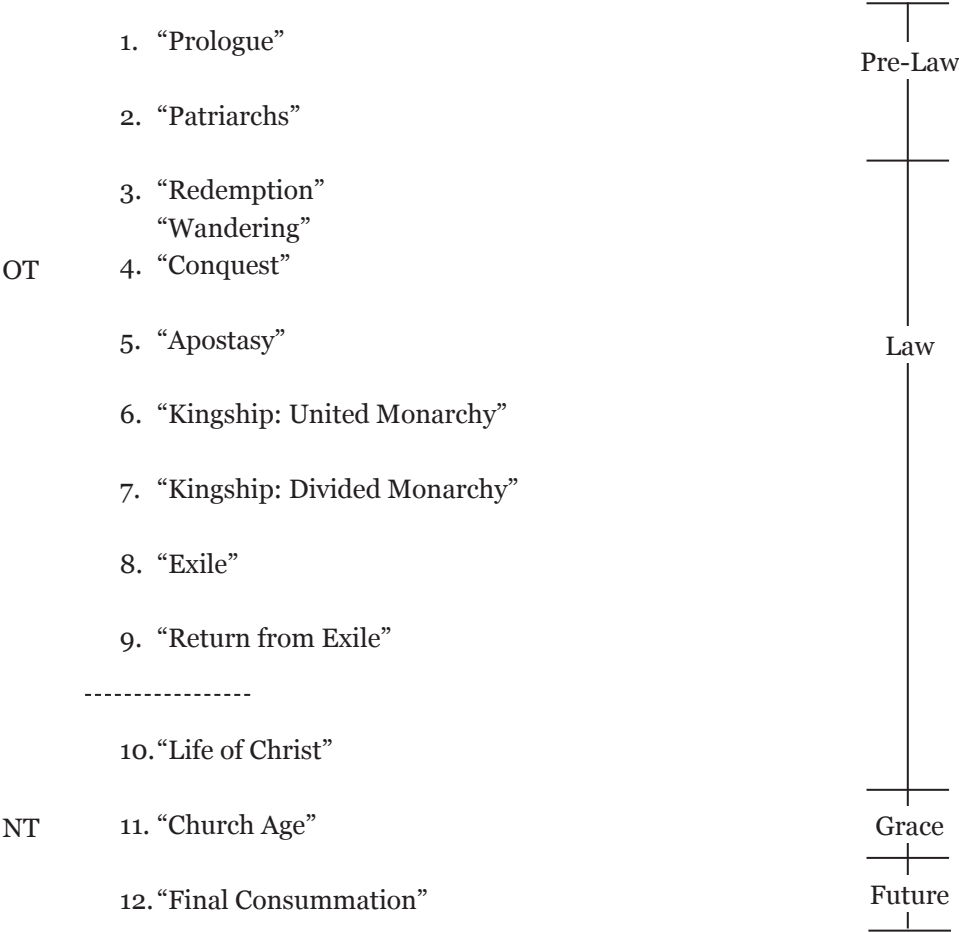


# Session 11

## I. PRAYER/REVIEW

### A. Twelve Movements of Panorama



### B. Life of Christ: Three Phases

- "Obscurity"
- "Rising Popularity"
- "Increasing Opposition"

## II. BROAD OVERVIEW OF “BOOK OF ACTS” (CHURCH AGE)

| BOOK OF ACTS                                                                          |                            |                             |                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Author:</b> Luke <b>Theme:</b> Beginnings of the Church <b>Key Verse:</b> Acts 1:8 |                            |                             |                                     |
| <b><u>Chapter 1</u></b>                                                               | <b><u>Chapters 2-7</u></b> | <b><u>Chapters 8-12</u></b> | <b><u>Chapters 13-28</u></b>        |
| Introduction                                                                          | Witnessing in Jerusalem    | Witnessing in Judea/Samaria | Witnessing to the Ends of the Earth |
| Focus: Jews                                                                           |                            | Jews<br>+<br>1/2 Jews       | Gentiles                            |

## III. “BOOK OF ACTS”: INTRODUCTION/TRANSITION (CHAPTER 1)

A. An Instructive Question

## 1. Background

Acts 1:3

*He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and **speaking about the kingdom of God.***

