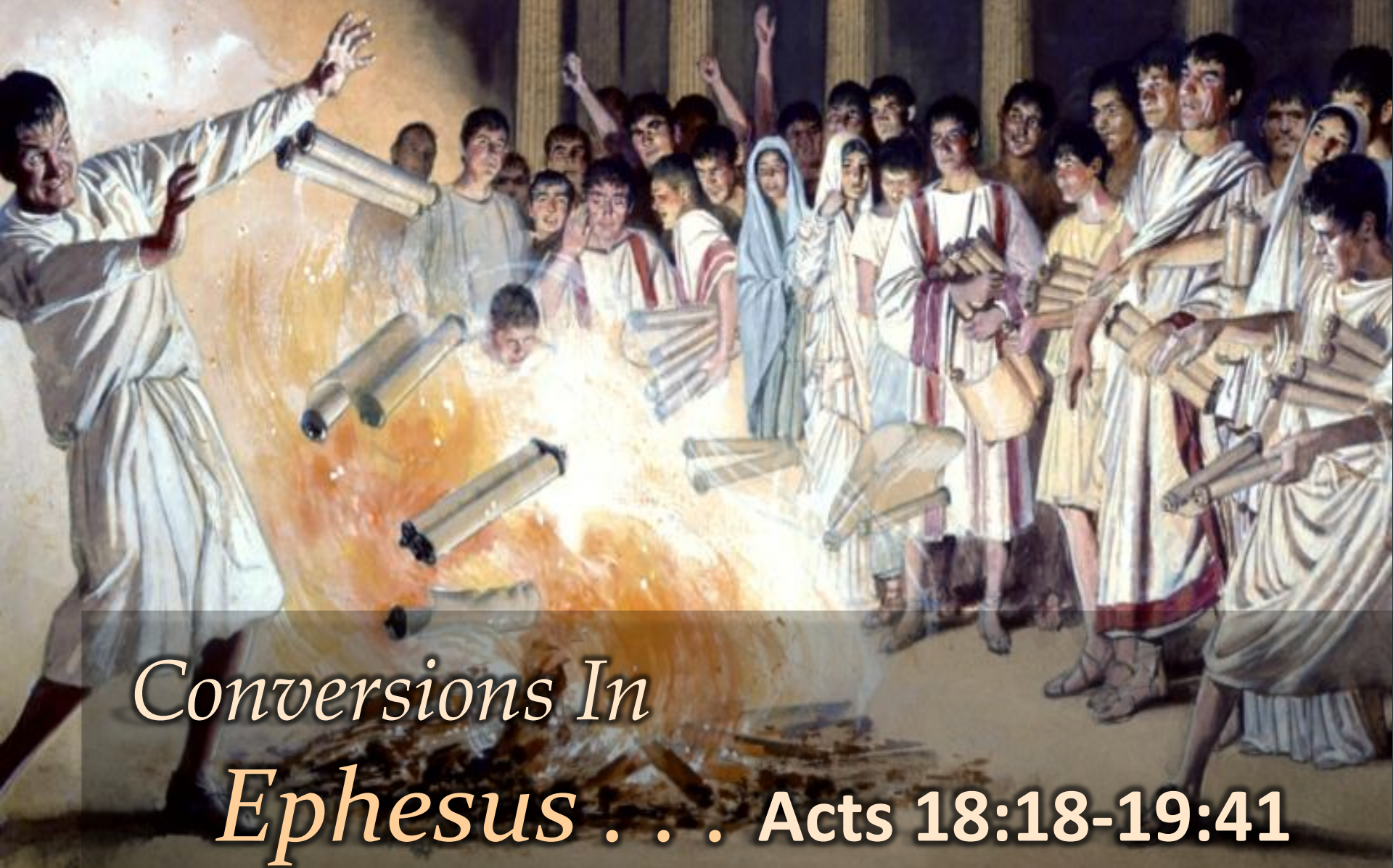


EXAMPLES OF CONVERSIONS IN ACTS

1

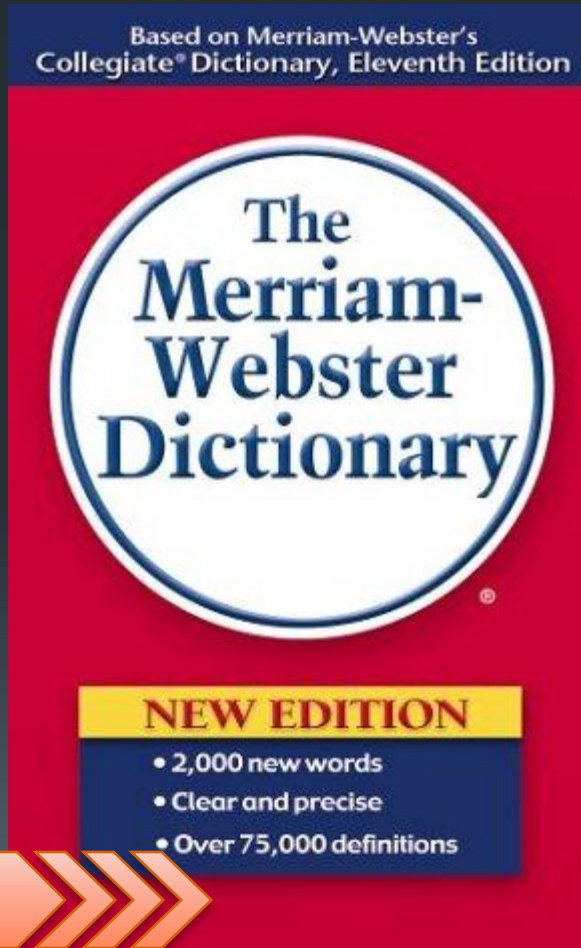


Conversions In

Ephesus . . . Acts 18:18-19:41

Conversions In Corinth - Acts 18:1-18

Convert; Converted



- ◆ To bring over from one belief, view, or party to another -
- ◆ To change from one form or function to another

EXAMPLES OF CONVERSIONS IN ACTS

Conversions In Corinth - Acts 18:1-18

Convert; Converted



Matthew 18:3-4 (NKJV)

³ and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are **converted** and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Therefore **whoever humbles himself** as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Conversions In Corinth - Acts 18:1-18

