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Walk Through the New Testament
Lesson 4

ACTS

**THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
THROUGH THE APOSTLES**

WALK THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

TEN LESSONS:

1. Overview and Relationship of the Old and New Testaments
2. The Life of Christ: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
3. The Life of Christ – The 4 Gospels: Part 2
4. **The Acts of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles**
5. The Epistle to the Romans
6. The Epistles to the Corinthians and the Galatians
7. I and II Thessalonians and The Prison Epistles: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon
8. The Pastoral Epistles (I and II Timothy and Titus) and Hebrews
9. The General Epistles: James to Jude
10. The Revelation





**The World of
The New Testament**

INTRODUCTION TO ACTS

- Acts is our primary source of what took place during the first 30+ years of the Church's existence.
- Luke is the human author, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- Both Luke and Acts were addressed to Theophilus (Gk. Friend of God).
- “Most excellent” Lk 1:3 suggests high rank.
- Acts was written in Rome about 63 AD.

MEET LUKE

- Luke was a physician. Col. 4:14
- He may have been a native of Antioch.
 - He refers to it 18 times.
- He was a companion of Paul.
 - Note the “we” sections: 50 times in 16:10-17; 20:6-21:18; 27:1-28:16.
- He was faithful to Paul to the end. II Tim 4:11

A COMPARISON OF THE GOSPELS AND ACTS

Gospels

What Jesus began to
do and teach (Acts 1:1)

Foundation of
the Church
(Matt 16:18; Eph 2:19-22)

Acts

What Jesus continued
to do and teach

Origin and growth
of the Church
(Acts 2:1,41,47, 4:4, 5:14,
6:1,7; 9:31,35,42)

Key Verse of Acts

Acts 1:8

**“But you will receive power
when the Holy Spirit comes on you;
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,
and in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the ends of the earth.**

A BASIC OUTLINE OF ACTS

Suggested by

Paul N. Benware, Survey of the New Testament, p. 126, also MacArthur Study Bible, p 1597

- **The Witness to Jerusalem**
Chapters 1 - 7
- **The Witness to Judea and Samaria**
Chapters 8 - 12
- **The Witness to the Ends of the Earth**
Chapters 13 – 28



< Ends of the Earth

< Samaria

< Judea

< Jerusalem

OTHER WAYS TO OUTLINE ACTS

- **Geographically**
 - From Jerusalem to Antioch (chaps. 1 – 12)
 - From Antioch to Rome (chaps. 13 – 28)
- **Biographically**
 - Ministry of Peter and Others (chaps. 1 – 12)
 - Ministry of Paul and Others (chaps. 13 – 28)
- **Theologically**
 - The Ascension of Christ (Chap. 1)
 - The Descension of the Spirit (Chap. 2)
 - The Extension of the Gospel (chaps. 3 – 28)

A Fuller Outline of Acts

Norman L. Geisler, A Popular Survey of the New Testament, pp 128-129

1. The **Formation** of the Church. (Acts 1 – 7)
 - Jerusalem
2. The **Transition** of the Church. (Acts 8-12)
 - Judea and Samaria
3. The **Expansion** of the Church. (Acts 13-28)
 - The ends of the earth

Where the Gospel Went in Acts



I. The Formation of the Church

Jerusalem: Acts 1 – 7

A. The first **days** of the church (Acts 1-3)

- The Ascension of Jesus (Acts 1)
- The Descension of the Spirit (Acts 2)
- The Expansion of the church (2:41 – 4:4)

B. The first **persecution** of the church (Acts 4)

C. The first **discipline** in the church (5:1-11)

D. The first **deacons** in the church (6:1-6)

E. The first **martyr** in the church (Acts 7)

II. The Transition of the Church

Judea & Samaria: Acts 8 - 12

A. Three **conversions** (8:1 – 11:18)

- Eunuch, An Ethiopian (8:26-29) son of Ham
- Saul, a Tarsian (9:1 – 19) son of Shem
- Cornelius, an Italian (chap. 10) son of Japheth

B. Two **persecutions** (11:19 – 12:25)

- Because of Stephen (11:19-30)
- Because of Peter (Acts 12)

III. The Expansion of the Church

The ends of the earth: Acts 13 - 28

- A. Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 13-14)
- B. The first church summit (Acts 15)
- C. Paul's second missionary journey (Acts 16:1-18:17)
- D. Paul's third missionary journey (Acts 18:18-18:16)
- E. Paul's first imprisonment (Acts 28:17-31)
- F. Paul's second imprisonment (2nd Timothy)

WHY WAS ACTS WRITTEN?

