

Book of Acts

Chapter 16

Theme: The second missionary journey of Paul

Time Chart – Paul

- ✠ 30 AD: Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension, Pentecost
- ✠ 32 AD: Stephen stoned, Paul converted
- ✠ 35 AD: Paul's 1st visit to Jerusalem (Acts 9)
- ✠ 44 AD: Paul moves to Antioch
- ✠ 46 AD: Paul's 2nd visit to Jerusalem (Acts 11)
- ✠ 47-48 AD: Paul's 1st Journey (Acts 13-14)
- ✠ 49 AD: Jerusalem council (Acts 15)
- ✠ 49-52 AD: Paul's 2nd Journey (Acts 16-18)

Antioch (Syrian)

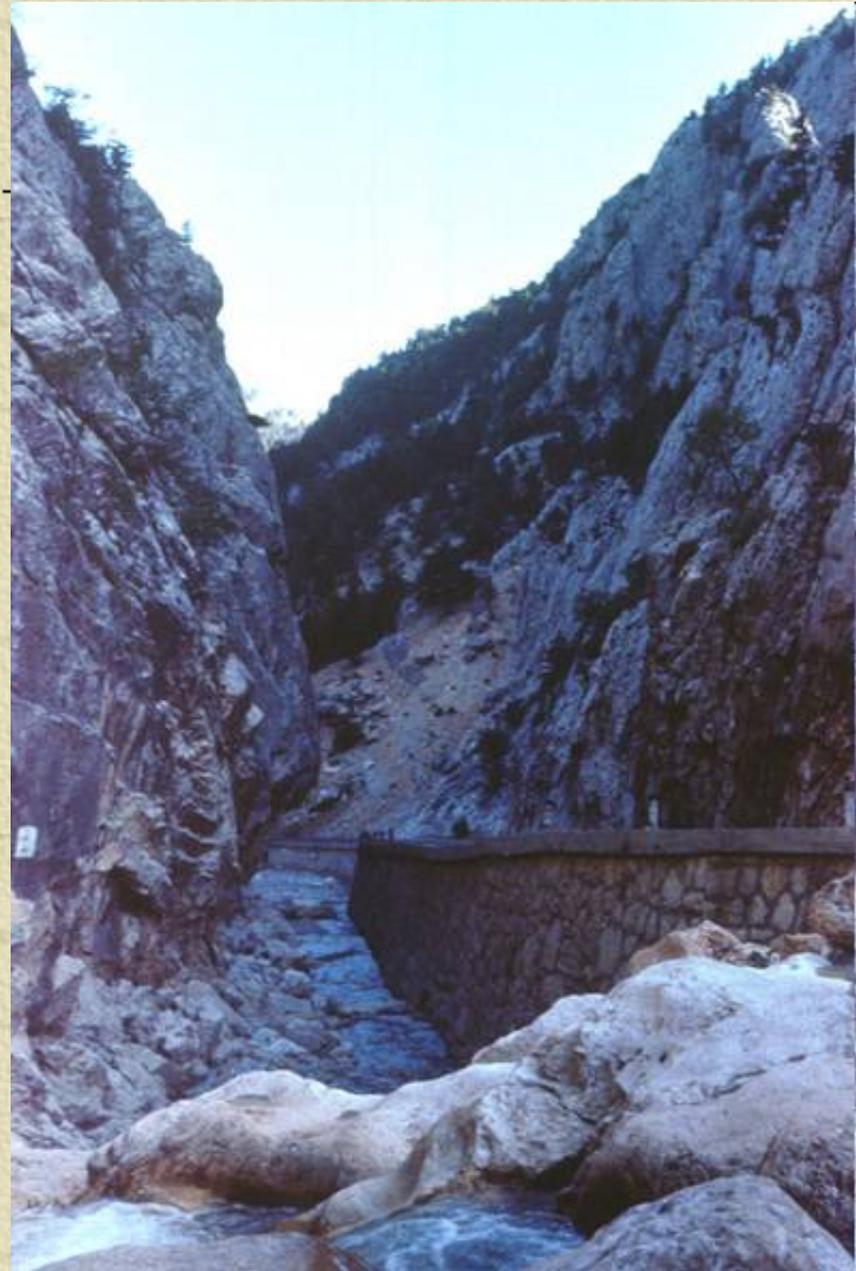


Tarsus Mountains



Cilician Gates

Strategic
passage through
Taurus range



Derbe, Lystra & Iconium



Circumcision of Timothy

✦ The first 5 verses of both Act 15 and 16 begin with the issue of circumcision.

