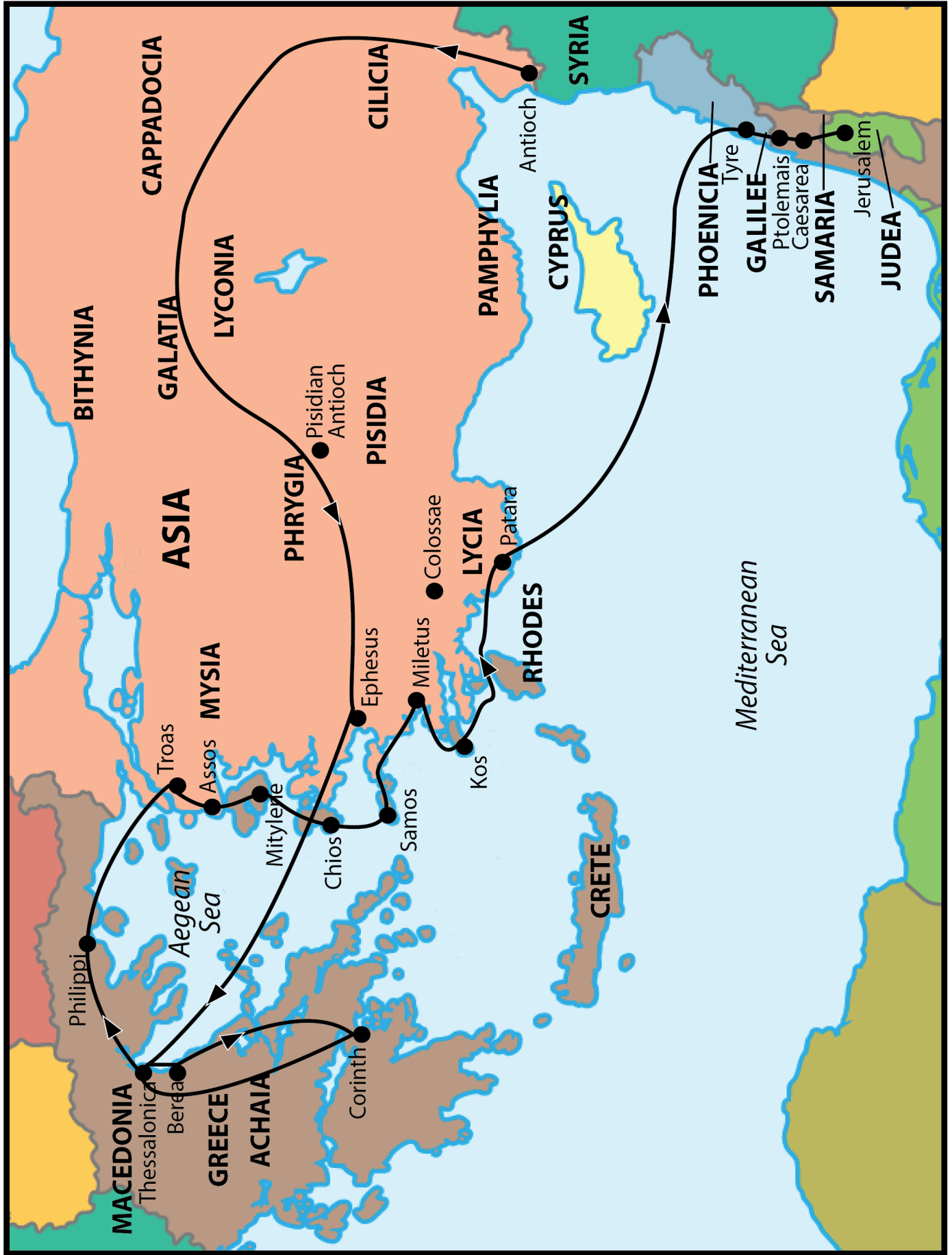


PAUL'S THIRD JOURNEY

ACTS 18:24-19:7



A. Apollos:

Acts 18:24-26 - And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, *and* mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. Acts 18:25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. Acts 18:26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto *them*, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

1. Apollos was a Jew from Alexandria, Egypt. He was a great eloquent speaker of Jesus Christ, proclaiming John the Baptist's message. This was strange, since it was **20** years after the death of Christ!
 - a. Apollos only knew John's baptism message and knew nothing about the fact that Christ had come, or about the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. He did not know of Christ's ascension and the Holy Spirit's coming at Pentecost, or of Israel's **rejection** of the offer of the kingdom or her **fall** and being set aside temporarily. He did not know of God's raising up Paul to the Gentiles... the one new man (Body).
 - b. This may sound strange, but 2000 years later there are many (most) within Christendom who know very **little** about today's program of God (the gospel of grace - Body - Mystery given to Paul)!
2. It is hard for our minds to grasp that 20 years after the cross, Apollos only knew the O.T. and John's baptism of repentance. We think how could it be, but it is. He did not have the fastest means of communication back then: Telephone-Telegraph-TeleText - Television.

