

GOD'S PEOPLE

*responding to life situations
as God's Work advances*

Group Teaching | Older Men | 04 July 2023

Acts 16:11-40 (ESV)

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BIG PICTURE

In Jerusalem

Witness begins in Jerusalem 1:1 - 6:7
(summary at 2:41,47; 4:4, 6:7)



In Judea and Samaria

Witness expands beyond
Jerusalem 6:8 - 9:31
(summary at 9:31)

Because of the Arrival of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2)

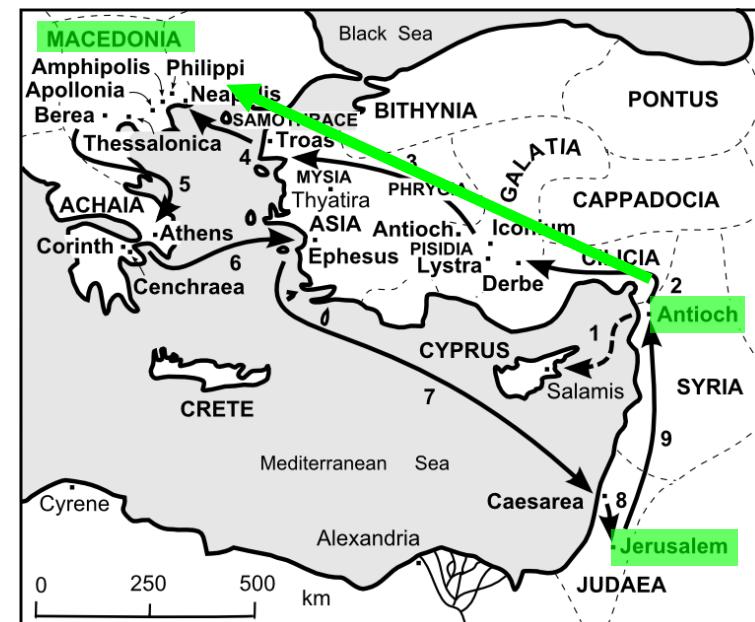
To the end of the earth



BIG IDEA

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey (Acts 16)



Acts 15:36-41

Paul | Barnabas

disagreement



Silas



John aka Mark

Antioch → Syria & Cilicia

Antioch → Cyrus



Timothy (at Derbe/Lystra)

→ Phrygia & Galatia

XX → Bithynia (from Mysia)