✦ In Acts 15, Paul was faced with the demand that Gentile believers be circumcised, he opposes this vehemently. In fact he obtain a letter of unanimous consensus that circumcision is not necessary for salvation.

✦ But in Acts 16, when Paul is delivering said letter to the Gentile churches he comes to Lystra and finds Timothy. Taking Timothy, the son of a Gentile and Jewess, along, he has him circumcised.

✦ ***Contradiction?!?***

Circumcision of Timothy

✦ *Not at all!*

✦ In Acts 15:

- ◆ The reason why Paul opposed circumcision was that the false teachers were demanding circumcision as necessary for salvation!

✦ Remember:

✦ **Our Salvation is attained only by:**

- ◆ **Grace alone.**
- ◆ **Through faith alone.**
- ◆ **In Christ alone.**

Circumcision of Timothy



But in Acts 16:

- ◆ Timothy's circumcision had nothing to do with his salvation.
- ◆ Had anyone demanded Timothy be circumcised he would have resisted it, as he did with Titus (Gal. 2:3).
- ◆ But since Timothy was a Jew, via his mother, and many Christian Jews (as well as unsaved Jews for that matter) felt that circumcision was something God called all Jews to do (not for salvation but to be a good Jew).
- ◆ Paul circumcised Timothy, so as not to stumble those Jews to whom he preached.

Circumcision of Timothy



Paul would later write:

◆ *“For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law”.*

I Cor. 9:19-20

Another Antioch?



Antioch (disambiguation)

✦ There were actually 16 cities named Antioch in the ancient world.

✦ But biblical writers are only interested in two of them – Syrian Antioch and Pisidian Antioch.

✦ Antioch in Syria:

- ◆ The one we know well.
- ◆ Pointed to on by the “finger” of Cyprus.
- ◆ The launching point of Paul’s 1st and 2nd missions. 300 miles north of Jerusalem.
- ◆ From Antioch, relief was sent to famine-hit brethren in Judea.
- ◆ The Antioch of Acts 15.

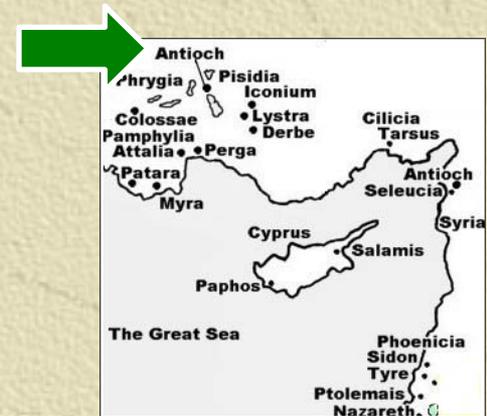


Antioch (disambiguation)



Antioch in Pisidia:

- ◆ Pisidian Antioch stood on a plateau 3,600 feet above sea level.
- ◆ Mentioned only once in scripture. Paul and Barnabas had to climb a hard mountainous road to get there and preach in the synagogue (Acts 13:14-16).



Phrygia and Galatia



Mysia & Bithynia



The Holy Spirit Leads the Journey

 In general, Paul's course followed the roads of the Roman Empire.

 Holy Spirit intervenes.

- ◆ Verse 6 - *forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.*
- ◆ Verse 7 – *the Spirit did not permit them to go into Mysia and Bithynia.*
- ◆ Bithynia was reached with the gospel – *I Pet 1:1.*
- ◆ A key turning point in bringing the Gospel to the entire world, the Gospel needed to reach the Greeks.
- ◆ On to Troas (very near ancient Troy).
- ◆ We are not told Paul preached in Troas but a church is present there in Acts 20.