- **Historically:** To give an accurate record of the early church.
- **Spiritually:** To confirm the faith of Theophilus.
- **Legally:** To explain Paul's journeys in the right light: not a traitor to Rome, thus vindicating him of charges.
- **Polemically (to refute errors):** To show that Paul was not an apostate from Judaism or the law.
- **Apologetically (to defend truth):** To show how God authenticated early Christianity by miracles through the apostles.
- **Ecclesiastically:** To show the unity of the Christian movement in the doctrine of the apostles. 1:2, 2:42, 4:32, 6:5
- **Missiologically:** To give an accurate account of the spread of early Christianity.

ACTS IS TRANSITIONAL

- Acts is a bridge from the Gospels to the Epistles.
- Acts should be interpreted by the Epistles (not the reverse).
 - Some did not receive the Holy Spirit when they believed. Acts 19:2
 - Later they received the Holy Spirit when they believed. Rom. 8:9
- The apostolic office was temporary (Acts 1:21-22)
- The apostolic gifts were temporary (2Cor. 12:12)

TIMELINE OF EVENTS IN ACTS

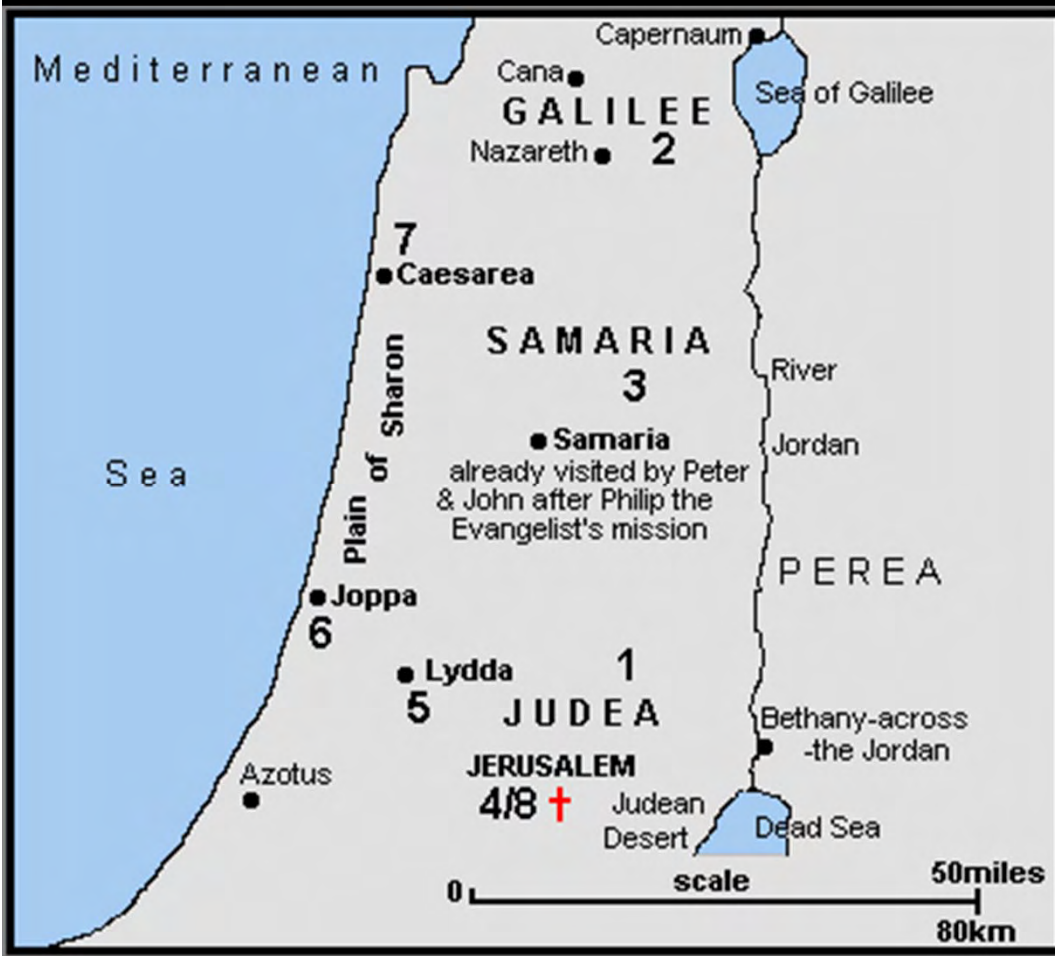
- 30 AD Pentecost Acts 2
- 33 Death of Stephen Acts 7
- 33 Conversion of Saul Acts 9
- 44 Death of James Acts 12
- 46-48 Paul's 1st missionary trip Acts 13-14
- 49 Jerusalem Council Acts 15
- 49-52 Paul's 2nd missionary trip Acts 15-18
- 53-58 Paul's 3rd missionary trip Acts 18-21
- 58 Paul Arrested in Jerusalem Acts 21
- 58-60 Paul imprisoned in Caesarea Acts 23-26
- 61 Paul confined in Rome Acts 28
- (After the book of Acts)
- 64 Fire in Rome
- 66 Paul's 2nd imprisonment in Rome
- 67 Deaths of Paul and Peter in Rome
- 68 Death of Nero
- 70 Destruction of Jerusalem