→ Troas

→ Macedonia

Acts 16:1-7

Paul's 2nd
missionary
Journey

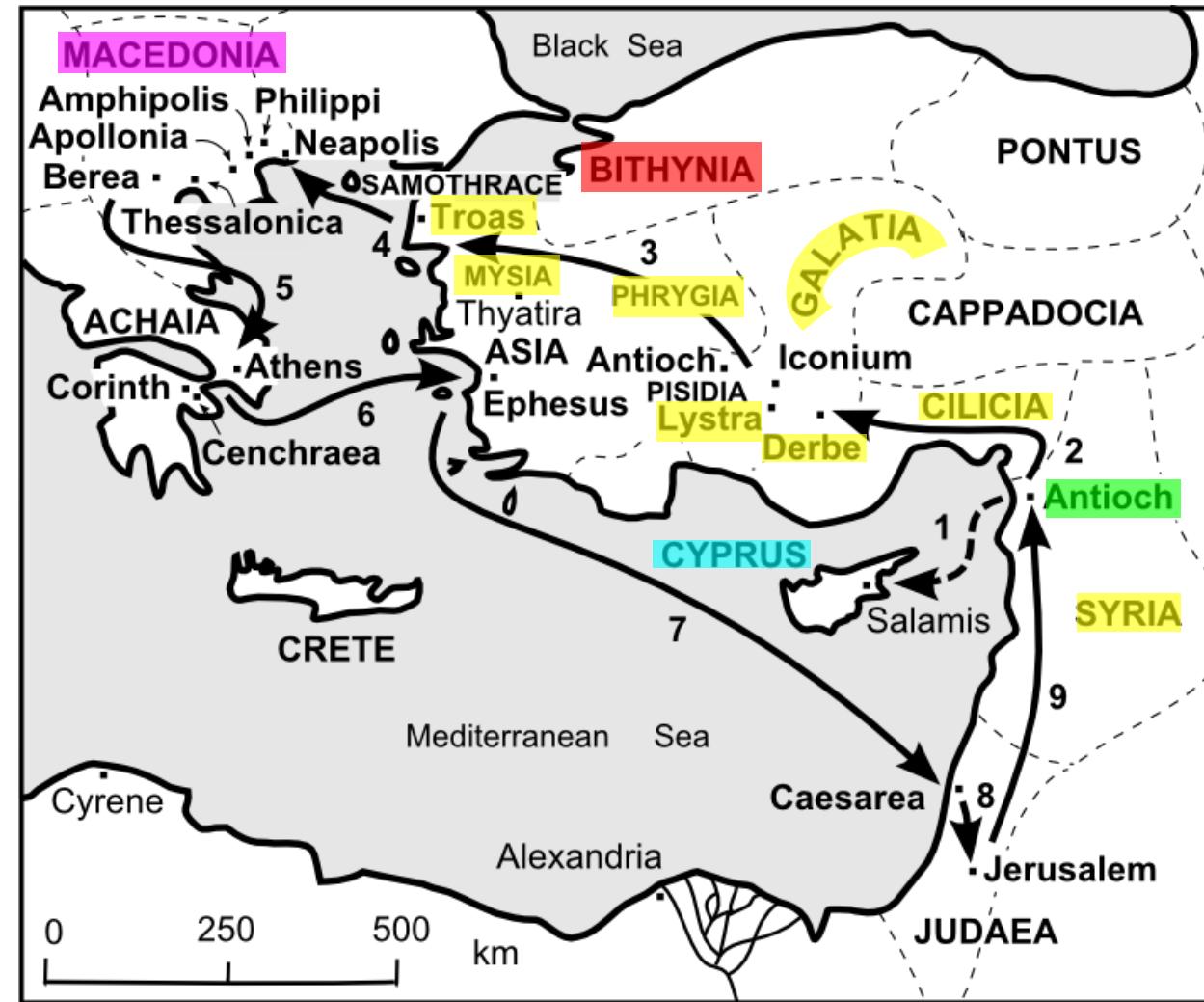
Acts 16:8-10

⁸ So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.

⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night.

A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

¹⁰ Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.



Acts 16:11-40

Today's Passage

STORY FLOW



Verse 11-15

Salvation of ^{+ household}
Lydia
a seller of purple
from city of Thyatira
(south of Mysia)
who worshiped God

Verse 16-24

Deliverance of
Spirit
from a slave girl
resulting them in
imprisonment

Verse 25-34

Salvation of ^{+ household}
Jailer
i/c of inner prison
from city of Philippi
who also cared for P&S

Verse 35-40

Release of
Paul & Silas
from unjustified charge
as roman citizens
returned to Lydia's home

Acts 16:11-40

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+ household

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Learning Focus

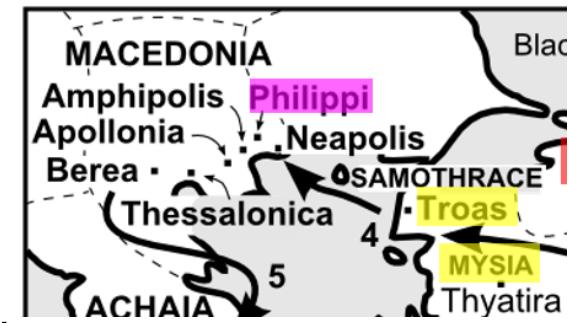
- ① How God's Work Advances (in various settings)
- ② How God's People Responds (Lydia, Jailer, Paul & Silas)

¹¹ Therefore, sailing from **Troas**,
we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and the next day came to Neapolis,
¹² and from there to **Philippi**, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony.
And we were staying in that city for some days.

¹³ And on the **Sabbath day** we went out of the city to the riverside,
where prayer was customarily made;
and **we sat down and spoke to the women who met there**.

¹⁴ Now a certain woman named **Lydia** heard **us**.
She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, **who worshiped God**.
The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.

¹⁵ And when **she and her household were baptized**, she **begged us**, saying,
"If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay."
So she **persuaded us**.



