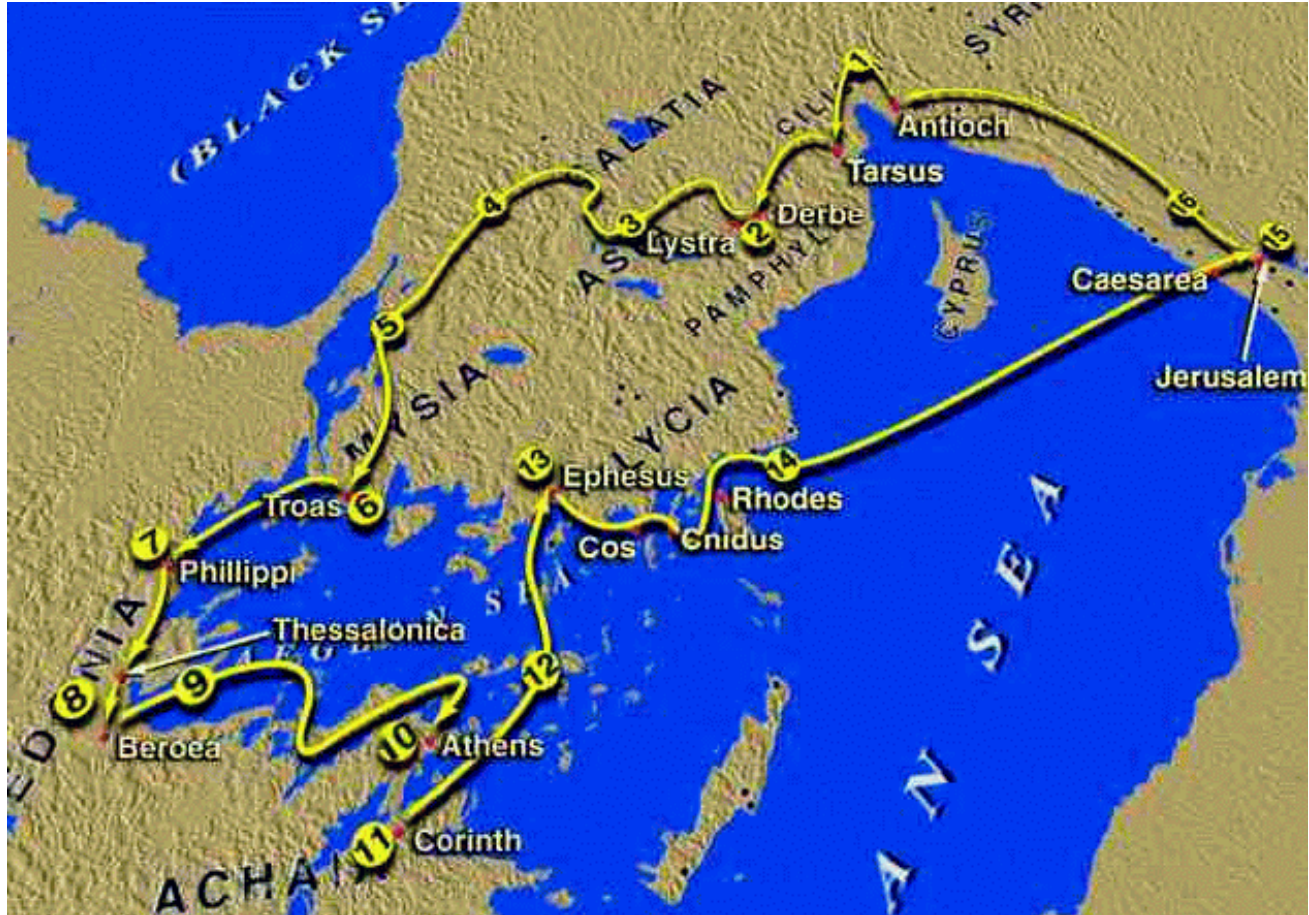


Paul and his Journeys – Part 8 The (second half of the) Second Missionary Journey of Paul

Last month we saw how Paul separated from Barnabas and went on a second missionary journey with Silas. The pair came across Timothy who also joined them in their travels. The last part of the second journey that was discussed was when Paul was sent away from Berea to avoid the trouble in the city (which was a result of his preaching). We continue the journey with Paul arriving in Athens, and Silas and Timothy still remaining in Berea.



Part 9 and 10 – Paul arrives in Athens and quickly sends a message that Timothy and Silas should come from Berea to meet up with him. While he waited for Timothy and Silas to arrive he went about the Lord's work and preached to the superstitious and idolatrous people of Athens. He preached daily in the synagogues and in the market place. Eventually, after some philosophers enquired of his new doctrine, Paul stood on Mar's Hill and expounded to them how they could worship the 'UNKNOWN GOD'. Most rejected Paul's preaching but a few believed.

Part 11 – Paul departs Athens and heads for Corinth where he stays with another Jewish tentmaker (named Aquila, along with his wife Priscila) to work his trade. Paul continues preaching in the synagogues, 'persuading' anyone that listened (Acts 18:4). Silas and Timothy arrive shortly after to re-join him. Eventually Paul tires of the hard hearts and blasphemy of the Jews, and declares: 'Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles' (Acts 18:6). Paul now focused his preaching to the Gentiles, but he still converted many of the Jews in Corinth, baptizing entire households. The Lord gives Paul a vision in the night telling him that the Lord has many people in this city and that he should continue to preach here. So Paul stays here for a year and a half teaching

the people of God. It appears that he writes 1st and 2nd Thessalonians from here. The Jews once more try and deliver him to the rulers of the country, but this time the ruler is not interested in the Jewish matters and wants them to sort things out by themselves.

Part 12 and 13 – Eventually Paul leaves Corinth (with a shaved head as he had made a vow), and sails with Aquila and Priscilla over the Aegean sea into Ephesus. It appears he leaves Timothy and Silas back in Corinth. He talks with the Jews in the synagogue at Ephesus, and they appear to be receptive to his words as they desire Paul to stay longer. However, Paul chooses to keep an upcoming feast with the saints back in Jerusalem.

Part 14 and 15 – Paul sails from Ephesus and arrives at the coastal city of Caesarea, where he then travels to the Church at Jerusalem to keep one of the Jewish feasts.

Part 16 - After a period of time he travels back to his main church in Antioch, thus concluding Paul's second missionary journey. It appears that the entire second journey of Paul lasted somewhere around two or three years. During this time, Paul's service to God was enormous, preaching, converting, and baptising hundreds of souls despite the heavy persecution.

More next month...