

NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY

HISTORY

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

LESSON 17

LESSON OUTLINE

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THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

I. THE CHURCH AT ANTIOCH IN SYRIA

READ ACTS 11:19-30; 12:25 - 13:3.

When the believers were scattered from Jerusalem, some went to Antioch in Syria. The believers went to Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch in Syria. The believers preached only to the Jews. Some of the believers from Cyprus and Cyrene told the Greek people at Antioch about Jesus. Many of these Greek people believed in Jesus Christ.

The Church at Jerusalem heard that many believed at Antioch in Syria. They sent Barnabas to Antioch to help the believers. Barnabas took time to look for Saul. He found him in Tarsus and brought him back to Antioch to help him with the church there.

Barnabas and Saul taught the believers for a whole year. The church grew. Also the believers were strong in faith. They were called Christians first in Antioch.

CHRIST-ANS
- MEANS -
CHRIST LIKE
- OR -
LIKE CHRIST

The Christians in Antioch listened to the Holy Spirit. There were several preachers in this church.

The Holy Spirit told the Christians:

“Let Barnabas and Saul be given to Me for the work I have called them to.” Acts 13:2. (N.L.T.)

The Christians fasted, prayed, and laid their hands on Barnabas and Saul. Then they sent them out as missionaries.

II. PAUL’S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

READ ACTS 13:4 - 15:35.

A. Cyprus, Acts 13:4-12.

Barnabas, Saul and John Mark went to the island of Cyprus. They found a man called Sergius Paulus. This man was interested in the Good News. Another man, Elymas, was a witch doctor. He was with Sergius Paulus. He tried to keep Sergius Paulus from believing in Jesus Christ. God made the witch doctor go blind for a while. Sergius Paulus saw what happened. He believed in Jesus Christ.

B. Perga in Pamphylia, Acts 13:13.

Saul is called Paul from here on. Paul is the Latin name for Saul. (Latin is the language of the Roman people.)

John Mark left Paul and Barnabas at Perga. He went home.

C. Antioch in Pisidia, Acts 13:14-51.

This Antioch is in Pisidia.

When Paul came to Antioch he went to the synagogue. Paul preached to the Jews. He preached the same as Peter and Stephen had preached. Paul began with the Old Testament and showed them that Jesus was the Messiah. Paul told them that Jesus was killed and that He rose from the dead.



Then he said,

“Men and brothers, listen to this. You may be forgiven of your sins by this One I am telling you about. Everyone who puts his trust in Christ will be made right with God. You will be made free from those things the Law of Moses could not make you free from.” Acts 13:38,39. (N.L.T.)

The Gentiles asked Paul to preach the same message to them the next Sabbath. Many people came the next Sabbath to hear.

The Jewish leaders were jealous. They talked against Paul.

Paul told the Jews if they did not want the Gospel, he was going to preach it to the Gentiles. This made the Jewish leaders very angry. They made it very hard for Paul. Paul had to leave Antioch in Pisidia.

Many Gentiles believed in Jesus Christ. Some Jews believed in Jesus Christ. A church was started in Antioch in Pisidia.

D. Iconium, Acts 13:51 - 14:5.

Paul and Barnabas went to Iconium.

Many Jews and many Greeks of Iconium believed in Jesus Christ. A church was started in Iconium.

Those who did not believe made it very hard for Paul and Barnabas. Paul and Barnabas had to leave Iconium.

E. Lystra, Acts 14:6-20.

Paul and Barnabas went to Lystra. Paul healed a lame man. The people thought Paul and Barnabas were gods. Paul and Barnabas had a hard time keeping

the people from worshipping them. They told the people about Jesus Christ. Some of the people believed in Jesus Christ.

Some Jews from Antioch in Pisidia and Iconium came to Lystra. They came to make trouble for Paul and Barnabas. They talked the people into turning against Paul. The people took Paul outside the city and stoned him. They thought he was dead. Maybe Paul was dead, maybe he was not dead. God raised him up again. Paul went back into the city. He encouraged the new Christians. Paul had no time to feel sorry for himself. No matter what happened, he kept on preaching the Gospel.

F. Derbe, Acts 14:20.

Paul and Barnabas went to Derbe.

A church was started at Derbe. Paul and Barnabas preached and taught the Christians at Derbe.

