



## 7. Missions of Paul to Asia Minor and Greece (Acts 15:36–21:14)

*"For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands . . . hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord . . ." (17:23–27)*

## "Hark, All Ye Nations!" (hymn no. 264)

1. Hark, all ye nations!  
Hear heaven's voice  
Thru ev'ry land that all may rejoice!  
Angels of glory shout the refrain:  
Truth is restored again!

(Chorus)  
Oh, how glorious from the throne above  
Shines the gospel light of truth and love!  
Bright as the sun, this heavenly ray  
Lights ev'ry land today.

2. Searching in darkness, nations have wept;  
Watching for dawn, their vigil they've kept.  
All now rejoice; the long night is o'er.  
Truth is on earth once more!

3. Chosen by God to serve him below,  
To ev'ry land and people we'll go,  
Standing for truth with fervent accord,  
Teaching his holy word.

## Paul's "Second" Mission to the Gentiles

*TIMOTHY JOINS PAUL AND SILAS. PHILIPPI; PAUL AND SILAS IN PRISON; THESSALONIKA AND BEREA. ATHENS; PAUL'S SPEECH ON THE UNKNOWN GOD. 18 MONTHS IN CORINTH. MINISTRY OF APOLLOS.*

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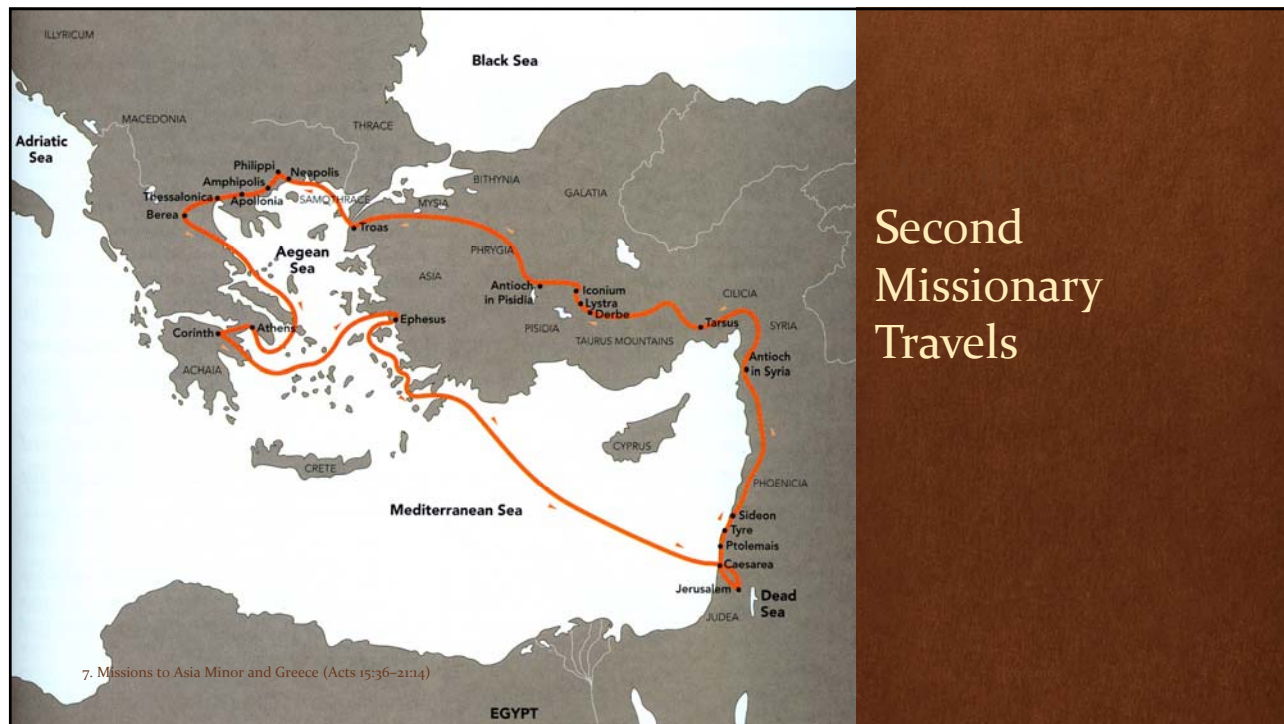
### Itinerary of the Second Mission (Acts 16:1–18:28)

