ACTS CH 2

- Jews gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks or in Greek “Pentecost”.
 - Shavuot means "weeks" or "sevens"... this festival happens exactly seven weeks after Passover.
 - It commemorates the anniversary of the day when God gave the Torah to the Hebrews at Mount Sinai
 - In the Old Testament God wrote His laws on tablets of stone. *Ex 24:12*
 - In the New Testament it is written in the tables of our hearts. *2 Cor. 3:3*



- **Judea:** The area around Jerusalem
- **Parthians, Medes, Elamites:** Present day Iran
- **Mesopotamia:** Modern day Iraq, Kuwait, and Syria
- **Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia:** Turkey
- **Egypt:** known today as Egypt
- **Cyrene:** Present day Shahhat in Libya
- **Cretans:** The island of Crete
- **Arabs:** Present day Saudi Arabia
- **Rome:** Present day Rome

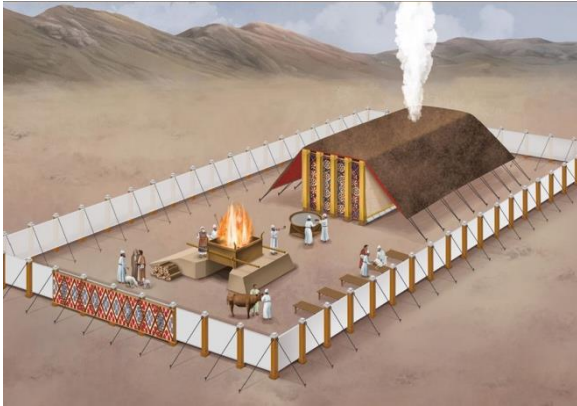
PETER'S SERMON – ACTS CH 2

- v14: Peter Define the Audience (Judea, Jerusalem)... The same men who crucified Jesus
- v16: Established the basis for the message and the inauguration of the “Last Days”
- v22: Re-established the **Humanity of Jesus** through the events of the crucifixion.
- v25: Provides infallible proof of the **Deity of Jesus**.
- v32: Established the **Majesty of Jesus** seated on the Right Hand of God in Heaven.
- v36: In Summary, Jesus is both Lord and Christ!
- v37: The Impact is Repentance and Baptism that leads to the Promise of the Holy Spirit.
- v43: The Response to receiving the Promise is **Communion** and **Fellowship**. (1John 1)

EVOLUTION OF WORSHIP

Acts 2 brings about a Seismic Shift in Organized Worship

Tabernacle Worship



- Built by Moses according to the Patterns in Heaven (Ex 25:40; Heb 8:5)
- Contained the Ark of the Covenant (Ex 40)
- God's Home on Earth and He filled it with his Glory (Ex 40:34)
- Replaced by Solomon's Temple
- Worship based on the Law

Solomon's Temple



- Built by Solomon according to David's plans (2 Chr 2,3)
- Contained the Ark of the Covenant (2 Chr 5:2)
- God's most holy place on Earth and He filled it with his Glory (2 Chr 5, 6, 7)
- God's Glory departed when Destroyed in 586 BC by the Babylonians (2 Kings 25)
- Worship based on the Law

The Second Temple



- Built by Ezra and Nehemiah (Ezra 6)
- Did not contain the Ark of the Covenant
- Jesus (God's Glory) entered the temple (Luke 4:16-20)
- Jesus Crucified, God's Glory departed the temple
- Destroyed in 70 AD by Rome
- Worship based on the Law

The Church



- Built by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4)
- Jesus (God's Glory) entered the Heart (Acts)
- God's Covenant is written in our Hearts!
- The Spirit will never leave us or forsake us (Heb 13:5)
- Worship based in Spirit and Truth (John 4:21)

THE FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS (ACTS 2:39-47)

- The Response to receiving the Promise is Communion and Fellowship.
 - Gladly Receive the Word
 - Be Baptized (publicly “die” to the old ways)
 - Continue in Doctrine and Fellowship of the apostles (Believe, Repent, Die, Witness)
 - *That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. (1John 3)*
 - Continue in Communion (Breaking of Bread)
 - Continue in Prayer
 - The ability to recognize the awesomeness of God’s power (Fear)
 - Provide miraculous evidence of God’s power that will draw people to Christ

A LAME MAN HEALED (ACTS 3)

- Peter and John going to pray (*The Rock and the Beloved disciple*)
 - The lame man had monetary expectations needed to support his current condition
 - He was healed instantly and completely ... he was transformed!
 - Peter took no credit for healing, but used it to be a “witness” of the Gospel (v12)
 - Based his witness on what the people knew – Prophecies from Moses, Samuel, and others
- A Pattern of Belief (3:13-26)
 - Denial and Rejection of Jesus
 - Recognition and Repentance of our current state
 - Acceptance of Jesus and Deliverance ... Transformed!

SPIRITUAL BOLDNESS (ACTS 4)

- Peter and John go before the Sanhedrin – 70 members that consisted of the rulers, elders, teachers of the law. Believed to be derived from the instructions Jethro gave to Moses (Ex 18)
 - **Priests** – Annas was the father-in-law of Caiaphas
 - **Temple Guards** (Controlled by the Sadducees)
 - Maintain the sanctity and security of the temple precincts
 - Ensured that the worship was conducted in accordance with the Law
 - **Sadducees**
 - Adhered strictly to the written law of Moses
 - Closely aligned with the Temple priesthood and focused on its rituals and sacrifices.
 - Held considerable political power, often collaborating with the Romans.
 - Denied the resurrection, immortality of the soul, and the existence of angels or spirits.
 - They were generally wealthy and influential

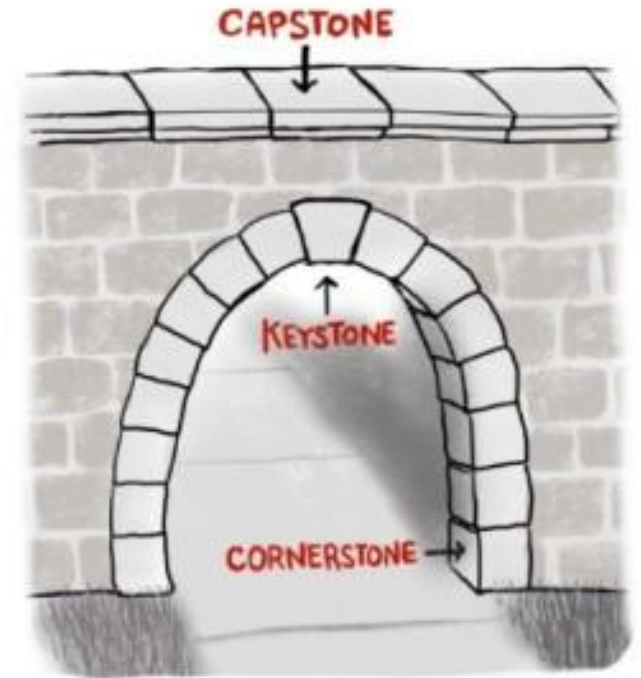
SPIRITUAL BOLDNESS (ACTS 4)

- Peter and John speak boldly before the same group of men that had crucified Jesus
 - 5000 more men believed
- The Dilemma
 - Jesus and the Resurrection is being taught (4:2)
 - There was no denial that a man impotent from birth had been healed (4:14)
 - They saw the courage (boldness) of Peter and John (4:13)
 - “by what power or what name did you do this” (4:7)
 - The Question: Who gave you the “right” to perform this miracle (they were not “Learned” men)
 - The Response: Jesus Christ of Nazareth (*The Resurrected Gospel Preached*)
 - The Importance: It affirmed that salvation and healing can only come through the Name of the one They had recently killed
- What is the source of our authority (*Knowledge, Doctrine, Tradition, or Jesus Christ?*)
- Do we proclaim it and stand on it?

SPIRITUAL BOLDNESS (ACTS 4)

■ The Corner Stone

- A cornerstone is the initial stone placed during the construction of a building, usually in a corner. Also called the Keystone or Capstone
- It marks the building's orientation and serves as a reference point for all other stones, determining the position and angles of the entire structure.
- Used figuratively to describe something of great importance that everything else is built upon.



Scripture References

Job 38:6	Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof
Psalms 118:22	The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.
Isaiah 28:16	Therefore, thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.
Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17; Acts 4:11	Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner
Ephesians 2:20	And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

SPIRITUAL BOLDNESS (ACTS 4)

- **The Pattern, Purpose and Power of the Prayer (4:23-31)**

- They were filled with the Holy Spirit
- They Praised God by raising their voices in one accord
- They declared God's sovereignty
- They saw a problem as prophecy
- They asked for boldness (strength) to be able to operate within the confines of God's Will

- **One Heart, One Mind/Soul**

- Belief came through the Holy Spirit
- This Belief provided the proper perspective for personal possessions
- Barnabas sells property and lay it at the feet of the Apostles (4:36-37)
 - Giving from the heart and not obligation or church doctrine

Don't worry - Greed and Lust re-appears in Chapter !