*Apollos only had Telewoman!
3. Thank God there was a godly couple to whom Paul had taught the knowledge so they could **update** Apollos. Just as the Pentecost Little Flock believers were brought up to date on God's new program through Paul in Acts **15**, Aquila and Priscilla pull Apollos aside to bring him up to date.
 - a. Aquila and Priscilla invite Apollos to their home. It is important to note that they did not **openly** criticize Apollos, showing their true godly character. They quietly, at their home, "**expounded** unto him the way of God more perfectly".

*This couple could now explain the great **basic** truths of the mystery that they had learned from Paul.
 - b. No doubt they showed him the full explanation that Christ Messiah had come. He had died, been buried and arose. They showed him that Israel had been set **aside**, but God had taken up a new course of action to the Gentiles in grace. They brought Apollos up to date in what God was doing new.
 - c. It should also be noted that this mighty man in O.T. scriptures was gracious in receiving these new instructions. Remember his host and hostess were only tentmakers. But Apollos sat **humbly**, at a table in an ordinary couple's house, **learning**. Surely this new revelation shocked and excited him at the same time.

**Doesn't understanding truth do that to you?

B. Apollos' Ministry:

Acts 18:27-28 - And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace: Acts 18:28 For he mightily convinced the Jews, *and that* publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

1. With letters of commendation, Apollos ultimately travels to Corinth to help encourage the believers in the things he had learned from Aquila and Priscilla (gospels-**Acts**-grace teachings).
2. Apollos' response wasn't: "No, I don't want to hear that", but he became a helper in the work. Apollos also convinced a number of Jews (through the scripture) that "Jesus was **Christ**". No doubt then, as Paul did, he shared Christ's DBR - grace.

**Also note, it says "was Christ" and not that Christ should come. He's already been here! Prior to Verse 26, Apollos preached Christ was coming, but now he preached that Jesus of the gospels was Christ!

3. Also, it is important to understand John the Baptist's baptism.

Acts 13:24 - When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

Apollos knew about that baptism of repentance, Israel's national baptism as a means of national repentance and cleansing for the **nation. This is what Apollos had been preaching to the Jews and he knew that in order to bring Israel back, she needed to be baptized - cleansed first from her idolatry.

Ezekiel 36:17, 18, 20, 24-26 - Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own way and by their doings: their way was before me as the uncleanness of a removed woman. Eze. 36:18 Wherefore I poured my fury upon them for the blood that they had shed upon the land, and for their idols *wherewith* they had polluted it: Eze. 36:20 And when they entered unto the heathen, whither they went, they profaned my holy name, when they said to them, These *are* the people of the LORD, and are gone forth out of his land. Eze. 36:24 For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Eze. 36:25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. Eze. 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

4. Old Testament prophecies and the Four Gospels were not clear **yet** concerning the blood of Christ and His D.B.R. for sins. Only when **Paul** came on the scene was Christ's work explained.

a. Gospels and early Acts:

Mark 9:31-32 - For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day. Mark 9:32 But they understood not that saying, and were afraid to ask him.

Luke 18:31-34 - Then he took *unto him* the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. Luke 18:32 For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: Luke 18:33 And they shall scourge *him*, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again. Luke 18:34 And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.

Matthew 16:20-22 - Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ. Matt. 16:21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Matt. 16:22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

John 20:8-9 - Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed. John 20:9 For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.

Acts 2:22-23 - Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Acts 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

*Peter did not offer the finished work for salvation, but that they had killed their Messiah. So now they needed to repent of that sin, believe He is the Messiah, and be baptized for cleansing: Acts 2:38 - [Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.]

b. Paul our apostle:

I Timothy 2:5-6 - For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 1Tim. 2:6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Romans 3:25-26 - Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; Rom. 3:26 To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Romans 4:25, 5:1, 8 & 9 - Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. Rom. 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: Rom. 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Rom. 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

I Corinthians 1:17-18 - For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. 1Cor. 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Note: The reason God **hid** the accomplishments of Christ's D.B.R. was to hide it from **Satan** and his princes. Why?

I Corinthians 2:7-8 - [But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 1Cor. 2:8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

C. Paul at Ephesus: 19:1-7

Acts 19:1-3 - And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, Acts 19:2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. Acts 19:3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

1. Paul had begun to **retrace** his earlier steps of his first and second mission trips. He is trying to encourage believers in the faith that his team had won to Christ previously. He is **keeping** his promise to return (Acts 18:21).
2. Here Paul returns to Ephesus where his beloved friends, Aquila and Priscilla, are staying. Paul uses Ephesus as a **base** of operations during this third journey. He probably stayed with his friends.

