

PAULINE EPISTLE

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PAUL'S PRISON ACTIVITIES

- Dr Luke gave us some of the lists of Paul's activities during his two years imprisonment in Rome which includes:
- Receiving visitors from all over the world Acts 28:30
- Preaching the kingdom of God Acts 28:31

RECEIVING VISITORS

- Some of the visitors that visited Paul in Roman prison were leaders from the churches he planted during his second missionary Journey.
- Last week we saw Epaphroditus from Philippian church visited Paul in Prison. This week we want to see the representative from Ephesus.

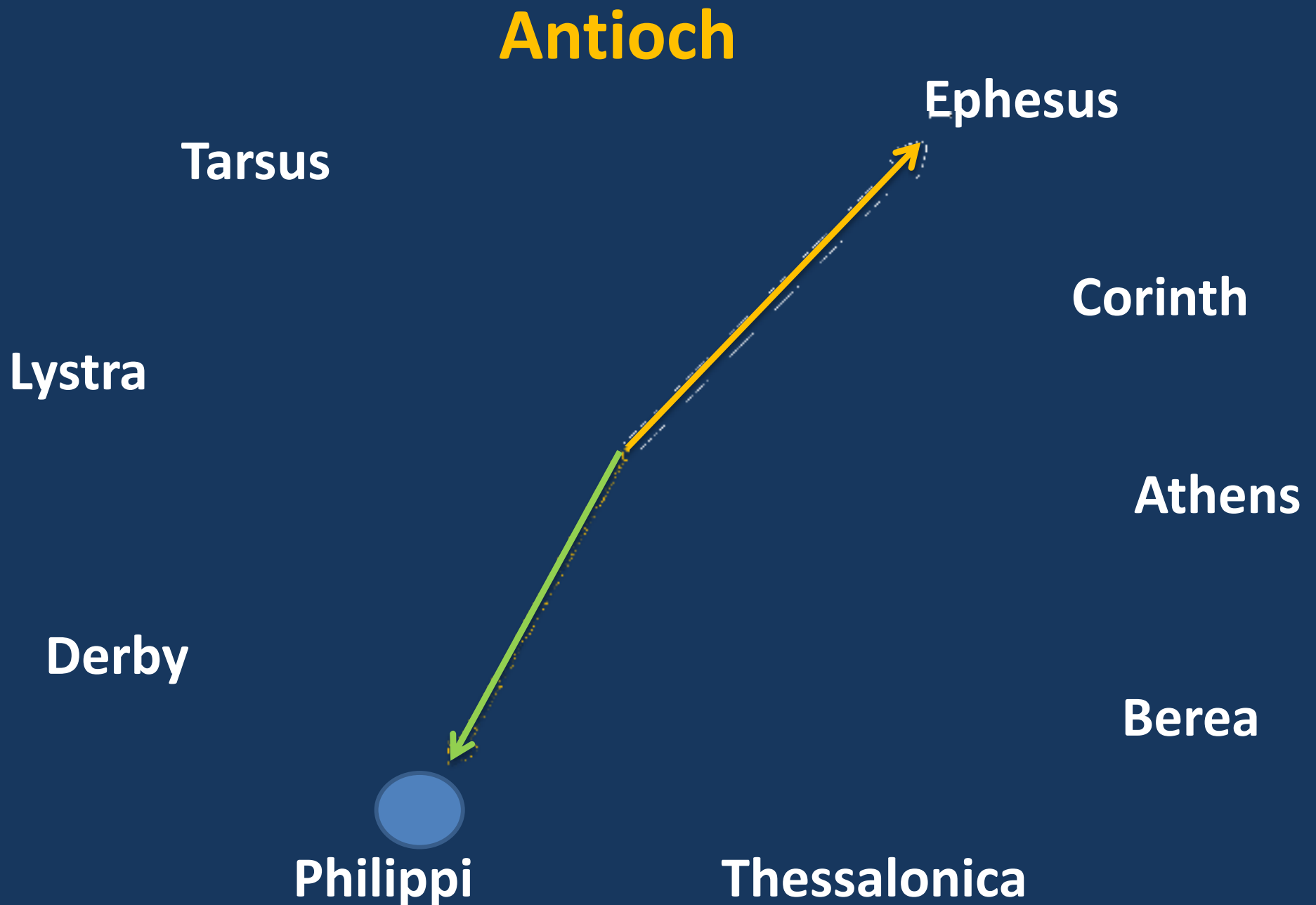
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- Paul first visited Ephesus during the end of his second missionary journey and planted the church during his third missionary Journey.
- Since we have established this unique facts, let us understand how the Church of Ephesus came to be.