GREED, LUST AND DESIRES (ACTS 5)

- **Ananias and Sapphira (5:1-11)**

- They allowed Satan to fill their hearts and to lie to the Holy Ghost

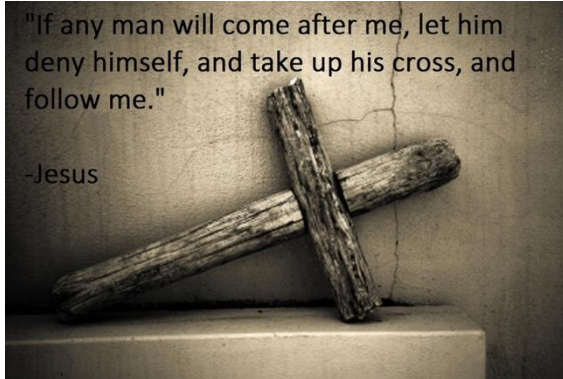
- **5 Steps to a Spiritual Conspiracy**

1. Allow Satan to enter our hearts
2. Conceive or devise the plan
3. Build a coalition to join in with the evil plan
4. Tempt the Holy Spirit (who lives in us) to conspire and go along with the plan
5. Lie to God (or God's representative)

Satan will...	The Holy Spirit will...
Fill us with selfish motives (Acts 5:3, 5:18)	Fill us to be witnesses (Acts 2:4, 4:8, 4:31,
Cause use to Tempt the Holy Spirit	Urge us to listen and obey His voice
Produce a false sense of urgency <i>"Be prepared to do everything. Don't rush to do anything"</i>	Prompt us to 'Wait for Power"

SUFFERING FOR CHRIST (ACTS 5:17-42)

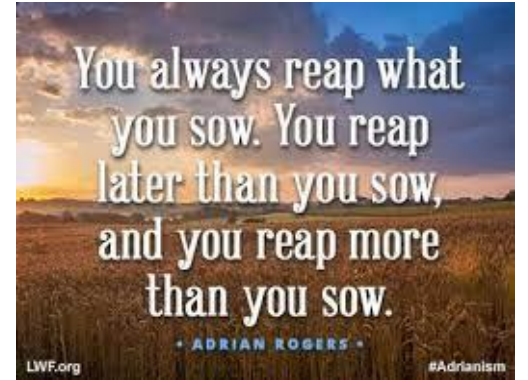
And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. (Acts 5:41)



Crosses or Crops

Crosses – Things we endure for Christ Sake (Luke 14:27)

Crops – Things we reap after we have planted (Gal 6:7)



- Peter and the Apostles used Cross-bearing as opportunities to preach the Gospel (Acts 5:29-32)
 - The focus of their witness was not to address Social Justice, Morality, or The Law – Simply Preach the Gospel.
- What is at the focus of our witness?
 - Defend/condemn abortions... Stamp out Homosexuality... Social Justice for people of color?
 - Or to be a witness of the Gospel and provide a pathway to Repentance and Forgiveness of Sin?

Gamaliel's Advice (Acts 5:34-39)

Be careful and pray before we condemn
We don't want to be on the wrong side of God's Plan

DESIRES, MOTIVES AND ACTIONS



- **Desires** Are Rooted In The **Heart**
- **Motives** Are Generated In The **Mind**
- **Actions** Are Carried Out With The **Body Or Our Strength**
- The Impacts Of These Three Determine The Condition Of Our **Soul**

*And Thou Shalt Love The Lord Thy God With All Thy **Heart**, And With All Thy **Soul**, And With All Thy **Mind**, And With All Thy **Strength**. (Mark 12:30)*

GROWTH IS NOT ALWAYS GLAMOROUS (ACTS 6: 1-7)

- Multiplication can produce Murmuring
 - Cultural differences (*i.e. Greeks and Hebrews*)
 - Language barriers (*i.e. English, Spanish, Slangs, dialects*)
 - Preference can be perceived as prejudice (*i.e. Music or style of worship*)
- Maintain the primary focus – Prayer and Ministry of the Word (*Acts 6:4*)
 - Church outreach ministries are necessary – But not the primary focus
 - Activities are important - But not the primary focus
 - Fellowship is vital - But not the primary focus
 - Discipleship is critical - But not the primary focus

Are we Prepared for what we Pray for?

A LESSON IN LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT (ACTS 6: 1-7)

- The Apostles had to quickly learn “Conflict Resolution”
 - Separated Leadership and Management Roles (*Similar to Jethro’s advise to Moses, Ex 18:14*)
 - Developed selection criteria (*Honesty, Wisdom and filled with the Holy Ghost*)
 - Provided well-defined and attainable instructions
 - ***Peter and the Apostles – Spiritual Leaders for the Church***
 - ***The Seven Deacons – Managers of God’s Resources***



Great Leaders
Are not always the Best Managers
(Ex 18:14)

Great Leaders
Bring a Vision
(Hab 2:2; Proverbs 29:18)

Great Leaders and Great Managers
Rely on the Holy Spirit
(Acts 1:8)



STEPHEN SPREADS THE GOSPEL INTO JUDEA (CH 6-7)

- **Stephen's Ministry and Martyrdom (Ch. 6)**

- Hellenist Jew (Greek -born Jew)
- Appointed as one of the first deacons in the church
- Full of Faith and the Holy Ghost
- First recorded Christian Martyr

- **Stephen's Accusers and Charges (Ch. 7)**

- Accused by the Synagogue of the Libertines (or Freedmen) of Blasphemy
- Stephen delivers an amazing historical defense that refutes each charge
- Testified how Israel had rebelled against God and continually resisted the Holy Spirit

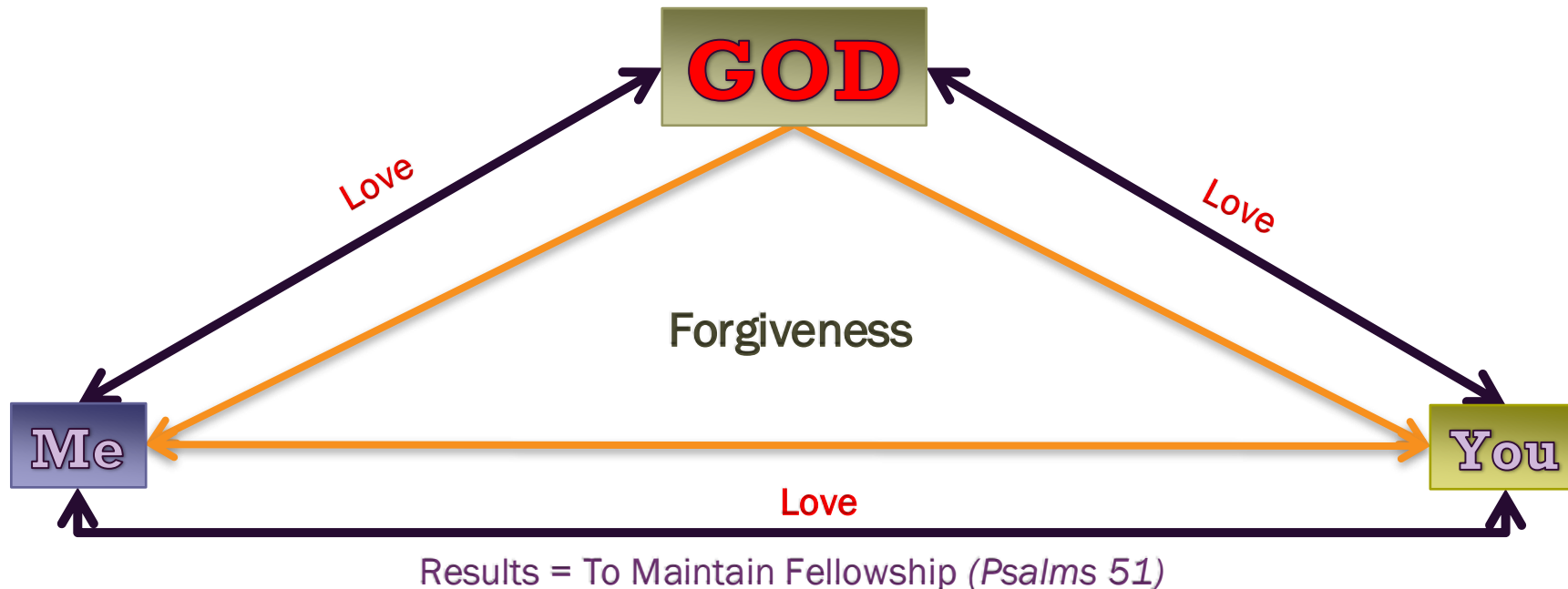
Blasphemy Charges	The Defense
Blasphemy against Moses	The promise was given to Abraham long before Moses was born (v1-8)
Blasphemy against God	God spoke through Moses the prophecy of a coming savior...Jesus, not Joshua. (v37-39)
Blasphemy against the Law	The "Law" was already blasphemed against in the wilderness (v39-43)
Blasphemy against the Temple	The Most high God do not dwell in buildings made by hands (v48-50)

STEPHEN'S HISTORICAL DEFENSE



STEPHEN AND A LESSON IN FORGIVENESS (ACTS 6-7)

- The natural person is unable to forgive like Jesus and Stephen
 - Both were Filled with the Holy Ghost - This changes our Vision and Perspective
 - Able to see both love and the wrath of a merciful but just God
 - Focus is on God's Will and not personal outcomes – Transformed and a renewed mind (Romans 12:2)!
 - Allow us to see others through the lens of Jesus Christ
- Forgiveness is a Reflection of the Greatest Commandments
 - Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind... love thy neighbor as thyself. (*Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:29-31*)
 - For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (*Matthew 6:14-15; Mark 11:25-26*)



SEVEN TENETS OF TRUE FORGIVENESS

- **Tenet 1: Brings us back into Fellowship**
 - What do we Bind and What Do we Loose (*Matt 18:15 -20*)
- **Tenet 2: Is Continual and Lasts Forever**
 - Peter Asks Jesus about the Limits of Forgiveness (*Matthew 18: 21-22*)
- **Tenet 3: Does Not Intimidate**
 - The Parable of the unforgiving servant (*Matthew 18:21-35*)
- **Tenet 4: Does Not Tell**
 - Jesus and the Woman Caught in Adultery (*John 8:1-11*)
- **Tenet 5: Does Not Make The Person Feel Guilty**
 - Paul's advise to the Corinthian church to restore the Member caught in Sin (*2 Corinthians 2:4-8*)
- **Tenet 6: Protects The Person From Their Darkest Fears**
 - Jacob Meets His Brother Esau (*Genesis 33:1-2*)
- **Tenet 7: Let's The Person Save Face**
 - Joseph Reveals His Identity to His Brothers (*Genesis 45:1-8*)

The First To Apologize Is The Bravest
The First To Forgive Is The Strongest
The First To Forget Is The Happiest...

