Saul, Saul and Acts

Exploring who, where and when in ACTS

Turning around after the 2nd JOURNEY

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> 1st and 2nd Thessalonians written from Corinth (18:11?)

MAP G Second Apostolic Journey: Acts 15:36-18:22



Paul's fellow labourers

- Luke in Philippi (Macedonia) Acts 16:16-17,40, 20:6
- Aquila and Priscilla in Ephesus (Asia) Acts 18:19
- Silas and Timotheus in Corinth (Achaia) Acts 18:18
- Elders in every Galatian church (Lystra, Derbe, Iconium, Antioch-Pisidia) Acts 14:23
- > When did Paul go to Illyricum? (Dalmatia, Croatia) see Romans 15:19

> What did he say or preach?

- > TO the JEW First
 - > As his manner was (17:2)
 - > Went into the local synagogue and reason with the Jews and the devout: <u>dispute and persuade</u>:
 - Death and resurrection of Christ (17:3)
 - > This Jesus is Christ (17:3)
 - Kingdom message plus what Paul added: that the Gentiles be saved
 - > No "Body of Christ" language
 - Saw the caring heart of Paul as a mother and a father to the new converts (1 Thess 2,3)

> TO the Greek

- Mainly seen in Athens (17:15-17:34)
- God the creator (cannot be idolized)
- Man His offspring (one blood) but not his children
- > Jesus of Nazareth the JUDGE, who was assuredly raised from the dead
- Repent and believe my message

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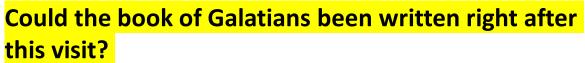
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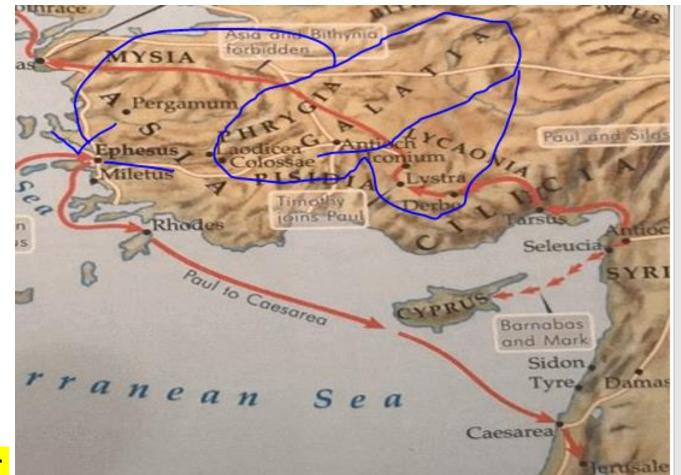


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Interlude to introduce more disciples

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ACTS 18:24-28

- And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, [and] mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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:
- For he mightily convinced the Jews, [and that] publickly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

ACTS 19:1-7

- 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,
- 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.
- And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.
- 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.
- > When they heard [this], they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
- And when Paul had laid [his] hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.
- > And all the men were about twelve.

Interlude to introduce more disciples

> Apollos : A certain Jew

- > To be brought up to speed with current information
- Perfected, More perfectly = "as complete as possible" i.e., with full information
- > The Way (Acts 9:2, 18:26, 22:4, 19:9, 19:23, 24:22)

Acts 9:2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

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.

Acts 22:4 And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women. Acts 19:9 But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.

Acts 19:23 And the same time there arose no small stir about that way.

Acts 24:22 And when Felix heard these things, having more perfect knowledge of [that] way, he deferred them, and said, When Lysias the chief captain shall come down, I will know the uttermost of your matter.

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- More excellent way (1 Cor 13:1)
- New and living way (Heb 10:20)
- The "12": certain disciples, men
- > Apollos goes on to <u>Corinth</u>
- > The 12 with Paul in <u>Ephesus</u> ... separated disputing daily the school of one Tyrannus

EPHESUS (19:1,8-20)

1 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,

8 And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God. But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus. And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks. And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them. Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of [one] Sceva, a Jew, [and] chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?