Convert; Converted




Luke 15:11-24

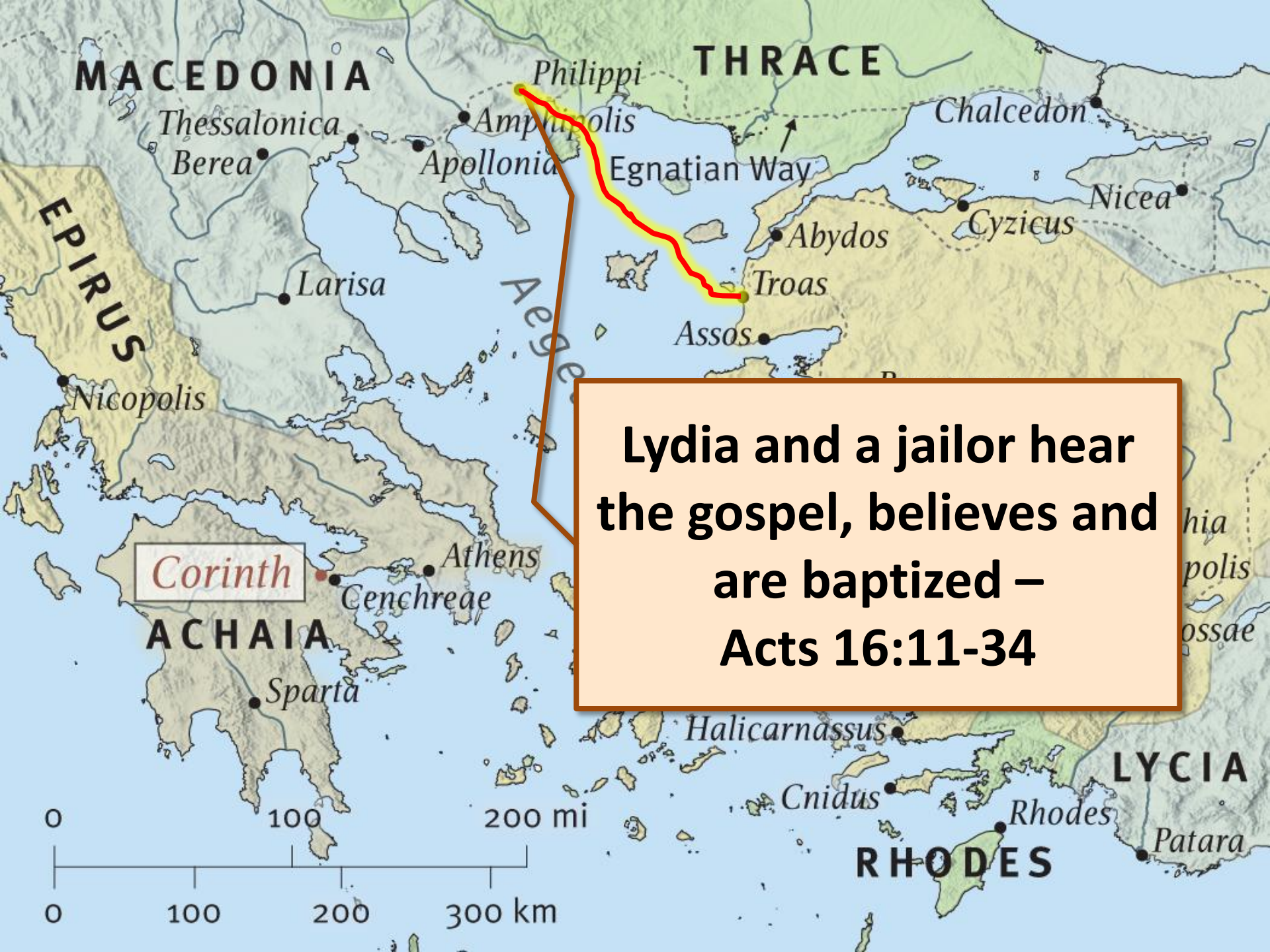
- ✦ Not merely a change in actions –
- ✦ A change in knowledge –
- ✦ A change in conviction -
- ✦ A change in allegiance –
- ✦ A change in thinking & will –
- ✦ A change in commitment – resulting in a change in relationship & identity -
- ✦ A change in who we are – how we talk – where we go – what we do -

Conversions In Corinth - Acts 18:1-18

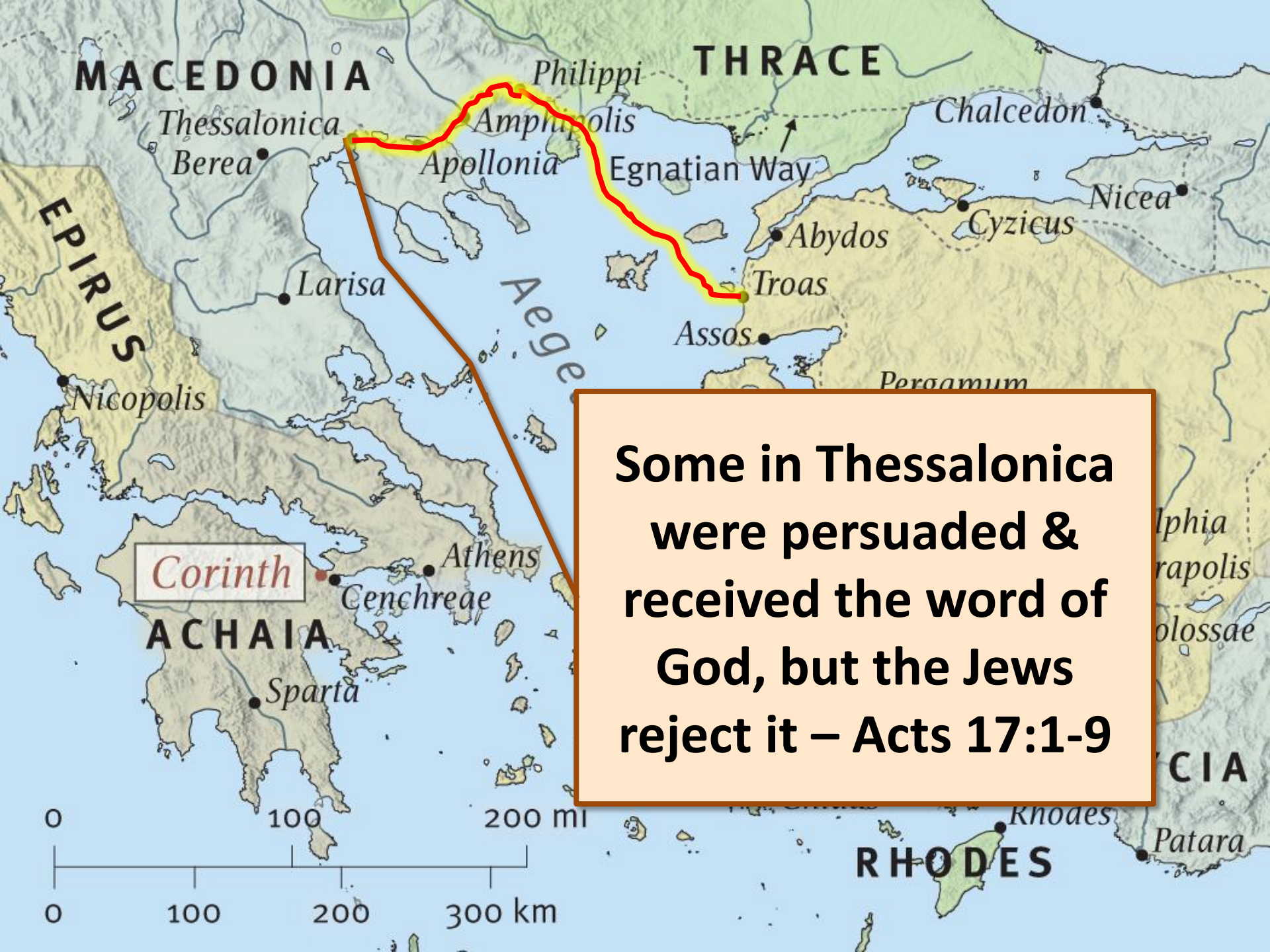
Psalm 19:7 (NKJV)

**⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect,
converting the soul; The testimony
of the LORD is sure, making wise
the simple;**