G. Home to Antioch, Acts 14:21 - 15:35.

Paul and Barnabas went back through the cities they had first visited. Paul helped the Christians choose their leaders. He also helped them to know more about their faith in Christ, Acts 14:21-25.

Paul and Barnabas returned to their church in Antioch in Syria. They told the Christians how the Lord had blessed them. They told about the new churches which had started. This made the Christians at Antioch very happy, Acts 14:27-28.

A problem came up in Antioch. Some Jewish Christians came from Jerusalem to Antioch. These Jewish Christians taught that a person had to be circumcised and had to keep the Jewish ceremonial laws to be a Christian. Paul taught they just needed to believe in Jesus Christ to be Christians. The Christians in Antioch could not understand these two ways of teaching.

The Christians at Antioch sent Paul, Barnabas and some other men to Jerusalem. These men were to ask the apostles which teaching was right.

In the meeting at Jerusalem, the Church decided the Gentiles need not be circumcised, and the Gentiles did not have to keep the Jewish ceremonial laws. The Church decided on these things for the Gentiles:

"You are to keep away from everything that is given to gods. Do not eat blood or meat from animals that have been killed in ways against the Law. Keep away

from sex sins. If you keep yourselves free from these things you will do well.”
Acts 15:29. (N.L.T.)

This message brought great joy to the Christians in Antioch and to all the Gentile believers.

III. PAUL’S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

READ ACTS 15:36 - 18:22.

The second missionary journey did not start very well. Paul and Barnabas had an argument over John Mark. John Mark had left them on the first missionary journey. Barnabas wanted to take him again. Paul did not want to take John Mark. They went different ways. Barnabas took John Mark and went to Cyprus. Paul took Silas and went on his journey to Lystra, Acts 15:36-40.

A. Overland to Lystra, Acts 15:41 - 16:1.

Paul and Silas went by land through the country of Syria and Cilicia to Derbe. From Derbe they went to Lystra.

B. Lystra, Acts 16:1-5.

At Lystra Paul found Timothy. Timothy had a Jewish mother and a Greek father. Paul circumcised Timothy because his mother was Jewish. Timothy went along with Paul and Silas as a worker.

C. Overland to Troas, Acts 16:6-8.

Paul visited the church at Iconium. He tried to go into Asia, but the Holy Spirit did not let him. Then Paul tried to go to Bithynia, and the Holy Spirit did not let him. Therefore Paul went to Troas.

D. Troas, Acts 16:8-10.

While Paul was at Troas, he had a vision. In the vision a man from Macedonia came to ask Paul to come to Macedonia. (This is sometimes called the Macedonian call. It means that a person is called to preach the Gospel in another country.) Paul obeyed this call. He went right away. Luke joined Paul at Troas. Now there was quite a group - Paul, Silas, Luke and Timothy. All these men went to Macedonia.

E. Philippi, Acts 16:1-40.

Paul and the men with him came to Philippi.

Paul did not find a synagogue in Philippi. Philippi was a Roman town. Paul went to the river and found some women who were praying. He told the women about Jesus Christ. Lydia believed in Jesus Christ. She was a follower of the Jewish religion. She was a business woman and had much money.

A girl followed Paul for several days. This girl had a spirit in her. The spirit told the girl what would happen in time to come. This spirit made the girl bother Paul and his friends. Some men used the girl to make money. Paul sent this spirit out of the girl. After the spirit was sent out of the girl she could not tell what was going to happen in time to come. This made the men angry.

These men stirred up trouble for Paul. Paul was beaten. Paul and Silas were put into prison. God sent an earthquake to open the prison.

The jailor, (the man who guarded the prison), wanted to kill himself when he saw the prison door open. Paul called to him. Paul told him that all the prisoners were there. That night the jailor believed in Jesus Christ.



Paul was a Roman citizen. He had been beaten without a trial. When the rulers heard Paul was a Roman citizen, they were scared. They let Paul out of prison. They asked Paul to leave Philippi.

A church was started in Philippi.

F. Thessalonica, Acts 17:1-9.

Paul and the men with him went to Thessalonica. Paul preached in the synagogue first. Some of the Jews believed in Jesus Christ. Many Greeks believed in Jesus Christ.

The Jews who did not believe became jealous. They made trouble for Paul. The Christians sent Paul and Silas away at night. A church was started in Thessalonica.