*Before going to the synagogue as usual, Paul comes across some **Jewish** disciples that had believed in Jesus Christ, but not in Paul's further revelation of the mystery program - gospel of grace. They were the **same** in belief as Apollos.

3. In verse 2, Paul asks a seemingly **odd** question (to us) in order to see where they were in Israel's program. It is possible they were converts of Apollos, maybe not, since they had believed in John the Baptist's baptism of repentance.

- a. Paul asks them if they had received the Holy Spirit since they had believed?

This is used as a **proof text by Pentecost people, to try and say it's a second blessing - a second work - a baptism of the Spirit in a believer's life and often associated with tongues speaking.

- b. That's not true, and these disciples are not saying they are not sure if the Holy Ghost even exists. Remember the **context** of these believers in John the Baptist's message.

Matthew 3:11 - I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

- (1) **Under John's ministry, one could be a believer and not yet be baptized by Christ with the Holy Spirit for power. These Jewish disciples knew the Holy Spirit was coming but did not know it **had** taken place already.
 - (2) They did not know if He had come or not (Acts 1:8, 2:1-4). They were not up to date about the Holy Spirit's coming, but also not up to date with Paul's further **Body** revelation.
- c. Today, the emphasis is upon when you believe you receive the Holy Spirit in **response to your faith**.

Ephesians 1:13 - In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

*There is no time **lag** between believing the gospel and receiving the Holy Spirit. You cannot be saved today and then get the Spirit six months **later**.

Romans 8:9 - But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

When saved, God **immediately gives us the Holy Spirit and He seals us, baptizes us, into the spiritual Body of Christ all **instant**aneously (I Cor. 12:13).

4. So Paul's question may be odd to us today, but Paul is seeing if they originally believed in John's baptism or **Peter's**. It was through John's baptism, because if it had been Peter's Pentecost baptism, they would have **re**ceived the gift of the Holy Spirit for power.

Luke 24:49 - And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1:8, 2:38 - But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Now Paul **knows where they were in Israel's program and what further truth they needed to know at that moment.

D.

Acts 19:4-5 - Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. Acts 19:5 When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

1. Paul's main question did not focus on water baptism, but on the gift of the Holy Spirit. These disciples from John's baptism had **not** received the gift of the Holy Spirit because they had been baptized **before** the coming of the Holy Spirit in power.

**Remember, Peter's baptism was for remission of sins and they immediately received the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). These disciples in Acts 19 believed, were baptized for remission of sins, yet no Holy Spirit was given.

2. For clarity, understand that vs. 4-5 are one quote of these disciples' historical record of when their faith and doing John's baptism took place. Read it as **one** thought.

Note:

- a. Question? Why should these few disciples alone be **rebaptized**? Why not the **12** apostles, Apollos, and all who had been baptized **before** Pentecost?
- b. The record here does not say they were water baptized **again**.
- c. The reason vs. 4-5 go together is that vs. 5 is the **response** of John the Baptist's hearers in vs. 4!

*It is **not** Paul rebaptizing them in water again, but they were baptized upon hearing John the Baptist's **call** to repentance.

*Paul is explaining that John baptized in the authority of Jesus Christ (John 1:31-34), Who had come, Who had ascended up, and had sent the Holy Spirit.

E. Acts 19:6-7 - And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. Acts 19:7 And all the men were about twelve.

1. Most who want water baptism for today do not want vs. 6, but it's all **one** packaged event. If this was speaking about rebaptism, this would be the **only** place in the whole Bible that says that. Remember, no rebaptism for Apollos, the 12, or the 120 to receive the Holy Spirit. I do **not** believe they were rebaptized, and not to receive the Holy Spirit.
2. What Paul did do was lay hands on them as an **apostle**, and the 12 received the Holy Spirit upon the whole group all at once, just like at Pentecost.

II Corinthians 12:12 - Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

Hebrews 2:4 - God also bearing *them* witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

Acts 8:14-17 - Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Acts 8:15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: Acts 8:16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Acts 8:17 Then laid they *their* hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

- a. Remember, these were Jews during the transitional time and Jews **still** required a sign (John 4:48; I Cor. 1:22). These Jews were given **evidence** in what Paul was saying when they began to speak in tongues and prophesy.
- b. *These disciples of John are brought up to date. Again understand, this was before further revelation was given to Paul. Acts 19 is **10** years before Paul writes Ephesians 4:5.
- c. All this shows the transitional nature of the book of Acts. First, the Pentecostal believers are brought up to date in Acts **15**, and now the **pre**-Pentecostal believers/strangers are brought up to date as to the change in program (Mark 1:4-Acts 2:38-Acts 19).

The **final settled conditions which were to become **permanent** in this dispensation (ours today) of the Mystery Body Church had not yet been established.

I Corinthians 13:8-10 - Charity never faileth: but whether *there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 1Cor. 13:9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 1Cor. 13:10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.*