THE MINISTRY OF PHILLIP (CH 8)

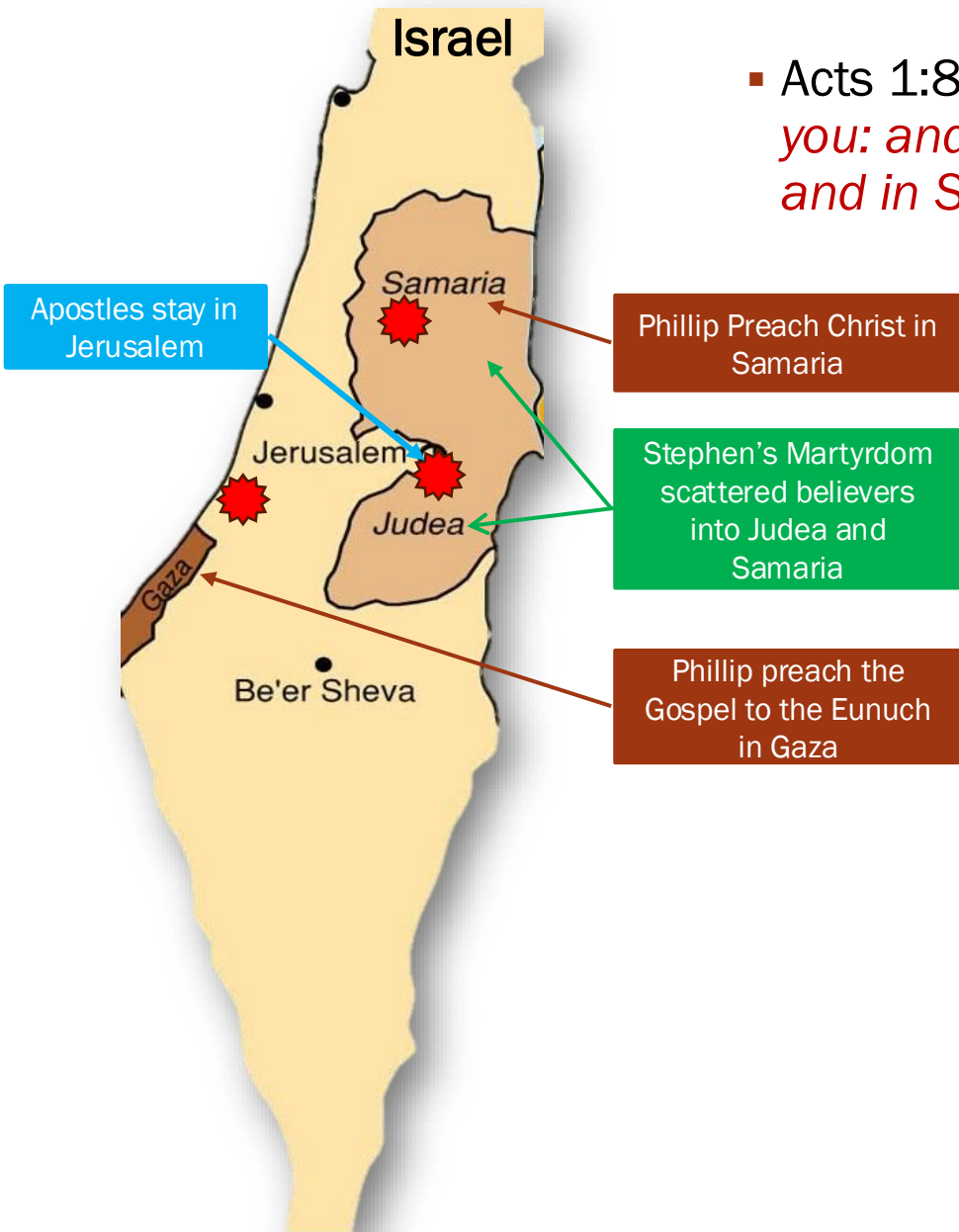
■ Philip's Ministry (Ch. 6)

- Appointed as one of the first deacons in the church
- Full of Faith and the Holy Ghost
- Probably also a Hellenist Jew (Greek -born Jew)

■ Philip – The Evangelist (Ch. 8)

- Preached and performed great miracles in Samaria
- Had an encounter with Simon the sorcerer
- Forerunner to Peter, John and Paul to spread the Gospel to Non-Jews
- Preached Jesus to the Ethiopian Eunuch (treasurer to Queen Amantitere)
 - The Eunuch's faith sparked the spread of Christianity throughout Africa
 - Went from Ashdod to Caesarea preaching the Gospel
- Had four virgin daughters who also prophesied
 - Hosted Paul in his home in Caesarea (Acts 21:8-9)

THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL



- Acts 1:8 *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*

- The Condition of Samaria not long after the *Woman at the Well* experience ([John 4:39-41](#)) where many believed
 - *Spiritual Sickness -Satanic Spirits and Demonic Possessions*
 - *Physical Sickness – Paralyzed and Lame*
 - *Sorcery and Witchcraft*
- Separate outpourings or inaugurations of the Holy Spirit
 - Acts 2:4 - *In Jerusalem and Judea and to Jews of many nations*
 - Acts 8:15 – *In Samaria to Jews and mixed nationality (Samaritans)*
 - Acts 10:44 – *To Cornelius and his Family who were all Gentiles*

A LESSON IN BELIEF AND REPENTANCE

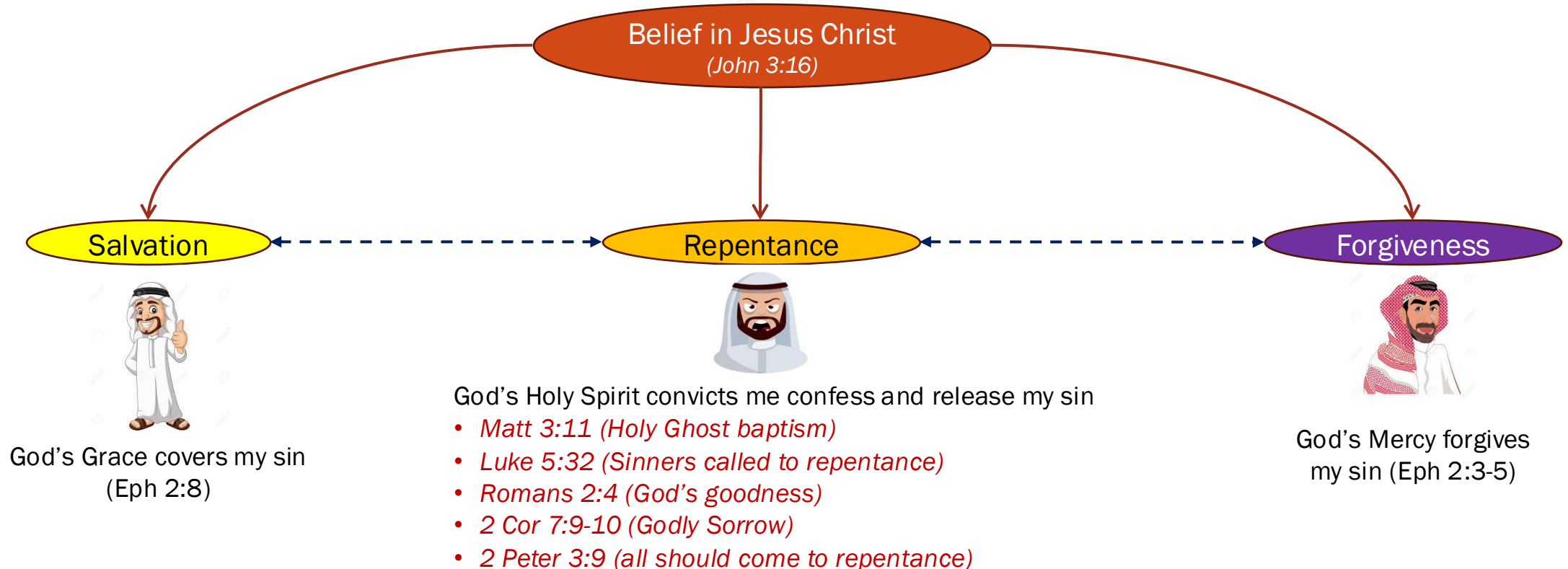
- Acts 8:13 - Simon the Sorcerer believed along with the others who saw and heard the Gospel preached by Philip... However:

- *The thoughts of his hearts was not right before God*
- *Full of Bitterness*
- *Bond in Iniquity*



■ **Belief** - Rooted in what we see, hear, read or experience

■ **Repentance** - Rooted in self-conviction, a broken spirit and contrite heart, humility.



TRESPASSES - TRANSGRESSIONS – INIQUITIES

The Progressive Nature of Sin Analogy

My Property



My Neighbor's Fruit Tree



My Neighbor's Property



My Neighbor's Fence

- **The Sin Nature** is driven by **Lust** of the Eyes, **Lust** of the Flesh, **Pride** of Life.
- **Trespass** – To cross the line intentionally or unintentionally (*Leviticus 6; Matthew 6:13-15*)
- **Transgression** – The choice to intentionally disobey or to willfully trespass (*Psalms 51:1-3*)
- **Iniquity** - A premeditated choice to continue in sin without repentance (*Psalms 51:2; Romans 6:19; Luke 13:25-27*)

THE EVOLUTION OF EVANGELISM (ACTS CH 8)

- Philip Revolutionized “Evangelism” (Matt 28:19-20; Acts 1:8)
 - *“Sharing the gospel, which includes the message and teachings of Jesus Christ, with the aim of converting others to Christ.”*
 - Old Testament Jews did not have a real need to evangelize since you were born into Judaism and not a real choice... The decision point was if you will obey the law.
 - Evangelism was a revolutionary concept, even though it was prophesied by Moses, Joshua, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc.
 - As Philip took the Gospel to Samaria and to the Ethiopian Eunuch, this is a decision to individuals to choose to turn from Judaism or idol worship to Jesus the true Messiah.
- Paul and the Apostles all stand on the shoulders of Philip as the Gospel is evangelized (*spread*) to the uttermost parts of the world!
 - The Apostles stayed in Jerusalem while Philip initially evangelized.
 - Paul the Apostle visits Philip and his 4 daughters in Caesarea (Acts 21:8-11)

SPIRITUAL REPLICATION VS. EDUCATION (ACTS CH 8)

Fitness Replication



Fitness Education



Christian Replication



Christian Education



Replication <i>(is not Bad)</i>	Education <i>(is Better)</i>
Follow Patterns	Study to be approved <i>(2 Tim 2:15)</i>
Learn Rituals	Meditate day and night <i>(Psalm 1:2)</i>
Comply with Traditions	Pray without ceasing <i>(1 Thess 5:17)</i>
Respond to what we hear, see, feel, experience	Ask, Seek, Knock <i>(Matt 7:7)</i>

Holy Sacrament Example

Tradition	➡ Education ➡	Understanding
Lord's Supper	The Passover meal Jesus ate with his disciples	Sacrifice
Communion	Communion with God and with other Believers	Fellowship
Eucharist	The work that Christ has done in us	Thanksgiving

“DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME” LUKE 22:19

Name	Meaning	Reminder of:
Lord’s Supper	The Passover meal Jesus ate with his disciples	Sacrifice
Communion	Communion with God and with other Believers	Fellowship
Eucharist	The work that Christ has done in us	Thanksgiving

THE OLD TESTAMENT COVENANT

The First Sacrifice of Blood: (Genesis 3:21) “Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.”