**Lydia and a jailor hear
the gospel, believes and
are baptized –
Acts 16:11-34**



MACEDONIA

THRACE

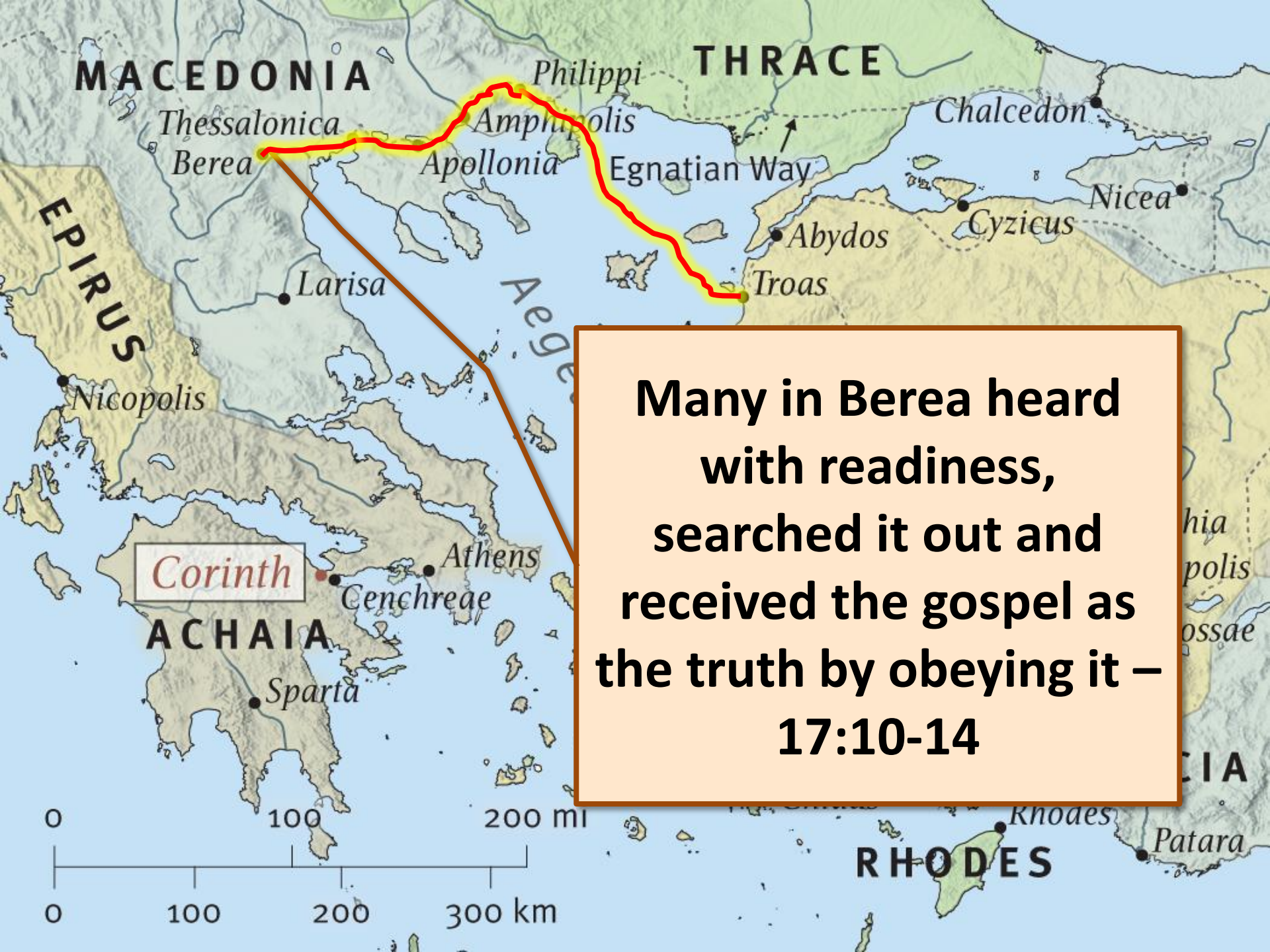
EPIRUS

Corinth

ACHAIA

RHODES

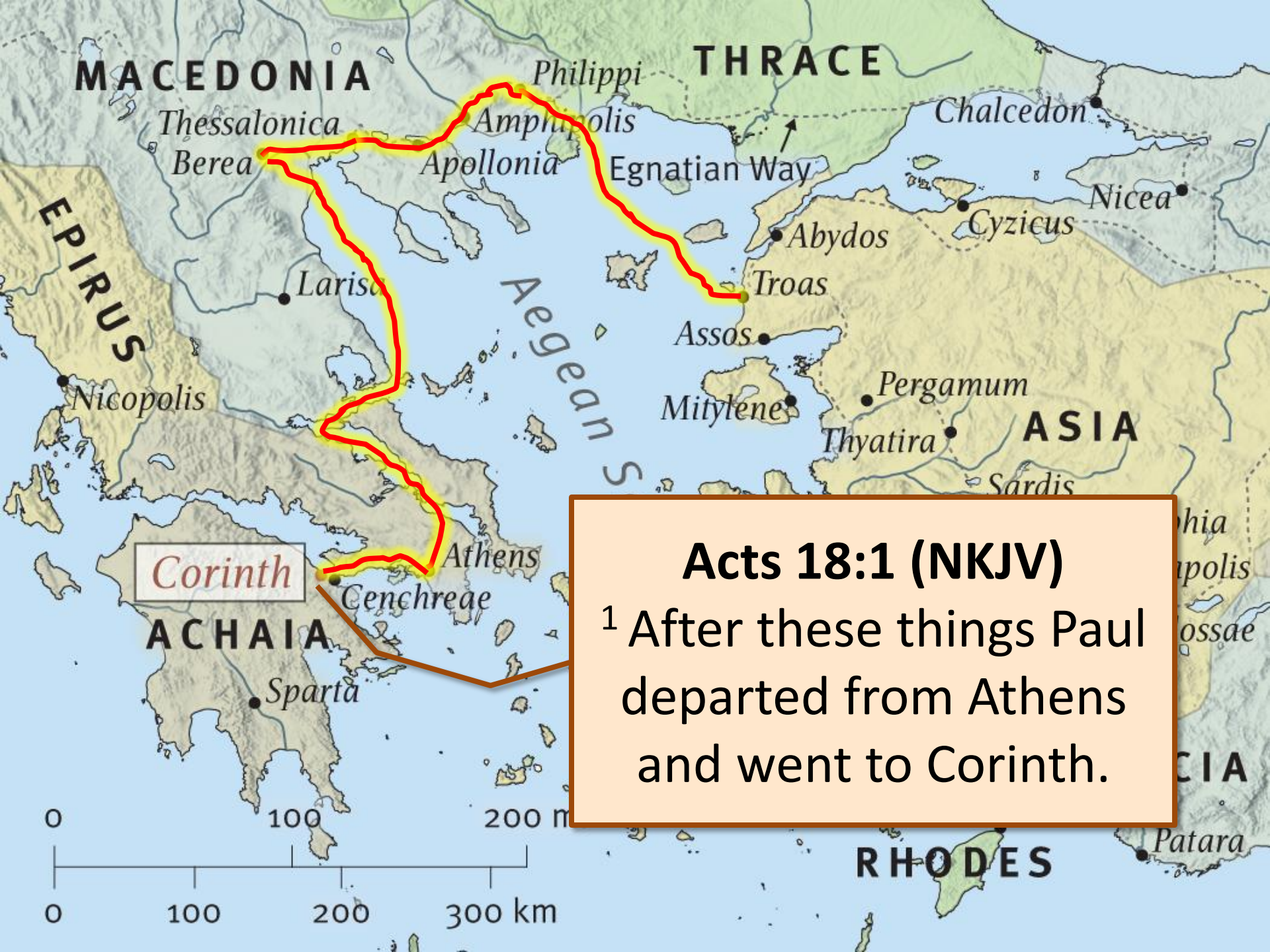
**Some in Thessalonica
were persuaded &
received the word of
God, but the Jews
reject it – Acts 17:1-9**



