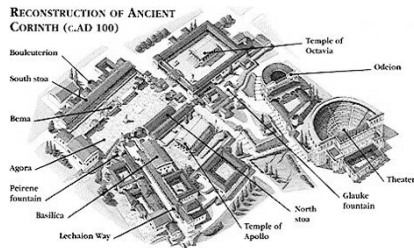


NT Introduction: 2 Corinthians

by Lim Kar Yong



Problems

- The flow of the letter:
 - 2 part travelogue in 1:8-2:13; 7:5-16 highlighting troubled relationship
 - Sudden change of topic in 2 Cor 8-9, discussing the failed collection project (cf. 1 Cor 16:1-4)
 - Change of subject again in 2 Cor 10-13, addressing the opponents of Paul

Problems

- The reference to the “letter of tears” in 2 Cor 2:4
 - The letter never survived
 - The letter is to be identified with 1 Corinthians
 - The letter is to be identified with 2 Cor 10-13

Problems

- The integrity of 2 Corinthians
 - Partition theory:
 - 2 Corinthians = 1 letter
 - 2 Corinthians = 2 letters comprising ch 1-9, 10-13
 - 2 Corinthians = 3 letters, comprising ch 1-7, 8-9, 10-13

Problems

- The integrity of 2 Corinthians
 - Partition theory:
 - 2 Corinthians = 4, 5, 6, letters
 - Interpolation of 2:14-7:4
 - Interpolation of 6:14-7:1
 - 1:1-13, 7:5-16;
 - 2:14-6:13;
 - 6:14-7:2;
 - 8:1-24
 - 9:1-15;
 - 10:1-13:13

Problems

- The identity of the opponents in 2 Corinthians
 - The method: mirror reading
 - See my thesis.

Outline

1:1-2: Opening Greetings
1:3-7:16 – Reconciliation
8:1-9:15 – Jerusalem collection and generosity
10:1-13:13 – Appealing for obedience and loyalty

Interesting features

- Use of *berakah* in epistolary thanksgiving
- Use of rhetoric- Fool's Speech
- The use of irony, sarcasm, and parody especially from 11:23-12:10 with the 4 accounts detailing his "failures"
- Paul's most detailed exposition of his sufferings – refer to my book