The Passover Lamb: (Exodus 12:7-14) “And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

All are Bought with a Price: (Exodus 12:43-45) “And the Lord said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the Passover: There shall no stranger eat thereof, But every man's servant that is bought for money, when thou hast circumcised him, then shall he eat thereof. A foreigner and an hired servant shall not eat thereof. [\(See Acts 15:5-11\)](#)

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES

[John 6:52-58](#) | [Matthew 26:26-28](#) | [Luke 22:14-20](#) | [1 Corinthians 10:16-17](#) | [1 Corinthians 11:20-30](#) | [Revelation 19:9](#)

SPIRITUAL REPLICATION VS. EDUCATION (ACTS CH 8)

- **The Eunuch was seeking God through Religious Replication**
 - A Gentile who had or wanted to become a Jew
 - He was educated (spoke multiple languages), Wealthy (own chariot)
 - He learned to read the scriptures
 - He traveled over 1500 miles to attend a worship service
 - The Eunuch was on the right path to become a great “Church Member”
 - He was doing everything right ...However, there was no Understanding
- **Philip pointed him to Jesus through Evangelistic Education**
 - He made the Gospel real and alive for the Eunuch who left rejoicing

THE IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM (ACTS CH 8)

- Why do you think Baptism became so important to the Eunuch after he understood the message of the Gospel?
 - He was evidently familiar with baptism as an important ritual
 - Did not fully understand what was keeping him from participating
 - Baptism provided him the opportunity to openly express of his belief that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!

What hinders us today from becoming fully immersed in Jesus Christ?

SAUL AND THE GOSPEL TO JUDEA (CH 9)

■ Saul's Conversion (Ch. 9)

- Saul receives his sight via a disciple name Ananias
- Saul preaches Jesus in the synagogues in Damascus
- Jews try to kill Saul
- Saul goes to Jerusalem and meets Barnabas and the other apostles
- Hellenist Jews tried to kill him
- Saul was sent to Caesarea and then to Tarsus (his original home)
- The churches had rest throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria
 - They were edified, walked in the fear of the Lord, comforted by the Holy Ghost and were multiplied

SAUL – AN EXAMPLE OF A “LIVING SACRIFICE”

- **God used every part of Saul**
 - His Past
 - His Education and Training
 - His Background and Citizenship
- **God is able to use every part of us**
 - The Parable of Fishes and Loaves – gather up the fragments and nothing is wasted (Luke 9:16)
 - The Old Testament Tabernacle sacrifices – Every part of the animal was accounted for (exodus 29:10-14)
 - In our lives there should be no waste – God can use it all!

Romans 12:1-3 “...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service”

SAUL – WALKING BY “FAITH NOT BY SIGHT”

- Saul instantly recognized the voice of Jesus as “Lord” (9:5)
- Saul’s physical and spiritual sight was taken away
- He followed the pattern of Jonah and Jesus (9:9)
 - Symbolically “dead” for three days and nights
 - Jonah in the belly of the Fish
 - Jesus in a borrowed tomb
- **All three were resurrected with Power**
 - Jonah’s short sermon brought a pagan nation to repentance
 - Jesus rose with ALL Power
 - Saul with the power to bear Jesus’ name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel

THE SPIRIT OF ANANIAS AND BARNABAS

- **Ananias' Dilemma (9:10-17)**

- The Lord speaks to him in a vision to restore Saul's sight
- However, he knows the authority and the evil that Saul has done to believers

- **The Encouragement of Barnabas (9:27)**

- Barnabas (original name Joseph) a Jew born on the island of Cyprus.
- First known for selling land and donating the money to the apostles
- Nicknamed Barnabas, that translates to "son of encouragement"
- Vouched for Saul's conversion to the Apostles
- Ministered with Saul in the church at Antioch

How can we become more like Barnabas and Ananias today?

A PATTERN OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH *(ACTS 9:31)*



PETER AND THE GOSPEL TO JUDEA (CH 9:32 - 11:30)

- Peter heals Aeneas in Lydda – people turned to the Lord
- Peter raised Tabitha (Dorcas) from the dead in Joppa
- Peter's ministry in Judea and the Vision of Cornelius (Ch. 10)
- The Gospel is Preached to the Gentiles in Caesarea (Ch. 10)
- Contention in Jerusalem over Gentiles (Ch. 11)
- The Church at Antioch (Ch. 11)



TWO MIRACLES PERFORMED BY PETER (CH 9:32-43)

- Peter heals Aeneas in Lydda → People Turned to the Lord
 - *No Recorded Works*
- Peter raised Tabitha from the dead in Joppa → People Turned to the Lord
 - *Full of Good Works (James 2:14)*
- **Miracle** - The Latin verb “Mirar” (*to look or to gaze at*) is the root for miraculum (*Miracle*)
- Miracles Reveal the Kingdom of God (*John 3:1-15*)
 - Nicodemus was puzzled by the miracles Jesus performed
 - Nicodemus see miracles naturally (with the Flesh)... But not with the Spirit (*John 3:9-12*)
 - It appeared Jesus did not answer the question Nicodemus asked in verse 2
 - However, He did... “*Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*”
- *Miracle examples in the Gospel of John: (2:9-11; 2:22-24; 6:2; 12:37)*
- *Deceptive Miracles in Revelation: 13:14; 16:14; 19:20)*

Miracles are less about the individual... and more about the Kingdom of God

CORNELIUS' RELIGIOUS TRANSFORMATION (CH 10:1-8; 24-33)

■ The Characteristics of Cornelius

- Roman Officer Rich
- Devout Man He Feared God
- Praying Man He Fasted
- Generous Giver Respected by Jews

■ By Religious standards, How was his prayers heard by God?

- He was a Gentile (unclean)
- He was not baptized
- He had not received the Holy Ghost

■ God can use anyone for His Glory

- Pagan Kings (*Nebuchadnezzar – Daniel 2:28*)
- Women in authority (*Deborah – Judges 4:4*)
- People from Pagan Nations (*Ruth – Ruth 1:16*)
- Unclean people (*Gentiles – Acts 10*)

CORNELIUS' RELIGIOUS TRANSFORMATION (CH 10:1-8; 24-33)

- **Why was he fasting and praying so intently?**
 - Did all the “Right Things” but recognized a void
 - He wanted / needed worship and fellowship
 - He recognized there was more and Peter had the answer
 - Wanted his family and friends to receive the Gospel
- **No standard Path/Protocol to receiving the Holy Spirit**
 - Peter did not lay hands on them
 - Happened prior to baptism
 - Cornelius already believed in God
 - One of the three occasions in Acts where speaking in tongues (foreign language) was evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4, 10:44-46, 19:6)
 - The power of tongues is less about the Speaking and more about the Interpretation (1Cor 14)

PETER'S RELIGIOUS TRANSFORMATION (CH 9:43-11)

- **The Sheet from Heaven** (*Ch 10:11*)

- God's Command *"Peter, Rise, Kill and Eat"*
- Peter's response *"Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean"*
- God's Reply *"What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common"*

Not the things that go in, but what comes out the mouth defiles (Matt 15:11-20)

- **Peter wanted to obey the Law of God but unwilling to obey the Voice of God**

- Is our faith truly in the power of God, or in our sometimes clouded interpretation of Scripture? (*1Corinthians 13:12*)

- **It is easy to become opinionated and legalistic until *"It"* shows up at our door**

- Teen Pregnancy
- Abortions
- Homosexuality
- Substance Abuse
- Etc.....

The Word of God teaches us how to Hear the Voice of God

CONTRAST PETER AND CORNELIUS

Cornelius	Peter
A Gentile seeking God (10:2-4)	A Jew Chosen by God (10:36-39)
Exhibited great faith when confronted by God (10:2-7)	Exhibited doubt when confronted by God (10:17)
Prayed and fast to hear from God through religion (10:30)	Resisted God's instructions through religion (10:14)
Excited to host a revival (10:33)	Apprehensive to lead a revival (10:21-24)



The Gentiles Received the Holy Spirit (10:44-48)

- No Standard method to receive God's Gift
 - Cornelius already believed in God
 - Happened prior to baptism - Peter did not lay hands on them
 - One of the three occasions in Acts where speaking in tongues (foreign language) was evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4, 10:44-46, 19:6)
 - The power of tongues is less about the **Speaking** and more about the **Interpretation** (1Cor 14)

THE CHURCH AT ANTIOCH (ACTS CH 11:19 – 30)

- **Jews were scattered after Stephen's death to Greek and Turkish provinces**
 - Phenice, Cyprus, Cyrene, Antioch
 - Great numbers of Jews believed and turned to the Lord
- **Barnabas "The Encourager" was sent by the Jerusalem church to Antioch**
 - He witnessed the Grace of God, Later found Saul and ministered there for over a year
 - Agabus and other prophets came to Antioch and foretold of impending droughts.
 - Antioch was a giving church...
- **The term 'Christian' at the time, used as a mocking insult by Greeks**
 - Other terms used at the time: *Followers of the Way, Disciples, Believers*
 - Used by Herod Agrippa as a back-handed response to Paul (Acts 26:28)
 - Used by Peter as a warning to not be "Ashamed" to be called a Christian.

