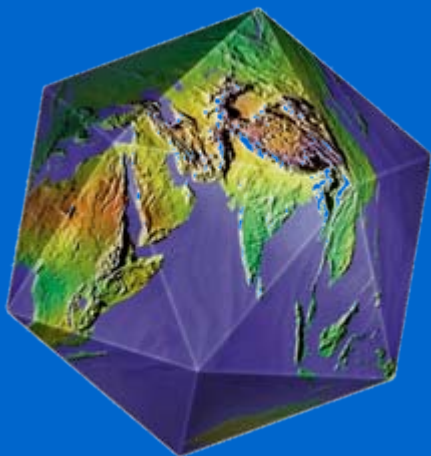




Unleashing the Gospel



Perspectives Lesson 5

The Book of Acts



Famous One

By Chris Tomlin and Jesse Reeves

You are the Lord, the Famous One!
Famous One – Great is Your Name in all the earth!
The heavens declare You are glorious!
Glorious – great is Your fame in all the earth!

And for all You've done and yet to do
With every breath I'm praising You
Desire of nations and every heart
You alone are God (2x)

The Morning Star is shining through
And every eye is watching You
Reveal Your nature and miracles
You are beautiful (2)

Be the Center

Jesus, be the center
Be my hope, be my song, Jesus

Be the fire in my heart
Be the wind in these sails
Be the reason that I live, Jesus, Jesus

Jesus, be my vision
Be my path, be my guide, Jesus

Oh God You Are My God

Oh God, You are my God,
And I will ever praise You!

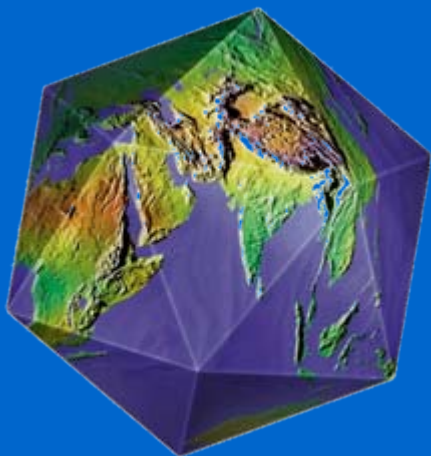
Oh God, You are my God,
And I will ever praise You!

I will seek You in the morning,
And I will learn to walk in Your ways,
And step by step You lead me,
And I will follow You all of my days

By Rich Mullins



Unleashing the Gospel



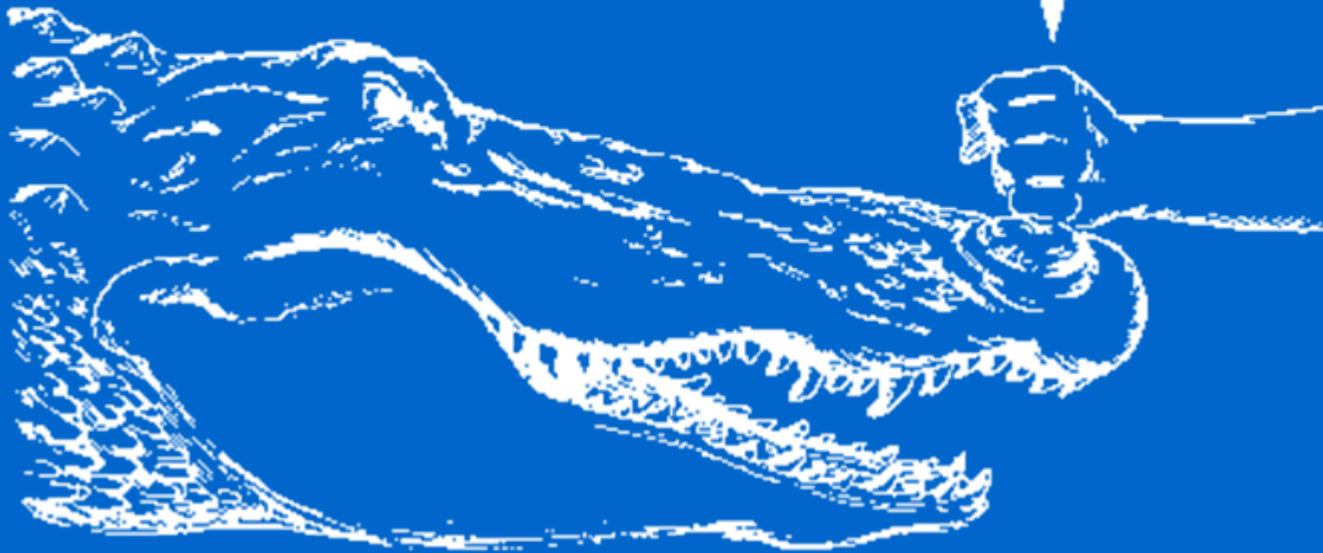
Perspectives Lesson 5
The Book of Acts



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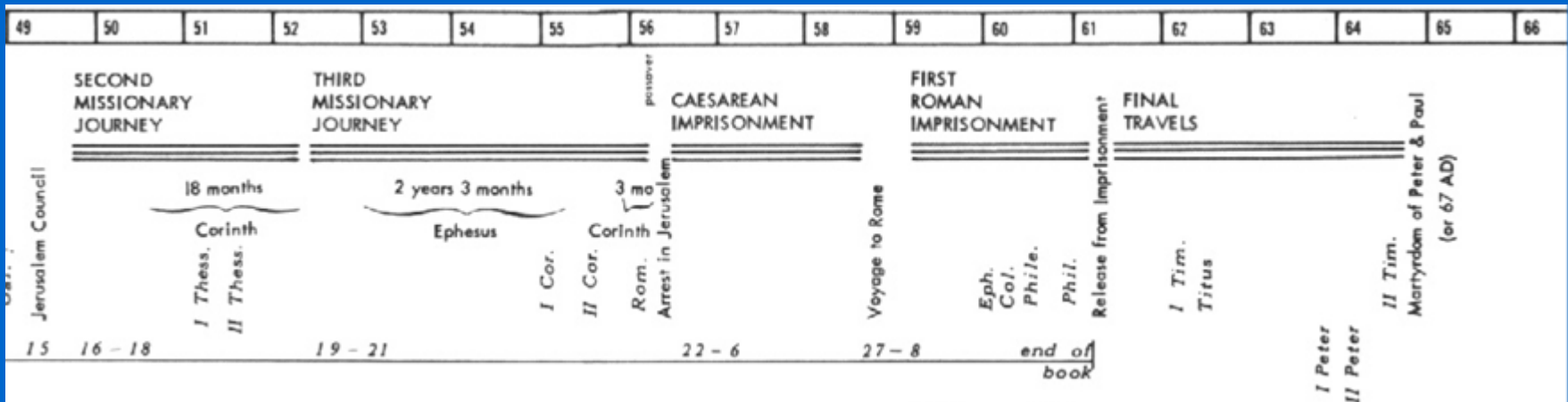
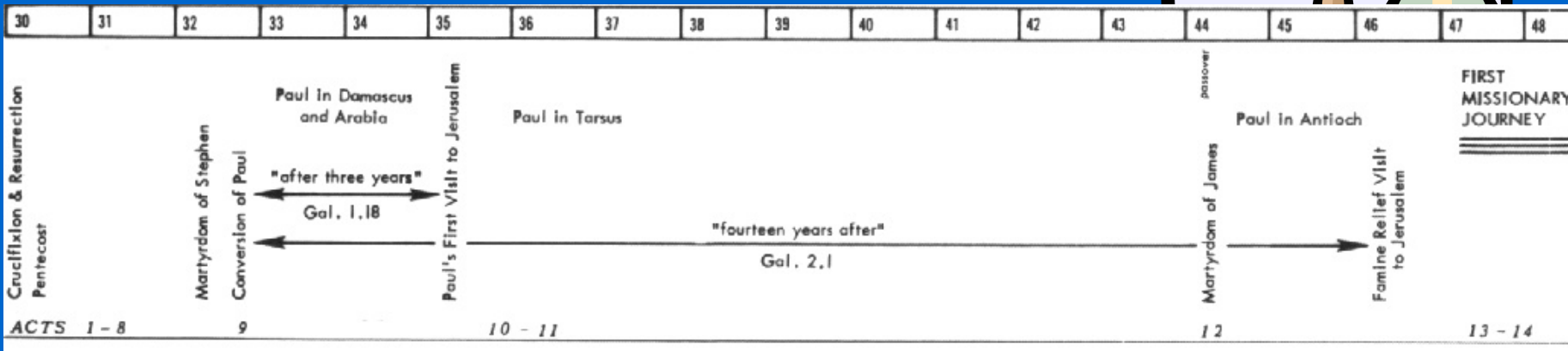
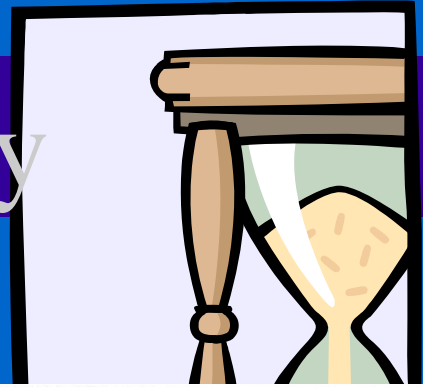
Book of Acts

You never know what you might encounter in taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth...