Acts 16:11-15

When: Sabbath Day

Where: Philippi (Macedonia Region)

Who: Women praying at the riverbank

Encounter between **Paul** and Lydia

- Lydia from Thyatira
 - Seller of expensive purple clothing
 - Worshipped God
 - Her heart was opened to Paul's sharing
 - Accepted & baptised in Christ + household
 - Persuaded P&S to stay at her home

Acts 13:13-51

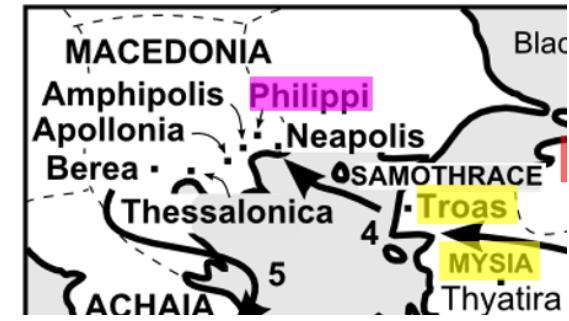
When: Sabbath Day (2X)

Where: Antioch (Pisidia Region)

Who: People at synagogue

Encounter between **Paul** and Crowd (Jews & Gentiles)

- Paul's speech
 - on God's plan for salvation has always been through Jesus & for all who will believe
- Jewish leaders filled with envy
 - seeing multitude responding to Paul's teaching
- Jewish leaders stirred up persecution
 - against P&B and expelled them from this region



① God's Work Advances

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Release of

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as roman citizens
returned to Lydia's home

② God's People

Regardless the circumstances
and those who are His;
their hearts will turn back to Him.

(Lydia) **responds with hospitality**
when a need is observed. c.f. 16:40

¹⁶ Now it happened, as we went to prayer,

that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us,
who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.

¹⁷ This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying,

"These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation."

¹⁸ And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit,
"I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

¹⁹ But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone,

they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.

²⁰ And they brought them to the magistrates, and said,

"These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city;

²¹ and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe."

²² Then the multitude rose up together against them;

and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods.

²³ And when they had laid many stripes on them,

they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely.

²⁴ Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison & fastened their feet in the stocks.

Acts 16:16-24

Where: Philippi (Macedonia Region)

What: Paul cast out the spirit
from a slave girl

Encounter between Paul and Slave Girl

- Slave girl possessed with spirit of divination
- Profit making to her masters
- Girl's persistent cry towards Paul
- Paul was annoyed and casted the spirit away
- Paul: *"I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her."*

Crowd Response: -ve

- Masters were angry that their hope was gone
- They dragged P&S to the authorities
- Accused them on unlawful teaching to RC
- Multitude arose together against P&S
- Magistrates imprisoned P&S with chains

Acts 3:1-10

Where: Jerusalem (Judea Region)

What: Peter healed a lame

Encounter between Peter and Lame

- a man was lame since birth
- daily routine at temple gate to ask for alms
- Peter: *"Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."*
- lame man walked; praising God

Crowd Response: +ve

- People around filled
with wonder and amazement

Acts 9:32-35

Where: Lydda (Judea Region)

What: Peter healed a paralyzed
(8yrs bedridden)

Encounter between Peter and Paralyzed

- a man named Aeneas was paralyzed
- Peter: *"Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed."*
- Aeneas arose immediately

Crowd Response: +ve

- All who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon
saw him healed & turned to the Lord.

① God's Work Advances

Verse 11-15

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Lydiaa seller of purple
from city of *Thyatira*
who worshiped God

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Verse 16-24

Deliverance of
Spiritfrom a slave girl
resulting them in
imprisonment

Not expecting that miracle(s)
performed will definitely bring
people to Jesus.

Verse 25-34

Salvation of ^{+ household}
Jaileri/c of inner prison
from city of *Philippi*
who also cared for P&S

Verse 35-40

Release of
Paul & Silasfrom unjustified charge
as *roman citizens*
returned to Lydia's home

② God's People

(Lydia) **responds with hospitality**
when a need is observed c.f. 16:40

(P&S) **responds with prayer/songs**
even when “all” is against them.
c.f. 16:25

²⁵ But at midnight Paul and Silas were **praying and singing hymns** to God, and the **prisoners were listening** to them.