- Paul and Barnabas Separate (15:36–39)
- Paul and **Silas** Strengthen the Churches in Syria and Cilicia (15:40–41)
- **Timothy** Joins Paul and Silas (16:1–5)
- Paul travels through Asia Minor to Troas (16:6–10)
  - **Paul's Vision of the Man in Macedonia** (16:9–10)
  - **First "we" passage** (16:10); possible reasons include stylistic technique for vividness, directly citing a source such as someone's travel diary, Luke himself joined the party
- **Philippi** (16:11–40)
- Uproar in **Thessalonika** (17:1–9)
- Some Success in **Berea** (17:10–14)
- **Athens** (17:16–34)
- **Corinth** (18:1–18a)
- Final Travels of the Second Mission (18:18b–22)
  - Corinth–Ephesus–Caesarea–Jerusalem–Antioch

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## Second Missionary Travels

### Timothy Joins Paul and Silas (16:1–5)

- **Timothy** is known from both Acts and the letters of Paul
- Converted by Paul in **Lystra** during the First Missionary Journey c. A.D. 46
  - **Jewish mother and Greek (Gentile) father, hence Jewish**
    - Apparently not observant
    - **Paul circumcised him** “because of the Jews that were in those quarters (16:1–3)”
- With Paul on “Second” Missionary Journey of c. A.D. 49–52
- **Later served as Paul’s representative and letter carrier**
  - Sent as messenger to Thessalonica, Corinth, and Ephesus
- **Seems to have been presided over the church in Ephesus**



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## Philippi (16:11–40)

- **Chief city of Macedonia**
  - Founded by, and named after, the famous king of Macedonia, Philip II
- **In this period, a Roman colony**
  - Became one of the chief cities of the Roman provinces of Macedonia
  - On the *Via Egnatia*, and important Roman highway across the Balkans
  - Sometimes colonies were settlements of Roman veterans; a **self-governing status (with citizenship) could also be accorded to certain privileged provincial cities**
- There was not a synagogue in Philippi and perhaps not enough Jewish males for a *minyan* or legal prayer group (10 or more)—**the God-fearers gathered by a river to pray**
- **Video clip: [Longer history of Philippi](#)** (can fast forward to about halfway through the clip to get to the Christian history starting with Paul and Silas)

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## Conversion of Lydia and Her Household (16:11–15)

- “And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: **whose heart the Lord opened**, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.” (16:14)
  - **Lydia**, a wealthy (seller of purple dye and cloth) and independent woman, as was possible under Roman law
  - As with Cornelius, when the head of a **“household”** (Greek *oikos*, Latin *domus*) converts, **so do all the family, slaves, dependants, and clients in it**
- **[Baptism of Lydia](#)** video clip

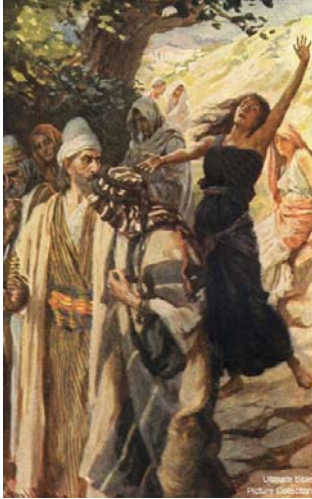


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## Paul Casts Out a Spirit of Divination (16:16–18)



- *Parallel to Christ's exorcisms—the false spirit cries out Paul's identity*
- Some manuscripts have “show to you” not “show to us,” and in all versions there is no definite article “the” before “salvation”
- See the NRSV “These men are slaves of the Most High God, **who proclaim to you a way** of salvation.” → she was *not including herself in the injunction* and was simply claiming that this was *another way to salvation, perhaps trying to gain business for herself from the apostles' popularity*

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## Paul and Silas in Prison (16:19–40)



