

Witnesses to Christ
Studies in the Acts of the Apostles

Commended to God and His Word
Lesson 17
Acts 20:1-21:14

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
April 24, 2016

Acts – A New Day Dawns

- ▶ Clarity
- ▶ First coming of Christ is complete
- ▶ Christ is the final revelation of God – must be recorded
- ▶ The work of salvation is complete and visible
- ▶ Major changes:
 - No new Gospel
 - Increased role of the Holy Spirit
 - No need for the Law of Moses
 - Israel is “set aside”
 - World-wide spread of the Gospel
 - New structure for the believing community – decentralized

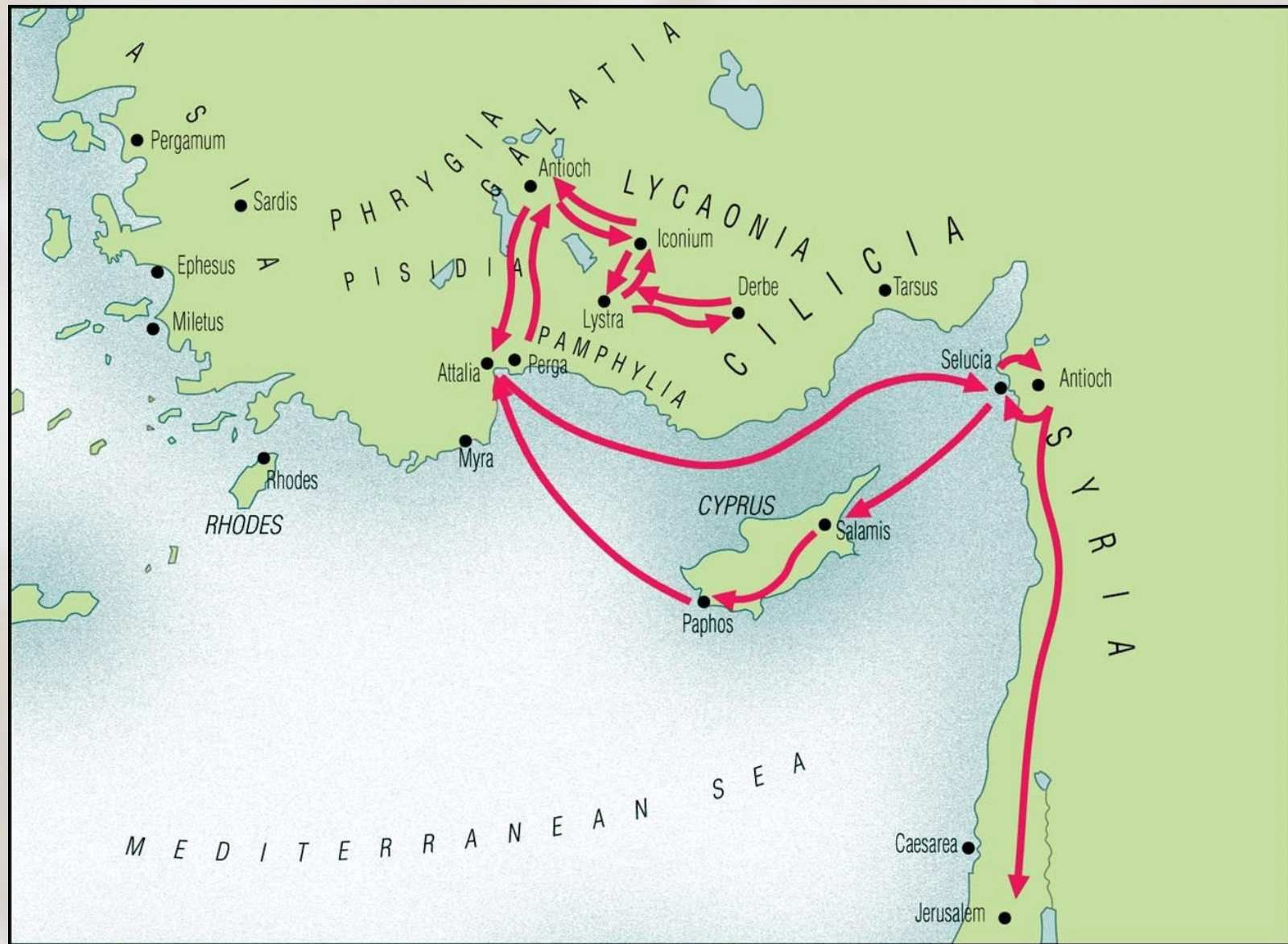
Key Texts in Acts

- ▶ Acts 1:8 – the mandate – witnesses to Christ
- ▶ Acts 2 – the coming of the Holy Spirit
- ▶ Acts 15 – the place of the Law of Moses
- ▶ Acts 20 – the nature of Christian ministry or life without the Law and the nation