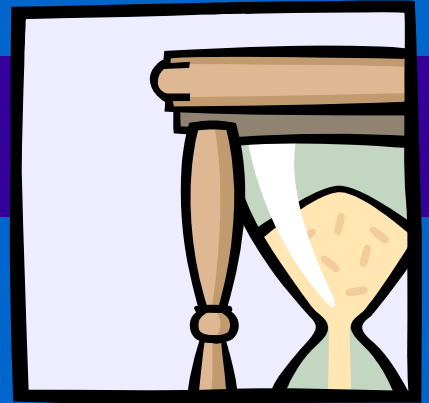
P. 57, *The Worst-Case Scenario Survivor Handbook* ©1999 Chronicle Books

Book of Acts - Chronology



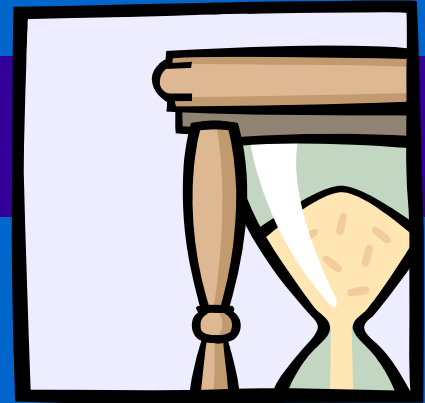
Acts Chronology: 30 a.d.

The Upper Room

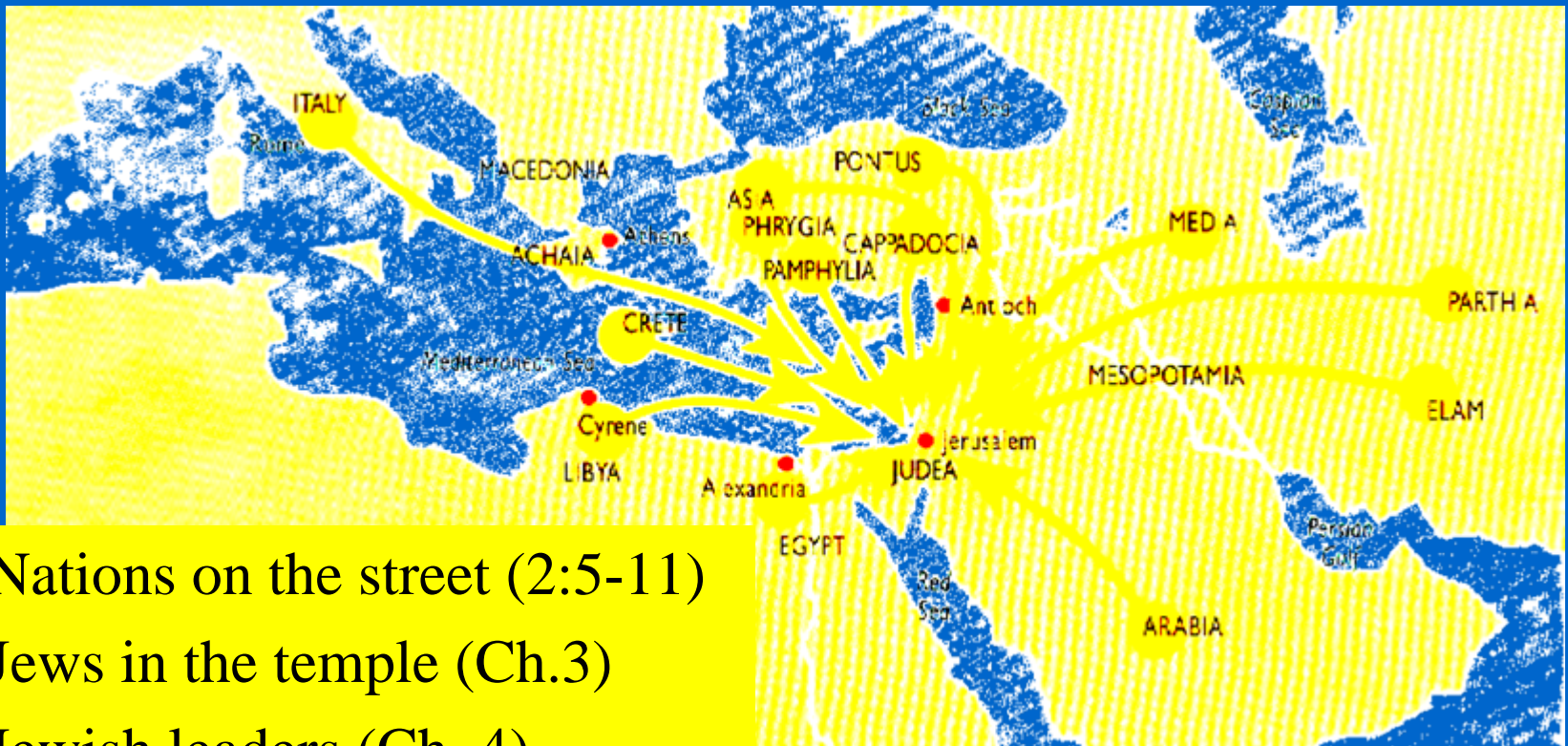


- Jesus' resurrection
- 40 days, ascension
- Wait in Jerusalem
- Coming of Holy Spirit

Acts Chronology: 30 a.d.

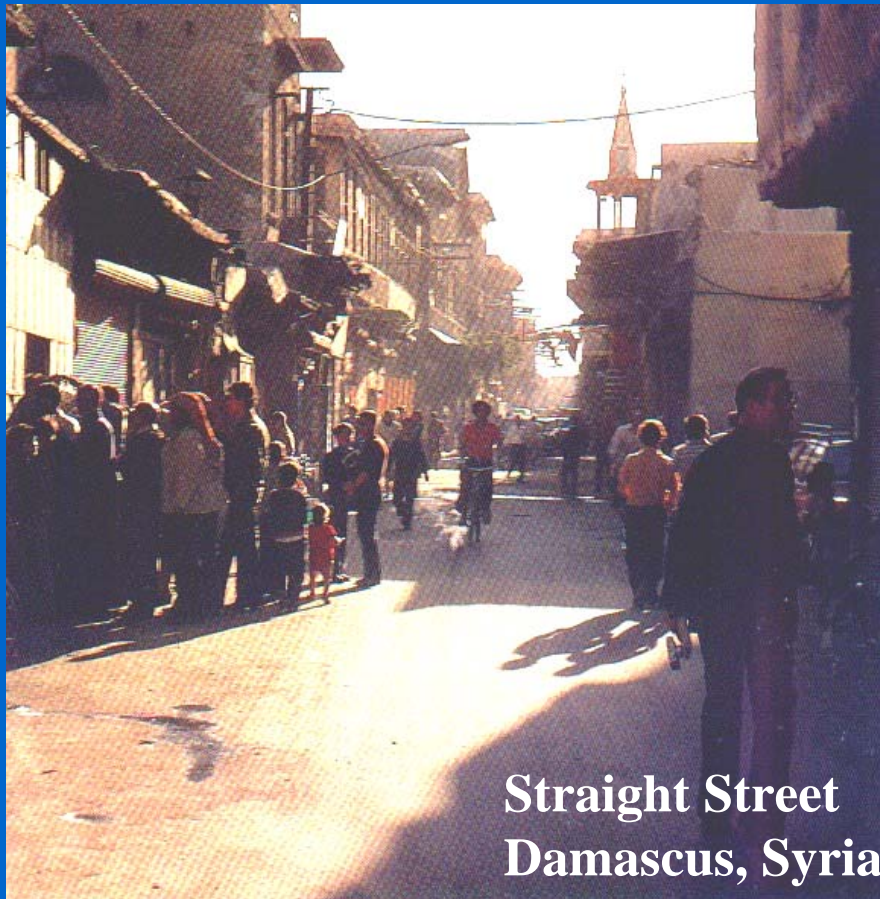
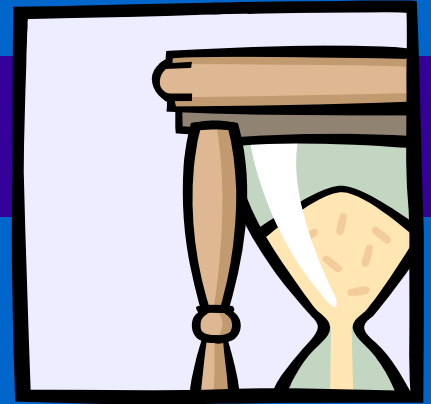