Summary of his second and third missionary journey to Ephesus



THE ROUTE OF PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY



PAUL IN EPHESUS

- Paul first preached in the Synagogue Acts 18:19
- Paul Left Aquila and Priscilla in Ephesus and returned to Antioch Acts 18:20-22
- His return to Antioch ended his second missionary trip
- Aquila and Priscilla met Apollos who came from Alexandria
- Apollos only knew the Baptism of John the Baptist
- He believed that Christ the messiah had come
- He knew that Christ fulfilled the prophecies of John the Baptist
- He was certainly baptized by John the Baptist or his disciples

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FURTHER LIGHT TO EVANGELIST APOLLOS

- Apollos didn't know the significance of Christ's death and resurrection
- He didn't know the ministry of the indwelling of the Holy Ghost
- He didn't know the mystery of the Church containing both Jews and Gentiles

AQUILA, PRISCILLIA AND APOLLOS IN EPHESUS

- Apollos was teaching the baptism of John in the Synagogue Acts 18:26
- He was preaching repentance and faith in the Messiah (The same thing John the Baptist preached)
- He had many disciples already in Ephesus with this incomplete gospel Acts 19:1-3
- Aquila and Priscillia expounded the word they learned from Paul to him Acts 18:24-26
- Apollos now armed with the complete message spoke to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ Acts 18:28
- Apollos armed with this further light moved to Corinth where he watered what Paul had sown. Acts 19:1, 1 Cor. 3:6

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AQUILA, PRISCILLIA AND APOLLOS IN EPHESUS

- Aquila and Priscilla wrote a letter to the Corinthian Church to recognize Apollos Acts 18:27
- Apollos became a minister in the Church of Corinth Acts 18:27-28

PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY

ANTIOCH

GALATIA

PHRYGIA

EPHESUS →

We are now taking record of what happened here

MACEDONIA

GREECE

MACEDONIA

TROAS

MILETUS

CAESAREA

JERUSALEM

CAECAREA

ROME →

Extradited to Rome (Paul is here now)

PAUL IN EPHESUS THE SECOND TIME

- In Ephesus, Paul received update about Apollos conversion and journey to Corinth Acts 18 : 24 – 28
- Paul gave further revelation to Apollos disciples living in Ephesus Acts 19:1-6
- Paul had dual duty in Ephesus. To preach Christ and to correct the teaching of Apollos
- Paul preached in Ephesus for three years, the longest recorded stay of Paul in any city.
- He went into the Synagogue of the Jew. Acts 19:8
- Paul was allowed to preach in the Synagogue for three Months Acts 19:8
- Remember during his first visit, they begged him not to leave, so they were earnestly expecting him Acts 18:19-20

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PAUL IN EPHESUS THE SECOND TIME

- The hardened Jews spoke evil of Paul and divided the multitude Acts 19:9
- Paul began to use the School hall of Tyrannus to teach his disciples for two years Acts 19:9
- In Ephesus, God wrought SPECIAL MIRACLES by the hand of Paul Acts 19:11

SPECIAL MIRACLES IN EPEHSUS

- Paul's gospel began to change lives and God had to back it up with extraordinary miracles Acts 19 : 11
- Many who practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly Acts 19:18-19
- The sick received Paul's handkerchiefs and became well Acts 19:12
- Diseases were healed through Paul's aprons Acts 19 : 12
- Evil spirits went out through Paul's handkerchiefs and aprons Acts 19:12
- Above all was the miracle of Regeneration in Ephesus and in all Asia. Acts 19:26-28, Acts 19:20
- The Seven sons of Sceva tried to impersonate this power of God Acts 19:13

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SPECIAL MIRACLES IN EPEHSUS

- Sceva is a known man and the head of Ephesian native doctors Acts 19:14

NOTE:

With the above miracles, the stage was set for confrontation with the forces of darkness. Satan used Demetrius as an agent

THE COUNCIL OF DEMETRIUS IN EPHESUS

- He called a meeting to discuss the decline in the sales of the image of Diana Acts 19:23-25
- Demetrius and his fellow image makers didn't have problem with Paul's doctrine, but their anger is that Paul's preaching wants to put them out of business Acts 19:26-27
- Less people were ordering the image of Diana from them
- The temple in Ephesus was a popular tourist attraction
- The image of Diana made by Demetrius and Co. was sold to visiting tourist
- Worshippers could carry the image anywhere in the world and worship
- They stirred up the people against Paul and the way Acts 19:23