PETER AND THE GOSPEL TO JUDEA (ACTS CH 12:1 – 12:25)

- **Herod Agrippa I was the last king of Judea**

- The grandson of Herod the Great – tried to kill Jesus in Matt Ch 2
- Father of Agrippa II in Acts 25 who had incestuous relationship with Berenice, his sister
- Paul nearly convince him to become a Christian

- **Herod Agrippa I violence to the Church**

- James, the brother of John Killed
- Peter's Arrest and Imprisonment
 - Miraculous Jail Break and moments of wavering faith (Peter and the prayer warriors)

Why did God allow one Apostle to be killed and miraculously save another?

- **The Dangers of not giving God His Glory (Pride and Self Reliance)**

- Herod eaten internally by worms
- Moses did not see the Promised Land
- The Plague in Israel after King David took a Census (2 Samuel 24:1-17; 1Chronicles 21)
- Flavius Josephus (historian) provides more detail to this event.
 - Agrippa's garments made of silver and reflected in the sun with great pageantry

THE BOOK OF ACTS QUIZ (PART 1)

1. Who is the recorded author of The Book of Acts
 - a. John
 - b. Paul
 - c. Luke
2. Approximately what is the date that Acts was written
 - a. 47 BC
 - b. 63 AD
 - c. 95 AD
 - d. 30 AD
3. True/False: The Holy Spirit and Holy Ghost are used synonymously in the Acts
 - a. True
 - b. False
4. Which of the following are characteristics of the Holy Spirit
 - a. He has emotions
 - b. He teaches us
 - c. He intercedes for us in prayer
 - d. All of the above
5. True/False: Phillip was martyred for preaching the Gospel to the Ethiopian Eunuch.
 - a. True
 - b. False

THE BOOK OF ACTS QUIZ (PART 1)

6. The term “One Accord” is used over 11 times in Acts. Based on a musical example One Accord is more closely related to which of the following?
 - a. Unison is when multiple people sing the same note at the same time
 - b. Harmony is when multiple people sing different notes together
7. Why was Ananias and Sapphira immediately put to death in Acts ch. 5?
 - a. Selling property for more than its appraised value
 - b. Lying to Peter and John
 - c. Lying to the Holy Spirit
8. How many Grecian deacons were chosen in Acts Ch. 6 to tend to the widows who were not getting food?
 - a. 12
 - b. 10
 - c. 7
9. Jews gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks or in Greek “Pentecost” 50 days after which event?
 - a. Passover
 - b. Easter
 - c. Hannaka
 - d. All of the above
10. What are examples of how Saul was used as a Living Sacrifice after his Conversion
 - a. God used every part of him (Background, Education, Multi-Lingual)
 - b. He prayed and fasted in the temple more
 - c. He physically died on the road to Damascus
 - d. He separated himself from the Gentiles and only ministered to Jews

PAUL'S 1ST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Acts Ch. 13 - 15

THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY OF PAUL

ACTS 13:4-14; 28

- City
- ← Paul's routes
- Via Sebaste



THE DESCENDANTS OF NOAH (GEN 10)

Who are “The Gentiles” that Paul the Apostle was sent to witness Jesus Christ to?

Genesis 9:22-27

- And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without.
- And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness.
- And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him.
- And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.
- And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.
- God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.

- Descendants of Shem became the Hebrews (Abraham, Jacob, Isaac)
- Descendants of Ham became the Canaanites
- Descendants of Japheth settled in the regions of Asia and Europe (Gentiles)

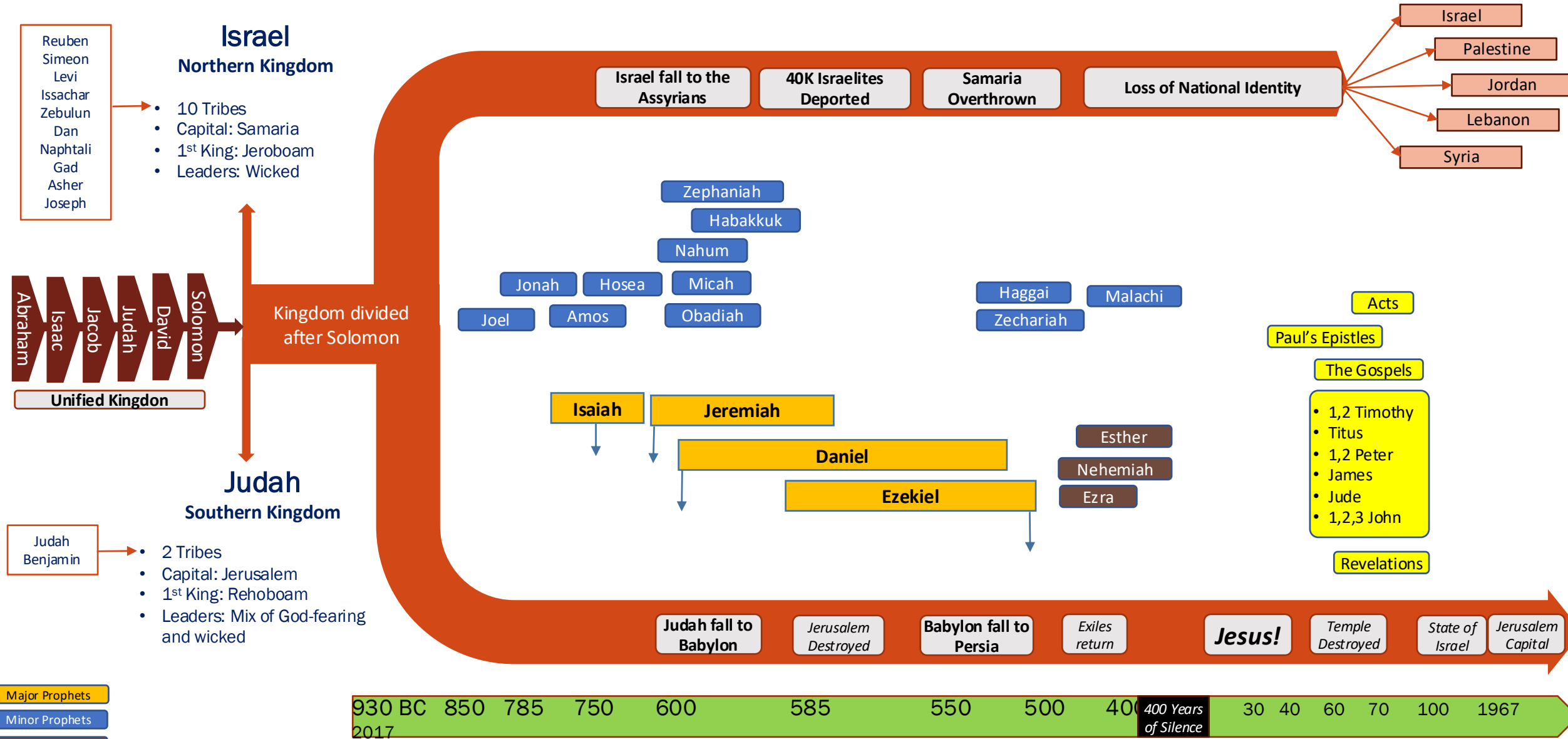


JACOB'S PROPHECY TO HIS DESCENDANTS (GEN 49)

Reuben	Jacob declares that Reuben, despite being the firstborn, will not have preeminence	Slept with his father's concubine	Northern Kingdom (Israel) Known as the 10 "lost" tribes that were scattered by the Assyrians
Simeon & Levi	Jacob curses their anger and decree that they will be scattered among the tribes of Israel	The incident at Shechem	
Zebulun	His descendants be given the land between the Mediterranean Sea and Sea of Galilee	Land will extend to the sea in the Millennial Kingdom	
Issachar	Issachar's land would be agricultural	His tribe inherited Jezreel in Galilee	
Dan	Would become a judge in Israel. Samson, one of the greatest judges, came from this tribe.	Leaders worshiped idols	
Gad	Gad would be effective in military struggles	A great number served King David	
Asher	They would enjoy good soil	Inherited fertile land of Carmel	
Naphtali	The other tribes would admire him	Prophecy is unclear	
Joseph	Received several blessings to include a "double portion"	His sons, Manasseh and Ephraim each became founders of a tribe	Southern Kingdom (Judah) - Majority of Jews today are descendants of Judah, Benjamin and parts of the Levites. - Exiles from Babylon who were allowed to return.
Judah	He is to be like a lion and will be praised by his brothers, with a lineage of kings and rulers.	The scepter coming from him until "Shiloh" arrives. (David to Jesus)	
Benjamin	His tribe would be known for its warrior characteristics	Produced many military leaders, such as Ehud, Saul, and Jonathan.	

References
Judges Ch 1
Revelation 7

THE KINGDOMS TIMELINE



PAUL'S 1ST MISSIONARY JOURNEY (ACTS CH. 13 - 15)

■ The Holy Spirit Set apart Saul and Barnabas (Ch. 13)

- Confronted with Sorcery in Cyprus and becomes known as Paul (v6-12)
- John Mark departs – Paul preaches in Synagogue in Pisidia (v13-44)
- Paul turns to the Gentiles who receive the Gospel (v47-48)
- Chief men and Devout/Prominent women persecute the team (v45-52)

■ Idolatry in Lystra (CH 14)

- A man lame from birth is healed (v8-10)
- Paul and Barnabus exalted as gods (v11-15)
- Paul stoned by Jews from Antioch and Iconium (v19-22)

■ The Jerusalem Conference (Ch. 15)

- Dissention over Circumcision and the Gentiles (v1-12)
- James confirms the receiving of the Holy Spirit by the Gentiles (v13-24)
- James' Ruling and letter to the Gentiles (v24-33)
- Dispute between Paul and Barnabus as they prepare for 2nd Missionary journey (v36-39)
- Contention led to separation as Paul teams with Silas (v40-41)

PAUL PREACHES IN PISIDIA (ACTS CH 13:13-52)

- **A Typical Jewish Synagogue Service**

- Reading of the Shema and Prayers (Deuteronomy 6:4... Mark 12:28-29)
- Reading of the Law then Reading of the Prophets to illustrate the Law
- Visiting Rabbis are invited to speak... Paul and Barnabas use this as an opportunity to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Jews and Believing Gentiles

- **Paul's approach to Sharing the Gospel... Starting from a point of agreement...**

- He starts by highlighting the Old Covenant since the Jews were proud of their heritage
 - Exile from Egypt
 - Seven strong Canaan nations destroyed (*Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites*)
 - The Prophets, Judges, Kings (Saul and David)
- Explains how the Old Covenant and prophecies were fulfilled by Jesus
- Provides scriptural proof that the messiah David wrote about was Jesus (Psalm 2:7, 16:10, Hab 1:5)

- **Results of Preaching the Gospel**

- Gentiles were glad and believed, The Jews were envious and jealous
- Paul and Barnabas turn to the Gentiles who receive the Gospel (v47-48)
- Chief men and Devout/Prominent women persecute the team (v45-52)

THE SHEMA

The **Shema** is the centerpiece of the daily morning and evening prayer services and is considered by some the most essential prayer in all of Judaism. An affirmation of God's singularity and kingship, its daily recitation is regarded by traditionally observant Jews as a biblical commandment.