Pentecost - Witnesses in Jerusalem



- Nations on the street (2:5-11)
- Jews in the temple (Ch.3)
- Jewish leaders (Ch. 4)

Acts Chronology: 30 a.d.

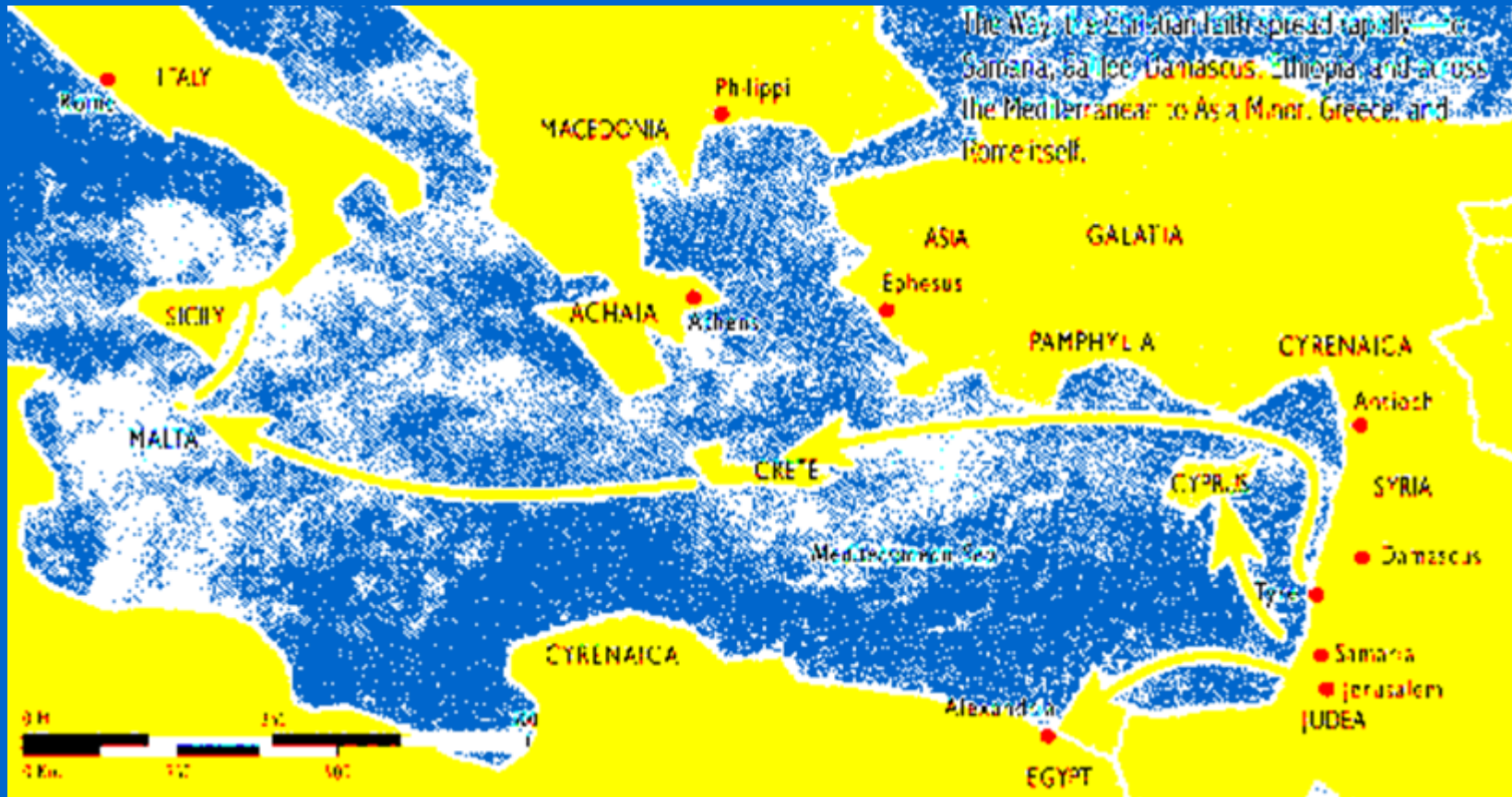
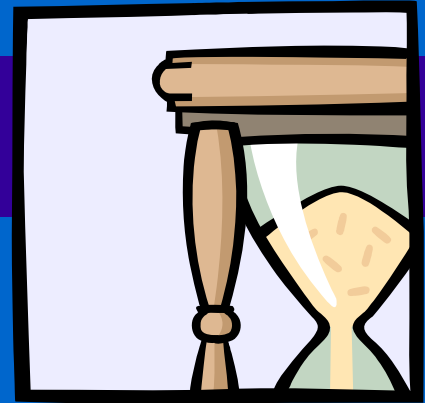


Straight Street
Damascus, Syria

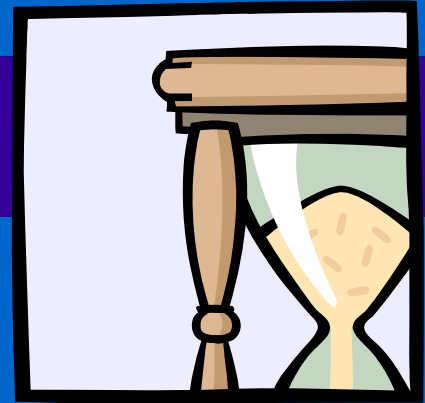
- Steven Martyred
- Saul's persecution scatters believers
- Philip - Samaria, Ethiopia (Ch. 8)
- Saul converted, preach in Damascus

Acts Chronology

Pre-Pauline spread (Acts 11:19-20)



Acts Chronology: 32 a.d.