## 2. Command

Acts 1:4-5

*And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”*

## 3. Question

Acts 1:6

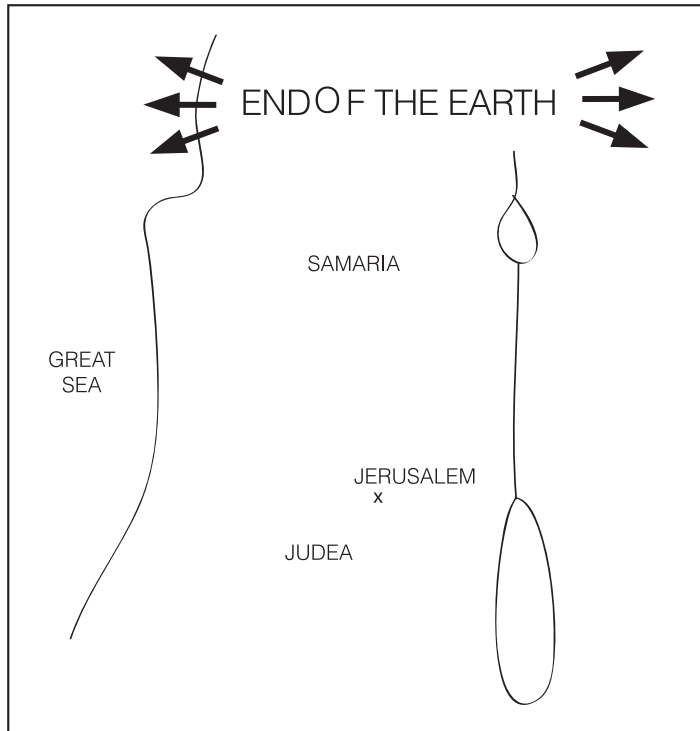
*So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time **restore the kingdom** to Israel?”*

B. An Illuminating Reply

Acts 1:7-8

*He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

C. An Illustrative Map



D. An Insightful Outline (Acts 1:8)

Jerusalem —→ Judea and Samaria —→ End of the Earth  
(Jews) —→ (Jews )(1/2 Jews) —→ (Gentiles)  
(Acts 2-7) —→ (Acts 8-12) —→ (Acts 13-28)

**N.B.** Note the spread of the gospel geographically, racially, and religiously.

#### IV. “BOOK OF ACTS”: WITNESSING IN JERUSALEM (CHAPTERS 2-7)

##### A. Day of Pentecost (Acts 2)

###### 1. Power (2:1-13)

Acts 1:5

*...but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.*

Acts 1:8

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...*

Acts 2:1-4

*When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

###### 2. Preaching (2:14-36)

###### a. Explaining Pentecost (14-21)

###### b. Proclaiming the Gospel (22-35)

###### c. Applying the message (36)

Acts 2:36

*Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.*

B. Snapshot of the Early Church (Acts 2)

Acts 2:42-47

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

C. Difficulties in the Early Church (Acts 3-5)

1. Problem with Jewish authorities (Acts 3-4)

a. Miracle: lame man healed (3:1-10)

b. Message: crucified and resurrected Christ (3:11-26)

Acts 3:12-15

*And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? <sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup> But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup> and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses."*

c. Meeting: religious leaders forbid the teaching (4:1-22)

Acts 4:19-21

*But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, <sup>20</sup> for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." <sup>21</sup> And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened.*

2. Problem with Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5)

3. Problem with Dissension (Acts 6)

Acts 6:1-4

*Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. <sup>2</sup> And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. <sup>3</sup> Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. <sup>4</sup> But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."*

D. Martyrdom of Stephen (Acts 6-7)

1. Note his character (Acts 6)

Acts 6:8-10

*And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. <sup>9</sup> Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. <sup>10</sup> But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.*

2. Note his sermon (Acts 7)

a. An overview of Jewish religious history (7:2-50)

(1) From Abraham to Christ

(2) Compare to Panorama Timeline

b. An unconventional close to the sermon

Acts 7:51-53

*“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. <sup>52</sup> Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, <sup>53</sup> you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”*

3. Note the response (Acts 7:54-8:3)

Acts 7:54-8:1<sup>a</sup>

*Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup> But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” <sup>57</sup> But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. <sup>58</sup> Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep. <sup>8</sup> And Saul approved of his execution.*

4. Note the result

Acts 8:1<sup>b</sup> (NIV)

*On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.*

## V. “BOOK OF ACTS”: WITNESSING IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA (CHAPTERS 8-12)

### A. Background (Acts 8)

Acts 8:1<sup>b</sup>-4

*And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.*

<sup>2</sup> *Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him.* <sup>3</sup> *But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.* <sup>4</sup> *Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.*

### B. Ministry of Philip (Acts 8)

#### 1. Preaching in Samaria (8:5-25)

a. Samaritans also believe.

b. Peter and John investigate.