GREAT SERMONS IN ACTS

- Sermons by Peter and Stephen
 - Peter to Jewish proselytes – 2:14-41
 - Peter to Jewish people -- 3:12-26
 - Stephen to Jewish leaders – 7:1-53
 - Peter to Gentiles – 10:23-43
- Sermons by Paul
 - To Jews in Antioch – 13:14-49
 - To pagans in Lystra – 14:14-18
 - To Gentiles in Athens – 17:16-31
 - To Christians in Troas (all night!) – 20:7-12
 - To Church leaders of Ephesus – 20:17-35

The Missionary Journeys of Peter

Acts 9:31-11:18



1. Gospel to Judea, Acts 8:1
2. Gospel to Galilee, Acts 9:31
3. Peter and John in Samaria, 8:14
4. Peter returns to Jerusalem, 8:25
5. Peter heals Aeneas at Lydda, 9:32
6. Peter raises Dorcas at Joppa, 9:35
7. Cornelius converted, Caesarea, 10
8. Peter explains gentile converts, 11

The Conversion and Early Journeys of Saul (Paul) of Tarsus c AD 34-45



1. Tarsus: Paul's hometown
2. Trained in Jerusalem
3. Converted near Damascus
4. God-taught 3 years in Arabia
5. Returned to Damascus
6. Went up to Jerusalem
7. Preached in Caesarea
8. Returned to Tarsus
9. Ministered in Cilicia
10. Pastored in Antioch till his missionary journeys.

