

# Saul, Saul and Acts

Exploring who, where and when in ACTS

Thessalonica back to Antioch (Acts 17:1-18:22)

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



# Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-9, 10a)

Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews:

And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.

But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;

Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, [one] Jesus.

And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things.

And when they had taken security of Jason, and of the other, they let them go.

And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea...

# Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-9, 10a)

- Where did Paul go?
  - Paul travelled with Timotheus and Silas to Thessalonica
    - “through Amphipolis and Apollonia, **they** came to Thessalonica”
  - Sounds like Luke was left in Philippi for a few years (20:6)
- Whom did he meet?
  - In the synagogue of the Jews:
    - Some believed: Jews, a great multitude of devout Greeks, many (“not a few”) chief women
    - Unbelieving Jews
  - Certain lewd fellows of the baser sort
  - The city, the people, the rulers of the city
  - The house of Jason, certain brethren
- How long was he there?
  - Three sabbath days: 4 weeks?
- **What did he say or preach?**

# Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-9, 10a)

## ➤ What did he say or preach?

- As his manner was (v.2):
- Death and resurrection of Christ (v.3)
- This Jesus is Christ (v.3)
- Another king: not Caesar = one Jesus (v.7)
- Sounds like the Kingdom message plus what Paul added
- No “Body of Christ” language
- Let’s explore **1 Thessalonians chapter 2**: which explores this initial visit
  - The gospel of God (1 Thess 2:2,9)
  - Apostles of Christ v6
  - Mother v7; Father v11
  - Kingdom and glory v12
  - Word of God v13
  - Became followers of the churches of God which are in Judea v14
  - Killing Jesus sounds like a bad thing v15
  - **Jews forbidding to speak to Gentiles** that they be saved is the challenge and source of persecution
  - Blocked to return v18 (see Acts 17:15)
  - **1 Thess 3**: Paul’s heart to return to them

## Berea (Acts 17:10-14)

And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming [thither] went into the synagogue of the Jews.

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few. But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and stirred up the people.

And then immediately the brethren sent away Paul to go as it were to the sea: but Silas and Timotheus abode there still.

# Berea (Acts 17:10-14)

- Where and with Whom did Paul travel?
  - Paul travelled with Timotheus and Silas to Berea
- Whom did he meet there?
  - In the synagogue of the Jews: Many of them believed:
    - **More noble** Jews: Therefore many of them believed v. 12
    - Not a few Greek men
    - Not a few honourable Greek women
  - The Jews of Thessalonica (Unbelieving Jews ?)
  - The people
- How long was he there?
  - A day? A sabbath day? 1 week? v. 10
  - Searching daily v11: Does this mean many days?
  - Enough time for the unbelieving Jews to travel from Thessalonica to Berea v. 13
- **What did he say or preach?**
  - The word of God was preached v13
  - **Those things** (reference to v3 what he preached in Thessalonica)

# Athens (Acts 17:15-34)

- Where and with Whom did Paul travel?
  - Paul left Timotheus and Silas in Berea (Macedonia)
  - **They** that conducted Paul to **Athens**
- Whom did he meet?
  - In the synagogue with the Jews and devout persons - disputing
  - In the market daily: Greeks - philosophizing
    - Epicureans, Stoics, Athenians and strangers, Men of Athens
  - Dionysius the Areopagite, Damaris and others with them - believing
- How long was he there?
  - A few sabbath days to dispute? 1 week?
- **What did he say or preach?**

# Athens (Acts 17:15-34)

## ➤ What did he say or preach?

- As his manner was in the synagogues (Acts 17:2)
- Jesus and the resurrection v.18
- He declared the Unknown God v. 23
- God who made the world, the Lord of heaven and the earth v24
- God who giveth life, breath and all things, who created mankind
- Seek the Lord and find Him
- Humans are the offspring of God
- God is not an idol, cannot be idolized
- God expects all men to REPENT from the ignorance of Who God is
- JUDGMENT is coming by JESUS who hath given ASSURANCE by His resurrection from the dead
- This sounds more like a Gentile salvation message