Acts 8:12

*But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.*

Acts 8:14-17

*Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, <sup>15</sup> who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, <sup>16</sup> for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.*

#### 2. Preaching on the Gaza road (8:26-40)

a. Ethiopian eunuch believes

b. Ethiopian eunuch baptized

### C. Conversion of Saul (Paul) (Acts 9)

#### 1. The Damascus road incident (9:1-9)

2. The Damascus disciple (Ananias) encounter (9:10-18)

Acts 9:13-16

*But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. <sup>16</sup> For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”*

3. The Damascus saga aftermath (9:19-31)

D. Summary

Acts 9:31

*So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.*

Insight:

For other Book of Acts “summaries” see: 2:41; 2:47; 4:4; 5:14; 6:7; 9:31 (above); 11:21; 12:24; 16:5; 19:20.

VI. “BOOK OF ACTS”: WITNESSING TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH (CHAPTERS 13-28)

A. Charted

| Paul’s Missionary Journeys   |                   |            |            |
|------------------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|
| Acts 13-14                   | Acts 15           | Acts 15-18 | Acts 18-21 |
| Journey #1                   | Jerusalem Council | Journey #2 | Journey #3 |
| Journey to Rome (Acts 21-28) |                   |            |            |

B. Conversion of Cornelius the Centurion (Acts 10-11)

1. The vision of Cornelius (10:1-8)
2. The vision of Peter (10:9-16)
3. The conversion of Cornelius (10:17-11:18)
  - a. He was a Gentile.
  - b. He was a God-fearer.
  - c. He was devout.

Acts 10:34-35

*So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him."*

C. Martyrdom of James (Acts 12)

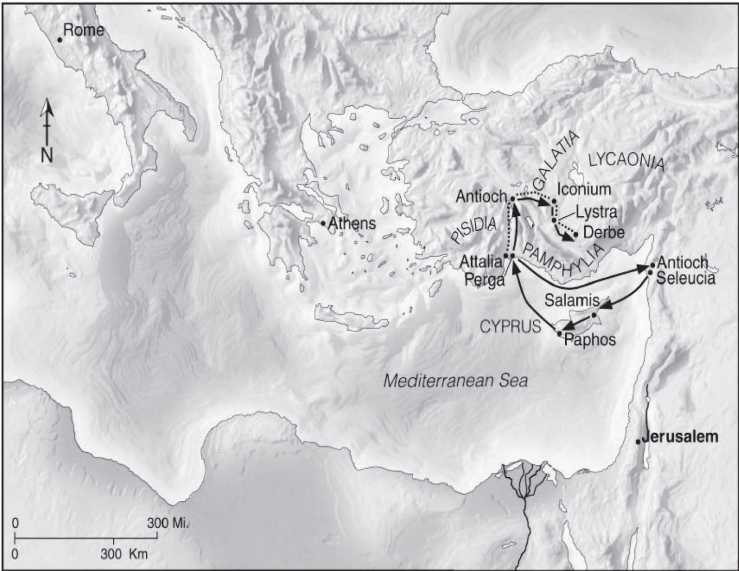
Acts 12:1-5

*About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. <sup>2</sup> He killed James the brother of John with the sword, <sup>3</sup> and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. <sup>4</sup> And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. <sup>5</sup> So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.*