The Church in Syrian Antioch Grows and Gains Gentile Converts



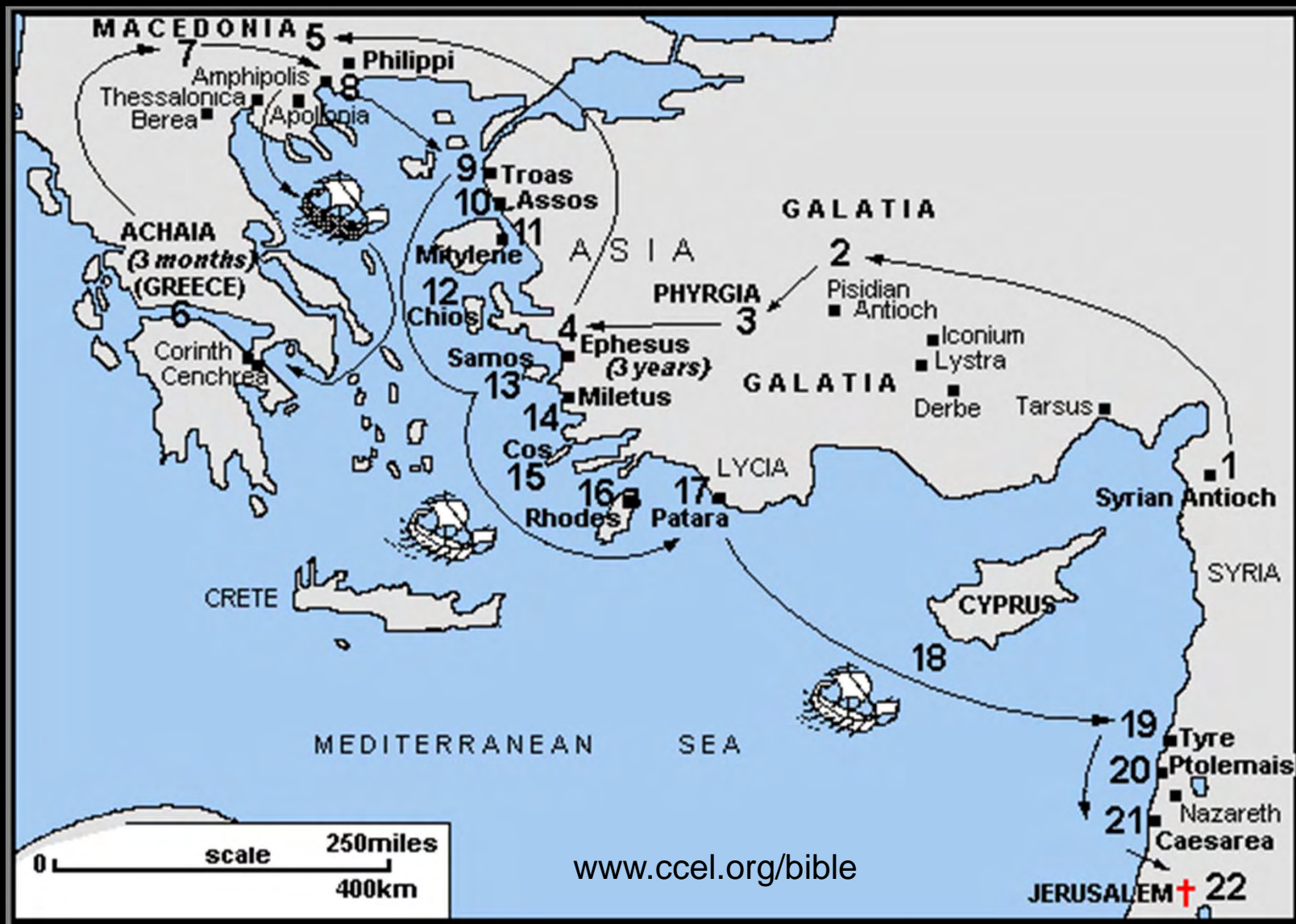
Paul's 1st Missionary Journey AD 46-48, Acts 13:4 – 14:28



Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey AD 49-52, Acts 15:40 – 18:23



Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey AD 53-58, Acts 18:23 – 21:17



