




Second Preaching Trip

- ▶ Region: Syria
 - Paul & Silas
 - 15:35–41
 - Strengthening disciples
 - ▶ Region: Cilicia
 - Paul & Silas
 - 15:41
 - Strengthening disciples
 - ▶ Derbe in region of Lycaonia, province of Galatia
 - Paul & Silas
 - 16:1–5
 - Delivered decrees; churches increased in number
 - ▶ Lystra in region of Lycaonia, province of Galatia
 - Paul & Silas & Timothy
 - 16:1–5
 - Picked up Timothy and had him circumcised
 - Delivered decrees; churches strengthened and increased in number
- 

Second Preaching Trip

- ▶ Region: Phrygia, province of Asia Minor
 - Paul & Silas & Timothy
 - 16:6
- ▶ Troas in region of Mysia in province of Asia Minor
 - Paul & Silas & Timothy & Luke
 - 16:7, 8–11
- ▶ Island of Samothrace
 - Paul & Silas & Timothy & Luke
 - 16:11
- ▶ Neapolis in province of Macedonia
 - Paul & Silas & Timothy & Luke
 - 16:11
- ▶ Philippi in province of Macedonia
 - Paul & Silas & Timothy & Luke
 - 16:12–40
 - Conversion of Lydia and her household
 - Spirit cast out of slave girl
 - Paul & Silas imprisoned
 - Conversion of Philippian jailor and his household
 - 2 Corinthians 11:25; 1 Thessalonians 2:2; Philippians 4:15



Chapter 17

- ▶ 17:1–9
 - Preaching in Thessalonica
- ▶ 17:10–14
 - Preaching in Berea
- ▶ 17:15–34
 - Preaching in Athens



Acts 17:1–9

- ▶ Leaving Philippi, passed through Amphipolis (about 33 miles away), and then through Apollonia (about another 38 miles), and then to Thessalonica (about another 40 miles)
- ▶ All along the Egnatian Way, a great military and commercial highway linking the Aegean with the Adriatic (Baker's Bible Atlas, p. 214)
- ▶ Thessalonica:
 - Seaport
 - Capital and largest city in province of Macedonia
- ▶ Luke absent from the narrative, per pronouns



Egnatian Way



Thessalonica



Ruins of ancient marketplace in Thessalonica



Preaching in Thessalonica

- ▶ Reasoning in the synagogue for three Sabbaths
- ▶ Preaching to Jews first as was his custom
 - Acts 16:13
 - Acts 17:10, 17
- ▶ “Explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead”
 - Jews generally expected a glorious king to deliver them from physical bondage
 - Isaiah 53 spoke of a suffering Messiah
- ▶ “this Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ”
 - Like Peter’s sermon in Acts 2




Thessalonica: Results?

- ▶ Some persuaded, and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, not a few of the leading women
- ▶ 1 Thessalonians 1:5–9
 - Miracles accompanied
 - Received the word in much affliction
 - Became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe
 - Turned from idols to serve the living and true God



Thessalonica

- ▶ 1 Thessalonians 2:1–16; 2 Thessalonians 3:8
 - Paul and company spoke boldly even after the events of Philippi
 - Paul and company labored there so that they wouldn't be a burden to the brethren
 - Thessalonians welcomed the preaching not as the word of men but as the word of God
 - And they suffered from their own countrymen like their brethren in Judea
 - 2:15 – The Jews did not want Paul preaching to Gentiles!
 - Acts 17:5
 - Similar to Acts 5:17; 13:45
 - Envy among the Jews was a BIG problem
- 

Thessalonica

- ▶ Some men from Thessalonica:
- ▶ Jason (17:5) – with Paul in Corinth when he writes the Roman letter on his 3rd journey – Romans 16:21
- ▶ Aristarchus, Secundus – Acts 20:4; 27:2



To What Length Will The Jews Go?

- ▶ 1 Thessalonians 2:14–16
- ▶ Acts 17:5–9
- ▶ Verse 6–7 – accusation of civil uprising/trouble, contrary to the decrees of Caesar
- ▶ Jason harbored them...implication?
- ▶ Paul & Silas sent away by night
- ▶ Even in Berea, Jews came from Thessalonica and stirred up the crowds
- ▶ Devil's plan: persecute
 - Result: Gospel spread



Berea

- ▶ About 50 miles southwest of Thessalonica
- ▶ More noble-minded than those of Thessalonica. Why?
- ▶ Received the word with all readiness
 - James 1:22
 - “received” – Acts 2:41, 8:14, 11:1
- ▶ Searched the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so
 - 2 Timothy 2:15
- ▶ We need this same attitude and action
 - Weigh the evidence
 - Check whether what the teacher says is what the Scriptures say
 - If found to be true, heed/respond
- ▶ Many believed
- ▶ One of very few cases where Jews have a favorable response





On to Athens

- ▶ Persecution in Berea
- ▶ Brethren sent Paul away
- ▶ Silas & Timothy remained behind
- ▶ Athens
 - About 250 miles to the south from Berea
 - 12 days journey; or 3 days by sea
 - Athens served by the port of Piraeus
 - Along the road between Piraeus and Athens would be altars built to gods, as well as peddlers and merchants
- ▶ Achaia = Roman name for Greece
- ▶ Corinth the capital and chief city of Achaia; Athens “retained its fame as a cultural center (Baker’s Bible Atlas, p.215)
- ▶ “easier to find a god than a man in Athens”
- ▶ More idols in Athens than all the rest of Greece



Athens

- ▶ The city circled the base of the Acropolis – 500 ft. high hill with temples
- ▶ North of the acropolis was the agora, a marketplace where business was transacted and philosophy argued
- ▶ On the western approach to the Acropolis was Mars Hill, or the Areopagus
 - The city court met here
- ▶ On south side of the Acropolis was the theatre of Dionysius (a nature god of fruitfulness and vegetation, especially known as a god of wine and ecstasy)
- ▶ What did Paul see in Athens?
 - Men in need of the gospel



Athens – Layout



Acropolis in Athens



Athens: View from Areopagus toward Acropolis

Acropolis – 500 foot high hill with numerous temples



Areopagus, or Mars' Hill (Hill of Ares):

the Areopagus or rocky hill in Athens, north-west of the Acropolis, where the Athenian supreme tribunal and court of morals was held.

Mars: the Greek god of war



Paul in Athens

- ▶ Paul asks for Silas and Timothy to come to him with all speed
- ▶ Timothy comes to Paul in Athens
 - Paul sends him from Athens back to Thessalonica
 - 1 Thessalonians 3:1–2
 - Timothy returned to Paul in Corinth
 - Acts 18:5
 - 1 Thessalonians 3:6–7

