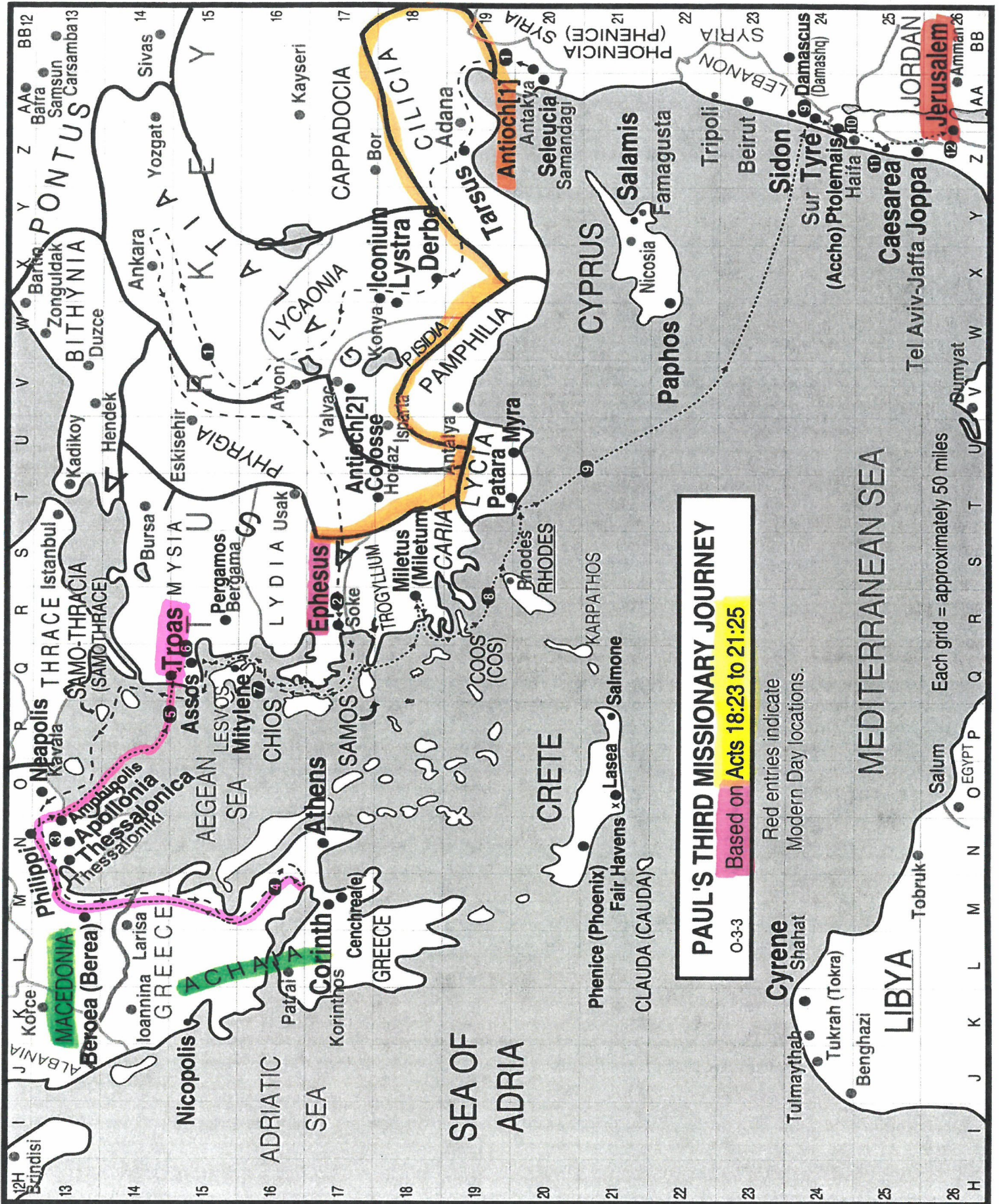


ACTS 20:1-6



A. Acts 20:1-2 - And after the uproar was ceased, Paul called unto *him* the disciples, and embraced *them*, and departed for to go into Macedonia. Acts 20:2 And when he had gone over those parts, and had given them much exhortation, he came into Greece,

1. After the uproar in Ephesus (goddess Diana-silversmiths) and God using a **lost** man (town clerk), there was now a **calm**.

God often has used lost **unbelievers to help protect his **own** (Rahab-Cyrus).
2. Instead of immediately escaping, Paul gathered a number of believers to say goodbye and to encourage them one **final** time.