THE RIOT IN EPHESUS AGAINST PAUL

- Paul said there is no god made with hands Acts 19:26
- We are out of business Acts 19:27
- The magnificence and worship of the great goddess Diana had reduced
- They cried out “Great is Diana of the Ephesians” Acts 19 : 28
- The whole city of Ephesus was full of confusion Acts 19 : 29
- The rioters caught Gaius and Aristarchus Paul’s companions in travel Acts 19 : 29
- They rushed into the city theatre shouting” Great is Diana of the Ephesians Acts 19 : 29
- Paul was advised to hide from the rioters Acts 19 : 30 - 31

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CONFUSED ASSEMBLY OF RIOTERS

- Some didn't know the reason for the riot, but just joined the rioters Acts 19 : 32
- Remember Demetrius and his group are behind this upheaval
- The enemy Jews who drove out Paul from the Synagogue presented Alexander as their spokesperson to defend the Jews before the rioters Acts 19 : 33 - 34
- The town clerk appeased the rioters and calmed the burning fire with sweet words in praise of Diana Acts 19 : 35 - 41
- He dismissed the angry rioters with his wisdom and choice of words.

WHO IS DIANA, THE WORSHIPPED GODDESS OF EPHEBUS?

DIANA THE GODDESS OF EPHEBUS

- They worshipped Diana, the goddess of fertility Acts 19:34-35
- She was represented by a large carved female figure of many breast
- Ephesians believed that the image of Diana fell from Jupiter Acts 19:35
- History holds that Ephesus was the center for superstitious religious practices Acts 19:18-19
- Ephesus was the home for the temple of one of the Seven wonders of the ancient world, Artemis or Diana Acts 19:23-24
- History holds that Archaeological excavations have uncovered the remains of the ancient temple which is twenty-five feet underground
- This temple measured 425 feet long and 200 feet wide
- This temple housed the multi-breasted image of Artemis or Diana



AFTER THE UPROAR PAUL LEFT EPHESUS

- Before the riot Paul had proposed in his spirit to leave Ephesus but delayed Acts 19:21
- The riot showed Paul that it was time to move on with his missionary journey
- Ephesus then was the strongest idolatrous region in Asia
- The intervention of the local officials shows that the law still provided some protection for Christian Community
- After the uproar, Paul called the disciples and embraced them Acts 20:1
- Those who believed congregated and became a church known as the church in Ephesus to whom Paul wrote the book of Ephesians to.

VISITORS FROM EPHESUS TO ROME

- The scriptural passage below shows that Paul received visitors from Ephesus who intimated him of the condition of the church at Ephesus that brought about the Epistle to the Ephesians Church.
- “Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and Love unto all the Saints....” Eph 1:15
- It has been suggested that Tychicus led visitors that intimated Paul about the church of Ephesus.
- Paul sent Tychicus to the Ephesian church with this Letter (The book of Ephesians) Eph 6:21

THE PURPOSE FOR THE LETTER TO EPHESIANS

- Unlike many of Paul's letters, the book of Ephesians wasn't written to correct any wrong behavior or address a problem in the church
- Instead, Paul wrote to encourage the church and Christians at large to continue to walk in accordance with their calling as followers of Christ.
- Paul's primary reason for this letter amongst others was to present God's plan of gathering all things in Christ. Eph. 1:10
- To address the Gentile members of the Ephesian church who were perhaps recent converts Eph. 2:11-20
- To promote the Unity, particularly between Gentile and Jewish members. Eph 4:1-16,
- Paul used several figures of speech to present the oneness of God's people in union with Christ.

ONENESS OF GOD'S PEOPLE IN UNION WITH CHRIST

➤ THE CHURCH IS LIKE A BODY

- ❖ Christ is the head (Eph 1:21-23)
- ❖ We are all members of this body (Eph 5:30)

➤ THE CHURCH IS LIKE A BUILDING

- ❖ Christ is the cornerstone (EPH 2:20-22)
- ❖ We are all building materials (EHP 2:20)

➤ THE CHURCH IS LIKE A WIFE

- ❖ Christ is the husband (EPH 5:22-25)
- ❖ We are his wife (EPH 5:23)

PAUL'S SECOND AND THIRD MISSIONARY EPISTLES

- Having known from our previous lectures, the Second and Third missionary Epistles are:
- Galatians
- I Thessalonians
- II Thessalonians
- I Corinthians
- II Corinthians
- Romans
- Philippians(One of the prison Epistles)
- Ephesians(One of the prison Epistles)
- Next week God helping us, we will continue with other Roman prison epistles.

THANKS AND GOD BLESS YOU