G. Berea, Acts 17:10-14.

The people at Berea were anxious to know if Paul preached what the Old Testament said. They spent much time studying the Word of God. Many people believed in Jesus Christ. A church was started in Berea.

Some Jews from Thessalonica came to Berea to make trouble for Paul . Paul had to leave. Timothy and Silas stayed longer in Berea to help the Christians.

H. Athens, Acts 17:15-34.

Paul went to Athens. The people at Athens wanted to know new things all the time. They had many gods. They did not believe in the resurrection.

Paul had a chance to speak to the people of Athens in a meeting on Mars' Hill. Some people laughed when he spoke about the resurrection. Only a few people in Athens believed in Jesus Christ.

I. Corinth, Acts 18:1-18.

Paul went to Corinth.

At Corinth Paul found Aquilla and Priscilla. Aquilla and Priscilla were tent makers. Paul stayed with them. Silas and Timothy came to join Paul at Corinth.

Paul preached about Jesus Christ to the people. Only a few of the Jews believed in Jesus Christ. The Gentiles believed in Jesus Christ. A church was started in Corinth.



Paul stayed a year and a half preaching the Gospel. Some Jews tried to make trouble for Paul. Gallio, the ruler, did not help these Jews.

Paul wrote two letters to Thessalonica from Corinth (1 and 2 Thessalonians).

J. Back to Antioch in Syria, Acts 18:19-22.

Paul took Priscilla and Aquilla with him to Ephesus. Paul talked to the Jews at Ephesus and went on his way. He left Priscilla and Aquilla in Ephesus.

Paul stopped at Caesarea. Then he went to Jerusalem. He wanted to keep a

feast at Jerusalem.

From Jerusalem Paul went back to Antioch in Syria.

IV. PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY

A. Galatia and Phrygia, Acts 18:23-28.

Paul went to visit all the churches in Galatia and Phrygia. He encouraged all the Christians in these churches.

B. Ephesus, Acts 19:1-41.

Apollos from Alexandria had visited in Ephesus. He had preached about Jesus Christ to the people. However, Apollos did not know about the Holy Spirit and the last part of the life of Jesus on earth. Aquilla and Priscilla helped him to understand more about the Gospel.

When Paul came to Ephesus, he talked to the believers. Paul told them about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit came on the believers.

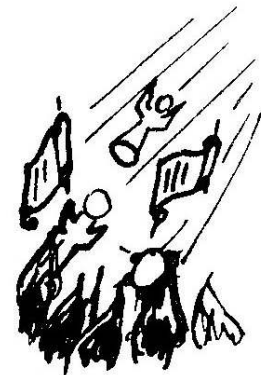
Paul preached in the synagogues for about three months. Some Jews believed, but many did not. Then Paul went to the Gentiles. Paul stayed in Ephesus more than two years, Acts 19:10. Many people around Ephesus heard the Gospel.

The people of Ephesus worshipped the goddess Diana. The temple of Diana was there. There were many who made images of Diana and sold them.

The Christians at Ephesus burned their idols and the books about the magic.

The silversmiths were losing money because of the Christians. The silversmiths made trouble for Paul and the Christians. However, the town leaders told the silversmiths to go to court and get things settled by law.

Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians)



while he was at Ephesus.

After this, Paul left Ephesus.

C. Macedonia and Greece, Acts 20:1-5.

Paul spent three months in Macedonia and Greece. He visited the churches in this area.

Paul wrote another letter to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians) while he was in Macedonia. Soon after this Paul went to Corinth.

When Paul was in Corinth, he wrote a letter to the Romans (Romans).

D. Troas, Acts 20:6-12.

Paul came back to Philippi from Corinth.

From Philippi in Macedonia Paul went to Troas. Paul wanted to be there only a short time. He spoke to the Christians till late that night. A young fellow was sitting in a window. They were on the third floor of the house. The young fellow went to sleep and fell to the ground. He seemed to be dead, but Paul raised him up again.

E. Jerusalem, Acts 20:12 - 21:16.

Paul wanted to be in Jerusalem in time for the feast of Pentecost. He took a ship and sailed most of the way. He had several stops to make, but it was quicker than walking overland.

