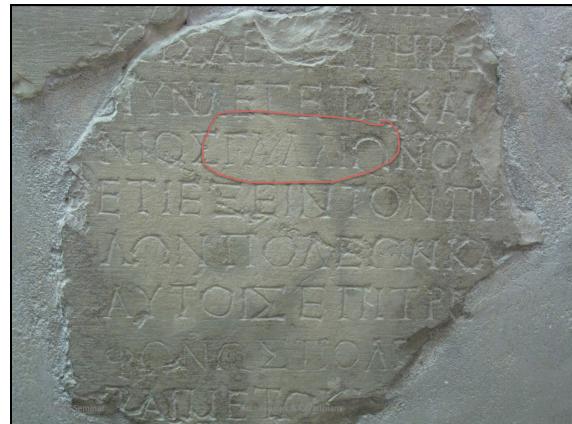


Acts 18-21

Corinth

- **Proconsul Gallio at Corinth (Acts 18:12)**
- The most significant archaeological evidence for dating the New Testament events
- We could date Paul's time in Corinth confidently around 50-51CE



Corinth

- Paul meets Aquila and Priscilla from Italy who are evicted from Italy because of the Edict of Claudius in 49CE

Corinth

- 18:3: because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them, and they worked together
 - by trade they were tentmakers (*σκηνοποιοί* - one who pitches or erects tents, leatherworkers).
 - Debate on actual meaning
 - Social status?
 - Manual work (see 20:34; 1 Cor 4:12; 2 Cor 11:7; 1 Thess 2:9)

Corinth

- Paul's initial ministry: synagogue
- Location of the synagogue – Lechaion Road?
- Having access to the Roman authorities (18:12)?
- Social status of the Jews?

Corinth

- Paul is rejected by the Jews – they “opposed and reviled” him.
- Paul’s strong reaction: “in protest he shook the dust from his clothes and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”
- Paul now focuses on the gentiles – by moving next door to the house of Titus Justus

Corinth

- Paul’s second vision:
 - Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to harm you, for there are many in this city who are my people.
- Paul stays 18 months

Corinth

- Paul before Gallio
- The charge: “this man is persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law”
 - What law? Jewish? Or Roman?
 - Cf. Philippi (16:20-21) and Thessalonica (17:6-7)

Corinth

- 2 Cor 5:10 – another bema

Corinth

- Paul before Gallio
- The verdict: “since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves; I do not wish to be a judge of these matters. And he dismissed them from the tribunal.”
 - Important verdict:
 1. 1st verdict by Roman official in favour of the followers of Jesus
 2. it protects the early Christ movement in Achaia

Corinth

- Sosthenes is beaten
 - Why would the Jews beat up the official of the synagogue?
 - If this is the same Sosthenes mentioned in 1 Cor 1:1, then he becomes a follower of Jesus later on

Corinth: Reflection

- Paul's second vision (the first was the Macedonian vision) – both result in persecution
- Would Paul have been fearful in preaching the gospel in the midst of a pluralistic society where many deities are worshipped?

Temple of Asklepios

- God of healing
- Popularity attested by the terra cotta replicas of various parts of the body healed

Erastus Inscription

- **ERASTVS. PRO. AED. S. P. STRAVIT,** which is an abbreviation of **ERASTUS PRO AEDILITATE SUA PECUNIA STRAVIT.**
- “Erastus, in return for his aedileship, laid this pavement at his own expense”

- Cf. Romans 16:23 “Erastus, who is the city's director of public works,...send you their greetings.”
- *oikonomos* – public treasurer

Paul Leaves Corinth

- Acts 18:18 – sailing from Cenchrea to Asia Minor
- Paul has his hair cut because of a vow
 - What is the vow all about? Unclear
 - Is Paul observing the Torah, and thereby contradicting his teaching about non-Torah observance for the gentiles?
- Phoebe is a deacon (διάκονος) and a benefactor (προστάτης – poorly translated as “great help”) from Cenchrea (Rom 16:1-2)

End of Missionary Journey 2

- Priscilla and Aquila accompany Paul till Ephesus, where Paul stays for a while and then sails to Caesarea, travels to Jerusalem, and subsequently Antioch. Paul promises to return to Ephesus which he does in the 3rd Missionary Journey
- Acts 18:22

Discussion

- Revisit all the major cities Paul visited during his 2nd Missionary Journey. What are some of the highlights/results of his ministry?
- What is the price that Paul paid for his ministry in obedience to the two visions he had (the Macedonian vision and the Corinthian vision)?

Personal Reflection: A Tale of 3 Cities

- Antioch: what happened to Antioch after Islamisation?
- Corinth: Has the church learned her lesson based on *1 Clement*?
- Philippi: thriving church before major earthquake in 619.

