

Book of Acts Study

Men of Grace

January 12, 2010

Overview of Book of Acts

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Quick Facts

Author:	Luke ("we" sections)
Audience:	Theophilus, a Gentile God-fearer (and us!)
Date:	Early 60s A.D.
Place of writing:	Rome?
Sequel:	Gospel of Luke is Volume 1, Acts is Volume 2
Title:	Acts of the Apostles, should be "Acts of the exalted Christ through the Holy Spirit"
Genre:	A sociological, historical and theological book explaining the roots and growth of the new community, the church.

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Purpose of Acts

To explain that this new movement (the church), which emerged out of Judaism yet came to incorporate Gentiles into the community of God, is the legitimate extension of the plan of God and the continuing work of the exalted Christ through the Holy Spirit.

3

Theme of Acts

The growth and expansion of the church through the power of the Holy Spirit and the faithful testimony of the early believers despite fierce opposition.

4

Theological Emphases of Acts

1. ***The plan and work of the sovereign and mighty God.***
2. ***The mission, opposition and inclusion of Gentiles.***
3. ***Jesus, now exalted at the right hand of the Father, is the Lord of all for a gospel sent to all.***
4. ***The role of the Holy Spirit as the presence and power behind the growth and mission of the early church.***

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Theological Emphases of Acts – con't

5. ***The new community's emerging separate identity from Judaism.***
6. ***The expansion and triumph of the Gospel as it penetrates the world from Jerusalem to Rome despite intense opposition.***
7. ***The slow movement away from the Old Testament law towards the freedom of the Spirit.***

6

Literary Keys to Acts

1. Acts 1:8:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

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Literary Keys to Acts – con't

2. Summary Statements

- a. Acts 6:7
- b. Acts 9:31
- c. Acts 12:24
- d. Acts 16:5 (?)
- e. Acts 19:20 (?)

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Outline of Acts

- i. ***Introduction: Jesus ascends to the Father and gives a mission (1:1-11)***
- ii. ***The early church in Jerusalem (1:12-6:7)***
- iii. ***Persecution in Jerusalem moves the message to Judea and Samaria as a new witness emerges (6:8-9:31)***
- iv. ***The gospel to the Gentiles and more persecution in Jerusalem (9:32-12:25)***
- v. ***The mission from Antioch and the full incorporation of Gentiles (13:1-15:35)***