1. Miletus.

Miletus was close to Ephesus. Paul asked the leaders from the churches at Ephesus to meet him in Miletus. Paul said good-bye to the men and women who came. They were sad, because Paul did not think he would see them again.

2. Tyre.

Some of the Christians at Tyre warned Paul not to go to Jerusalem.

3. Caesarea.

At Caesarea Paul was warned again not to go to Jerusalem. However, Paul said he would go to Jerusalem. He was willing to die for Jesus Christ at Jerusalem if God wanted it.

V. PAUL AT JERUSALEM

READ ACTS 21:17 - 23:32.

Paul went to the Christians in Jerusalem. They were glad to see him. Some of the Christians felt that Paul should show the Jewish Christians he kept the Jewish law because he was a Jew. Paul did as they told him to do.

Paul went into the temple with some other Jews. Some Jews from Asia saw Paul. They thought he had brought some Gentiles into the temple. Gentiles were not allowed to go into the temple.

These Jews from Asia talked others into helping them make trouble for Paul. They took Paul and wanted to kill him. They stirred up all the people. The Roman soldiers heard about the fight. They went and took Paul away from the people. The soldiers had to carry Paul on their shoulders because the people really wanted to kill him. Paul was brought to the steps of the castle.

Paul asked if he could speak to the people. The Roman soldiers thought Paul was a real troublemaker. They were surprised that Paul could speak Greek. They let Paul speak in Hebrew. Paul told the people how he used to think as they were thinking. He had persecuted the Christians at one time. Some of the men standing there knew about it. Then Paul told how Jesus had met him on his way to Damascus. He told them how he believed in Jesus. The people listened until Paul said that God sent him to the Gentiles.

Once more the Jews tried to get to Paul. The soldiers protected Paul in the castle. The captain wanted to know what Paul had done to make the Jews angry. He was going to beat Paul. But when the captain found that Paul was a Roman citizen, he did not beat him.

Next day, Paul was brought before the Sanhedrin. This time Paul saw that some of the Jews believed in the resurrection of the dead. This made the men of the Sanhedrin fight among themselves. The captain still did not know what Paul had done.

He took Paul back to the castle.

The Jews still wanted to kill Paul. About 40 men got together and made a promise to kill Paul before they would eat or drink. Paul's sister's son told Paul about the plans of the Jews.

God stood with Paul that night and said,
“. . . Paul, do not be afraid! You will tell about Me in the city of Rome the same as you have told about Me in Jerusalem.” Acts 23:11. (N.L.T.)

A large army of soldiers and horsemen took Paul to Caesarea.

VI. PAUL IN PRISON

READ ACTS 23:33 - 28:31.

A. Paul in prison at Caesarea.

Five days after Paul was brought to Caesarea, the Jews went to Caesarea. The Jews and Paul were brought before the ruler - Felix. Each time Paul had a chance to speak, he talked to the people about Jesus, and the resurrection of the dead.

Felix kept Paul in prison for two years. Friends of Paul could come and visit him.



Later Paul was able to talk to Felix about Jesus Christ. Felix thought about the words of Paul, but did not want to choose Jesus Christ at the time. Felix wanted to make the Jews happy, so he left Paul in prison.

After two years, Festus became the governor. Festus went to Jerusalem soon after he became governor. The Jews wanted Paul to be taken back to Jerusalem. They wanted to kill Paul on the way. Festus asked the Jews to come to Caesarea.

Once more Paul was brought to court with the Jews. The Jews told many things that they could not prove. Paul again told the Jews about Jesus and the resurrection of the dead.

Festus asked Paul if he wanted to go to Jerusalem to have a trial there. Paul

asked to be tried by Caesar in Rome. Because Paul was a Roman citizen, Festus said he would go to Rome.

Later King Agrippa and Bernice, his sister, came to visit Festus. Festus told King Agrippa about Paul. Festus did not know what to tell Caesar. King Agrippa wanted to hear Paul preach.

Paul preached to King Agrippa and Bernice. After Paul finished preaching, King Agrippa said,

“. . . In this short time you have almost proven to me that I should become a Christian!” Acts 26:28 (N.L.T.)