**Many in Berea heard
with readiness,
searched it out and
received the gospel as
the truth by obeying it –
17:10-14**

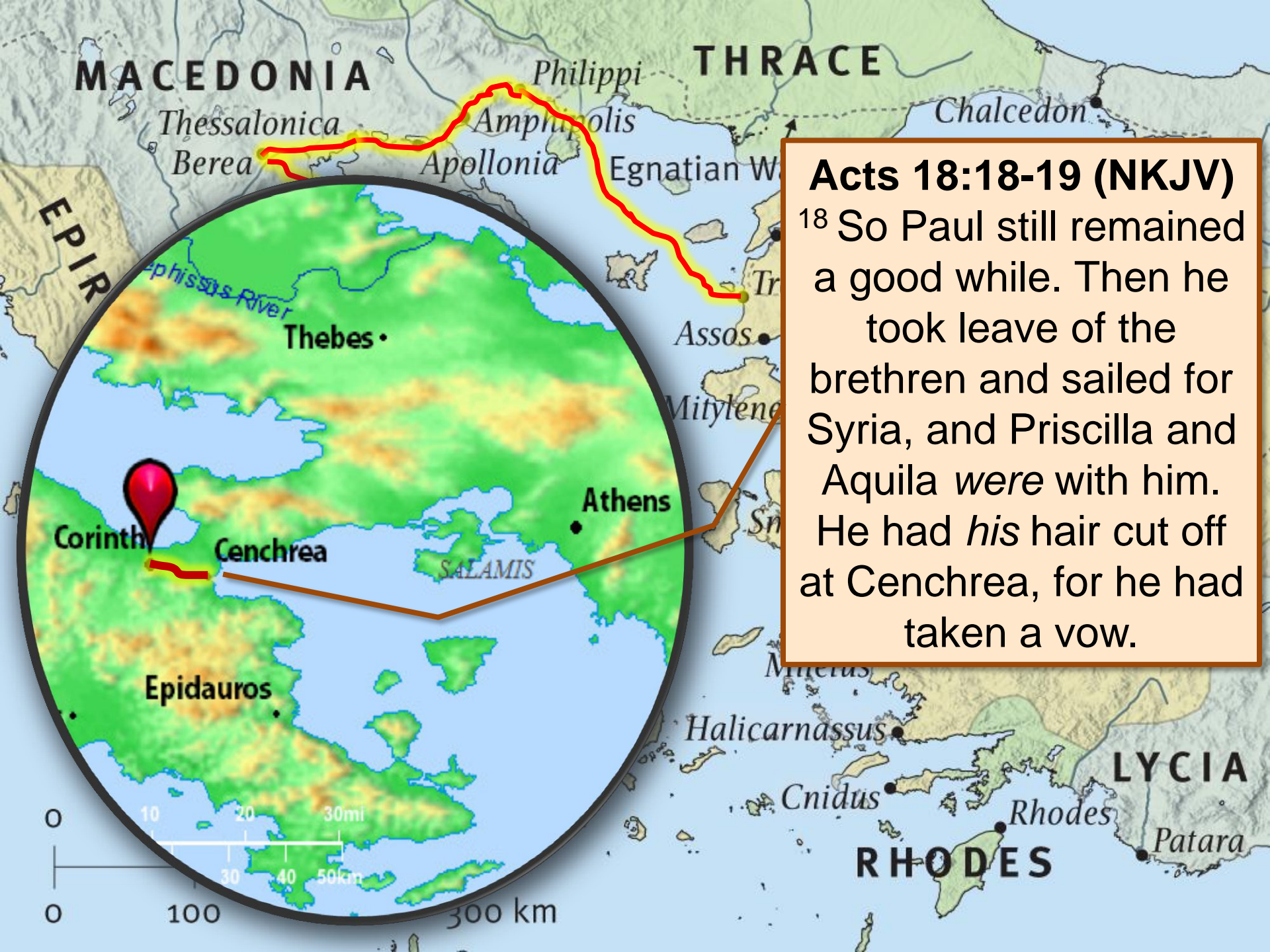


The soil was more difficult in Athens - but some were willing to receive the word of God, repent and join the disciples – Acts 17:15-34



Acts 18:1 (NKJV)

¹ After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth.



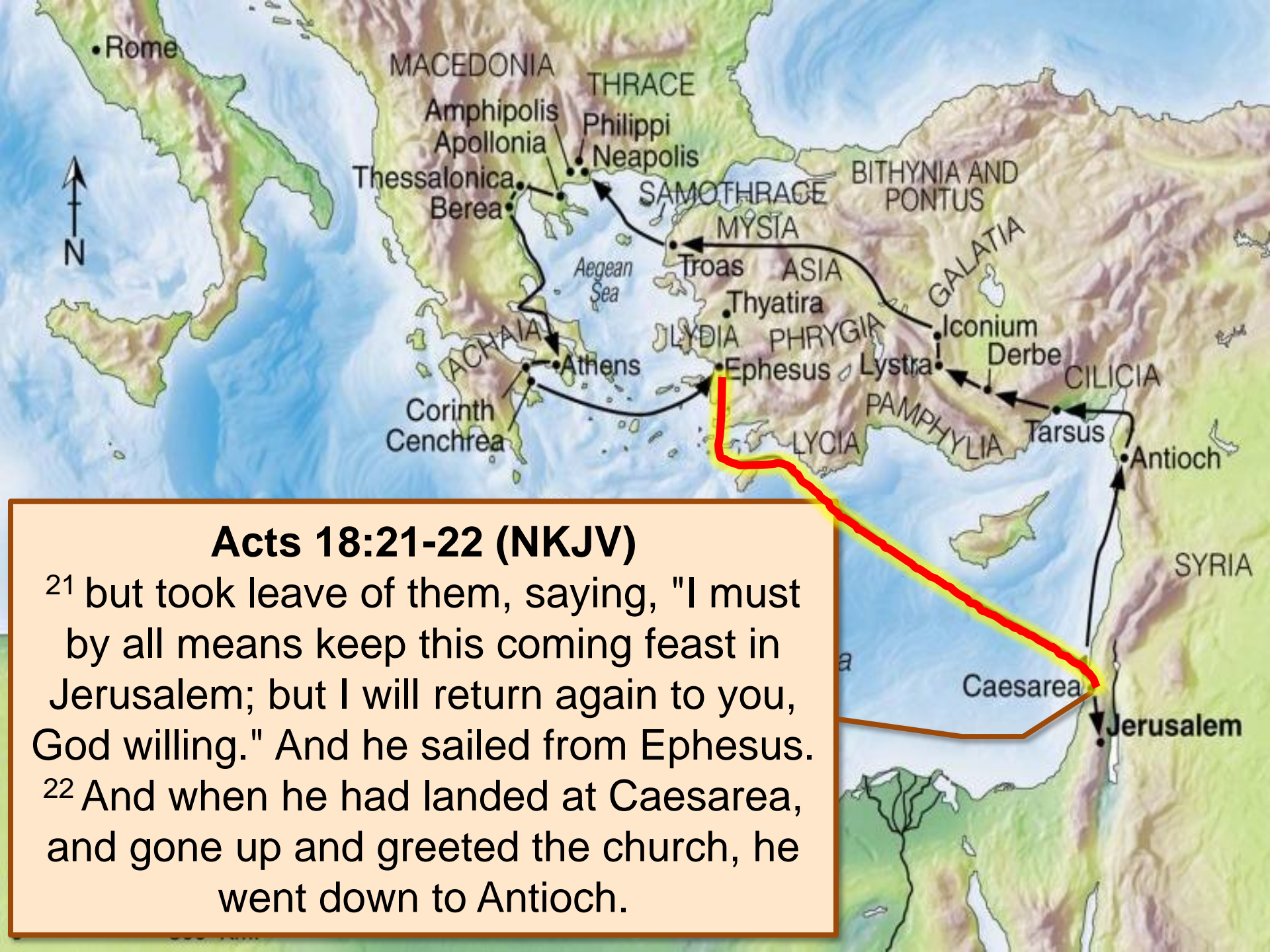
Acts 18:18-19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ So Paul still remained a good while. Then he took leave of the brethren and sailed for Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila *were* with him. He had *his* hair cut off at Cenchrea, for he had taken a vow.