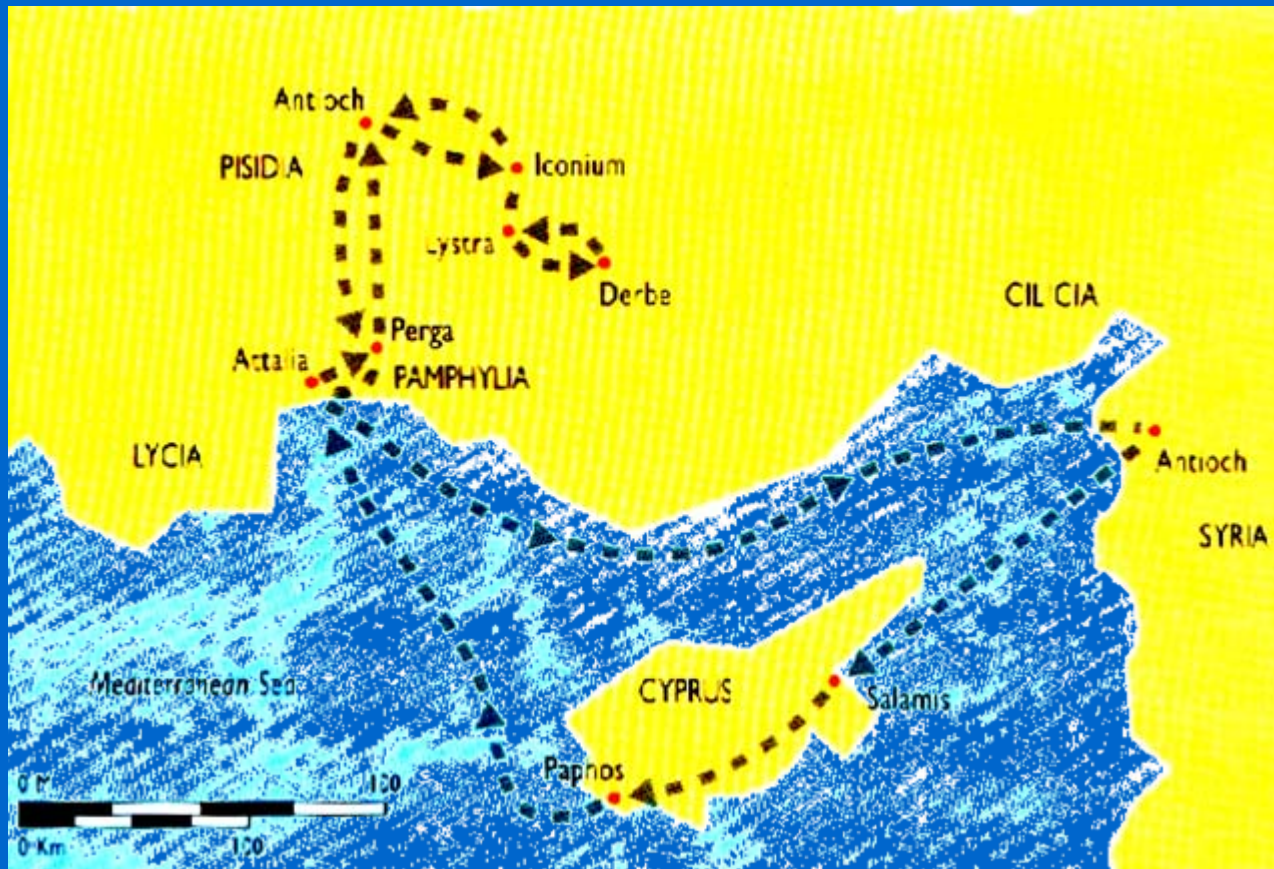
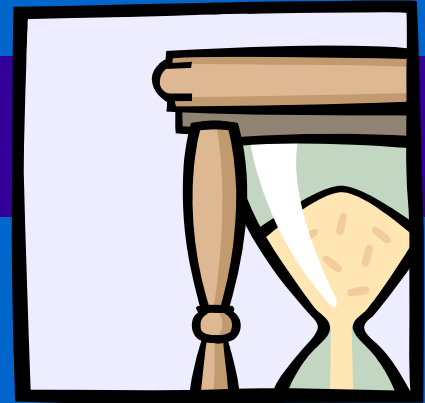


Caesarea

Peter's Progress

- Jews (Ch. 2-4)
- Samaritans (Ch. 8)
- Greeks, Romans (Ch. 10 - Aeneas, Dorcas, Simon the Tanner, Cornelius)

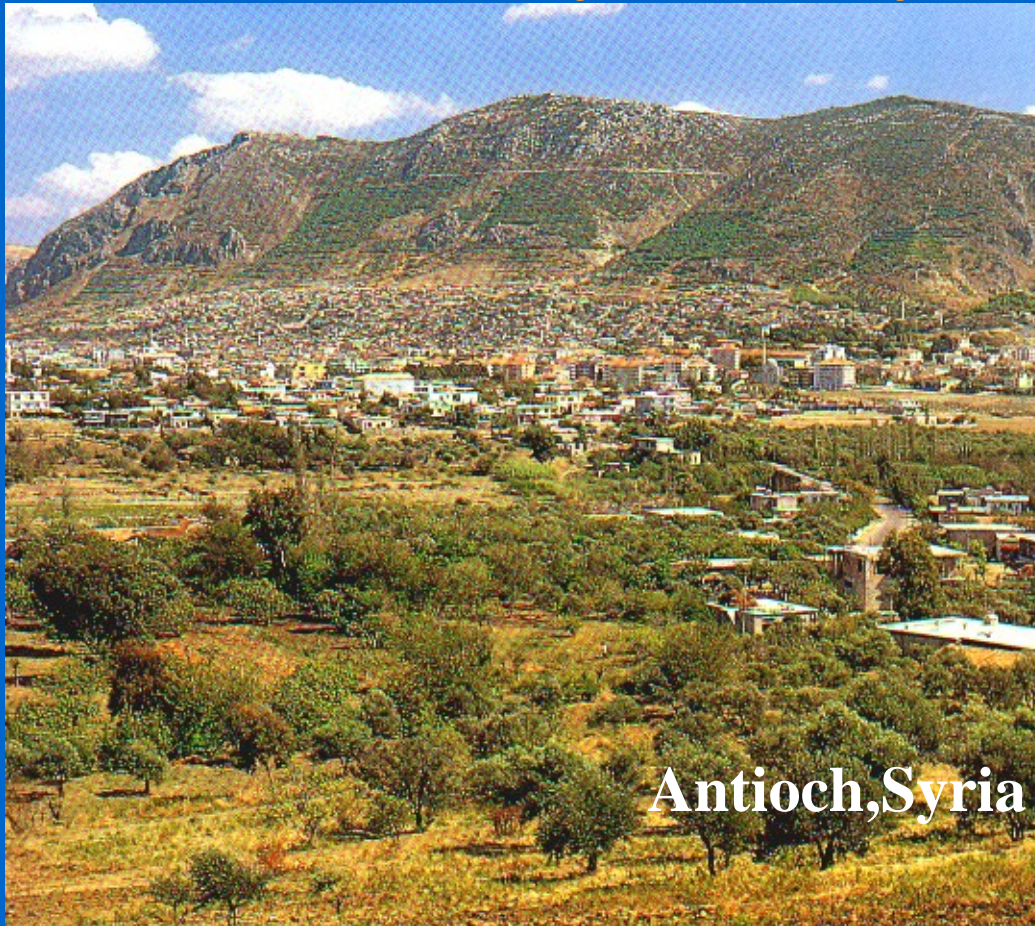
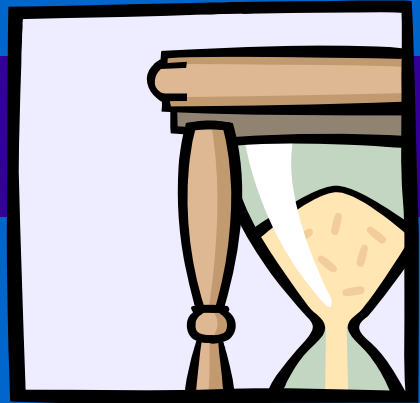
Acts Chronology: 33-48