Deuteronomy 6:4-6: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord, And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine **heart**, and with all thy **soul**, and with all thy **might**. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ fulfills 613 Jewish laws and distills into two!

Mark 12:28-31: "The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt **love** the Lord thy God with all thy **heart**, and with all thy **soul**, and with all thy **mind**, and with all thy **strength**: this is the first commandment.

His yoke is easy and burden light!

Matthew 11:30 "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

PAUL IN ICONIUM, LYSTRA & DERBE (ACTS CH 14)

■ Paul Preaches in Jewish Synagogue in Iconium

- Preached the Gospel and a great number of Jews and Gentiles Believed
- Unbelieving Jews poisoned the minds of other Gentiles
- The Message of Grace confirmed by the performance of Miracles
- Even with the evidence of miracles, the people were divided

■ Preaching versus Miracles

- Preaching brings people to Repentance and Salvation
- Miracles are the confirmation of God's grace (v3)
- The Gospel was confirmed through faith as lame man is miraculously healed (8-10)

Great Biblical Preachers

Old Testament	Gospels	New Testament
Jonah	John the Baptist	Peter / John
Solomon	Jesus	The other disciples
David		Steven / Phillip
The Prophets		Paul / Barnabus / Silas
		Timothy / Titus
		Aquila / Priscilla
		You and I

- "Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the **preaching** that I bid thee." (Jonah 3:2)
- "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be **preached** in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." (Matt 24:14)
- "For the **preaching** of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." (1Cor 1:18)
- "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of **preaching** to save them that believe." (1Cor 1:21)
- "And he sent them to **preach** the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick." (Luke 9:2)

Preaching impact the person... Miracles impact the Kingdom

PAUL IN ICONIUM, LYSTRA & DERBE (ACTS CH 14)

- **The Holy Spirit heals a lame man in Lystra**

- The Gospel was confirmed through faith as lame man is miraculously healed (8-10)
- Paul immediately recognized this man's faith
- This was a two-part miracle Faith to Stand and Faith to Walk

- **The danger of misdirected exhalation**

- The crowd experienced the mighty power of the True God but made two errors
 - Gave Glory to idol gods
 - Gave praise and exaltation to men
- Paul and Barnabus celebrated as idol gods (Mercury and Jupiter)
- Days after attempted worship, the same people stoned Paul and left him for dead (19)
- There was minimal fanfare over the miraculous delivery of Paul by the disciples
- Their focus was on spreading the Gospel

Preaching impact the person... Miracles impact the Kingdom

THE RETURN TO ANTIOCH (ACTS CH 14)

■ The Churches re-visited

- After preaching in Derbe, the team returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch
 - Encouraged the new disciples to stay strong in the faith and Established church leadership (v21-23)

■ Paul writes the Epistle to the Galatians during this time period

- This Epistle addresses the false doctrines of the Jews who distorted the Gospel (Gal 1:6)

Distorted Christianity

Judaized Christianity

- Recognized Jesus as Saviour
- Gentiles must be Jews first by upholding the Ceremonial, Civil and Moral Mosaic laws

Legalized Christianity

- Christians must live by a long list of “Don’ts”
- God’s favor must be earned

Lawless Christianity

- God’s Grace allow Christians to live with no restrictions (Hyper Grace)
- No need for repentance or confession of sins

True Christianity

- Believe there is one Gospel – Jesus Christ (Gal 1)
- Recognize the significance of the Law – but not enslaved by it (Gal 3)
- Live holy and operate in freedom and liberty – but not with reckless abandon (Gal 5)
- Recognize the significance and power of God’s Grace and Mercy – but chose to live by the Word of God as a Bond Servant (Gal 6)

THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL (ACTS CH 15)

■ Church Conflict Resolution - Circumcision

- Dissent over Circumcision and the Gentiles (v1-12)
 - The Law of Moses or the Token of a Covenant with Abraham (*Gen 17, John 7:22*)
 - The Covenant remained, but the “Token” has changed from physical circumcision to the heart through Jesus Christ (*The Good News of the Gospel*)
 - Physical Circumcision require human perfection (*Romans 2:25-29, 4:10-12*)
 - Spiritual Circumcision rely on Jesus’ perfection (*Romans 15:7-9*)
 - Are there two Gospels... One for circumcised and for uncircumcised? (*Gal 2:8-9, 5:6-11*)
- James confirms the receiving of the Holy Spirit by the Gentiles (v13-24)
- James decision and letter to the Gentile churches (v24-33)
 - Sustain from idols, things strangled, eating blood and sexual immorality

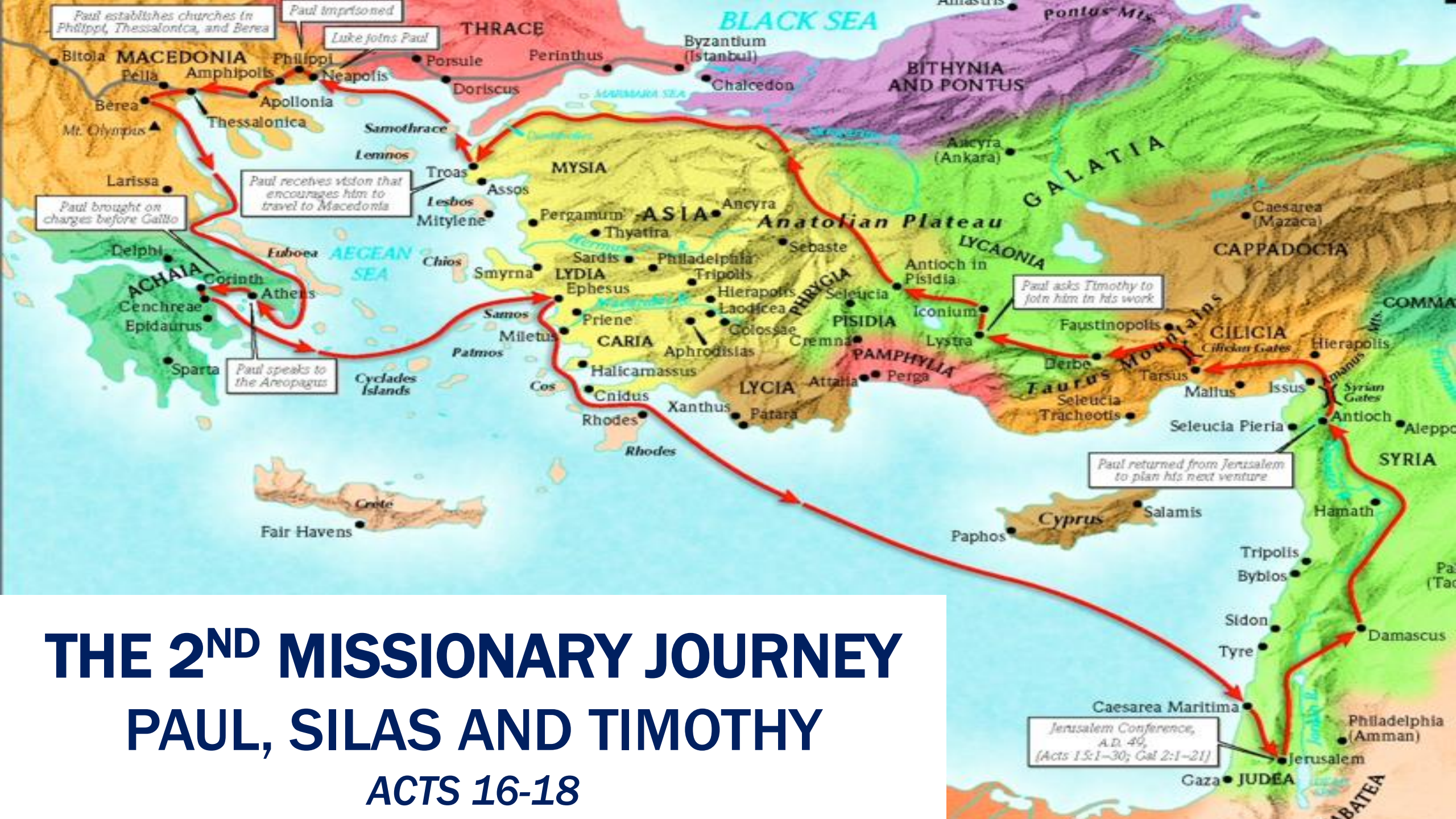
The Jerusalem Council established the path of the New Testament Church

THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL (ACTS CH 15)

- Church Conflict Resolution - Contention
 - Dispute between Paul and Barnabus as they prepare for 2nd Missionary journey (v36-39)
 - Human conflict leads to multiplication (two missionary teams)
 - Paul teams with Silas to re-visit the Gentile churches
 - Barnabus teams with John Mark and goes to Syria and Cilicia
 - Paul and John Marks relationship is reconciled happens (2 Tim 4:11)
 - “Take **Mark** and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.”