Acts 18:18-19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ And he came to Ephesus, and left them there; but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.



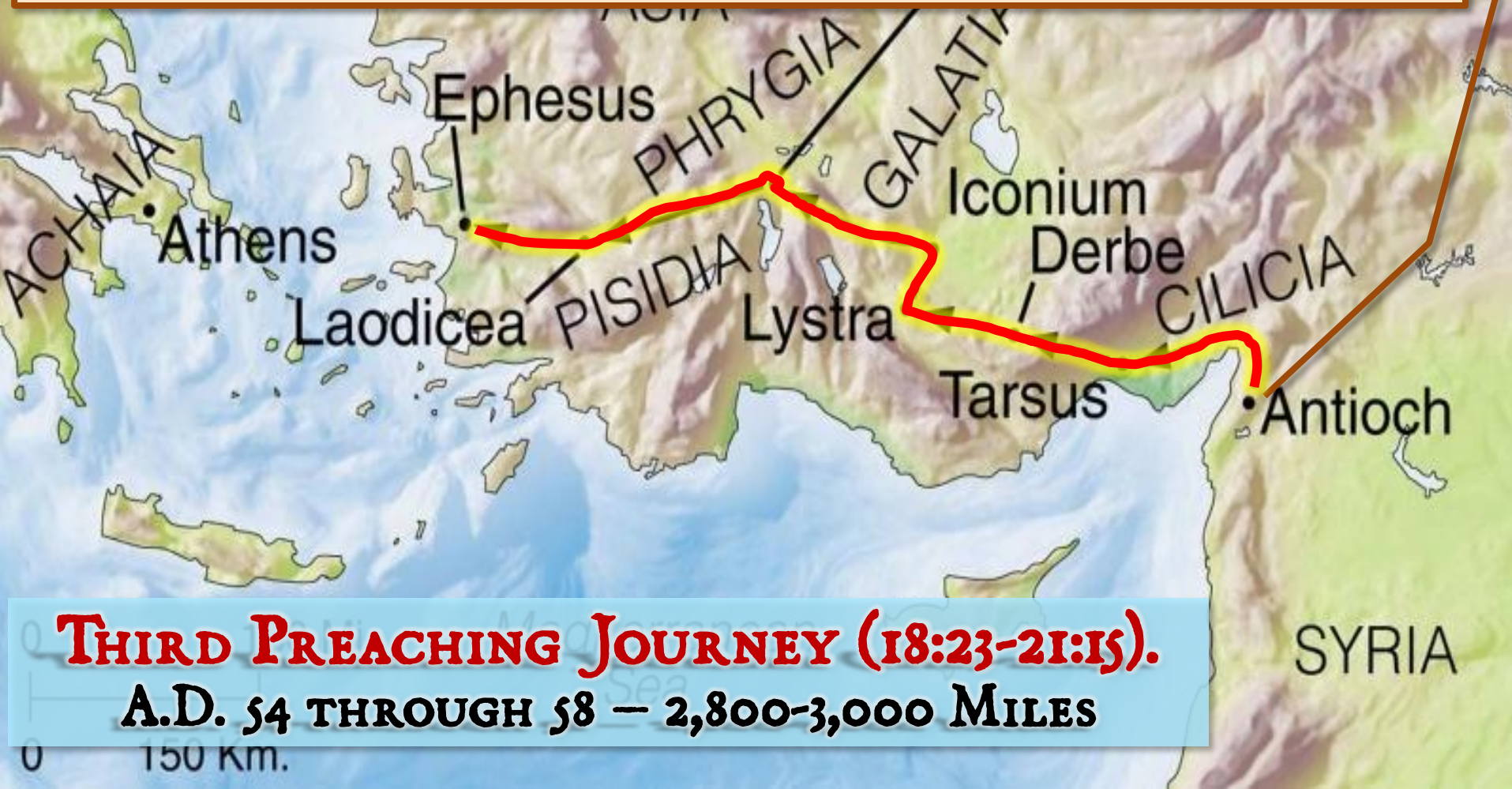
Acts 18:21-22 (NKJV)

²¹ but took leave of them, saying, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing." And he sailed from Ephesus.

²² And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up and greeted the church, he went down to Antioch.

Acts 18:23 (NKJV)

²³ After he had spent some time *there*, he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples. . . . ¹ And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. . . .



THIRD PREACHING JOURNEY (18:23-21:15).

