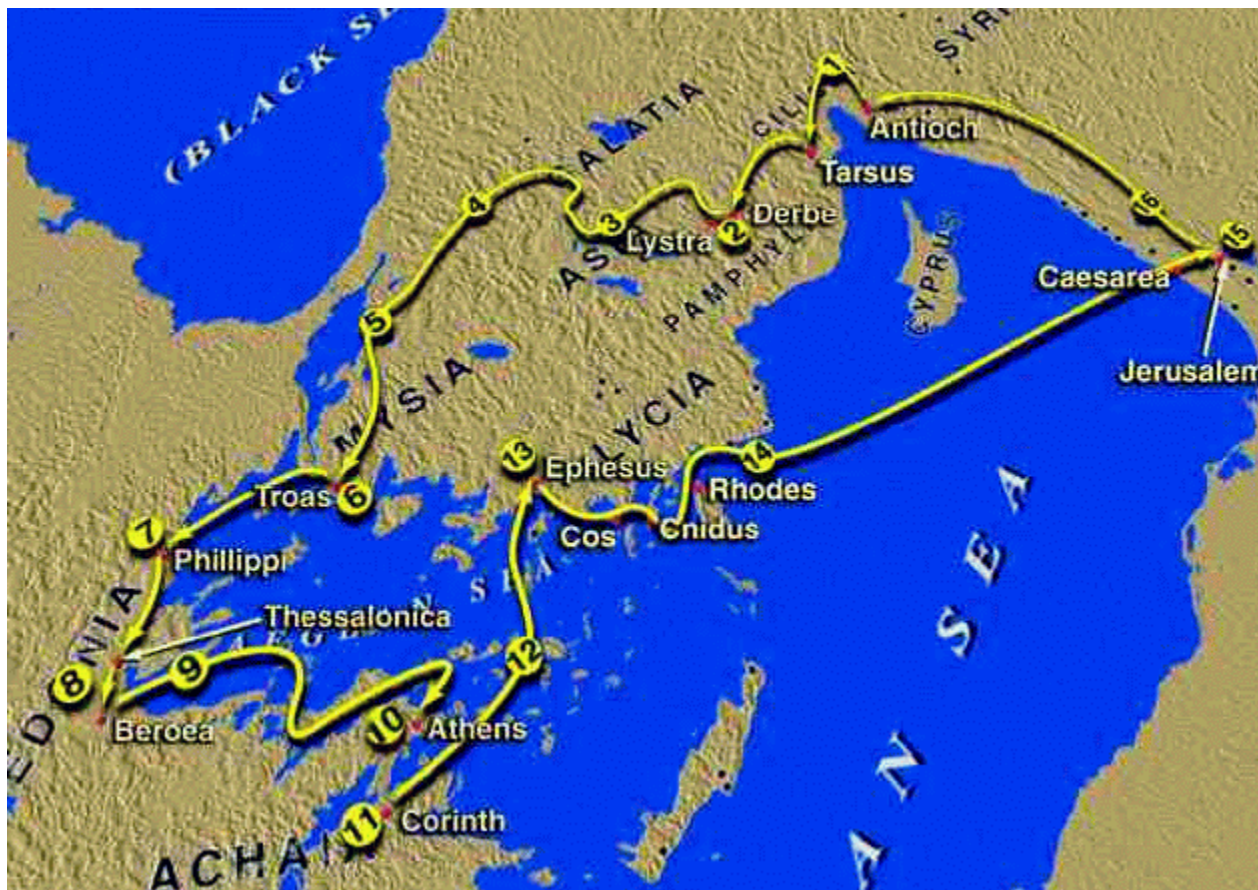


Paul and his Journeys – Part 7 The (first half of the) Second Missionary Journey of Paul

After Paul made the decision not to travel with Barnabas on another missionary journey, he paired up with Silas to take the gospel back out to the world once more, and to see how the Churches that had been established were doing.



Part 1 – Paul and Silas leave Antioch and travel to Syria and Cilicia to ‘confirm’ the churches that had already been established in these areas.

Part 2 and 3 – The pair travel through Derbe and arrive at Lystra where they meet a disciple called Timotheus (Timothy). Timothy’s mother was a believing Jewess, but his father was Greek. Paul appeared to take Timothy under his wing, and desired Timothy to accompany him and Silas on their journey. Timothy is mentioned many times throughout the scriptures by Paul with affectionate terms such as him a ‘dearly beloved son’ (2 Timothy 1:2), and ‘my own son in the faith’ (1 Timothy 1:2). To please the Jews in the area, Paul circumcised Timothy since his mother was a Jewess.

Part 3 and 4 – Travelling through Phrygia and Galatia, the trio bring the teachings that had been established by the oversight at Jerusalem to the churches there. The churches here saw daily increase in their numbers (Acts 16:5). The Holy Ghost forbade them to enter into Asia.

Part 5 – They travel through Mysia, and again they are forbidden by the Holy Spirit to go to Bithynia

Part 6 – The group arrive at Troas, and here Paul has a night vision of a Macedonian man pleading him to ‘Come over into Macedonia and help us!’ (Acts 16:9). Realising that the dream was from God, the men make their way towards Macedonia. They sailed to the island of Samothracia, and arrive at the Macedonian coastal city of Neapolis the next day. From here they head to Philippi.

Part 7 – The group abide in Philippi for several days before heading towards a river on the Sabbath day, as it was here that many of the Jews were known to come and pray. Here they talk to several of the women, and Lydia a seller of purple receives the gospel from Paul, and she and her household are baptised. She provides accommodation for the men. After a certain time, the men come across a female with a spirit of divination. She follows them for days saying ‘These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.’ Paul eventually gets fed up with this behaviour and casts the evil spirit out. This action upset the masters of the woman, because they saw that they could no longer make money out of her ‘soothsaying’. The masters deliver Paul and Silas to the magistrates of the city accusing them of ‘troubling the city’. They are beaten with ‘many stripes’ and thrown into prison.

The jailor is given the personal responsibility of keeping the men imprisoned, and so places them in the inner prison, and puts their hands into stocks for extra security. At around midnight, Paul and Silas are happily praying and singing praises when an earthquake strikes, opening the prison doors, and freeing them from the stocks. Paul and Silas stop the jailor from committing suicide (so troubled that he had not carried out his duty), and instead convert him to Christianity, baptizing him and his entire household. The next day, the magistrates were extremely fearful when they had found out that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, and begged them to leave the city. After revisiting Lydia and the brethren there, they depart for Thessalonica

Part 8 – Passing through Amphipolis and Apollonia Paul, Silas and Timothy arrive in Thessalonica. Paul preaches Jesus in the Jewish synagogues for three consecutive Sabbath days and many of the people there believe the word. They had severe opposition from envious Jews who gathered ‘certain lewd fellows of the baser sort’ and set the whole city in an uproar, attacking the dwelling place of Paul. To avoid trouble, some of the Thessalonian brethren send Paul and Silas to Berea by night. Here in Berea, Paul and Silas found that the Jews were more ‘noble’ than those of Thessalonica and ‘received the word with all readiness of mind’. However, when the Thessalonian Jews heard that Paul had come here and preached again, they came unto Berea and stirred up the people. The brethren wisely chose to send Paul away from the city by sea, leaving Timothy and Silas behind.

The second half of the second journey will be discussed next month.