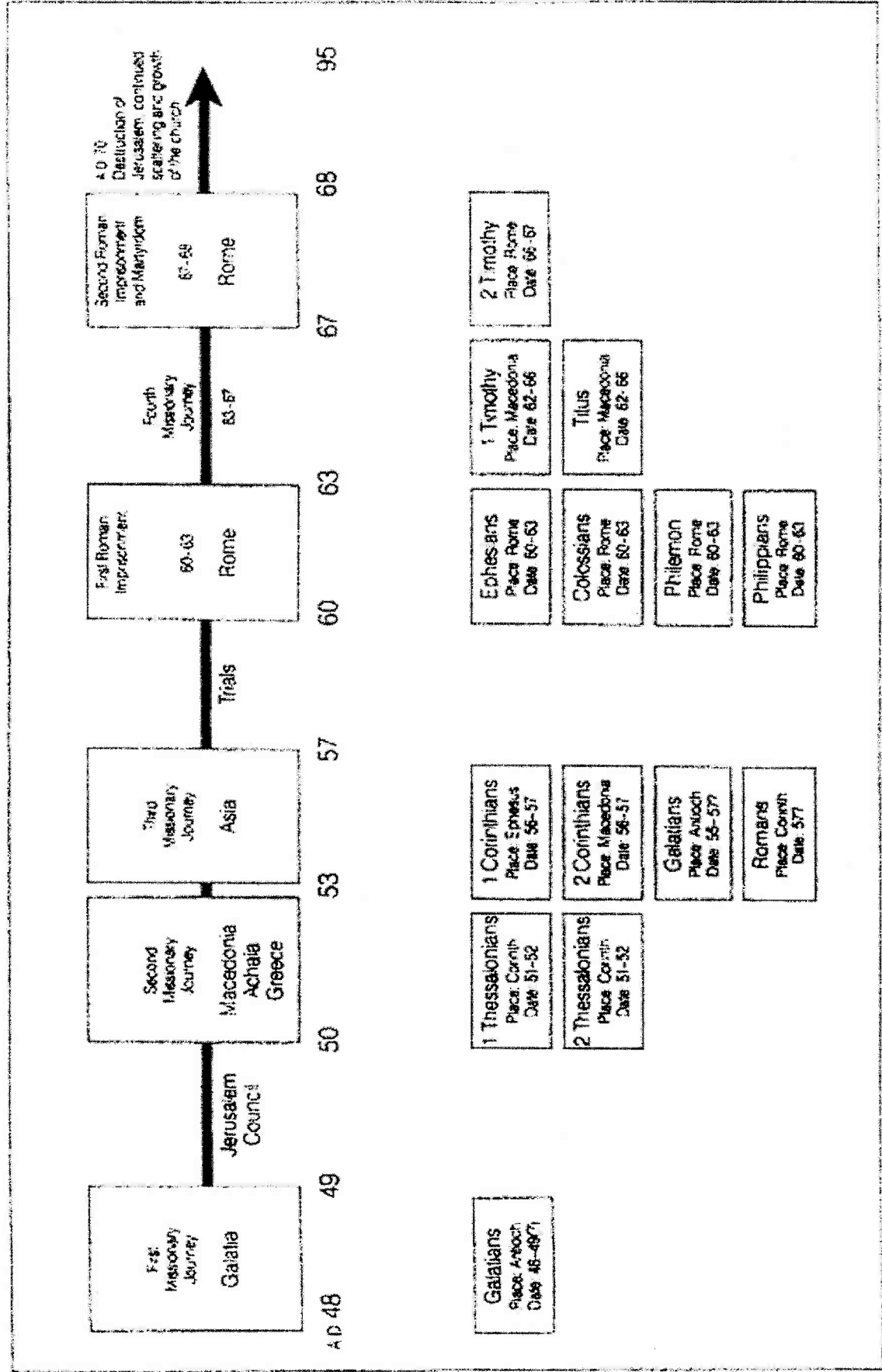
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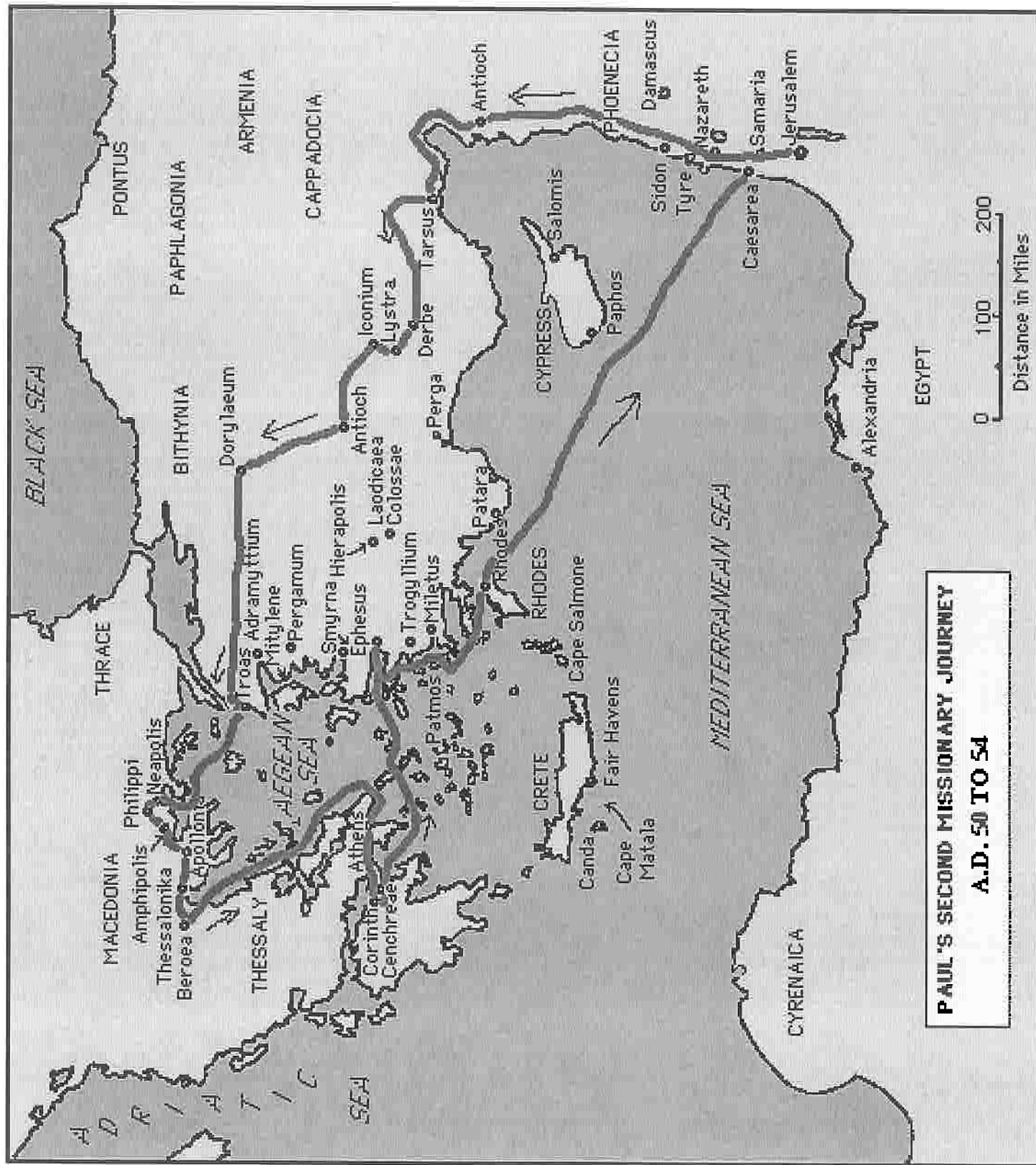
Outline of Acts – con't