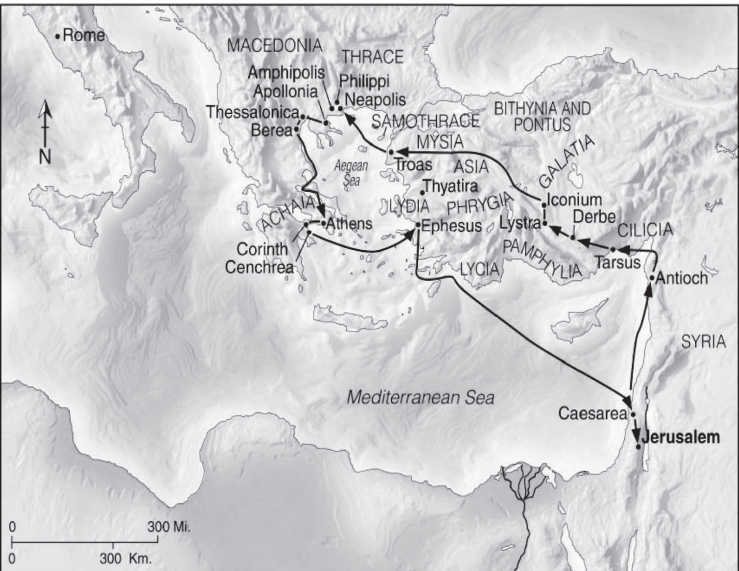
| BOOK OF ACTS (see 1:8)  |                       |                                |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chapters 1-7            | Chapters 8-12         | Chapters 13-28                 |
| Witnessing in Jerusalem | Witnessing in Samaria | Witnessing to End of the Earth |

D. Mapped: The Journeys of Paul

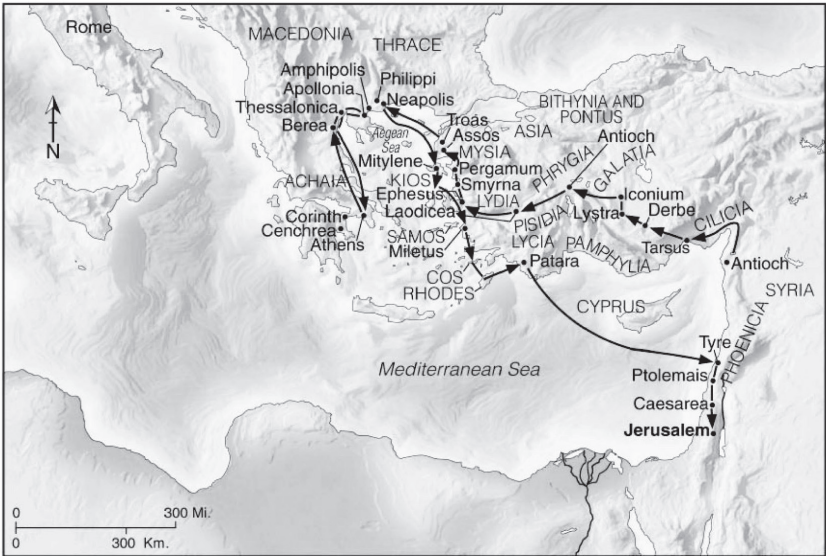
MAP OF PAUL'S  
FIRST MISSIONARY  
JOURNEY



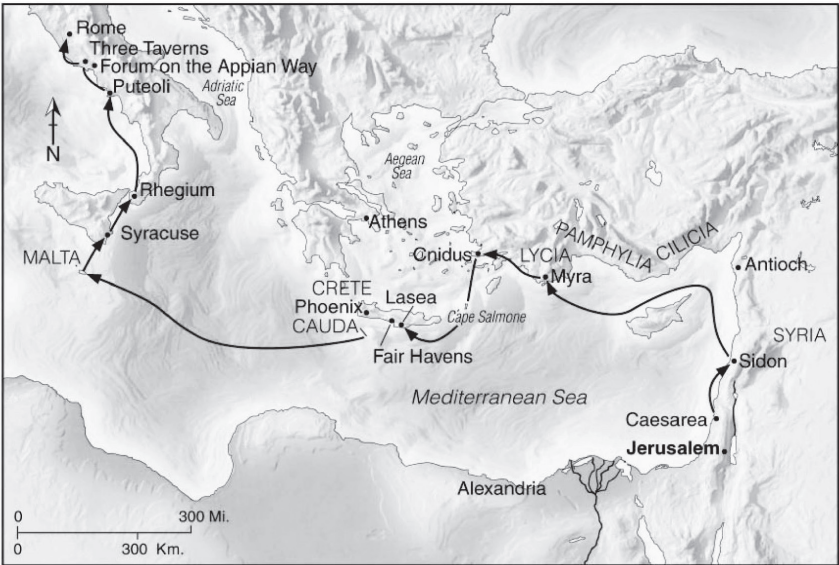
MAP OF PAUL'S  
SECOND MISSIONARY  
JOURNEY