- 14 silent years - (Gal 2:1)
- Paul & Barnabus 1st Journey

Acts Chronology: 47-48

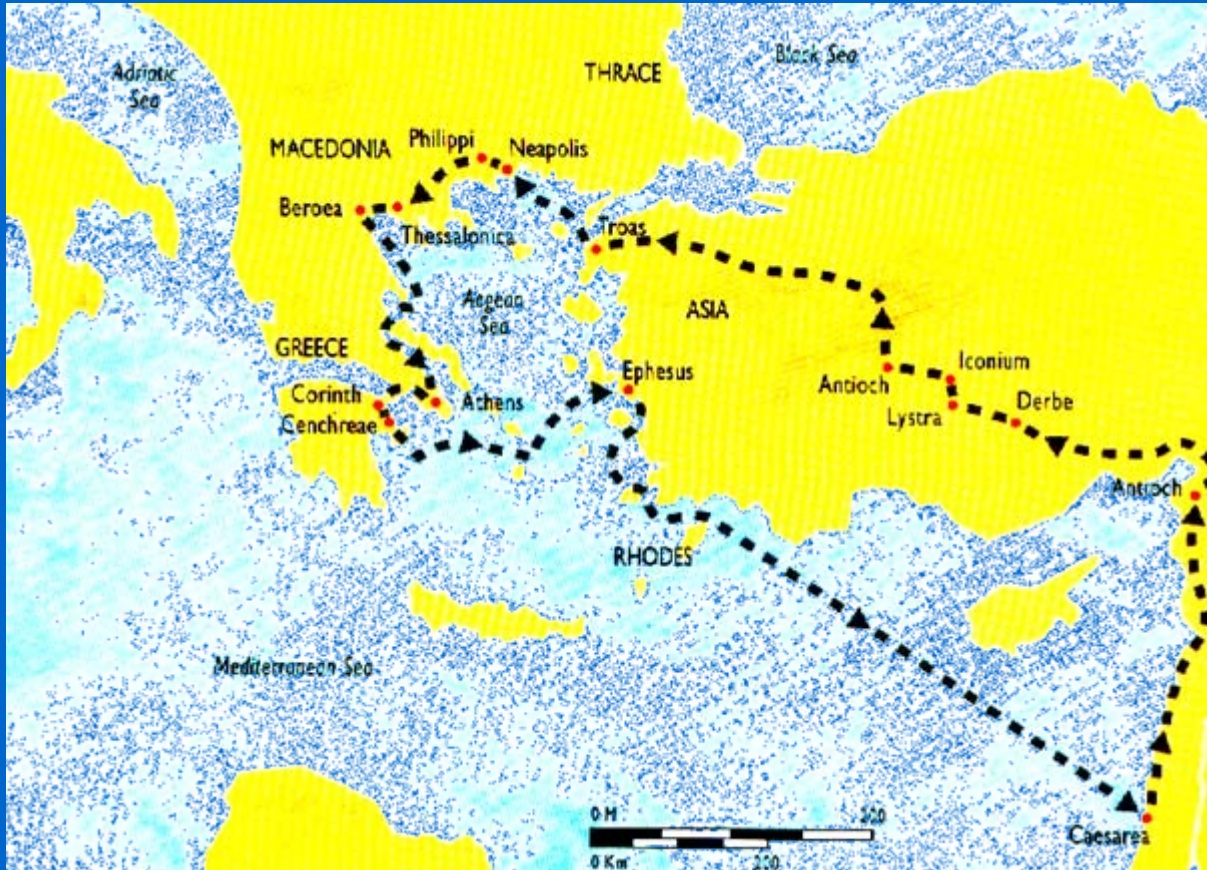
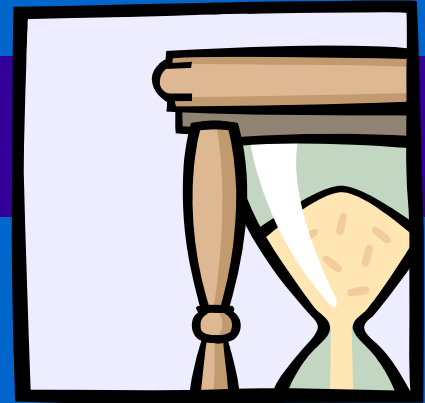
First Missionary Journey



Antioch, Syria

- Paul & Barnabus “set apart” & “sent out” (Ch.13)
- Turkey: Paul’s home
- From synagogue to Gentiles in the city
- Jerusalem Council

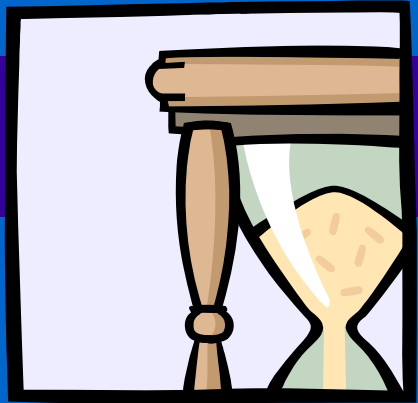
Acts Chronology: 49-55



Paul &
Silas
2nd & 3rd
Journeys

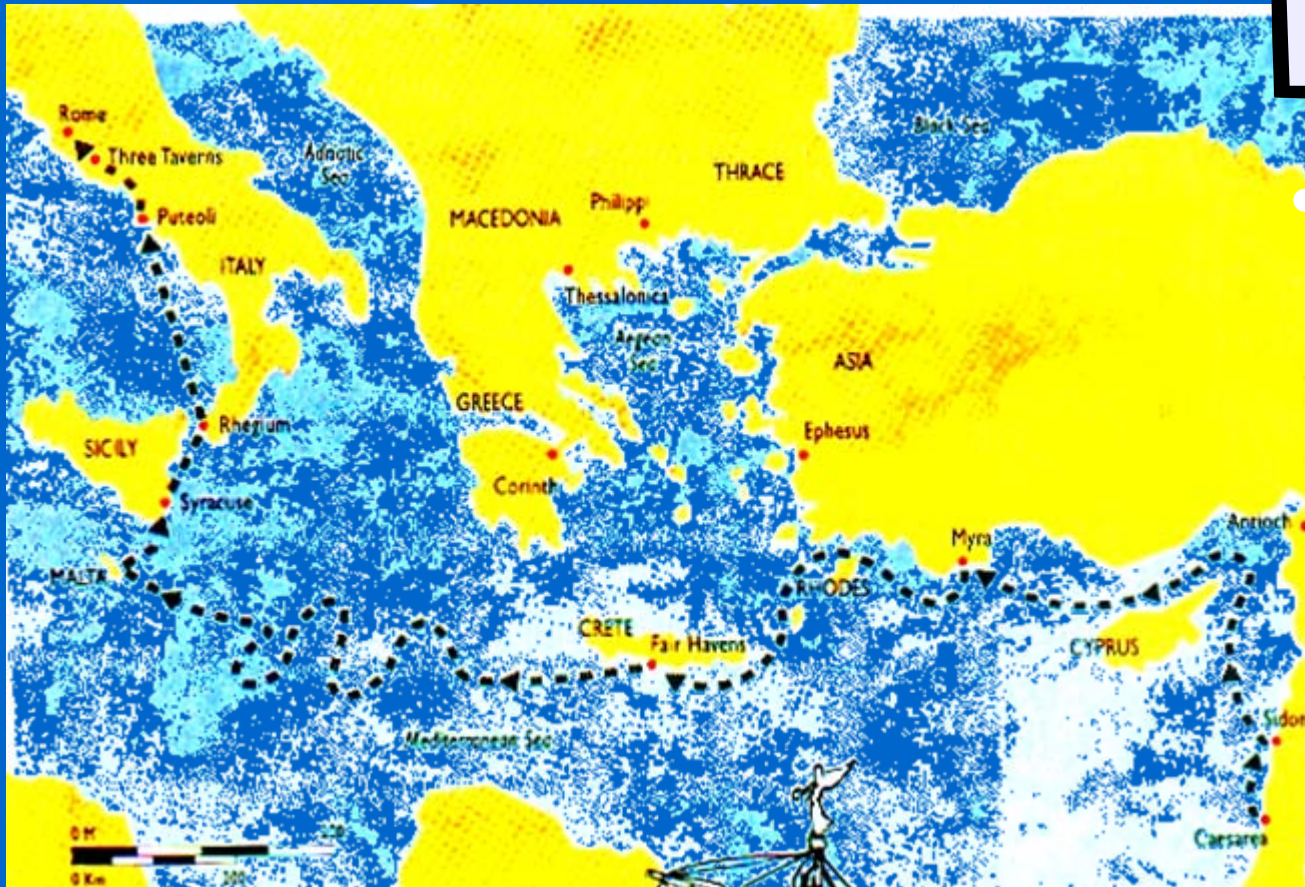
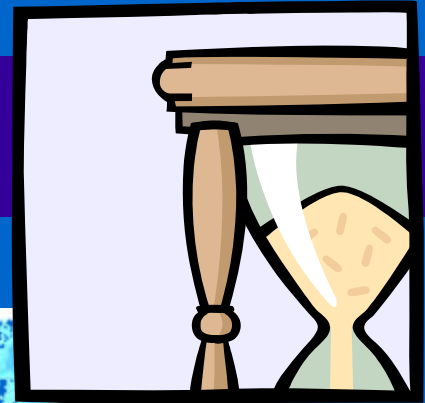
Acts Chronology: 49-55

2nd & 3rd Missionary Journeys



- Beyond Asia to Macedonia
- *I & II Thess.*
I & II Cor.
- Athens (Ch.17:16ff)
- Ephesus - school of Tyrannus