²⁶ Suddenly there was a **great earthquake**, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately **all the doors were opened** and everyone's **chains were loosed**.

²⁷ And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, **supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself**.

²⁸ But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, **"Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."**

²⁹ Then he called for a light, ran in, and **fell down trembling before Paul and Silas**.

³⁰ And he brought them out and said, **"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"**

³¹ So they said,

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

³² Then they **spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all** who were in his house.

³³ And **he took them** the same hour of the night and **washed their stripes**.

And immediately **he and all his family were baptized**.

³⁴ Now when he had **brought them into his house**, he **set food** before them; and **he rejoiced**, having believed in God with all his household.

³⁵ And when it was day, the magistrates sent the officers, saying, "**Let those men go.**"

³⁶ So the keeper of the prison reported these words to Paul, saying,

"The magistrates have sent to let you go. Now therefore depart, and go in peace."

³⁷ But Paul said to them,

"They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, and have thrown us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly?"

No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out."

³⁸ And the officers told these words to the magistrates,

and **they were afraid** when they heard that **they were Romans.**

³⁹ Then they **came and pleaded with them** and brought *them* out, and **asked them to depart** from the city.

⁴⁰ So they went out of the prison and **entered the house of Lydia;**

and when they had seen the brethren, **they encouraged them** and departed.

Acts 16:25-40

Where: Philippi (Macedonia Region)

What: Prison & Earthquake

Encounter between Paul and Jailer

- P&S prayed & sang hymns; prisoners listened
- Sudden earthquake came; shook its foundation
- **All doors opened; all chains loosened**
- Jailer woke up; assumed all prisoners escaped
- Wanted to commit suicide for his failed duty
- Paul: “*do yourself no harm for we are here!*”
- Jailer fell down before P&S
 - Accepted & baptised in Christ + household
 - Attended to their wounds and provided food
 - Rejoiced over their own salvation in Christ

Authority's Response:

- Next day, magistrates instructed to release P&S
- P&S did not agree to this “secret” release
- Authority was afraid; pleaded; **invited P&S to leave**
- Lydia hosted P&S; they encouraged Ct; they left

Acts 5:17-42

Where: Jerusalem (Judea Region)

What: Prison & Angel

Encounter between Peter and Authorities

- High priest and Sadducees filled with indignation arrested the apostles and put them in common prison
- **Angel opened the prison doors** and brought them out; instructing them to speak about the good news at the temple
- Council brought the apostles in again from the temple for interrogation

Authority's Response:

- Gameliel (Pharisee) to convince the council to **let the apostles go with stern warning**; not to speak in Jesus' Name

Acts 12:1-24

Where: Judea → Caesarea

What: Prison & Angel

Encounter between Peter and King Herod

- As this pleases the Jews, King Herod persecuted many Christians including arresting Peter with heavy guarding
- **Angel appeared and guided Peter** out of the prison and appeared in front of fellow Christians that God sent Angel to save him

Authority's Response:

- King Herod killed all guards on duty and **could not find Peter's whereabouts**
- King Herod died due to flesh eating worms sent by the Angel

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returned to Lydia's home

② God's People

Regardless the circumstances
and those who are His;
their hearts will turn back to Him.

Not expecting that miracle(s)
performed will definitely bring
people to Jesus.

Always with God's Help (e.g. Angel)
even in those very difficult times

and those who are His;
their hearts will turn back to Him.

(Lydia) responds with hospitality
when a need is observed c.f. 16:40

(P&S) responds with prayer/songs
even when “all” is against them.
c.f. 16:25

(P&S) responds with integrity
even when opportunity & rights
is given.

(Jailer) responds with gratefulness
& care when a need is observed.

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Do we seize every circumstances we have to share Christ to others? Knowing that those who are His, will definitely respond

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How can we guard ourselves from thinking that “certain past practices” will always/sure work for evangelism?

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Words of Affirmation: God will surely send help to His people in His own timing

and those who are His;
their hearts will turn back to Him.

② God's People

When a need is presented, will I respond readily to help with hospitality and care?

(P&S) responds with prayer/songs even when “all” is against them.
c.f. 16:25

How can I grow to be attentive to listen to God’s guide; directing me on how to move on in any given situation?

(Jailer) responds with gratefulness & care when a need is observed.

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