PAUL'S 2ND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Acts Ch. 16 - 18



THE 2ND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

PAUL, SILAS AND TIMOTHY

ACTS 16-18

PAUL'S EXPANSION OF THE CHURCH (ACTS 15 - 18)

- **Paul and Silas – 2nd Missionary Journey**
 - Contention with Barnabas over John Mark
 - Paul chooses Silas
 - Vision in Macedonia
 - Confronts spirit of divination
 - Paul and Silas Imprisoned and Jailer Converted
 - Paul in Thessalonica, Berea and Athens
 - Sermon on Mars Hill
 - Paul in Corinth

PAUL'S JOURNEY TO GREECE (ACTS CH 16)

- Three Impactful Encounters in Phillippi
 - A wealthy businesswoman and her household
 - “If you consider me a believer in the Lord”
 - A slave girl with a spirit of divination
 - Paul recognized the spirit of misguided exhortation and deception
 - He spoke to the spirit not the individual
 - A Philippian Jailer and his household
 - Singing at Midnight
 - “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” (To go from suicide to salvation in one night!)
 - Paul sends a strong social message for all believers in the city

PAUL'S JOURNEY TO GREECE (ACTS CH 16)

- **Paul revisits the churches established in Derbe and Lystra**
 - Follow-up and an organization structure are important for sustained growth and maturity (16:4)
- **Paul meets Timothy in Lystra**
 - Interracial son of a Jewish Mother and Greek father
 - Circumcised by Paul to appease the Jews
- **Paul constrained from preaching the Word in Asia**
 - Paul was focused on spreading the Gospel westward (Greece, Rome, Spain)
 - Peter continued to spread the Gospel in Asia (Pontus, Asia, Bithynia) (1Peter 1:1)

PAUL'S JOURNEY TO GREECE (ACTS CH 16)

- **This visit sets the theme for the Epistle to the Philippians**
 - Written 10 years later while Paul was imprisoned in Rome (61 AD)
 - The theme “Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice”
 - **Four Sub-themes:**
 - Rejoice in Suffering (Ch 1: 3-9)
 - Rejoice in Serving (Ch 2: 12-18)
 - Rejoice in Believing (Ch 3: 1-4)
 - Rejoice in Giving (Ch 4: 4-8)

PAUL'S JOURNEY TO GREECE (ACTS CH 17)

■ Thessalonica and Berea

■ Paul teaches in the synagogue proclaiming Jesus is the Messiah

- Some Jews and Greeks believed... Other became jealous and envious
- The mob beat Jason who housed Paul and Silas
- Like today, the message of Jesus can be derailed by skewed politics (v5-9)

■ The Jews in Berea received the message and examined the scriptures to find the truth.

PAUL'S JOURNEY TO GREECE (ACTS CH 17)

■ Athens

- The idols in the city greatly distressed Paul. Confronted with two prominent philosophies:
 - Epicureanism: Teaches that **Pleasure** is the highest good
 - Stoicism: Teaches that **Virtue** is the highest good (Paul, quotes Aratus, a well-known Stoic), (v28)
- Are we still worshipping the “Unknown God” today?
 - Via philosophy (the love of wisdom)
 - Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth (2Tim 3:2-7)
 - Trying to “Decode” the Bible and the mystery of God’s plan

PAUL'S 2ND MISSIONARY JOURNEY SUMMARY (CH 15-18)

- Paul's Second Missionary Journey expands the Gospel into Europe
- It established key churches in Philippi, Thessalonica, and Corinth
- Demonstrated the role of the Holy Spirit in missionary work



PAUL IN CORINTH (ACTS CH 18)

- **Issues in Corinth, the City**

- The environment of the city impacted the condition of the church
 - Pagan worship / immorality / corruption

- **Issues in Corinth, the Church**

- Division (*Some followed Peter, Paul, or Apollos*)
- Idolatry and Sexual Immorality
- Misunderstanding on Christian freedoms
- Instructions needed on orderly Worship (*The Lords Supper, Spiritual Gifts, Role of women*)
- Confusion on the Resurrection
- Even amid all these issues, Paul writes to them one of the most power depositions on Love (**Corinthians 13**)

PAUL IN CORINTH (ACTS CH 18)

■ Paul's Witness in Corinth

■ Pressed in the Spirit to testify of Jesus Christ to the Jews

- They opposed and blasphemed

■ Paul returns to the Gentiles

- Many Corinthians heard and believed
- Encouraged by Lord to *"Speak, be not afraid, do not hold your peace"*
- Jews made **insurrection** against Paul (*Accused him of spreading a religion that defied Roman Law*)
- Galio the deputy of the region spoke on Paul's behalf
- The case thrown out, but the people (Greeks) were not satisfied
 - Sosthenes, the chief ruler beaten for losing the case

Paul writes the two letters to the churches in Thessalonica during his stay in Corinth

PAUL IN CORINTH (ACTS CH 18)

■ Apollos

- Eloquent Jew and well-educated in the scriptures
- Instructed in the Lord, Fervent in Spirit, diligent teacher
- However, did not have the full Gospel, only knew the baptism of John (*Repentance*)

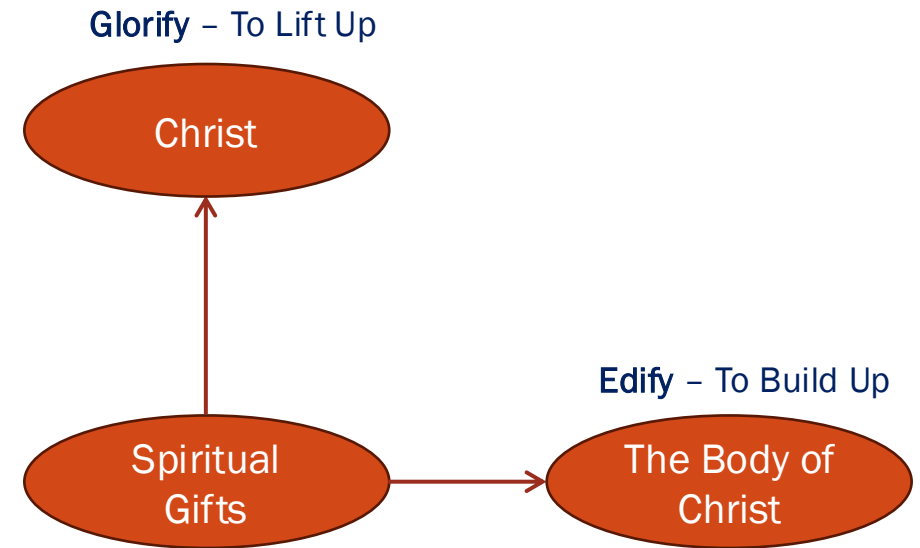
■ Aquila and Priscilla

- What happens **between** couples compared to what happens **through** couples
 - Operated as one in Marriage and in Ministry
 - Shared the complete message of the Gospel with Apollos (*Jesus' death and resurrection*)
 - Opened their home as a place of training and worship
 - The Christian home is still one of the most effective methods of sharing the Gospel
 - Commended by Paul (Romans 16:3-5) as “**co-workers in Christ**”

PAUL'S MINISTRY IN EPHESUS (CH 19)

Why did Paul asks the question *"Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?"* (Acts 19:2)

- Acts 19 opens multiple controversial topics
 - Baptism in the Holy Spirit (*From Repentance to Salvation*)
 - Speaking in Tongues and Prophesying (*Other or Unknown Language*)
 - Miraculous Means of Healing (*Prayer cloths*)
 - Exorcisms (*Mis-representation of the Name of Jesus*)
- These should not be points of division in the body of Christ, but bring unity to the church
 - Tools to equip the Saints (Eph 4:11-13 and 6:19-20)
 - Order and decency in the execution of spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12-14)



The focus of tongues, miracles, baptisms should be to glorify God and Edify the Body of Christ... **in Love**
(1 Cor 13)

RIOTS IN EPHESUS (CH 19)

■ The Goddess Diana (Artemis)

- A protector of wildlife, nature and a symbol of fertility
- One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World
- Demetrius, the silversmith was more concerned about the financial impact of “The Way” than the worship of a pagan goddess
- Like today civil protest often stem from mis-aligned information

■ Lessons for today

- Hold fast to your faith amid adversity and persecution
- We have a voice, but don't always need to speak (v.30-31)
- Allow God the opportunity to fight our battles (*the city clerk v.35*)