Witnessing to Christ

- ▶ Begins in Jerusalem (1-7)
 - Coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost
 - Initial witness to Christ
 - Early church function
 - Persecution by Jews
- ▶ Spread through Judea and Samaria (8-12)
 - Pattern of Pentecost repeated
 - Salvation of Paul
 - Salvation of Cornelius
 - Persecution by governmental authority
 - The word of the Lord continued to grow . . . (12:24)

Paul's First Missionary Journey



Paul's Second Missionary Journey



Paul's Third Missionary Journey



Three Sermons by Paul

- ▶ Antioch – Sermon in the Synagogue – Jews
- ▶ Athens – Sermon on Mars Hill – ignorant pagans
- ▶ Asia (Miletus) – Sermon to Ephesian elders – the believing community

Commended to God and His Word

Lesson 17

Acts 20:1-21:14

- ▶ Travelogue (20:1-16) – Ephesus to Miletus
- ▶ Sermon to Ephesian Elders (20:17-38)
- ▶ Travelogue (21:1-14) – Miletus to Caesarea

Travelogue - Ephesus to Miletus

Acts 20:1-16

- ▶ Ephesus to Corinth (20:1-2)
 - Paul exhorted the disciples in Ephesus
 - Ministry to Yugoslavia (Romans 15:19)
 - Collection of gift for poor in Jerusalem
 - Epistles: 2 Corinthians, Romans
- ▶ Corinth to Troas (20:3-6)
 - Companions with gift (20:4)
 - Luke joined Paul in Macedonia
 - Passover in Philippi
 - Five day trip to Troas

The Incident with Eutychus

- ▶ Stayed 7 days
- ▶ First day of the week – broke bread
- ▶ A long sermon – until midnight
- ▶ Eutychus fell asleep and fell out of a 3rd story window
- ▶ Paul raised him from the dead
- ▶ Paul resumed speaking and continued until dawn
- ▶ A lesson on the ways of God

Travelogue - Ephesus to Miletus

Acts 20:1-16

- ▶ Troas to Miletus (20:13-16)
 - Paul went by land to Assos
 - Party sailed to Mitylene, Chios, Samos and Miletus
 - Skipped Ephesus – hurrying to Jerusalem for Pentcost

Paul's Testimony (20:17-38)

- ▶ Final word to the churches
- ▶ Serving the Lord
- ▶ Humility – lowliness of mind
- ▶ Plots of the Jews – tears and trials
- ▶ Did not shrink from declaring what is profitable
- ▶ Ministry to Jews and Gentiles
- ▶ Repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ
- ▶ Bound by the Holy Spirit
- ▶ Testifying the Gospel of the grace of God

Paul's Exhortation (20:25-35)

- ▶ Innocent of the blood of all men
- ▶ Be on guard for yourselves and the flock of God
 - Savage wolves – from within and without
 - Admonishing with tears
- ▶ Commended to God and to the Word of His grace
 - Sovereign grace
 - The Living Word
- ▶ Old Testament pattern: recurring covenants
 - Joshua 24:14-25 – choose today; make covenant
 - ASA (2 Chron 15:12); Jehoiada/Joash (2 Chron 23:16); Hezekiah (2 Chron 29:10); Josiah (2 Chronicles 34:31); Ezra (Ezra 10:3)
- ▶ Better to give than to receive

Travelogue - Miletus to Caesarea

Acts 21:1-14

- ▶ Sailed from Miletus to Cos, to Rhodes to Patera
- ▶ Sailed from Patera, past Cyprus to Tyre (Phoenicia)
- ▶ Tyre
 - Unload cargo
 - Stay 7 days
 - Warning through the Spirit
- ▶ Tyre to Ptolemais to Caesarea
 - Philip – one of the seven
 - 4 virgin daughters who were prophetesses
 - Agabus prophecies bondage for Paul
 - “The will of the Lord be done.”

A Response

- ▶ Commended to God – thanksgiving
- ▶ Commended to His Word – zeal
- ▶ The will of the Lord be done!