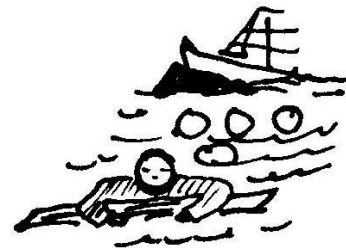
King Agrippa said Paul could have been set free. But Paul had asked to go to Caesar, and so he had to go to Caesar.

B. Paul in prison at Rome, Acts 27:1 - 28:31.

Paul was sent to Rome as a prisoner. Julius was the leader of the soldiers who took the prisoners. This trip was made by ship.

Julius was kind to Paul. At one place he let Paul go to the shore and meet some of his friends. Later Julius saved the lives of all the prisoners because he wanted Paul to live.

The ship sailed in the fall of the year. The weather was rough and the sailing was dangerous. They were caught in a bad storm. For 14 days the ship was driven about by a strong wind. Finally they came to an island. The ship broke, but all the people got to shore safely. There were 276 people on this ship.



The people from the ship had to stay three months on the island of Melita. It was wintertime. Paul was bit by a snake, but he did not die. He did some miracles while on this island. Because of these things some people believed in Jesus Christ.

In the spring they took another ship and went to Rome.

Paul was a prisoner in Rome. He had his own house. Soldiers watched him all the time. However, people could visit Paul when they wanted.

Paul used every chance to talk to people about Jesus Christ. He talked to the guards about Jesus Christ. Paul talked to the Jewish leaders in Rome about Jesus Christ. Paul talked to the Gentiles about Jesus Christ.

The last verse in the book of Acts says,
“He kept on preaching about the holy nation of God. He taught about the Lord Jesus Christ without fear. No one stopped him.” Acts 28:31. (N.L.T.)



While Paul was in prison at Rome he wrote the following letters: Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians and Philemon.

Paul was in his own house for two years. It is not known if he saw Caesar or not.

It is said that Paul was set free for a little while. During this time it is believed he went to Spain. It is believed during this time that Paul wrote the first letter to Timothy and the letter to Titus.

The letter to the Hebrews was also written about this time.

Later, Paul was arrested again and put into prison again. During this time in prison he wrote the second letter to Timothy. Shortly after this he was put to death.

VII. IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

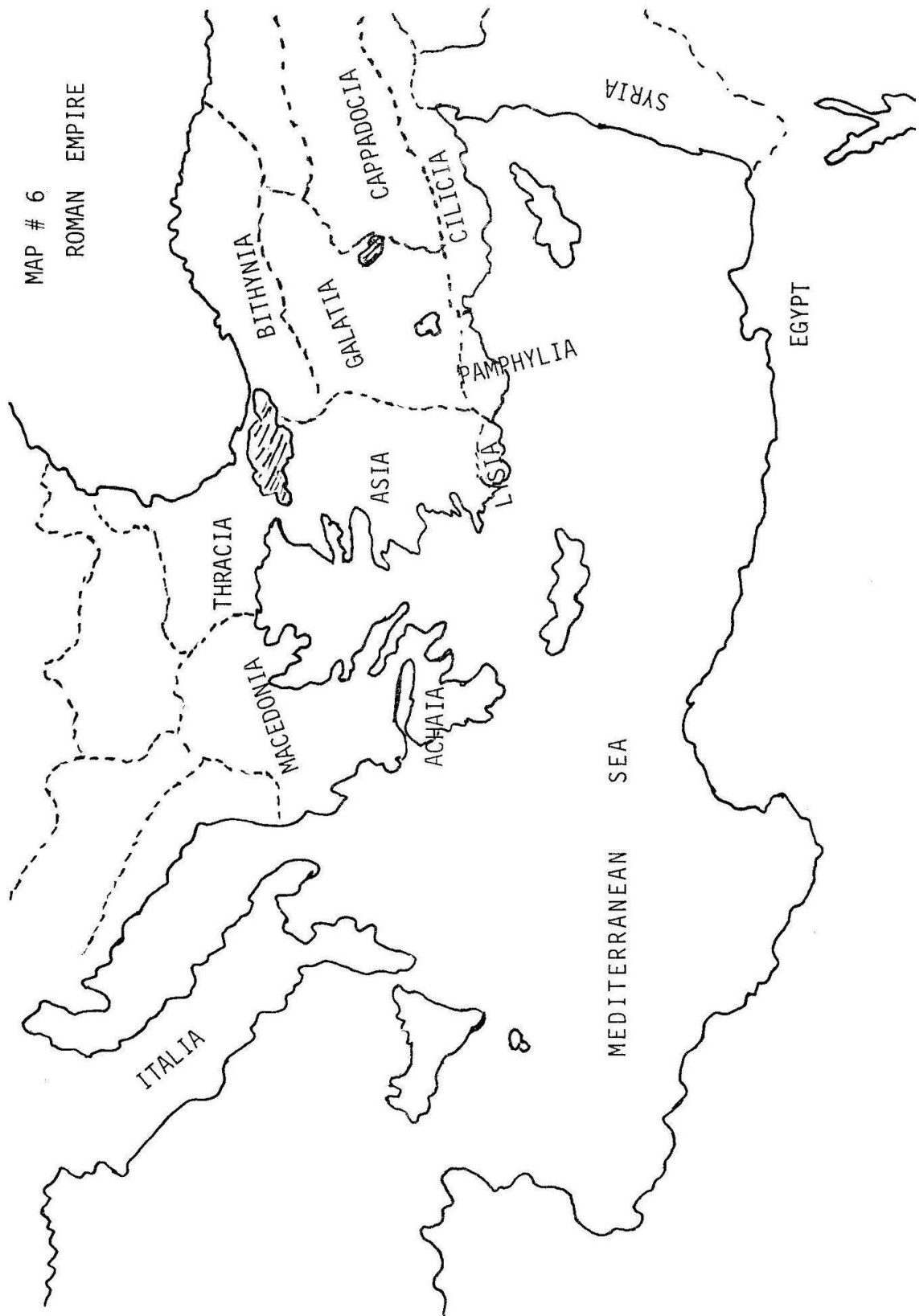
1. The Church was changed from a part of the Jewish religion to a world religion. It was no longer a part of the Jewish religion.
2. The Church became strong in the main cities of the Roman empire.
3. The Church had strong leaders. These leaders were taught how to carry on the work of the Church.
4. Important Church writings were written and sent to the churches.
5. On the first missionary journey Paul started churches in Galatia and Perga. On the second missionary journey Paul started churches in Europe. On the third missionary journey he visited all the churches. He made the churches strong.