This shows us Paul's love, because he was more concerned for the church's spiritual security (by his leaving). He could not leave until he had shared his heart of **concern for them.
3. Leaving Ephesus by way of Troas, Paul crosses the Aegean Sea to Macedonia. He could not pass up the opportunity to instruct the Macedonian believers. No doubt Paul gave them instruction, counsel, and warnings of incoming false teachers. This was always **heavy** on Paul's heart.
4. Also, in Paul's thinking, it was possible that this could be his final time to see them. Almost everywhere he went, there was a **violent** reaction and persecution to his **new** message. When he spoke there were always some who opposed him at a fever pitch. There was a finality of never seeing the churches again in Asia Minor, Macedonia, and Achaia - that he **loved** so much.
5. After Paul preaches through Macedonia (northern section) and Achaia (southern district), he ends up in Greece.

B.

Acts 20:3 - And *there* abode three months. And when the Jews laid wait for him, as he was about to sail into Syria, he purposed to return through Macedonia.

1. After six years absence, no doubt when Paul **re**visited Thessalonica, Berea, and Philippi what **happy reunions** there must have been - with Lydia, Philippian jailer, Jason, and scores of others!
2. We are told that Paul abode 3 months in Greece. Luke does not give us many details, but we can glean from other scriptures to fill in some.
 - a. When Paul left Ephesus, he must have first traveled to Troas - perhaps to **change** ships. He later writes about this in II Corinthians 2:12-13 - [Furthermore, when I came to Troas to *preach* Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord, 2Cor. 2:13 I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother: but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia.]
 - b. Paul had sent Titus to Corinth (Greece) to deal with some church problems. Paul wanted Titus to learn about, and report to him, the effects of his first letter to the Corinthians. Evidently, he was hoping to meet Titus at Troas. When Titus wasn't there, Paul was very **dis**appointed. No doubt Paul's anxiety or apprehension that he felt about the Corinthian's church problems, he just couldn't shake off (a **pastor's** heart).
 - c. Finally, it was in Macedonia that Titus reached Apostle Paul with some **good** news about Corinth.

II Corinthians 7:5-6 - For, when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without *were* fightings, within *were* fears. 2Cor. 7:6 Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus;

****It was such a relief to see Titus and to learn the condition of the Corinthian Church. Situations had improved and many of the believers mourned over their sins that Paul had rebuked them about in his first letter to them (I Corinthians). They desired to live for God and still believed in Paul. Also, they would do their part in collecting money for the persecuted Little Flock in Jerusalem.**

II Corinthians 9:1-2 - For as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you: 2Cor. 9:2 For I know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal hath provoked very many.

- d. However, there was a minority who rebelled at Paul's first letter and were bitter about it. They charged that all Paul wanted was the money and said he couldn't be a true apostle since he hadn't received any financial support. (Moses also had a mixed multitude.)

II Corinthians 12:17-18 - Did I make a gain of you by any of them whom I sent unto you? 2Cor. 12:18 I desired Titus, and with *him* I sent a brother. Did Titus make a gain of you? walked we not in the same spirit? *walked we* not in the same steps?

II Corinthians 11:7 - Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely?

II Corinthians 10:10 - For *his* letters, say they, *are* weighty and powerful; but *his* bodily presence *is* weak, and *his* speech contemptible.

- e. They also said Paul would never return to their church. They said that Paul's promise to return and get on them for their sin was only a bluff. They said Paul was afraid to come before them!

II Corinthians 1:15-18 - And in this confidence I was minded to come unto you before, that ye might have a second benefit; 2Cor. 1:16 And to pass by you into Macedonia, and to come again out of Macedonia unto you, and of you to be brought on my way toward Judaea. 2Cor. 1:17 When I therefore was thus minded, did I use lightness? or the things that I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, that with me there should be yea yea, and nay nay? 2Cor. 1:18 But *as* God *is* true, our word toward you was not yea and nay.

- proof II Corinthians 13:1-3 - This *is* the third *time* I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established. 2Cor. 13:2 I told you before, and foretell you, as if I were present, the second time; and being absent now I write to them which heretofore have sinned, and to all other, that, if I come again, I will not spare: 2Cor. 13:3 Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which to you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you.

- f. After receiving Titus' news, Paul sends Titus back to Corinth with another letter (II Corinthians).