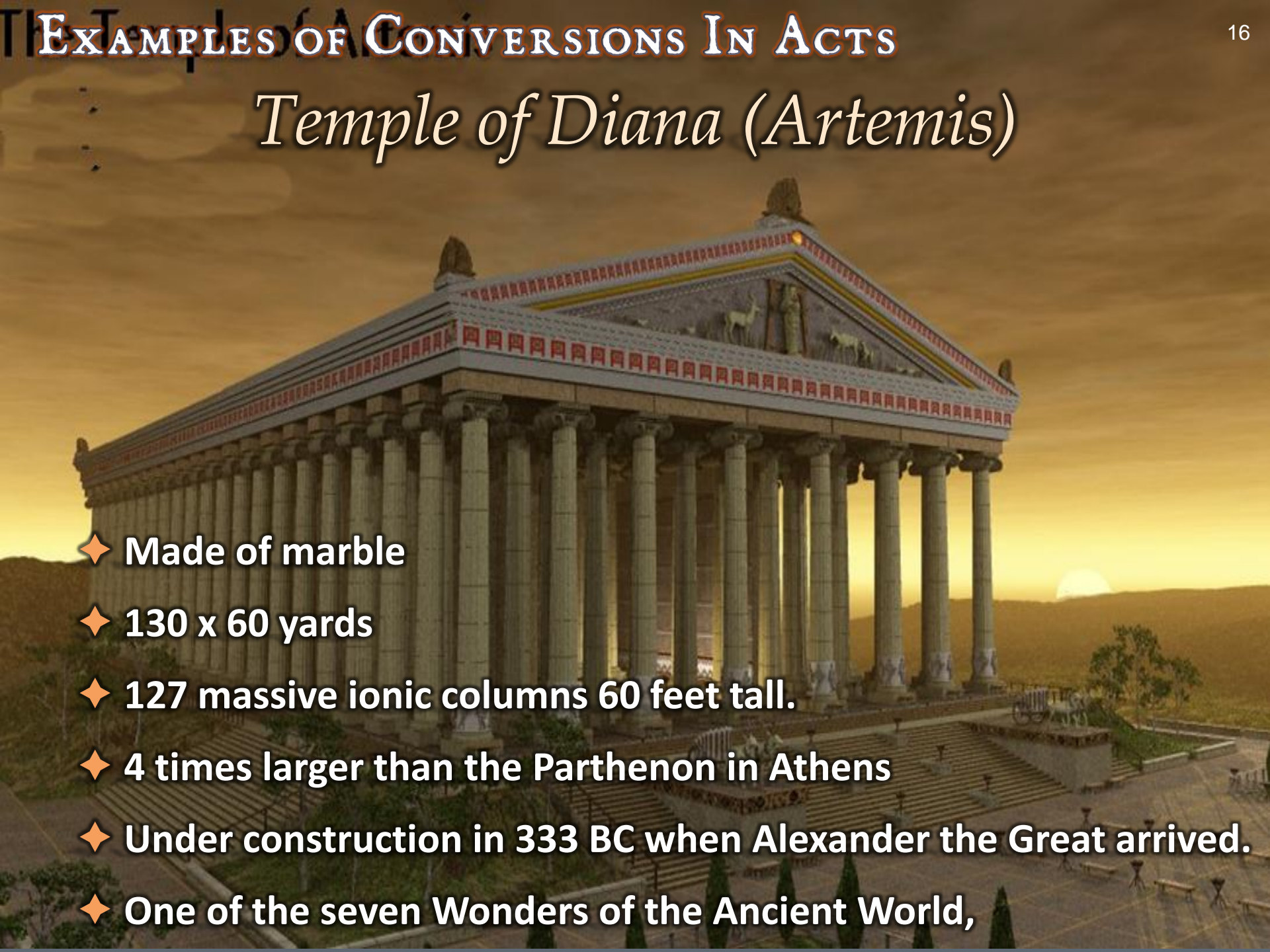
A.D. 54 THROUGH 58 — 2,800-3,000 MILES

Background Information of Ephesus



- ✦ Ephesus was an illustrious city in its day, capital of the Roman province of Asia, in the district called Ionia, an important commercial city.
- ✦ Magical arts were prevalent in Ephesus as evidenced by the number and value of books burned – (19:19)
- ✦ The temple erected to the goddess Diana {Artemis} - an entire industry had grown up around it, making and selling idols & “portable shrines.” – (19:23-41)

Temple of Diana (Artemis)

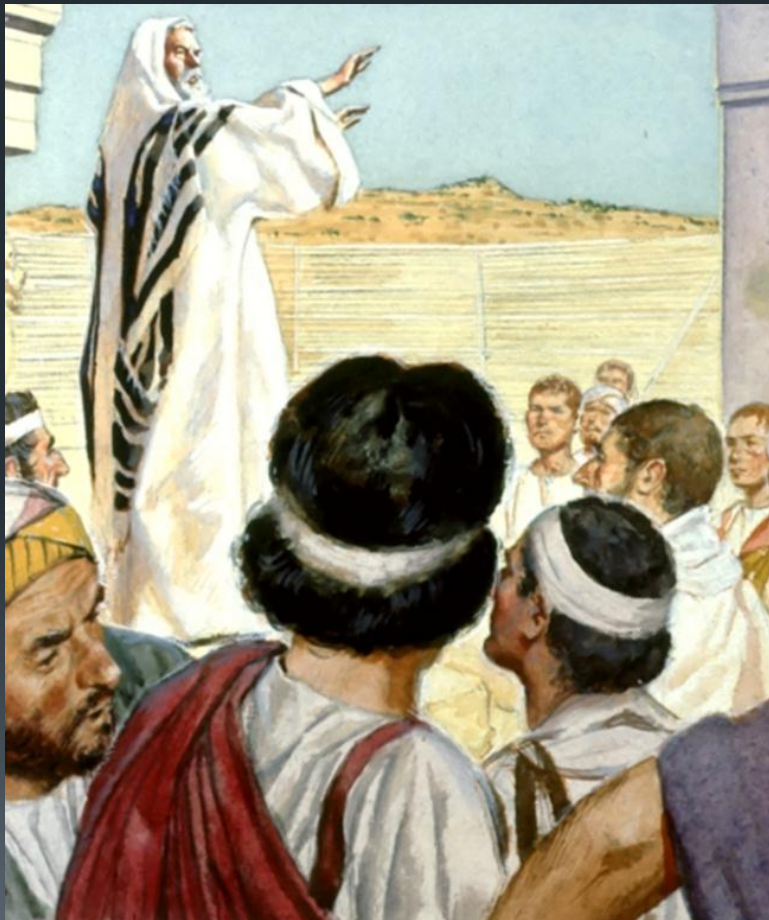
- 
- ◆ Made of marble
 - ◆ 130 x 60 yards
 - ◆ 127 massive ionic columns 60 feet tall.
 - ◆ 4 times larger than the Parthenon in Athens
 - ◆ Under construction in 333 BC when Alexander the Great arrived.
 - ◆ One of the seven Wonders of the Ancient World,

Significance of Ephesus In NT

- ◆ Paul's first visit – Acts 18:19
- ◆ Aquila and Priscilla corrects Apollos in Ephesus – Act 18:24-28
- ◆ Paul returns and stays for three years – Acts 20:31
- ◆ Timothy in Ephesus - 1 Tim. 1:3, 20; 2 Tim. 1:15-18; 4:12, 14, 19;
- ◆ Book of Ephesians written by Paul from prison in about 61 or 62 AD;
- ◆ The Lord addresses the church - Revelation 2:1-7

Conversions In Ephesus - Acts 19

PAUL FINDS SOME DISCIPLES — 1-7



- ✦ Paul on meeting them asks about the Holy Ghost and questions their baptism — 2
- ✦ They explain they had been baptized “Unto John’s baptism.” - 3
- ✦ Paul, after further instructing them, baptizes them “in the name of the Lord Jesus” — 4-7

Conversions In Ephesus - Acts 19

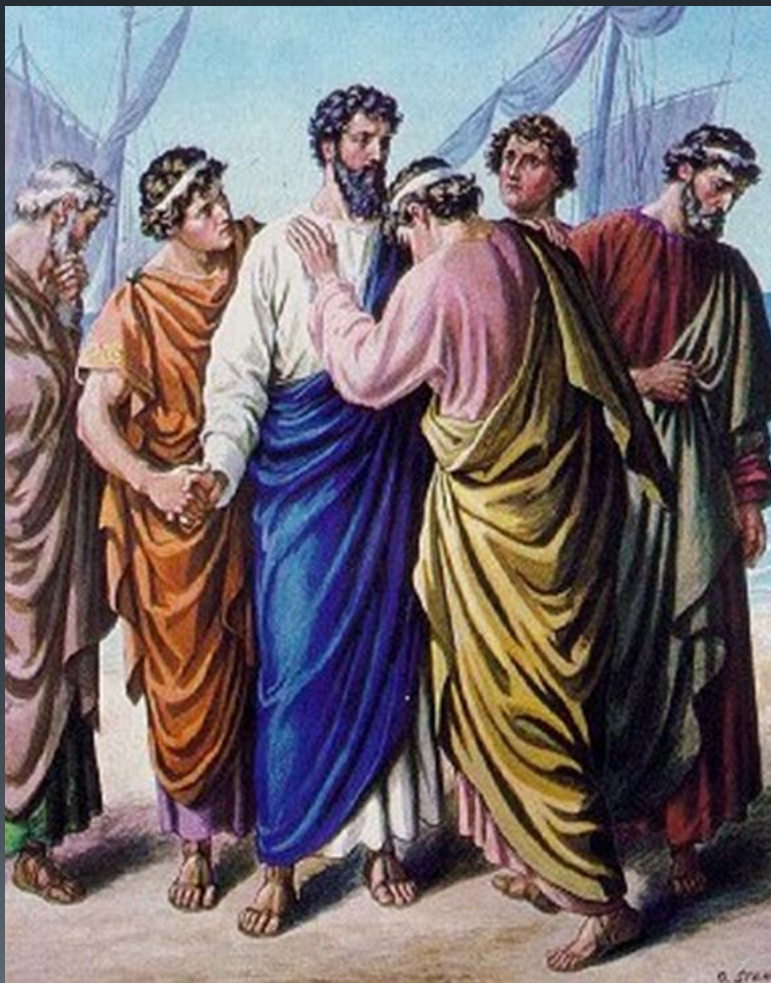
PAUL IN THE SYNAGOGUE AND IN THE SCHOOL OF TYRANNUS - 8-10