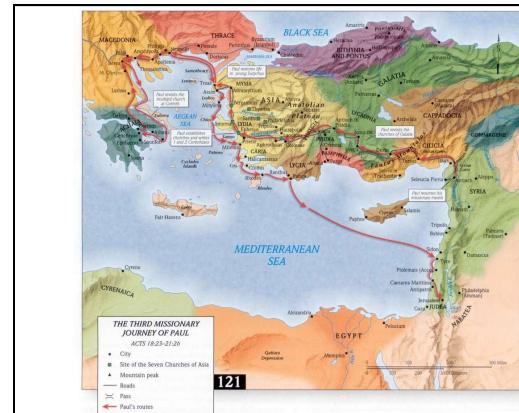




Paul's 3rd
Missionary
Journey)

Missionary Journey 3

- Acts 18:23-21:14
- Achaia and Macedonia: Antioch, Phrygic-Galatia territory, Ephesus ("3 years")
Macedonia, Greece, Philippi, Troas, Assos, Mitylene, Samos, Miletus (Farewell to Ephesians Elders), Tyre (7 days), Ptolemias, Caesarea (stayed with Philip the evangelist, prophet Agabus).

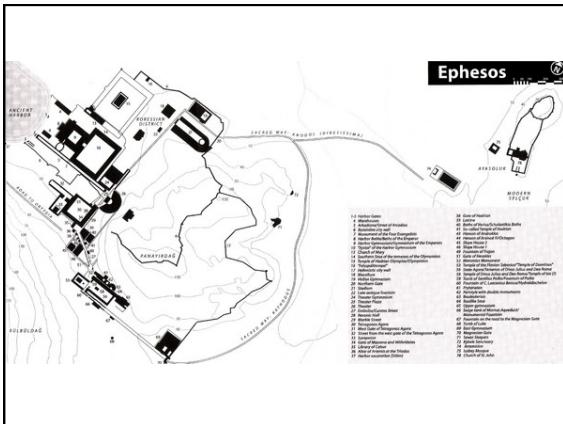


Missionary Journey 3

- Paul revisits churches in Galatia and Phrygia
- Main ministry is in Ephesus (19:1-20:1)
- The journey from Antioch to Ephesus is about 1300km – at least 9 weeks of walking

Ephesus

- Largest harbour city in Asia Minor
- Population more than 200,000
- Theatre
- Library
- Temple of Artemis – one of the seven wonders of the ancient world



Ephesus

- Paul arrives Ephesus, finds 12 disciples yet to be baptised in the Holy Spirit and water, speaking in tongues and prophesying
- Paul moves to the synagogue and preaches there for 3 months, as per his normal custom.
- Resistance to Paul's teaching, prompting him to move to the hall of Tyrannus for 2 years

Ephesus

- 2 years:
 - Active and fruitful period of Paul's ministry
 - Miracles and exorcism – even handkerchiefs and aprons can heal the sick
 - Seven sons of Sceva trying to imitate Paul: "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?"
 - Those who practise magic also confess their sins
 - Establishes churches in Asia Minor through Epaphras in the Lycus Valley – Colossae, Hierapolis, Laodicea (Col 1:7; 4:12)

Ephesus

- 2 years:
 - Writes to the Corinthians – previous letter, 1 Corinthians, letter of tears (see 1 Cor 16:17)
 - Travels to Corinth which ends up in disaster
 - Riot in Ephesus
 - Sufferings and afflictions in Ephesus (despairs of life, receives sentence of death – 2 Cor 1:8-11)
 - Travels to Troas and Macedonia (20:1; cf. 2 Cor 2:13; 7:5)

Ephesus

- 19:19: "A number of those who practiced magic collected their books and burned them publicly; when the value of these books was calculated, it was found to come to fifty thousand silver coins." – yearly wages of 137 workers
- Results: 19:20 - So the word of the Lord grew mighty and prevailed.

Ephesus

- The Ephesian Riot (19:23-41)
 - Temple of Artemis – one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world
 - Demetrius, a silversmith – not motivated by religious reason but financial; but uses religion to instigate others
 - Riot carries out in the theatre
 - City clerk manages to intervenes and brings the riot to an end

Reflection

- If you were Paul, would you be intimidated by the presence of Artemis and numerous other gods in the city of Ephesus?

Our Church?

Acts 20:1-21:17

- Paul's visit to the believers in Macedonia, Achaia (3 months in Corinth), and Asia; and his travel from Troas to Miletus (meeting with the elders from Ephesus) to Jerusalem, visiting believers in Tyre, Ptolemais and Caesarea
- Emphasis on community scene – gathering of believers, worship, instruction, preaching, hospitality for missionaries, and fellowship

Acts 20:1-21:17: Troas

- 20:7-12
 - Paul can really preach!
 - Eutychus falls from the 3rd floor, and dies
 - Paul resurrects him

Acts 20:1-21:17: Miletus

- Paul's 5th speech – to the Ephesian elders
- Only speech addressed to believers
 - Paul reviews his ministry in Ephesus
 - Paul reminds the elders of their task
 - Paul anticipates troubles in Jerusalem

Acts 20:1-21:17: Reflections

- Read 20:26-35
 - List the charges Paul gives to the elders of the Ephesian church. What are the things they are to do, what are the dangers they are to watch out for, and what are the warnings?
 - Compare to Rev 2:1-7 – what are some of warnings and dangers Paul highlights to the elders have taken root in Ephesus some 40 years later?

Acts 20:1-21:17: Caesarea

- Philip (cf. 8:40)
- Agabus' prophecy on the dangers that await Paul in Jerusalem
- Paul is determined to go to Jerusalem despite the believers urging him not to do so.
- Paul sails to Jerusalem and receives a warm reception