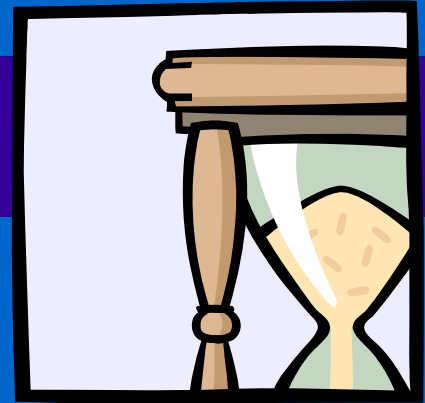
Acts Chronology: 56-60



• Paul & Luke

Caesarean prison & Journey to Rome

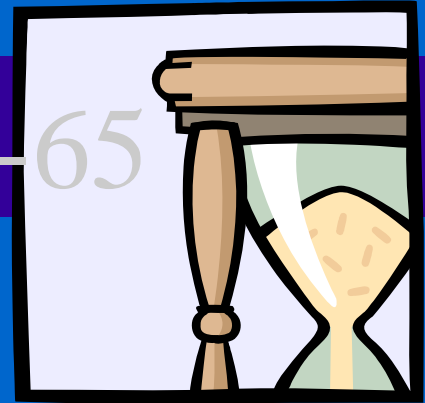
Acts Chronology: 59-60



Rome

- “Testify before Kings” (9:15)
- Nerve Center of World Mission
 - *Ephesians*,
 - *Philippians*,
 - *Colossians*

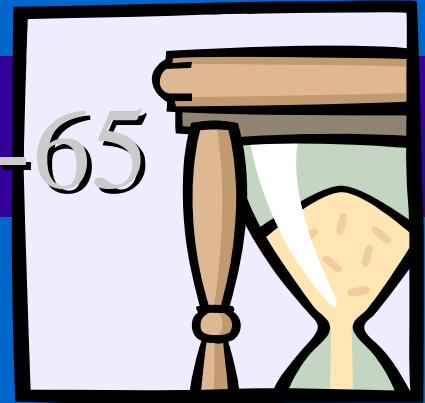
Post-Acts Chronology: 61-65



Paul's 4th Missionary Journey



Post-Acts Chronology: 61-65



Marseille, France



All Asia (Acts 19:10)

Europe (Rom. 15:19ff)

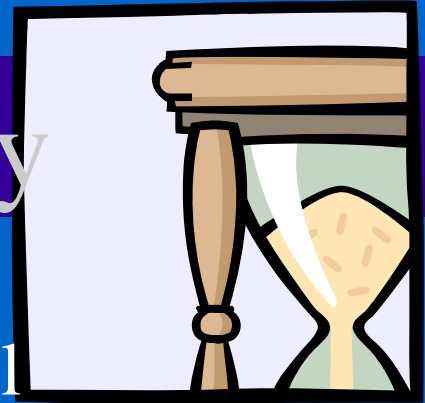
I&II Timothy, Titus,

I&II Peter

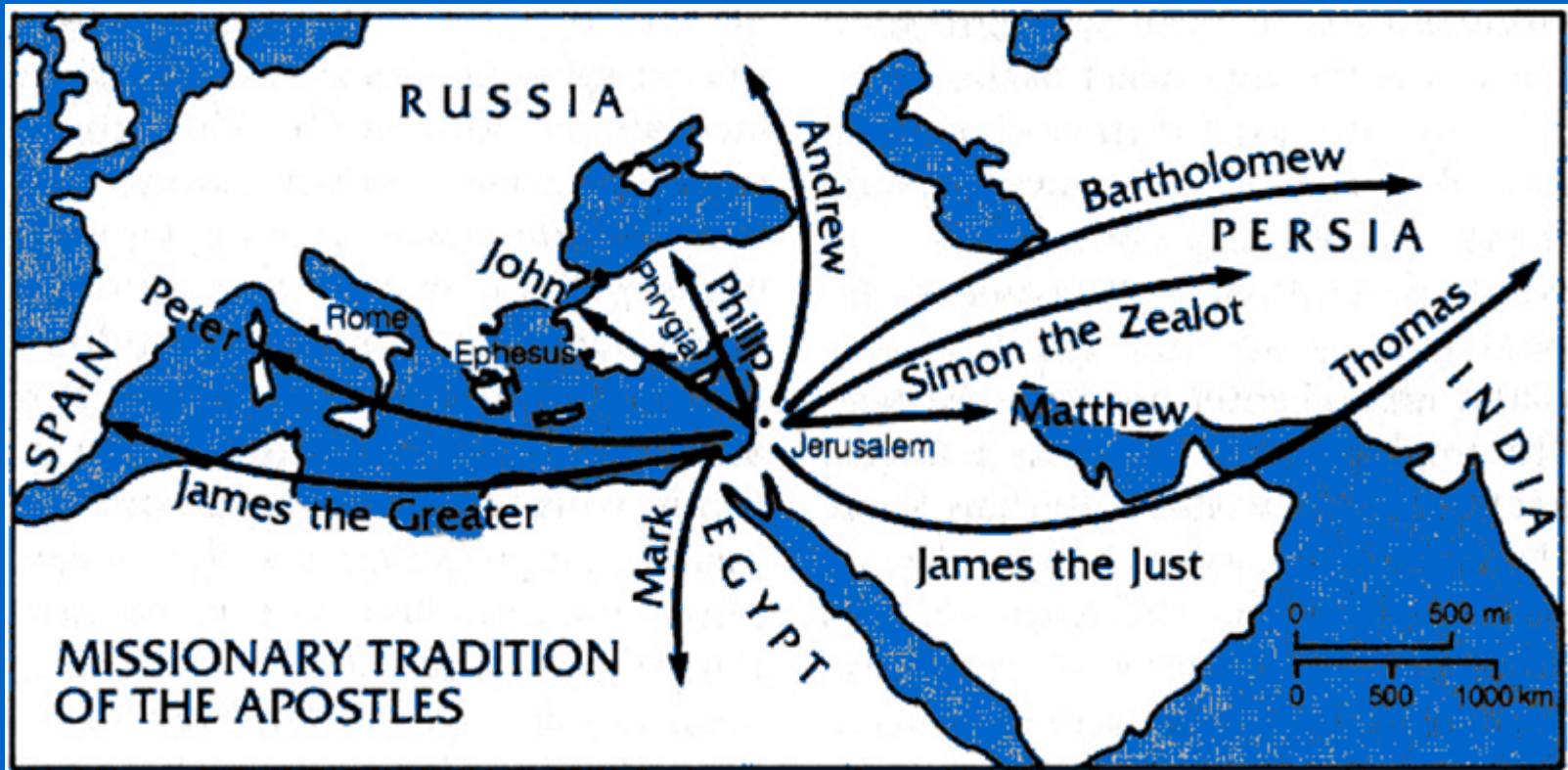
Paul & Peter

Martyred in Rome

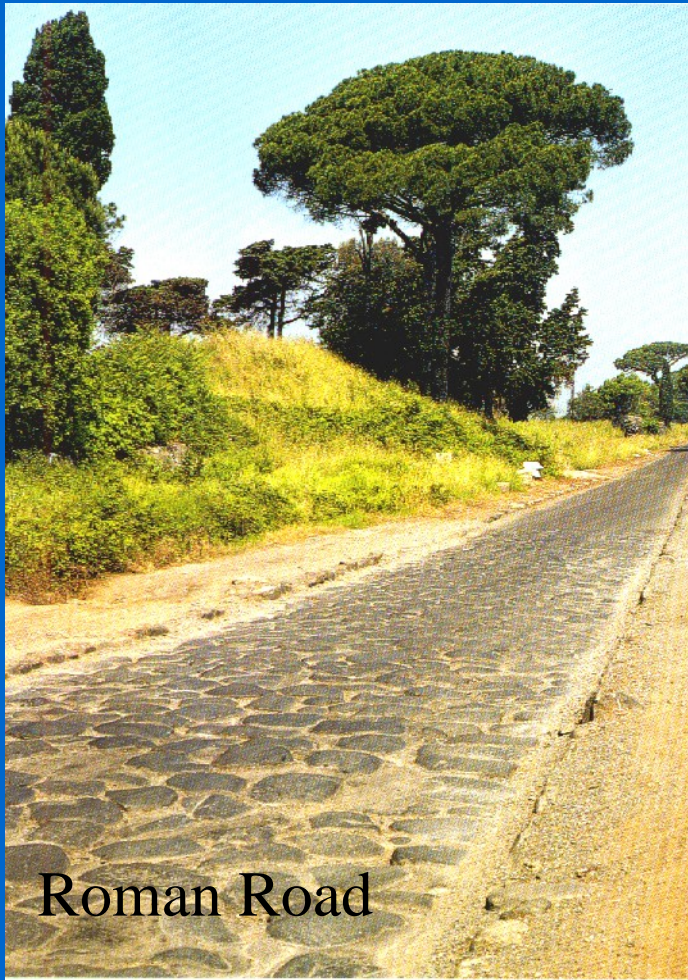
Book of Acts - Chronology



Phenomenal 1st Century Spread of Gospel



Book of Acts - Mission Strategy



Roman Road

- Cross-Cultural
- Witness
- Sodality
- Church-Planting
- Prayer
- Suffering
- Scripture
- Hope