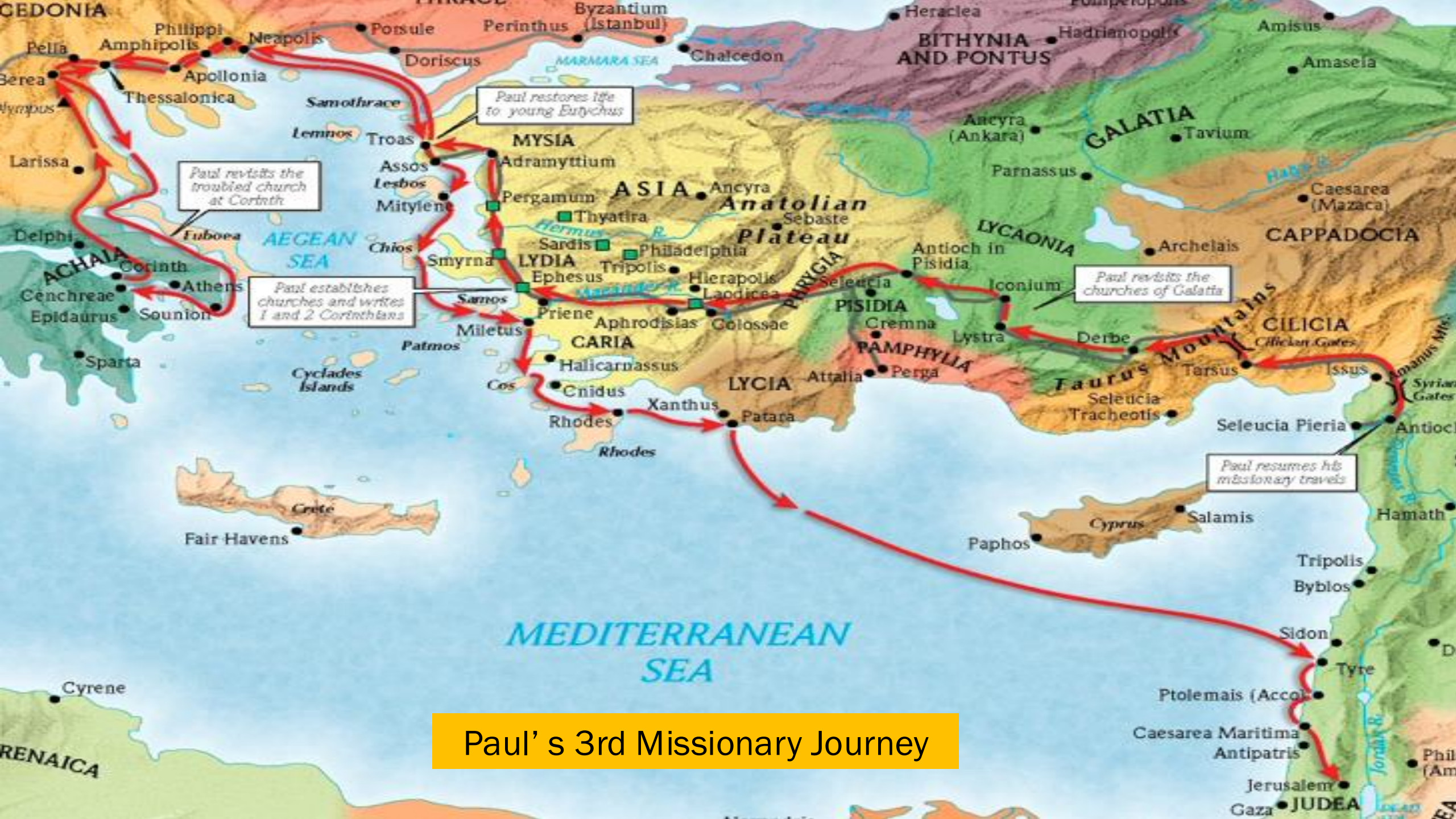


Crowds on Demand

Abortion Is Planned Parenthood's
Billion-Dollar Business

PAUL'S 3RD MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Acts Ch. 21 - 26



Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey

PAUL PREPARES FOR ROME (ACTS CH 21-26)

- Returns to and Arrested in Jerusalem
- Addresses the high council (Sanhedrin)
- Put on trial in Caesarea
- Defends himself to Felix the Governor
- Imprisoned for two years in Caesarea
- Re-trial by Festus (New Governor)
- Speaks to King Agrippa and Bernice

PAUL'S RETURN TO JERUSALEM

The Warning

Acts Ch 21



- Paul sails from Ephesus to Tyre
- Warned by disciples (through the Spirit) not to go to Jerusalem (v4)
- Stops in Caesarea and stays with Phillip (v8-9)
- The Prophet Agabus warns (though the Spirit) of the dangers in Jerusalem (v11-12)
- Paul's reply "I am ready to die in Jerusalem for the name of Jesus Christ"



The Compromise and Conflict

Acts Ch 21



- Paul meets James and the elders in Jerusalem
- They commend him for the work done with the Jews but accused of teaching things contrary to the Law (v19-21)
- Paul persuaded to take a purification vow
- Asian Jews saw Paul in the temple and incite a riot (v27-29)
- Thrown out of the temple, nearly killed and arrested by Roman soldiers
- Paul speaks to chief captain (in Greek) Then addresses the mob (in Aramaic)



The Defense

Acts Ch 22



- Paul reveal his Jewish lineage, education and zeal for the Law (v3-5)
- He details the Damascus Road encounter (v6-19)
- Describes his role in the martyrdom of Stephen (v20)
- Told how God commanded he go unto the Gentiles (v21)
- This statement sent the crowd into an uproar
- Roman commander prepare to beat Paul but finds out about his Roman citizenship (v24-30)
- Taken to appear before the Jews Council

PAUL'S PATH TO ROME

The Sanhedrin Court

Acts Ch 23



- Paul greets the council, high priest commands him to be hit (v1-2)
- Paul recognize the split between Sadducees and Pharisees and He declare his hope and resurrection of the dead (v6-9)
- This cause much turmoil in the city
- God tells Paul to “Be of good cheer” you will testify of me in Rome (v11)
- 40 men vowed not to eat/drink until Paul is killed (v12-15)
- Paul’s nephew told Paul and the Roman soldiers of the plot



Felix the Governor

Acts Ch 24



- Paul transported by night to Caesarea to be tried by Felix
- The High Priest, Elders and their lawyer Tertullus travel to Caesarea for the trial
- They had no evidence of a committed crime
- Paul defends himself and rebuts the claims (v10-13)
- Paul uses the platform to preach the Gospel (v14-21)
- Felix was knowledgeable of “The Way”, but deferred making a decision hoping to get Paul to pay money (v22-26)
- Paul remained in prison for two years



Festus and King Agrippa

Acts Ch 25-26



- High Priest asked that Paul be sent to Jerusalem (they planned to kill him)
- Festus Resumes Paul’s trial in Caesarea
- Paul pleads his innocence and files an appeal unto Ceasar
- King Agrippa and Bernice visit:
 - *Grandson of Herod the Great*
 - *Incest with Bernice (his sister)*
 - *Refused to accept the Gospel (Almost persuaded (v28)*
- Festus brings Paul’s case to the King
- Paul speaks before Agrippa and use the platform to share the gospel
- Paul would have been freed had he not appealed to Ceasar (v32)

PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME (ACTS CH 27 - 28)

- Paul and 276 Prisoners To sail to Rome
- Julius, the centurion allow Paul to visit friends in Sidon
- This journey starts in October, which is not the best time to be on the seas
 - They sailed from Myra (Southern Turkey) to Crete where Paul advises that the trip will bring great loss (27:9-11)
 - The Captain and Julius did not listen and set sail toward Italy.
 - A strong storm (Nor'easter) took the ship out to sea and was out of control
- After several days, the crew lost hope of being saved
- Paul reminds them to “Be not afraid” An angel of the Lord confirmed they would make it to Rome



PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME (ACTS CH 27 - 28)

- After 14 days, of not eating, Paul encourages the crew to eat and then lighten the ship
 - Some sailors tried to lower to lifeboat but Paul convinced Julius they must stay on the ship to be saved (27:30-31)
- The crew sensed they were nearing land (the island of Malta)
- They tried to drive to ship to the beach, but it was caught between the currents and was destroyed
 - The soldiers planned to kill all the prisoners to ensure none escaped
 - But the Centurion spared Paul's life and disrupted their plan
- All 276 made it to shore just as the Lord had spoken to Paul

PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME (ACTS CH 27 - 28)

- The people of Malta showed unusual kindness to Paul and crew (28:1)
- While building a fire a venomous snake bite Paul (28:3-6)
 - The islanders thought the gods were judging him for being a murderer
 - When Paul did not die or even swell, they then thought he was a god!
- Paul prays and heals the chief official of the island's father

- After three months they left Malta and sailed to Rome
 - He preached the gospel to Jews... Some believed and others did not
 - Paul quotes Isaiah 6:9-10 to the non-believing Jews (28:26-27)
- Paul allowed to live for two years in his rented house with a guard
 - It is believed that he possibly travel to Spain after his release
 - Wrote the "Prison Letters" Ephesians, Colossians and Philippians
 - Later imprisoned, wrote 2 Timothy and martyred

PAUL’S INFLUENCE ON THE 7 CHURCHES IN REVELATIONS

- The seven churches of Revelation represent the next generation of congregations that grew out of Paul’s missionary work in Asia Minor, especially through Ephesus as a regional center.
- Paul provided the spiritual infrastructure (evangelism, teaching, leadership) for these churches.
- The Revelation letters reflect the spiritual condition of those same communities decades later — showing both the fruit and struggles of the Pauline mission legacy.

Paul’s Journey	Key Locations	Approx. Date (AD)	Connection to Seven Churches
1st Journey (Acts 13–14)	Cyprus, Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe	46–48	Not directly connected — these are in Galatia (central Asia Minor), not western Asia where the seven churches are.
2nd Journey (Acts 15:36–18:22)	Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus (briefly)	49–52	Paul visits Ephesus briefly (Acts 18:19–21). He leaves Priscilla & Aquila there — seeds of what becomes the Ephesian church , first of the seven.
3rd Journey (Acts 18:23–21:16)	Ephesus (3 years) , Macedonia, Greece, Troas, Miletus	53–57	Main connection — Ephesus becomes a major mission base. From Ephesus, Paul’s disciples likely founded other churches in Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea .
Journey to Rome (Acts 27–28)	Malta, Rome	60–62	No direct link to seven churches, but Paul’s letters and network influenced them.

THE LETTERS OF PAUL

Acts 13-15

Acts 15-18

Acts 18-21

Acts 28

Romans 15:24-28

2 Timothy

1st Missionary Journey

Galatia

Jerusalem Council

2nd Missionary Journey

Macedonia
Achaia
Greece

3rd Missionary Journey

Asia

First Roman Imprisonment

Rome

*4th Missionary Journey
Greece / Spain (?)*

Second Roman Imprisonment and Death

Rome

Galatians (49 AD)
*Place: Antioch
Freedom in Christ*

1 Thessalonians (51 AD)
*Place: Corinth
The Coming of Christ*

2 Thessalonians (52 AD)
*Place: Corinth
Prepare for The Day of the Lord*

1 Corinthians (55 AD)
*Place: Ephesus
Church Problem Solving*

2 Corinthians (56 AD)
*Place: Macedonia
Apostleship Defended*

Romans (57 AD)
*Place: Corinth
Doctrine of Salvation*

Ephesians (60 AD)
*Place: Rome
Unity in Christ*

Colossians (60 AD)
*Place: Rome
False Teachings*

Philemon (60 AD)
*Place: Rome
Restoration of a Slave brother*

Philippians (61 AD)
*Place: Rome
Joy & Rejoicing*

1 Timothy (64 AD)
*Place: Macedonia
Addressing False Doctrine*

Titus (64 AD)
*Place: Macedonia
Church Leadership*

2 Timothy (66 AD)
*Place: Rome
Steadfast Christian Living*

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He That has an Ear, Let Him Hear, What the Spirit Says to the Churches