MAP OF PAUL'S  
THIRD MISSIONARY  
JOURNEY



MAP OF PAUL'S  
JOURNEY TO ROME



## E. Biblical Highlights

### 1. Missionary Journey #1 (Acts 13:14)

Acts 13:1-3

*Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. <sup>2</sup> While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” <sup>3</sup> Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.*

Insight:

New Testament letters around the end of the 1st Missionary Journey:

- James
- Galatians

### 2. Jerusalem Council (Acts 15)

#### **JERUSALEM COUNCIL CONTROVERSY**

*Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, “The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses.” The apostles and elders met to consider this question. (Acts 15:5-6 NIV)*

Theological Question: must a believer in Christ be required to observe circumcision and Mosaic legislation?

Council’s Reply: No... the ground of salvation was “turning to God” (by grace through faith in Christ); the necessary “things” were only for fellowship between Jewish and Gentile believers.

Similar issues today??

### 3. Missionary Journey #2 (Acts 15-18)

Acts 15:36-40

*And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." <sup>37</sup> Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. <sup>38</sup> But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. <sup>39</sup> And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, <sup>40</sup> but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.*

However, note the reconciliation near the end of Paul's life:

2 Timothy 4:11

*Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.*

Insight:

New Testament letters around the time of the 2nd Missionary Journey:

- 1-2 Thessalonians

### 4. Missionary Journey #3 (Acts 18-21)

Acts 19:20

*So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.*

Insight:

New Testament letters around the end of the 3rd Missionary Journey:

- 1-2 Corinthians
- Romans

5. Journey to Rome (Acts 22-28)

- a. Paul arrested in Jerusalem
- b. Paul before Felix
- c. Paul before Festus
- d. Paul before Agrippa
- e. Paul in Rome

Acts 28:30-31

*He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, <sup>31</sup>proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.*

Insight:

New Testament letters around the time of the Roman imprisonment:

- Ephesians
- Colossians
- Philemon
- Philippians

VII. POST “BOOK OF ACTS”: PAUL THE APOSTLE

A. Paul’s Final Days of Ministry

Insight:

New Testament letters after the release from prison (in probable order):

- 1 Timothy
- Titus
- 2 Timothy (last)

B. Paul's Death: perhaps Spring, 68 AD

C. Paul's Epitaph

2 Timothy 4:6-7

*For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

## VIII. OTHER NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

A. By Peter

- "1-2 Peter" (Near or before 64 AD?)

B. By Jude

- a. Brother of Jesus (?)
- b. "Jude" (Around 65 AD?)

C. By Unknown

- a. "Hebrews" (Prior to destruction of the Temple in 70 AD)
- b. Paul (?), Apollos (?), Barnabas (?), Luke (?), Others
- c. Key verse:

Hebrews 4:14

*Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.*

D. By John

- a. One of the Twelve (“disciple whom Jesus loved”)
- b. “1-2-3 John” (on or before 95 AD)
- c. “Gospel of John” (same)
- d. “Book of Revelation” (same)

IX. CONCLUSION: SUMMARY

A. Charted: New Testament

| NEW TESTAMENT (27) |                 |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Narrative (5)      | Epistolary (21) | Apocalyptic (1) |
| Gospels (4)        | Pauline (13)    | Revelation (1)  |
| Acts (1)           | General (8)     | [Daniel]        |

B. Epistles: Categories

- 1. Pauline.....13 letters
- 2. General (catholic).....8 letters
  - a. James (half-brother of Jesus)
  - b. Peter (apostle)
  - c. Jude (half-brother of Jesus)
  - d. John (apostle)
  - e. Unknown writer of Hebrews

## X. FOR SESSION 12: FINAL CONSUMMATION

A. Minimal Reading: Revelation 2-3

B. Maximum Reading: Daniel 9; Revelation 1-5, 20; 1 Thessalonian 4-5

C. Personal Project: Take a person through the “Timeline” for this session (review previous Movements as well). Draw and explain this as best you can.

### SOME NEW TESTAMENT BENEDICTIONS

Ephesians 3:20-21

*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

*Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.*

2 Thessalonians 3:16

*Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.*

Hebrews 13:20-21

*Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Jude 24-25

*Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, <sup>25</sup> to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.*