- vi. ***The second and third missionary journeys: Expansion to Greece and consolidation amid opposition (15:36-21:16)***
- vii. ***The arrest: The message is defended and reaches Rome (21:17-28:31)***

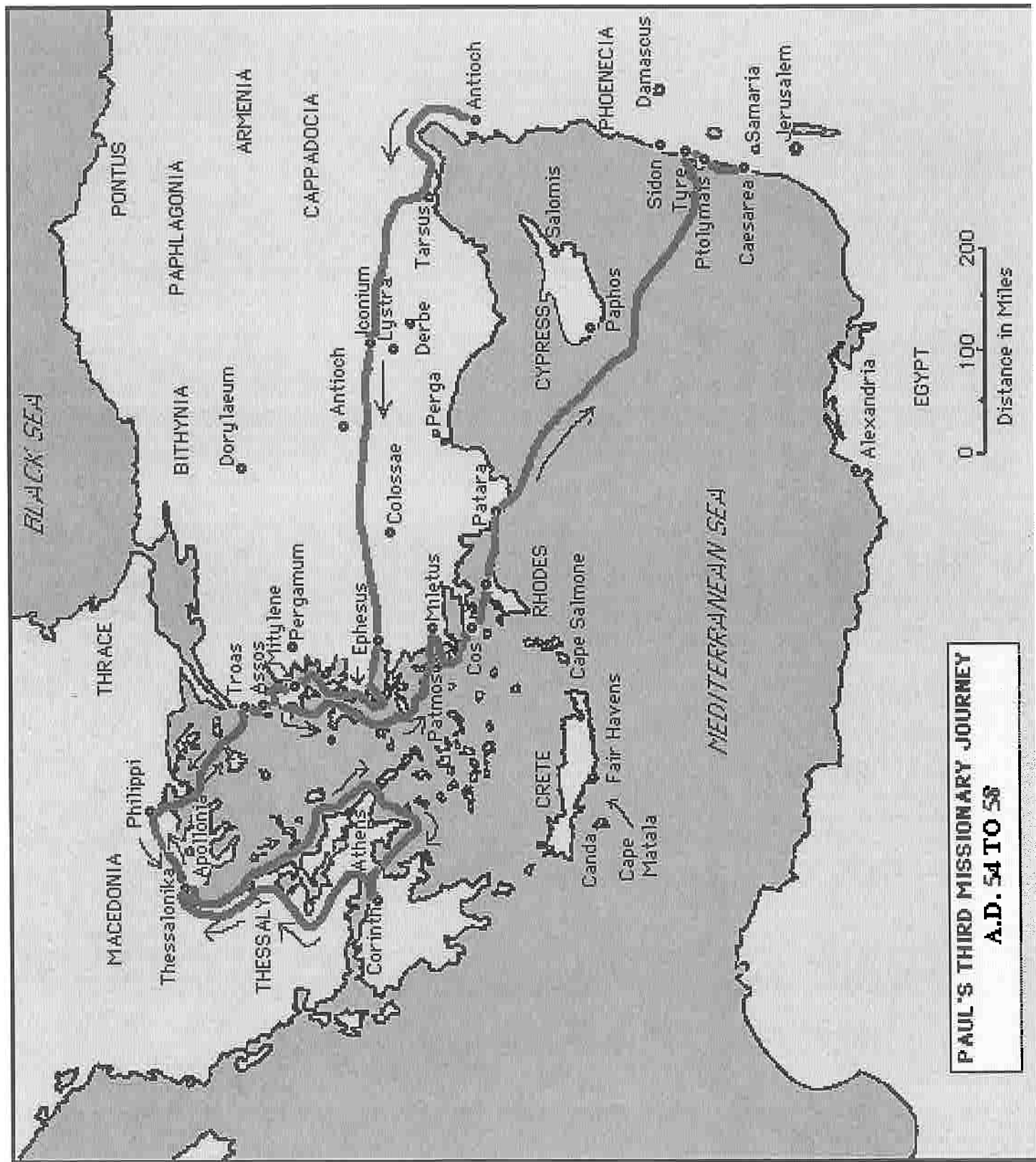
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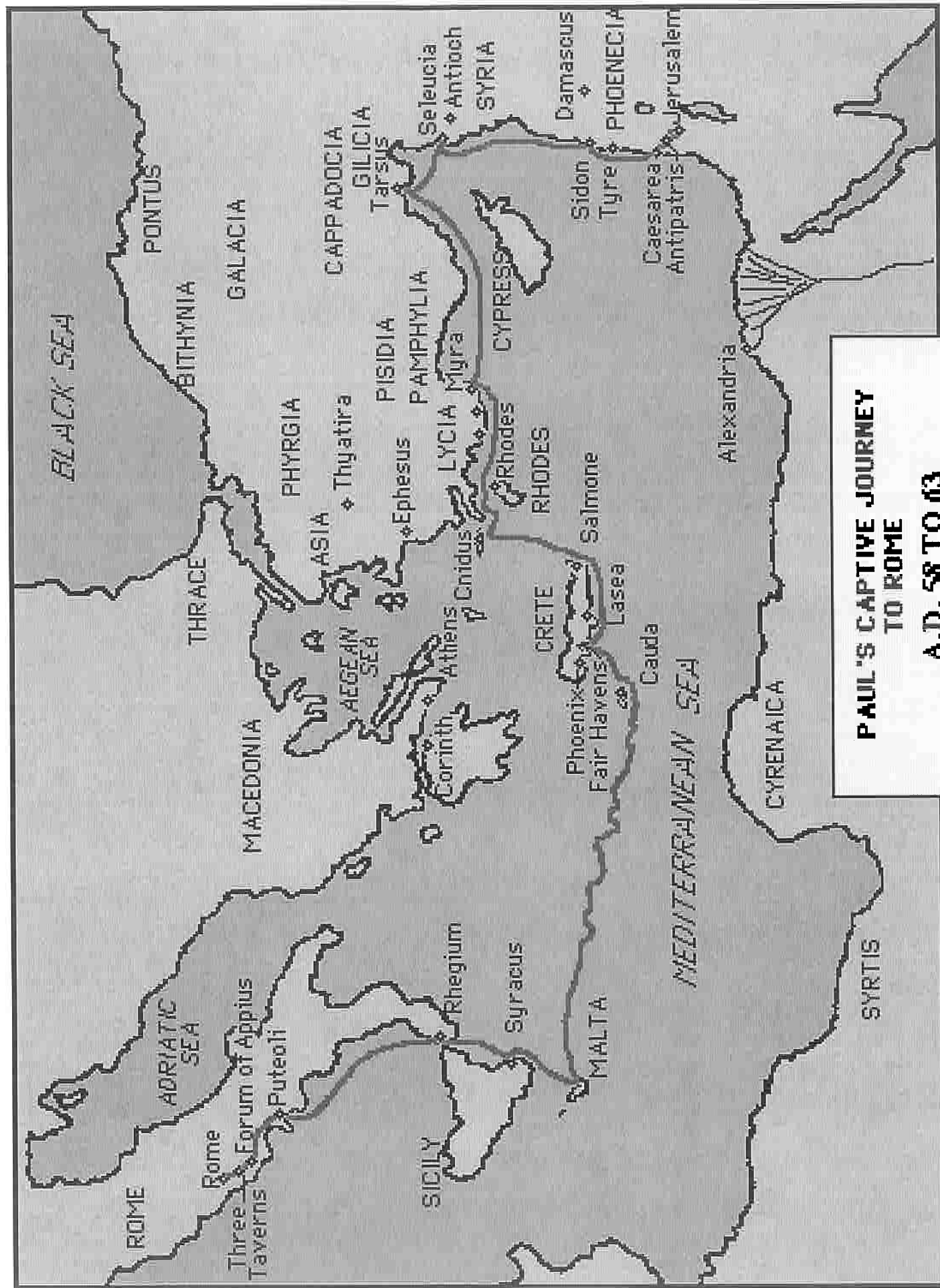
Time Line of Paul's Epistles





PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY
A.D. 50 TO 54





**PAUL'S CAPTIVE JOURNEY
TO ROME**

A.D. 58 TO 63

Paul's Journeys

Paul's Early Travels Acts 9-12

- ☐ To Damascus to persecute Christians
(Conversion) Acts 9
- ☐ Stays in Damascus Acts 9
- ☐ Arabia Gal. 1:17
- ☐ Leaves Damascus Acts 9:25
- ☐ Jerusalem Acts 9:26
- ☐ Caesarea and Tarsus Acts 9:30, Gal. 1:21
- ☐ In Antioch for a year Acts 11:26
- ☐ To Judea/Jerusalem for famine relief
Acts 11:30
- ☐ Antioch (Syria) Acts 12:25

Paul's First Journey Acts 13:1-14:28

Traveled With: Barnabas, John Mark

Main Route: Cyprus and Turkey

Cities/Places: 1400 miles

- ☐ Antioch (Syria today)
- ☐ Seleucia
- ☐ Salamis and Paphos (on Cyprus)
- ☐ Perna
- ☐ ANTIOCH of Pisidia (Turkey today)
- ☐ Iconium
- ☐ Lystra and Derbe
- ☐ Lystra
- ☐ Iconium and Antioch (Turkey)
- ☐ Pisidia, Pamphylia, and Perna
- ☐ Attalia
- ☐ Antioch (Syria)
- ☐ Jerusalem (via Phoenicia and Samaria)
Acts 15

Paul's Second Journey Acts 15:36-18:22

Traveled with: Silas, Timothy, Priscilla and Aquila, Luke

Main Route: Syria, Turkey, Greece, Jerusalem

Cities/Places: 2800 miles

- ☐ Through Syria and Cilicia
- ☐ Derbe and Lystra
- ☐ Through Phrygia and Galatia
- ☐ (past Mysia) Troas
- ☐ Samothracia (Samothrace) and Neapolis
- ☐ Philippi in Macedonia
- ☐ Amphipolis and Apollonia
- ☐ Thessalonica
- ☐ Berea (Beroea)
- ☐ Athens (Mars Hill—"Areopagus")
- ☐ CORINTH
- ☐ Cenchrea (Cenchreae)
- ☐ Ephesus
- ☐ Caesarea (in Syria)
- ☐ "Went up" to Jerusalem
- ☐ Antioch (Syria)

Paul's Third Journey Acts 18:23-21:16

Traveled With: Timothy, Luke, and Others

Main Route: Turkey, Greece, Lebanon, Israel

Cities/Places: 2700 miles

- ☐ Through Galatia and Phrygia
- ☐ EPHESUS
- ☐ Through Macedonia
- ☐ Through Greece (Achaia)
- ☐ Philippi in Macedonia and Troas
- ☐ Assos, Mitylene; near Chios, Samos,
(Trogyllium), Miletus
- ☐ Cos, through Rhodes, Patara
- ☐ Tyre and Ptolemais
- ☐ Caesarea
- ☐ Jerusalem

Paul's Journey to Rome Acts 21:17-28:31

Traveled With: Roman Guards, Luke, Others

Main Route: Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, Crete,
Malta, Sicily, Italy

Cities/Places: 2250 miles

- ☐ Jerusalem
- ☐ Antipatris and Caesarea
- ☐ Sidon, Myra, Cnidus
- ☐ Fair Havens (Crete)
- ☐ Clauda (Cauda)
- ☐ Malta (Melita)
- ☐ Syracuse, Rhegium, Puteoli
- ☐ Appii Forum and Three Taverns
- ☐ ROME

Other Travels Before Paul's Death

Cities/Places (order unknown):

- ☐ Macedonia 1 Timothy 1:3
- ☐ Troas and Miletus 2 Timothy 4:13, 20
- ☐ Crete Titus 1:5
- ☐ Planned to go to Spain Romans 15:28
- ☐ Nicopolis Titus 3:12
- ☐ Back to Rome 2 Timothy 1

How to Remember Paul's Journeys

Paul was a PACER in a race!

(A pacer takes the lead or sets an example.)

P - PAUL ("I have run the race; I have kept the faith.")
A - ANTIOCH of Pisidia First Journey
C - CORINTH area Second Journey
E - EPHESUS area Third Journey
R - ROME Fourth Journey