Paul's arrest, trials and journey to Rome AD 58-61



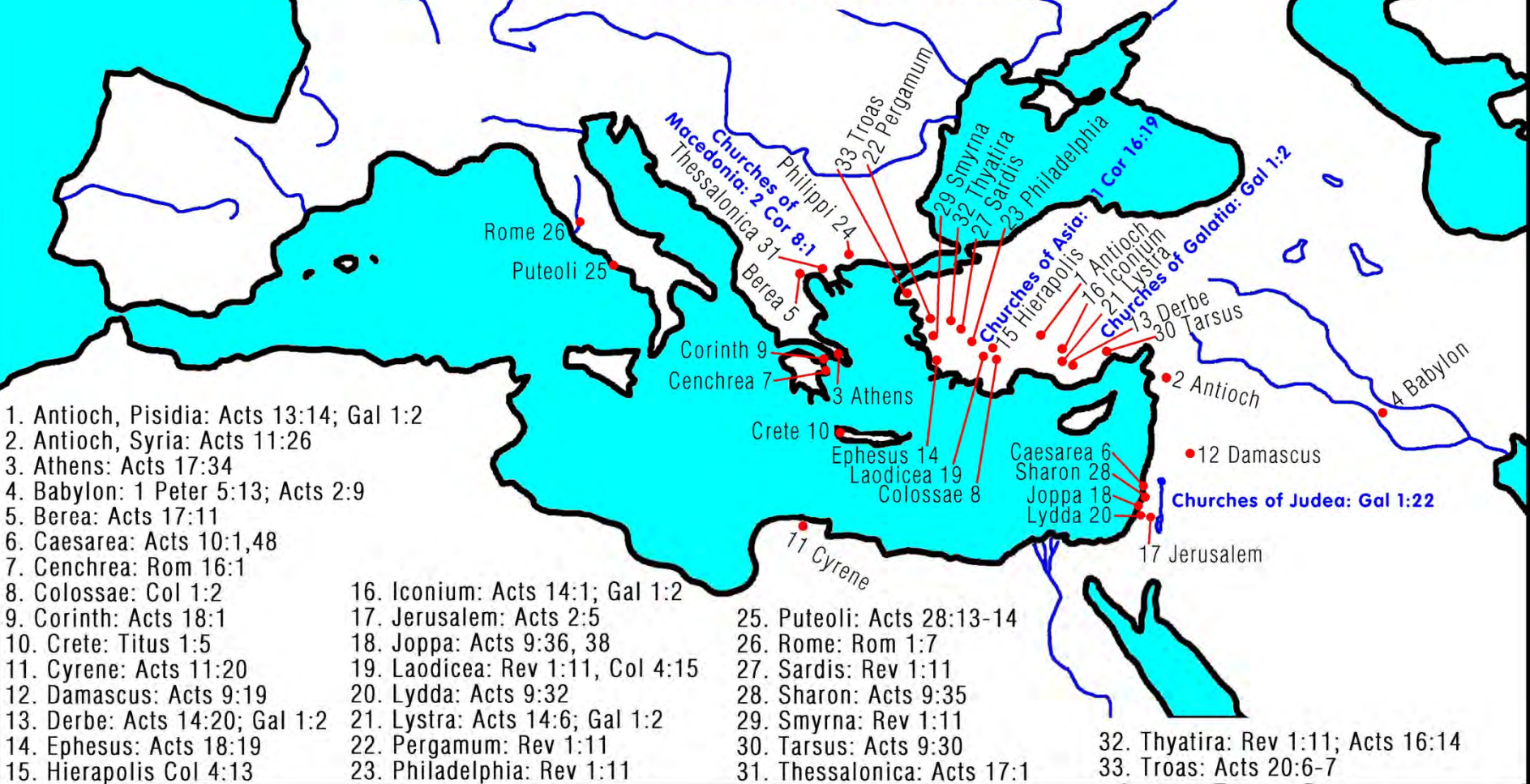
Appearances of Paul the Prisoner

- Before Magistrates in Philippi Acts 16
- Before the Jerusalem Mob Acts 22
- Before the Jewish Council Acts 23
- Before Governor Felix Acts 24
- Before Governor Festus Acts 25
- Before King Agrippa Acts 26
- Before Jews in Rome Acts 28
- Was it worth it? Look at the results!

Regions of Churches

- A. Region of Phoenicia: Acts 11:19
- B. Region of Samaria: Acts 8:14, 25
- C. Churches of Judea: Gal 1:22
- D. Churches of Galatia: Gal 1:2
- E. Churches of Asia: 1 Cor 16:19
- F. Churches of Macedonia: 2 Cor 8:1

Local churches of the Bible: 70 AD



The Holy Spirit is mentioned 54 times in Acts

- **All the successes in the book of Acts are the direct result of the Holy Spirit empowering God's people to do God's work as Christ builds his Church.**
- **The same Holy Spirit who worked mightily in the first generation of the Church is just as eager and able to work mightily in an through us in this generation.**
- **Let's let Him!**

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