Acts Strategy: Cultural Barriers

- Geography: Acts 16:9 – “Come over to Macedonia”
- Language: Acts 14:11-14 - Lyconia (Hermes & Zeus?)
- Ethnicity: Acts 16:20 - “Jews customs unlawful to Romans”
- Religion: Acts 19:24-28 Ephesian idol-makers
- Social Class: James 2:3 - rich & poor



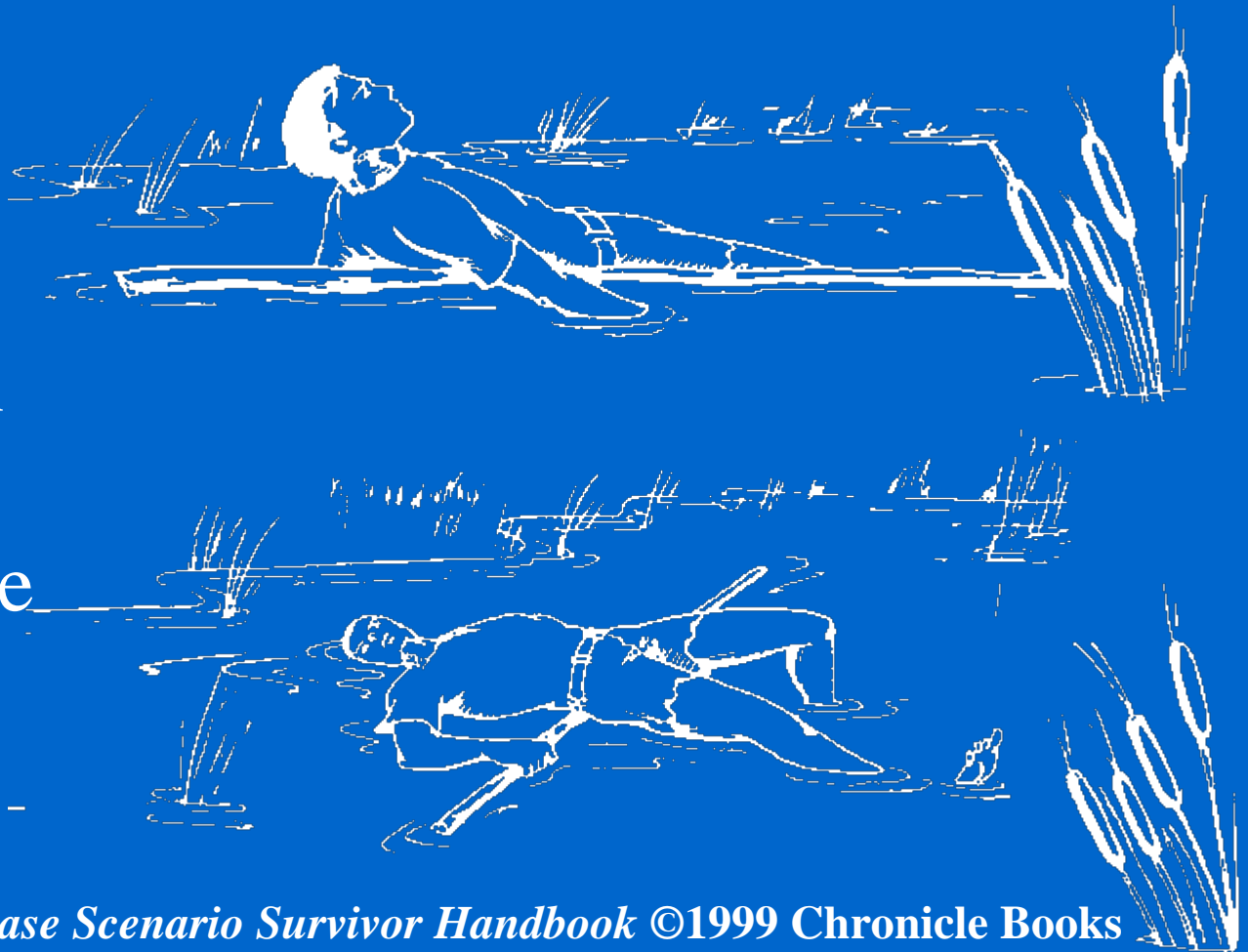
Acts Strategy: Cultural Issues

- Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:1-31)
- Law vs. Grace?
- Wall & Canyon
- Cultural vs. Essential (handout)



Book of Acts

You never know what you might encounter in taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth...



Acts Strategy: Witness



- Μαρτυρια ... Martyr
- Court witness, testimony.
- Public declaration
- Value of faith - worthy of suffering
- Two related words: Κηρυσσω = Preach
Ευαγγελλω = Evangelize (120 times in N.T.)

Acts Strategy: Witness

Preach / Evangelize



What was preached?

- 75% = story of Jesus
- 12% = calls to repentance
- 13% = other (Scripture, false gospel, greetings)
- In other words, the central theme of preaching in the Bible is Jesus Christ and His Gospel

Acts Strategy: Witness



Who was preached to?

- The direct object is the message, not the people.
- 60% of the time, the indirect object is a place, much of the rest of the time, it is a class of people.
- Implies little or no established relationship with the audience.
- No instance in the entire Bible of "preaching" the gospel to a group of believers!
- Preaching is directed at people who are not Christians = evangelism & missions!

Acts Strategy: Witness

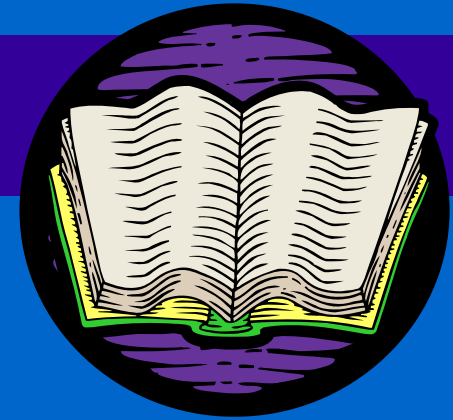
COMMON ELEMENTS:

Μαρτυρια, Κερυγμα, ευαγγελιον

- **Authority:** always comes from God
- **Messenger:** Usually an apostle or a prophet.
- **Content:** Person & Work of Jesus
- **Audience:** always non-Christians.
- **Response:** Repentance and faith
- **Result:** Salvation (freedom from of sin and Satan)
- **Effector of Result:** always done by God!
- **Contrasts:** 1) Greek wisdom and 2) Judaism.
- **Parallels:** the Prophets and the Apostles.



Acts Strategy: Scripture



- Gospels: *the message to communicate*
- Acts: *24x where message is recorded verbatim*
(25% of the book = sermon templates!)
- Romans: *preparation for European initiative*
(Glasser p. 135)

Acts Strategy - Sodality



- Organization of Missionaries
- Is the local church the only organization which should superintend missions?
- Paul's missionary training with Pharisees
- The challenge with my denomination

Acts Strategy - Sodality



Biblical Basis

1st SEND-OFF: Acts 13:1-4: at Antioch, in the church ... the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went ...

2nd SEND-OFF: Acts 15:40 "committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord"

Acts Strategy - Sodality



Historical Basis

	Sodality	Modality
Old Testament		
New Testament		
Middle Ages		
Modern Age		

Acts Strategy: Sodality



Example of Paul's Sodalities:

- Finances (I Thess. 2:9)
“working night and day so as not to be a burden”
- Authority (I Cor. 14:32)
“spirits of the prophets are subject to prophets”
- Membership (Acts 15:36-40)
self-chosen, not inclusive
- Purpose (Acts 14:21-23)
to plant churches, not to run them

Acts Strategy: Churches



- Goal: Church-Planting (not just evangelism)
- Matt. 16:18 - “I will build my church”
- Matt. 28:19-20 - “make disciples ... baptizing... teaching all that I commanded”
- Acts 2:38 - Peter “repent ... and be baptized”
- Acts 26:15-18 - Paul “receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.”