Troas



Ruins of Ancient Troas



Ruins of Ancient Troas



Ruins of Ancient Troas



The Macedonian Call

- ✠ The vision of a man of Macedonia, pleading with Paul to come to Macedonia, is the 6th vision in Acts.
- ✠ In total, God spoke 11 times in Acts via visions.
 - ◆ Acts 9:10,12; 10:3,17,19; 11:5; 12:9,10; 16:9; 18:8; 26:19.
- ✠ Macedonia was a heathen land north of the Aegean Sea, rooted under Alexander the Great but now a Roman province.

Man From Macedonia



Macedonia

Troas

Galatia



The Gospel reaches Europe

✦ The focus of this 2nd Missionary Journey is 6 Cities:

- ◆ Philippi – Acts 16
- ◆ Thessalonica – Acts 17
- ◆ Berea – Acts 17
- ◆ Athens – Acts 17
- ◆ Corinth – Acts 18
- ◆ Ephesus – Act 19

✦ There is, interestingly only 1 speech recorded in this entire journey, at Athens.

✦ The eye-witness detail is significantly increased.

✦ Luke is now among the company.

- ◆ “We” starts in Troas and ends when Paul left Philippi.

The Gospel reaches Europe

 As Luke depicts Christianity against the background of paganism – 3 major themes arise.

- ① Christianity proclaims the One True God, His nature and mans relationship to Him vs. Pagan religious polytheism, pagan philosophies about the origins and workings of the universe.
- ② Christian assertion that Jesus is the Messiah, King and Judge of the world vs. World politics and its system of morality (or immorality).
- ③ Christian experience of the Holy Spirit vs. The pagan world's contacts with spiritism, demonism and the practice of the occult.

Samonthracia & Neapolis



Harbor of Neapolis



Philippi



Trek over the Aegean Sea



Spurgeon – Prayer Mtg.

“All sorts of places have been consecrated to prayer, the field, the sea shore, a prison, even the belly of a fish, and a fiery furnace. Among praying people the gospel is sure of a hearty welcome. It is well worthy of note that the first gospel address delivered in Europe, was heard at a prayer meeting. We ought therefore to prize this institution very highly.”

Thyatira is in Asia



Baptism

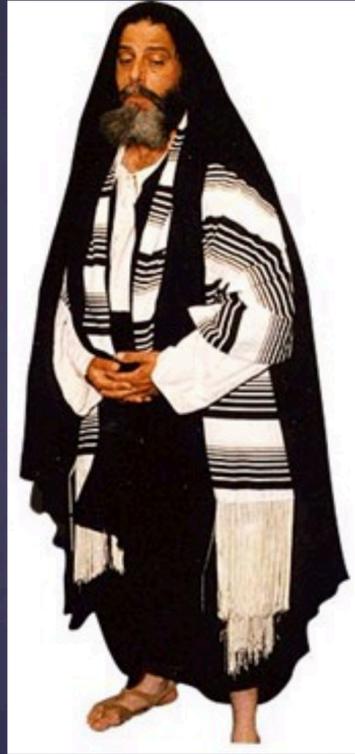
- ✠ For the first time, in connection with the labors of Paul, we see a baptism.
- ✠ Doubtless it was performed on all his former converts, however here it indicates a special importance in this first European baptism.
- ✠ Of all who were baptized in the Book of the Acts –
 - ◆ 3 Days.

Hymns

- ✦ The Greek word for “singing” here is from “*humneo*”, from which we get our word “hymn.”
- ✦ The Hymns initiated by “many strips” lead to the saving of many souls.
 - ✦ A costly activity; this winning of souls!
 - ✦ “Forty stripes may be given him, but not more, lest, if one should go on to beat him with more stripes than these, your brother be degraded in your sight.” Deut. 25:3
 - ✦ Paul writing later in 2 Cor. 11:23, “stripes above measure” or moderation
 - ✦ Paul spent as much as 25% of his time as a missionary in prison! (Ref.: McRay)

The Pharisee

custom...he
thanked
God he was
not a
woman, he
was not a
slave, and
not a
Gentile.



Pharisee

The Pharisee

custom...he thanked God he was not a **woman**, he was not a **slave**, and not a **Gentile**.



First three converts in Europe? A **woman**, Lydia, a **slave** girl, and a **Gentile**

Pharisee

Macedonia

Troas

Galatia