- Opponents of Paul and Silas Have Them Beaten, Imprisoned, and Put in Stocks (16:19–24)
  - *Paul and Silas Miraculously Freed* (16:25–28)
- **Prison Guard Converted with His Household** (16:29–34)
  - “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **thou shalt be saved**, and thy house.” (16:31)
- Paul and Silas Confront the Philippian Magistrates (16:35–38)
  - “But Paul said unto them, **They have beaten us openly uncondemned, being Romans, and have cast us into prison . . .**” (16:37)
- Paul and Silas Released and Comforted (16:39–40)

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## Chased out of Town, Twice

- **Uproar in Thessalonika** (17:1-9)
  - Paul teaches and testifies in the synagogue for three Sabbaths
  - God-fearers and “chief women” believe, but **some Jews start a riot**
- **Some Success in Berea** (17:10-14)
  - **Thessalonian Jews follow and stir up the people**
  - Video clip: [Paul memorial at Berea](#)

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## Athens (17:16-34)

- **Conditions in Athens** (17:16-19)
  - “While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that **the city was full of idols.**” (17:16 NIV)
  - “certain philosophers of the Epicureans and of the Stoics.” (17:18)
- **Paul at the Areopagus Council** (17:20-33)
  - Originally a governmental council (like a Senate), under the Romans **the Areopagus** (named for where it met, the Hill of Ares or “Mars’ Hill”) was a civic organization of prominent citizens and only had authority over morality and religion
- **Paul’s Speech about the Unknown God** (17:22-31)
  - Video clip: [Paul on the Areopagus](#)

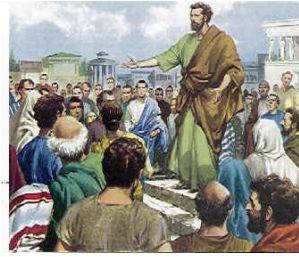


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- “Men of Athens! I see that in every way **you are very religious**. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: **TO AN UNKNOWN GOD**. *Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.* (18:23-24 NIV; KJV “too superstitious”)
- “And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and **hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation**” (16:26)
- “For ‘**In him we live and move and have our being**’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘**For we too are his offspring.**’” (17:28 NRSV)
  - “**In him we live and move . . .**” a quote from Epimenides Cretica, c. 600 B.C.
  - “**For we too are his offspring.**” [quote from Aratus Phaenomena, c. 325-240. B.C.]”



### Paul’s Speech about the Unknown God (17:22–31)

- “**At this mention of rising from the dead, some of them burst out laughing; others said, ‘We would like to hear you talk about this another time.’**” (17:32 NJB)
  - Epicureans did not believe in an afterlife let alone a resurrection
- **Some Success at Athens (17:34)**
  - Dionysius, Damaris, and others believe

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### First Days in Corinth (18:1–6)

- **Turning to the Gentiles there (18:1–6)**
- **Aquila and Priscilla from Rome**
  - Jews who had become Christians earlier at Rome (who taught/converted them?)
  - The emperor Claudius (A.D. 41–54) expelled the Jews from the city of Rome because of disturbances (Suet. Claudius 25; fighting over Christ?)
  - Like Paul they are “tentmakers” (leather workers; see 18:3)
- First prominent converts: **Justus (God-fearer)**, **Crispus (Jew)**
- Silas and Timothy join Paul in Corinth

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## Continued Preaching in Corinth

- **Paul Preaches in Corinth for 18 Months (18:7–11)**
  - “And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.” (18:11; part of the reason Paul needed to work!)
- **Paul before Gallio (18:12–17)**
  - Brother of the famous Roman philosopher and senator Seneca
  - An inscription dates his governorship to AD 51–52
  - *Video clip:* [Paul in Corinth](#) (rather windy)
- Paul Tarries in Corinth (18:18a)



*The Gallio Inscription, dating the tenure of Gallio as governor in Corinth*

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## Ministry of Apollos (18:24–28)

- Paul stopped at Ephesus on his return trip to Caesarea and, “reasoning with the Jews,” seems to have established a church there (19:19–21)
- **Aquila and Priscilla**, Paul’s fellow tent makers and gospel laborers in Corinth stayed with the church in Ephesus
  - “And a certain Jew named **Apollos**, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, *and* mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.” (18:24–25)
  - “And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom *when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.*” (18:26)
  - “For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, *proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.*” (18:28 NIV)

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## Paul's "Third" Mission to the Gentiles

