

Witnesses to Christ
Studies in the Acts of the Apostles

No Offense Toward God and Men
Lesson 19
Acts 22:20-24:27

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
May 8, 2016

A Time of Great Change

► Out of the shadows

- The Seed of Eve, the Patriarchs and David – Messiah
- Justification by grace through faith (Gen 6:8; 15:6; Heb 11)
- Resurrection and the Redeemer (Job 19:25-26)
- Final Judgment (Jude 14-15)
- The Law and the Prophets (Gal 3:24; 1 Peter 1:10-11)

► Into the light of day

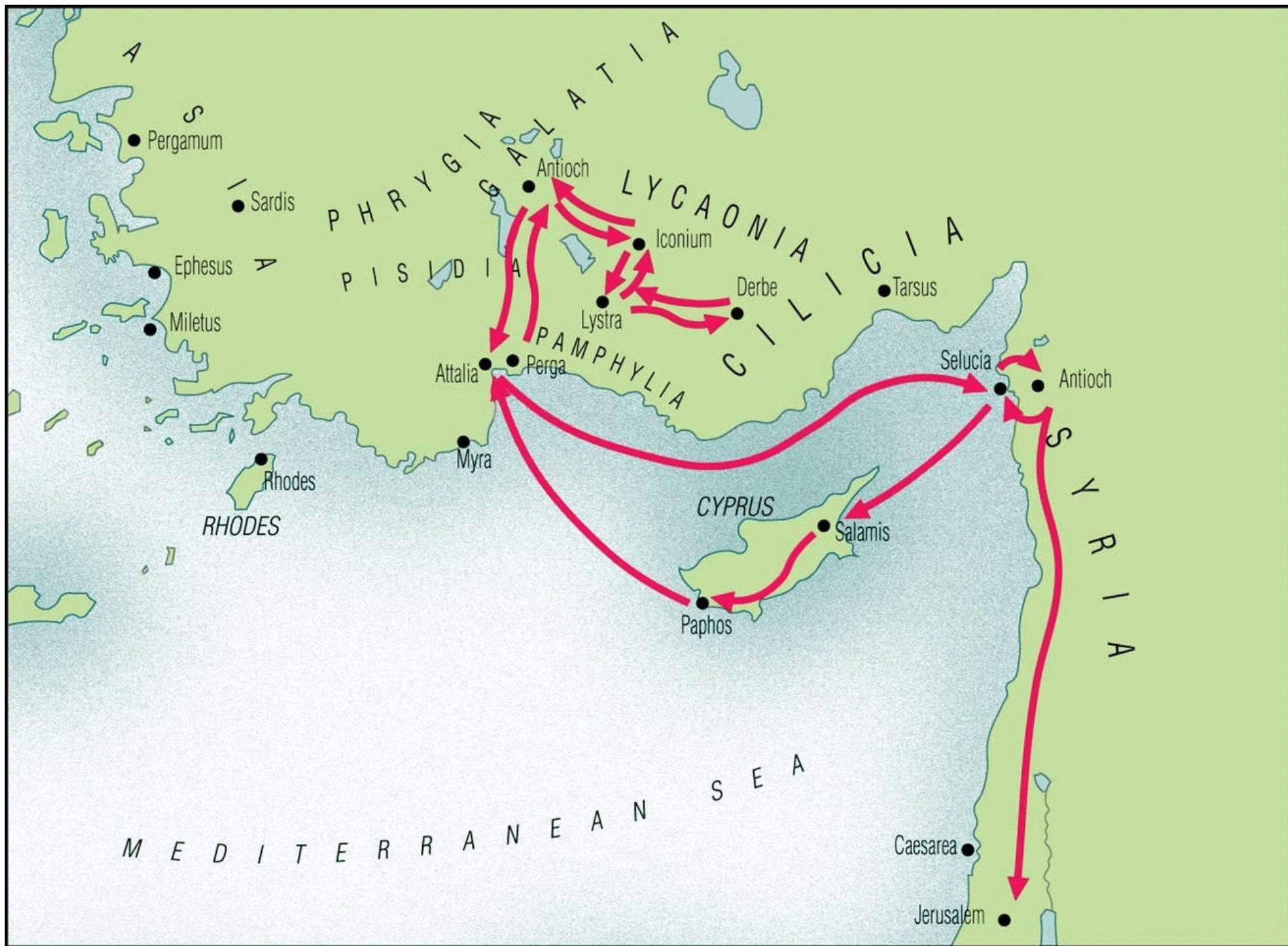
- The Incarnation of Jesus Christ – “It is finished”
- Jesus the Nazarene is now the risen Savior
- Pentecost – a new role for the Holy Spirit

► 20 years later

- The Law of Moses (21:20)
- The nation Israel (21:28)

Geographic Transition

- ▶ Jerusalem
- ▶ Regional (Judea and Samaria) – by persecution
- ▶ International – by command
- ▶ A final return to Jerusalem – a final rejection of truth
- ▶ Fall of Jerusalem in AD 70
- ▶ Issues defined at end of Acts