## Corinth-Cenchrea (Acts 18:1-18a)

After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;  
And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla;  
(because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them.  
And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.  
And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.  
And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews [that] Jesus [was] Christ.  
And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook [his] raiment, and said unto them, Your blood [be] upon your own heads; I [am] clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.  
And he departed thence, and entered into a certain [man's] house, named Justus, [one] that worshipped God, whose house joined hard to the synagogue.  
And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.  
Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:  
For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.  
And he continued [there] a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

## Corinth-Cenchrea (Acts 18:1-18a) continued

And when Gallio was the deputy of Achaia, the Jews made insurrection with one accord against Paul, and brought him to the judgment seat, saying, This [fellow] persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law. And when Paul was now about to open [his] mouth, Gallio said unto the Jews, If it were a matter of wrong or wicked lewdness, O [ye] Jews, reason would that I should bear with you: But if it be a question of words and names, and [of] your law, look ye [to it]; for I will be no judge of such [matters]. And he drave them from the judgment seat. Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the chief ruler of the synagogue, and beat [him] before the judgment seat. And Gallio cared for none of those things. And Paul [after this] tarried [there] yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn [his] head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow.

# Corinth-Cenchrea (Acts 18:1-18a)

- Where and with Whom did Paul travel?
  - Paul met up with Timotheus and Silas at Corinth
- Whom did he meet?
  - A Jew named Aquila of Pontus and his wife Priscilla (come c 49 AD from Italy)
  - In the synagogue: the Jews and the Greeks
  - Justus, who lived next to the synagogue
  - Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue
  - Many of the Corinthians
  - Jesus (6th time?)
  - The Jews (unbelieving)
  - Gallio, the deputy of Achaia (Gentile-Roman)
  - The Greeks
  - Sosthenes, chief ruler of the synagogue
- **How long was he there?**
  - 2 YEARS? - More than a year and a half:
    - Every sabbath until they opposed themselves PLUS 1 ½ years PLUS yet a good while
- **What did he say or preach?**

# Corinth-Cenchrea (Acts 18:1-18a)

## ➤ **What did he say or preach?**

- Reasoned and persuaded v4
- Testified that Jesus was Christ ... which brought the opposition v 5-6
- I will go unto the Gentiles v6
- Believed on the Lord, hearing believed and were baptized v8
- Teaching the Word of God v11
- Accusation: persuades “ ... to worship God contrary to the law”

## Cenchrea-Ephesus-Caesarea-Jerusalem-Antioch (Acts 18:18-22)

- And Paul [after this] tarried [there] yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn [his] head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow.
- And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.
- When they desired [him] to tarry longer time with them, he consented not;
- But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus.
- And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up, and saluted the church, he went down to Antioch.

# Cenchrea-Ephesus-Caesarea-Jerusalem-Antioch (Acts 18:18-22)

- Where did Paul go?
  - Paul travelled with Priscilla and Aquila, dropped them off at Ephesus (where they will meet Apollos)
  - Luke is still at Philippi
  - Silas and Timotheus remain at Corinth
- Whom did he meet?
  - Head shearer in Cenchrea
  - Jews at the synagogue at Ephesus
  - The church in Jerusalem (up)
  - The church at Antioch in Syria (down)
- How long was he there?
  - A sabbath day in Ephesus? 1 day to a week?
  - The feast of Pentecost in Jerusalem ? 1 week there?
  - Sailing time to get from Cenchrea to Ephesus to Caesarea
  - Landing time in Jerusalem and then to Antioch
- **What did he say or preach?**
  - A vow in Cenchrea / reasoned with Ephesian Jews / kept the feast and saluted the church in Jerusalem

# End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Apostolic Journey

- 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 = Acts 20:3