And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all [men]: and they counted the price of them, and found [it] fifty thousand [pieces] of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

EPHESUS (19:21-31)

21 After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome. 22 So he sent into Macedonia two of them that ministered unto him, Timotheus and Erastus; but he himself stayed in Asia for a season. 23 And the same time there arose no small stir about that way. 24 For a certain [man] named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen; 25 Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth. 26 Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands: 27 So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth. 28 And when they heard [these sayings], they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great [is] Diana of the Ephesians. 29 And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre. 30 And when Paul would have entered in unto the people, the disciples suffered him not. 31 And certain of the chief of Asia, which were his friends, sent unto him, desiring [him] that he would not adventure himself into the theatre.

EPHESUS (19:32-41,20:1)

32 Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly was confused; and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together. 33 And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander beckoned with the hand, and would have made his defence unto the people. 34 But when they knew that he was a Jew, all with one voice about the space of two hours cried out, Great [is] Diana of the Ephesians. 35 And when the townclerk had appeased the people, he said, [Ye] men of Ephesus, what man is there that knoweth not how that the city of the Ephesians is a worshipper of the great goddess Diana, and of the [image] which fell down from Jupiter? 36 Seeing then that these things cannot be spoken against, ye ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rashly. 37 For ye have brought hither these men, which are neither robbers of churches, nor yet blasphemers of your goddess. 38 Wherefore if Demetrius, and the craftsmen which are with him, have a matter against any man, the law is open, and there are deputies: let them implead one another. 39 But if ye enquire any thing concerning other matters, it shall be determined in a lawful assembly. 40 For we are in danger to be called in question for this day's uproar, there being no cause whereby we may give an account of this concourse. 41 And when he had thus spoken, he dismissed the assembly. Acts 20:1 And after the uproar was ceased, Paul called unto [him] the disciples, and embraced [them], and departed for to go into Macedonia.

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 - > In the synagogue of the Jews: Divers hardened Jews
 - The disciples (The 12? Or more?)
 - > The sick with the evil spirits
 - > Certain of the vagabond Jews, Exorcists, (Remember the sorcerer, BarJesus Acts 13:6)
 - ALL Jews and Greeks at Ephesus
 - > Many Jews and Greeks who believed (incl those who practiced curious arts)
 - The Silversmiths guild
 - > The whole city, the people, certain of the chief of Asia, men of Ephesus
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 - ➤ The word of the Lord Jesus both Jews and Greeks v. 10
 - Special miracles v.11
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 - That there be no gods made by hands v.26

Observations

- Paul was about 3 years in Ephesus
- > He would have written 1 Corinthians while in Ephesus and
- > Likely 2 Corinthians in Acts 20:1 as he was preparing to visit them on the way to Jerusalem v.21
- Timothy and Erastus sent to Macedonia in advance v.22
- Visits between Ephesus and Macedonia and Greece were possible over the 3 years

Act 20:1-6 KJV - 1 And after the uproar was ceased, Paul called unto [him] the disciples, and embraced [them], and departed for to go into Macedonia. 2 And when he had gone over those parts, and had given them much exhortation, he came into Greece, 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. 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. 5 These going before tarried for us at Troas. 6 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.

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> Whom did he meet?

- Them v.2 (Macedonian followers of Paul?)
- Those where he abode in Greece v. 3
- Jews who laid wait for him (a good thing or a bad thing?) v.3
- > THOSE who were going to Jerusalem with him:
 - Sopater of Berea
 - Aristarchus and Secundus of Thessalonica
 - Gaius and Timotheus of Derbe
 - Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia (Ephesus)
 - Luke from Philippi v.5,6

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- ➤ How long was he there?
 - Time to go over Macedonia
 - > Three months in Greece (Corinth)
 - 5 days in Philippi and 7 days in Troas (in ASIA)

> What did he say or preach?

- > Much exhortation v. 2
- He wrote the Book of Romans in verse 3
 - > Acts 19:21 Plan to go to Rome (and Spain) via Jerusalem first
 - > 1 Cor 9:1-5 (Is this not Timothy and Erastus?)
 - Rom 15:22-16:4 READ 16:1-5 Phebe delivers the letter to the Romans
 - Looks like Priscilla and Aquila are back in Rome by Acts 20:3, and they have a house church: Rom 16:3-5

> ONTO Jerusalem and Rome and Spain via Troas, Miletus, Tyre and Caesarea

THE END for NOW