Paul's 4th Missionary Journey

- ▶ Paul's plan for a 4th Missionary Journey – to Rome and then Spain (Acts 19:21; Romans 15:24)
- ▶ Return to Jerusalem with many warnings
- ▶ Missionary journey of a different kind . . .
 - Defense before the Jews outside the Temple (22:1-21)
 - Defense before the Sanhedrin (23:1-10)
 - Defense before Felix (24:1-21)
 - Defense before Festus (25:7-11)
 - Defense before Agrippa (26:1-29)
 - Message to the Jews in Rome (28:25-28)

No Offense Toward God and Men

Acts 22:30-24:27

- ▶ Paul before the Sanhedrin (22:30-23:10)
- ▶ A word from the Lord (23:11)
- ▶ A conspiracy to kill Paul (23:12-35)
- ▶ Paul before Felix (24:1-23)
- ▶ Paul forgotten in custody (24:24-27)

The Need for a Charge against Paul (22:30)

- ▶ Paul peacefully doing rite of purification in Temple (21:26)
- ▶ Jews from Asia saw him and falsely accused him (21:27-28)
- ▶ Lysias intervened and let Paul speak to the Jews (21:33-34)
- ▶ Lysias decided to examine Paul by scourging (22:24)
- ▶ Could not continue because Paul was a Roman (22:24-29)
- ▶ Convened the Sanhedrin the next day (22:30)

Examination by the Sanhedrin (23:1-10)



Castle of Antonia – NW of the Temple

Examination by the Sanhedrin (23:1-10)

- ▶ Paul affirms his innocence
- ▶ Innocent of the charges of the Jews from Asia (24:18-20)
- ▶ Ananias (high priest) – spiritual leader without Scripture
- ▶ Paul's rebuke – true, but not pleasing to God
- ▶ Paul identifies the charge: the hope of resurrection

The Offense of the Resurrection

- ▶ The initial charge against the disciples (4:2)
- ▶ Romans did not see it to be criminal (25:19)
- ▶ Pharisees did not object to the idea of resurrection
- ▶ Christ raised to be King and Judge (17:31; 24:15, 25)
- ▶ Hatred without a cause (John 15:21-25; Ps 35:19; 69:4)
- ▶ Exposes hostility to God – hate the Light (John 3:19-20)
- ▶ Results: confusion and risk to Paul's life

A Word from the Lord (23:11)

- ▶ The determining will of God
- ▶ The pathway not revealed

A Conspiracy to Kill Paul (23:12-35)

- ▶ The plot by 40+ un-identified Jews
- ▶ Enlisted the “whitewashed wall” to assist in murder
- ▶ “Accidental” discovery
- ▶ Lysias sees a way out – transfer Paul to Caesarea
- ▶ No crime committed – questions about their Law
- ▶ A royal escort for Paul – 400 soldiers/75 horsemen
- ▶ Paul kept in the governor’s residence

Paul before Felix (24:1-23)

► Tertullus

- False flattery of Felix
- Charges (24:5-6)
 - A pestilence - deadly infection
 - Stirs up dissension among Jews through the world
 - Tried to desecrate the Temple – not true
- Jews joined in on the attack

Paul's Defense (24:10-21)

- ▶ Caused no trouble in 12 days in Jerusalem
- ▶ Serve the God of our fathers according to the Way
- ▶ Believe all written in the Law and the Prophets
- ▶ Have hope in God to raise the righteous and the wicked
- ▶ Blameless before God and men
- ▶ No charge from the Sanhedrin (Acts 23)
- ▶ Only issue was belief in the resurrection of the dead
- ▶ Felix decided not to decide! Waiting for Lysias!!

Paul Witnesses to Felix

- ▶ Modified incarceration – no charge against him
- ▶ Felix's curiosity
- ▶ Paul's witness:
 - Faith in Christ Jesus
 - Righteousness, self-control, judgment to come
- ▶ Felix – temporal gain suppressed truth
- ▶ Paul kept imprisoned as favor to Jews – 2+ years

Paul Witnesses the Gospel

- ▶ The centrality of the resurrection
 - Key doctrine of the faith – 1 Peter 1:3-5
 - Warning: everlasting contempt – Daniel 12:2
- ▶ The unwavering witness of Paul
 - Pursue holiness – no offense toward God and men
 - Speaking the truth despite consequences

Resurrection

- ▶ Declares deity of Jesus Christ
 - Romans 1:4
- ▶ Establishes the truth of God
 - 1 Corinthians 15:14-15
- ▶ Finalizes deliverance from sin
 - 1 Corinthians 15:17
- ▶ Essential for eternal life
 - 1 Corinthians 15:22-23
- ▶ Necessary for final victory
 - 1 Corinthians 15:24-28
- ▶ Motive for Christian diligence
 - 1 Corinthians 15:56