- ✦ Paul taught in the synagogue for three months - “disputing and persuading” - 8
- ✦ Paul’s message: **THE KINGDOM OF GOD!** – Many Jews hardened their hearts and spoke evil of **THE WAY** - 9
- ✦ Paul moved on to the school of Tyrannus, and taught there for 2 years – 9,10

Conversions In Ephesus - Acts 19

THE MIRACLES OF PAUL AT EPHESUS - II-16



- ◆ Healing takes place from cloths - note that Luke calls these “special miracles” – 11,12
- ◆ Certain “Jews” invoked the name of Jesus in an attempt to cast out demons – 13,14
- ◆ Jesus and Paul were known by the demons - 15
- ◆ Jews were overcome and fled naked and wounded – 16

Conversions In Ephesus - Acts 19

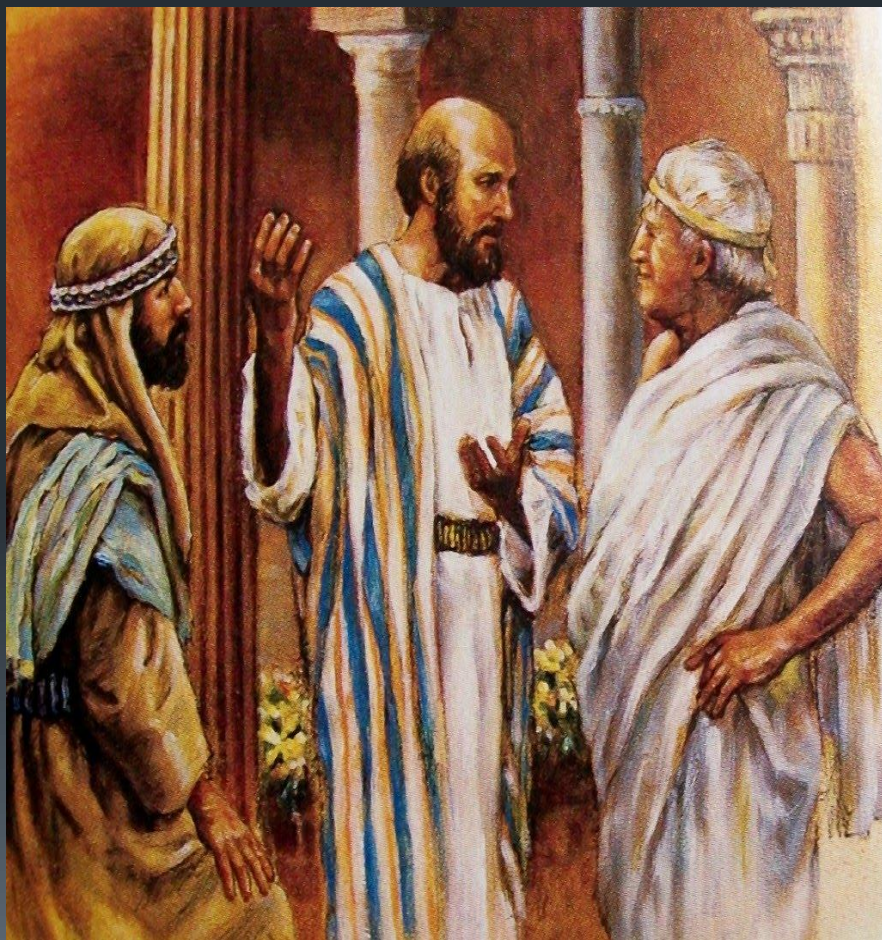
THE RESULTS OF PAUL'S WORK - 17-20



- ◆ Two reactions: FEAR and the name of Jesus MAGNIFIED! - 17
- ◆ Many that believed confessed, and told their deeds - 18
- ◆ Those who practiced “magic arts” Burned their books (app. \$2.5 mil) - 19
- ◆ “So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed” - 20

Conversions In Ephesus - Acts 19

PAUL'S FUTURE PLANS - 21-22



- ✦ Paul planned to leave Asia soon and pass again through Macedonia & Achaia on his way to Jerusalem, desiring also to “see Rome.” – 21
- ✦ Paul sends Timothy and Erastus, ahead but he himself stayed in Asia for a time – 22

Conversions In Ephesus - Acts 19

THE RIOT IN EPHESUS - 23-41



- ♦ An instigator by the name of Demetrius rallied the people against the disciples because the gospel threatened their business – 23-28
- ♦ Two of Paul's traveling companions are caught – 29-32 - **GAIUS** - (20:4; 1 Cor. 1:14; Rom. 16:23) and **ARISTARCHUS** (20:4, 27; Col 4:10; Phil 2:4)

Conversions In Ephesus - Acts 19

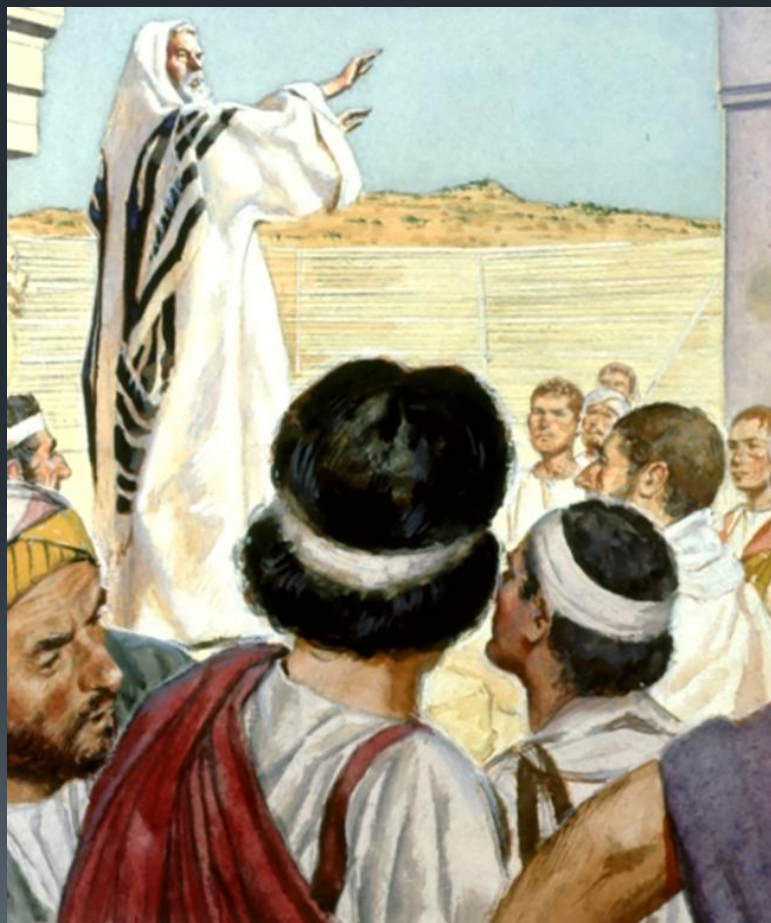
THE RIOT IN EPHEBUS - 23-41



- ♦ The Jews put forth one Alexander, but he is “shouted down.” For two hours, the mob rules! – 33-34
- ♦ The town clerk of Ephesus calms the situation, and dismissed the assembly – 35-41