*EPHESUS, MACEDONIA, GREECE, AND BACK TO ASIA; THE RAISING OF EUTHYCHUS; FAREWELL. RETURN TO CAESAREA AND PROPHECY OF AGABUS.*

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### Itinerary of the Third Mission (18:23, 19:1–21:14)



7. Missions to Asia Minor and Greece (Acts 15:36–21:14)

- Third Mission Begins (18:23): Antioch to Ephesus
- **Ephesus and Asia** (19:1–41)
- Final Stages of Third Mission (20:1–38)
- Return to **Caesarea** (21:1–14)

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## Paul in Ephesus

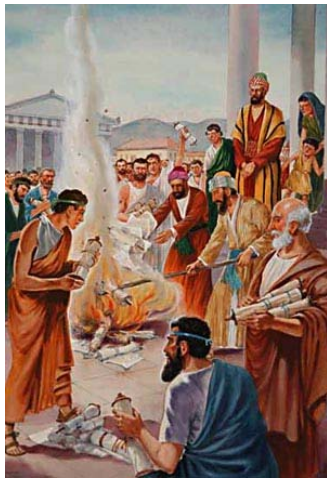
- **An Ephesian Pentecost (19:1-7)**
  - “When they heard this, **they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus**. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, *the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.*”
- **2 Years in Asia (19:8-10)**

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## Ephesus and Asia (19:1-41)



- **Miracles Wrought by Paul (19:11-12)**
  - “And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that *from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.*”
- **The Sons of Sceva (19:13-16)**
  - “And the evil spirit answered and said, ‘Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?’” (19:15)
- **Many Converted and Reject Their Pagan Ways (19:17-20)**
- Paul’s Plans (19:21-22)

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## Riot in Ephesus (19:23-41)

- “And when they heard *these sayings*, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, **Great is Diana of the Ephesians. And the whole city was filled with confusion . . .**” (19:28-29)
  - Ephesus had a temple of Artemis (Diana) that was one of the wonders of the ancient world
  - *Video clip: [Paul in the Theater of Ephesus](#)*



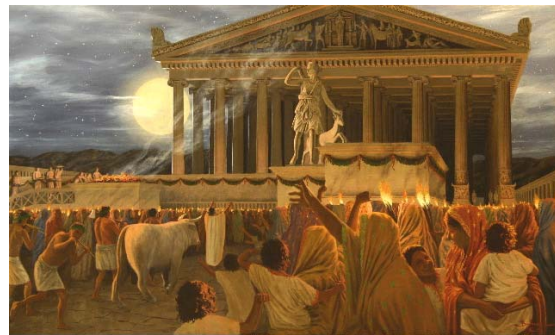
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## Ephesus and Artemis

“Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines [of] Diana...called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth... Paul has persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands: So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at naught; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed.” (Acts 19:24-27)



*Nighttime sacrifice to Ephesian Artemis. Original Painting by Balage Balogh.*

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## Final Stages of Third Mission (20:1-38)



Site of ancient Troas, where Paul revived Eutychus from death

- Tour through Macedonia and Greece (20:1-6)
- **Troas**
  - **Eutychus Revived in Troas (20:7-12)**
    - *Greek name meaning "Lucky!"*
- Return through Asia (20:13-16)

## Farewell Counsel to the Ephesian Elders (20:17-38)

- “For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. **Also of your own selves shall men arise speaking perverse things**, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember.” (20:29-31)
  - Wolves (contrast with the herd dogs) enter from the outside
  - **Men arise from within** the church “speaking perverse things”
    - The apostasy begins from *within* (*apostasia* means “rebellion,” literally “standing away from”)
    - The Greek means “**distorting the truth**” (NRSV)



## Return to Caesarea (21:1–14)

- Sea Voyage to the Holy Land
- In the house of Philip the Evangelists (21:8–14)
  - **Philip's Daughters Prophecy** (21:9, about Paul?)
  - **Prophecy of Agabus about Paul** (21:10–14)
    - “While we were staying there for several days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. He came to us and took Paul's belt, bound his own feet and hands with it, and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit, ***This is the way the Jews in Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.***” (21:10–11 NRSV)
    - “Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for **I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.**” (21:13)