Acts Strategy: Prayer



- Acts 2:42: What did they pray about?
- Jesus' teaching on prayer and mission.
 - Matt. 6:10 “thy kingdom come”
 - Matt 5:44 “pray for them that persecute you”
 - Matt. 9:38 “thrust out laborers”
 - Mark 13:33 “watch & pray” KJV (*cf* 2 Pet 3:12ff)
 - Luke 22:40 “that ye enter not into temptation”
 - Matt. 17:18-21 Healing/Exorcism

Acts Strategy: Prayer



Paul's prayer guidelines

- I Tim 2: 1-8 “prayers ... be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority...”
- Col. 4: 2-4 “open a door... proclaim clearly”
- 2 Thess. 3:1-2 “that the word of the Lord may run and be glorified... and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and evil men”

Acts Strategy: Prayer

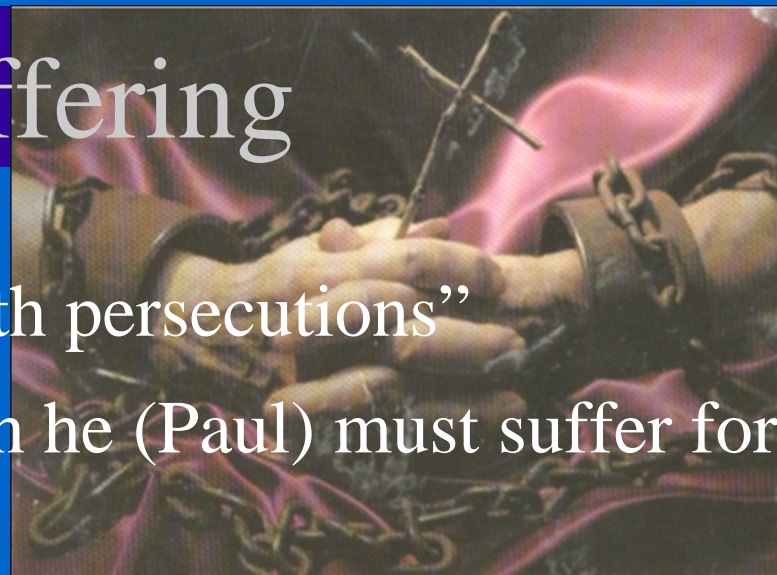


Speaking of
Prayer...

Let's do it now!

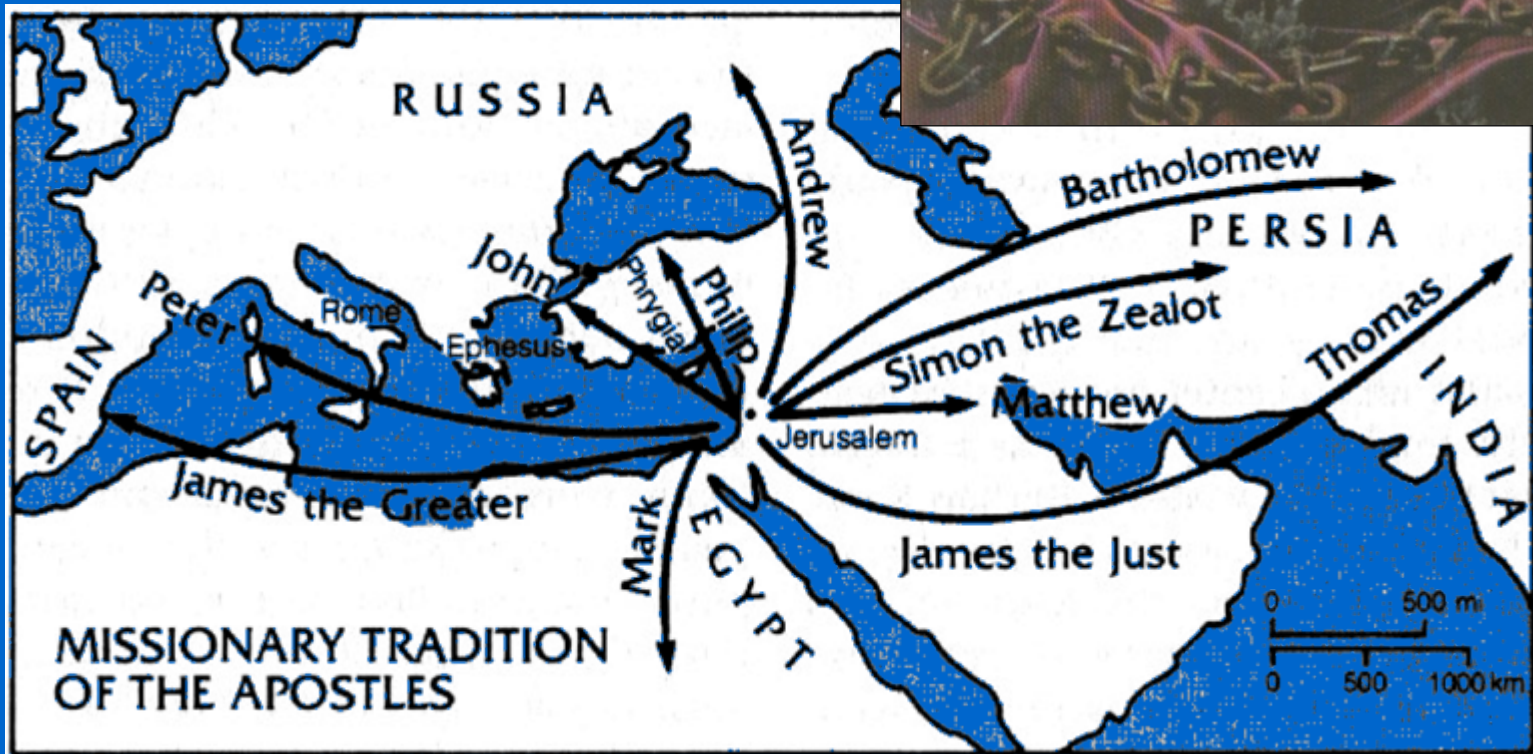
Acts Strategy - Suffering

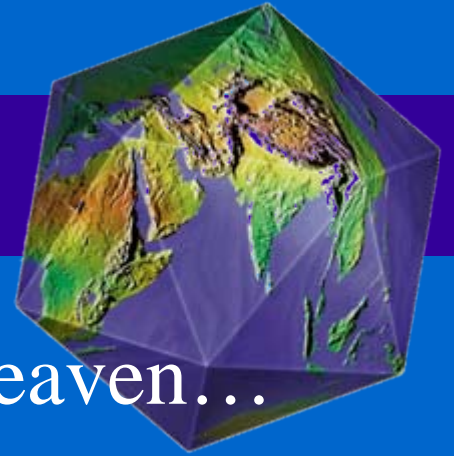
- Mark 10:29 - 30 “along with persecutions”
- Acts 9:13 - 16 - “how much he (Paul) must suffer for my Name’s sake”
- I Thess 3:2 - 3 - “we have been destined for this.”
- Col. 1:24 - 25 “filling up that which is lacking in regard to Christ’s afflictions”
- I Peter 4:12-19 “do not be surprised...”



Acts Strategy - Suffering

Foxe's Book of Martyrs

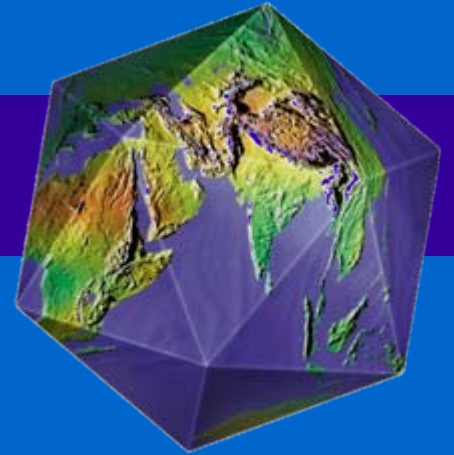




Acts Strategy: Hope

- Col. 1:3-6 “hope laid up for you in heaven... which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing”
- I Thess. 4:16-18 “meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord, therefore comfort one another with these words.”
- I Pet. 1:13 “fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus...”

Acts Strategy: Hope



- I John 2:28 “abide in Him so that when He appears we may have confidence...”
- Rev. 7:9 “behold a multitude , from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb...”

We must keep this vision alive. If Paul could saturate Asia in fewer than 30 years, what can the church today do in our lifetime?



The End

www.NateWilsonFamily.Net