VIII. WORDS TO LEARN

1. Church - all those who believe in Jesus Christ and have put their trust in Jesus Christ.
2. church - a group of believers in one area who worship together.
3. fornication - when two people who are not married to each other have a sexual relationship.
4. resurrection - to live again after death.
5. prophets - preachers.
6. strangled - choked to death.

IX. ASSIGNMENT

1. Which church sent the first missionaries?
2. Who went with Paul on the first missionary journey? and
3. What churches did Paul start on the first missionary journey?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
4. What churches did Paul start on the second missionary journey?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
5. What did the Christians at Ephesus do with their books about magic and their idols?
6. On map #6, mark the cities where Paul preached. Use different colored pencils to draw in the 3 missionary journeys of Paul. Use maps #1,2,3,4 and 5 to know where to mark the cities and journeys.
7. What is the Macedonian call?



MAP # 6

ROMAN EMPIRE

ITALIA

THRACIA

MACEDONIA

BITHYNIA

GALATIA

ASIA

ACHAIA

LYCIA

PAMPHYLIA

R

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

SYRIA

EGYPT

8. Fill in the blanks.						
Reference	Place	Troublemakers	Believers Jews, Gentiles	Church Started	Paul's helpers	
1 st journey						
Acts 13:4-12						
Acts 13:13						
Acts 13:14-51						
Acts 13:51 - 14:5	Iconium					
Acts 14:6-20				yes		
Acts 14:20-21						
2 nd journey			Gentiles			
Acts 16:2-5						
Acts 16:11-40		owners of demon possessed girl				
Acts 17:1-9					Silas	
Acts 17:10-14						
Acts 17:15-34	Athens					
Acts 18:1-18						
3 rd journey					Luke	
Acts 19:1-41						
Acts 20:1-6	Trip through Macedonia					

9. Who gave Paul much trouble in all the places he visited?
10. Did many people in Athens believe in the Lord Jesus Christ?
11. Why was Paul put in prison in Jerusalem?
12. Was Paul allowed to see friends in Rome?

13. Tell four important things which happened in the Church during the time the book of Acts was written.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

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