****This second letter contained expressions of love, approval of those who were obedient and rebuke in warning the disobedient.**

II Corinthians 8:6, 16-18 - Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also. But thanks *be* to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you. 2Cor/ 8:17 For indeed he accepted the exhortation; but being more forward, of his own accord he went unto you. 2Cor. 8:18 And we have sent with him the brother, whose praise *is* in the gospel throughout all the churches;

- g. Also, Paul sent the second letter to Corinth to defend himself against the charges of his enemies and to tell, or **warn**, them he was on his way there! *Paul tells them he will use his apostolic authority on them!

II Corinthians 9:4 - Lest haply if they of Macedonia come with me, and find you unprepared, we (that we say not, ye) should be ashamed in this same confident boasting.

II Corinthians 13:1 - This *is* the third *time* I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.

II Corinthians 10:2, 6 - But I beseech *you*, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according- ing to the flesh. 2Cor. 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

- h. Question? Again, why was he taking up a collection for those at Jerusalem?

- (1) It was the Gentile duty/responsibility, since they were **partakers** of Israel's spiritual things, to minister to the Jews' material needs.

Romans 15:25-27 - But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints. Rom. 15:26 For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem. Rom. 15:27 It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.

- (2) Paul had promised the 12 Jewish apostles and the Jewish church that he would remember the **poor**.

Galatians 2:10 - Only *they would* that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.

- (3) Paul hoped that a generous gift from the Gentiles would help **improve** relations between the Little Flock Jewish churches and the Gentile Body churches of Paul.

II Corinthians 9:12-14 - For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; 2Cor. 9:13 Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for *your* liberal distribution unto them, and unto all *men*; 2Cor. 9:14 And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you.

C.

Acts 20:3-5 - And *there* abode three months. And when the Jews laid wait for him, as he was about to sail into Syria, he purposed to return through Macedonia. Acts 20:4 And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus. Acts 20:5 These going before tarried for us at Troas.

1. Paul had intended to board a ship in Corinth's port to sail to Syria, but he was informed that there were some Jews that had **plotted** to harm him (again!). So Paul changed his plans and went in the opposite direction through Macedonia.

*Note: These Jews had not forgotten the shocking conversions of their synagogue leaders, Crispis (18:8) and Sosthenes (18:17), or their humiliating defeat before proconsul Gallio (18:17-17). Paul would have been an easy target on a small ship crowded with Jewish pilgrims. Since it was close to unleavened bread time, or Passover, there were many pilgrims sailing to and from Jerusalem.

2. Paul had six traveling companions on his trip. These men were trustees, delegates, or representa-tives of their churches to help Paul transport and deliver the gifts/collections/finances that had been collected for the Jewish Church at Jerusalem. Paul was the leader.

II Corinthians 8:23, 19 - Whether *any do enquire* of Titus, *he is* my partner and fellowhelper concerning you: or our brethren *be enquired of*, *they are* the messengers of the churches, *and* the glory of Christ.

I Corinthians 16:3-4 - And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by *your* letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem. 1Cor. 16:4 And if it be meet that I go also, they shall go with me.

3. It was also about this time, while he was in Greece for three months, that Paul received word from the Galatian churches. Judaism had been busy again and had brought many believers to place themselves

under the law's bondage. This had caused them to be disobedient to Paul's message of grace - disheartening!

Galatians 3:1 - O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

Galatians 5:7 - Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

**The law-following Judaizers were causing havoc and division within the churches in Galatia.

Galatians 5:15 - But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

4. The situation in Galatia was deteriorating so rapidly that Paul had to immediately pen a letter to them at Galatia.

*Paul once again had to defend his apostleship and his message of grace saving and living.

Galatians 3:2-3 - This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Gal. 3:3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

5. Also, it's almost certain that the book of Romans was written during this time. As Paul was in Greece-Corinth, Aquila and Priscilla had returned from Rome informing Paul of God's working there. Aquila and Priscilla, with Phoebe, were leaving for Rome on business. So it was Phoebe that Paul would use to carry his inspired letter to the Roman Church.

Romans 15:29-32 - And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ. Rom. 15:30 Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in *your* prayers to God for me; Rom. 15:31 That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which *I have* for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints; Rom. 15:32 That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.

Romans 16:1-2 - I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: Rom. 16:2 That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.

- D.

<u>Acts 20:5-6</u> - These going before tarried for us at Troas. <u>Acts 20:6</u> And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and came unto them to Troas in five days; where we abode seven days.

1. Back to our text (vs. 4-6). To foil, or stop, the assassination attempt on Paul, several believers who accompanied him from Greece boarded the ship to Troas as scheduled, as if there had been no change in plans. But Paul went north into Macedonia and sailed from Philippi to Troas.
 2. Paul then hooked back up with his men in five days at Troas, where they stayed for seven days.