Conversions In Ephesus - Acts 19

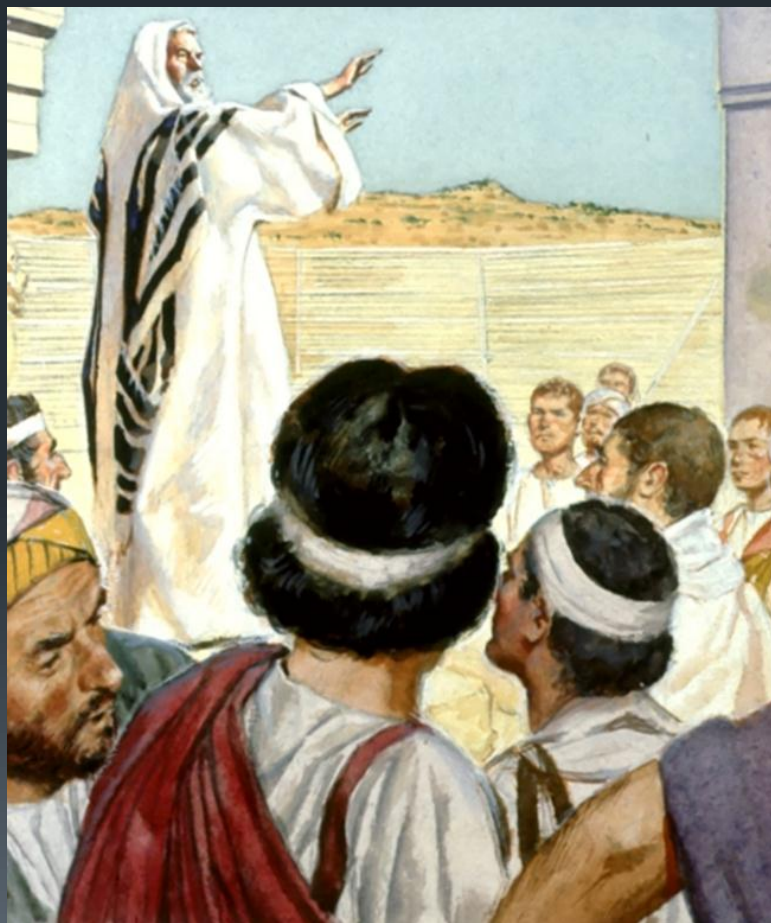
TWELVE MEN BAPTIZED AGAIN — I-7



- ♦ Paul's first question and their answer – vs. 2
- ♦ Paul knew that something was wrong with their conversion since they knew nothing of the Holy Spirit! - Mat 28:18-20
- ♦ Paul's second question and their response – vs 3

Conversions In Ephesus - Acts 19

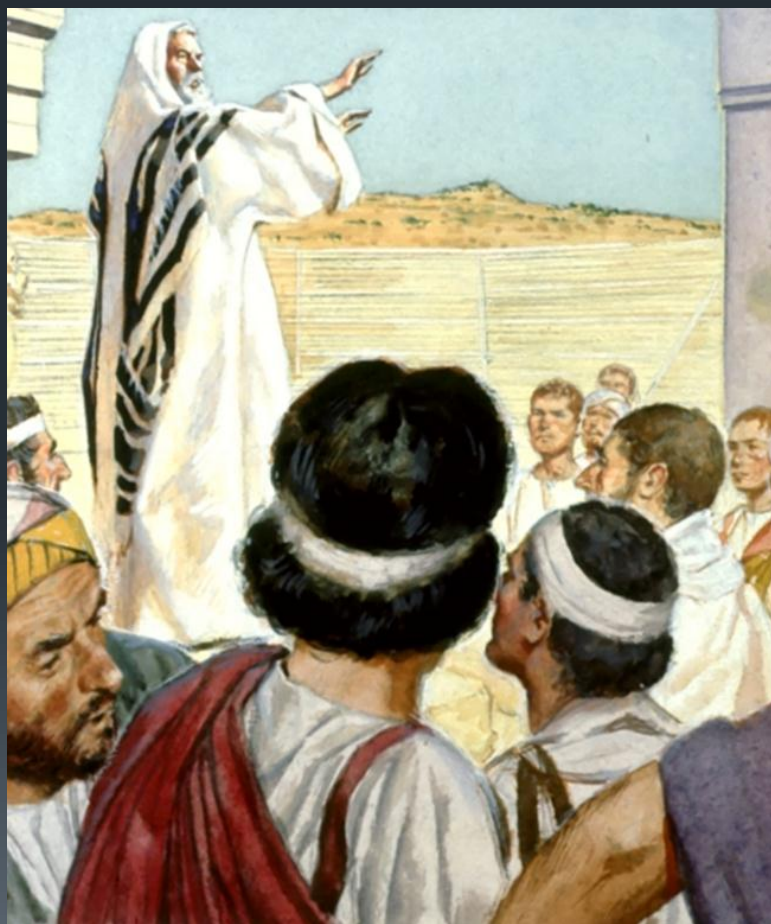
TWELVE MEN BAPTIZED AGAIN — 1-7



- ◆ Paul's second question and their response – “**into what then were you baptized?**” . . . “Into John's baptism.” - vs 3
- ◆ Notice what his question was and what it was not -
- ◆ Paul's question implies that it is important what one “knows, understands, & believes” when baptized!

Conversions In Ephesus - Acts 19

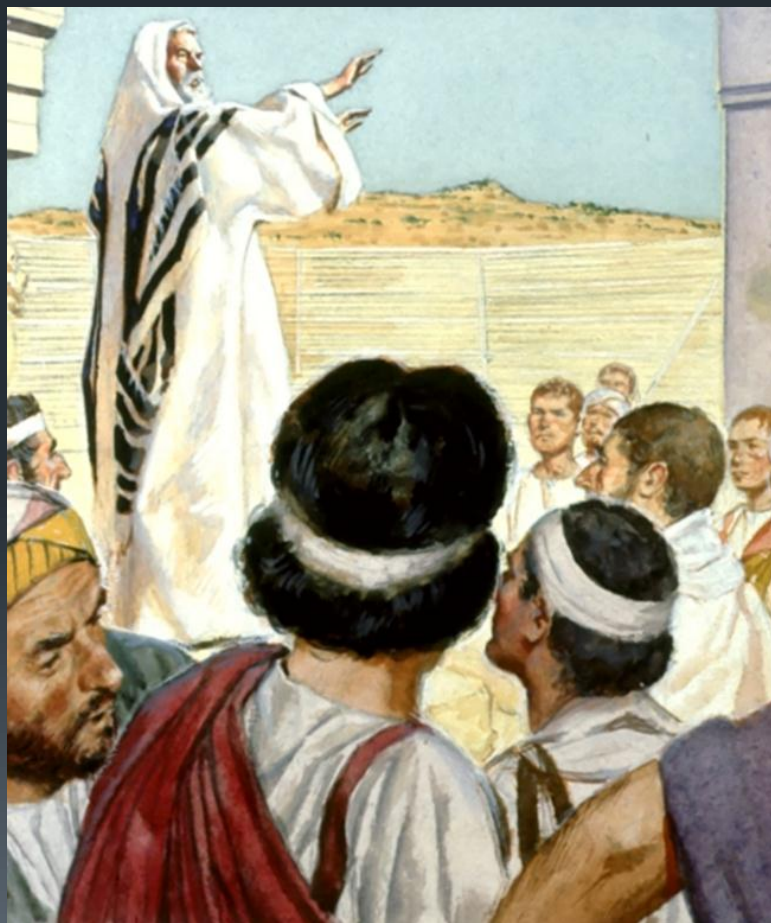
TWELVE MEN BAPTIZED AGAIN — 1-7



- ◆ They had been baptized – but their baptism was not effective – vs. 3,4
- ❖ Temporarily authorized by God - Mt 21:25-27; Luke 7:30
- ❖ John's baptism was “unto the remission of sins” – Mark 1:4; Lukek 3:3
- ❖ John's baptism was pointing to Christ and His kingdom – Acts 19:4; Mat 3:1-12

Conversions In Ephesus - Acts 19

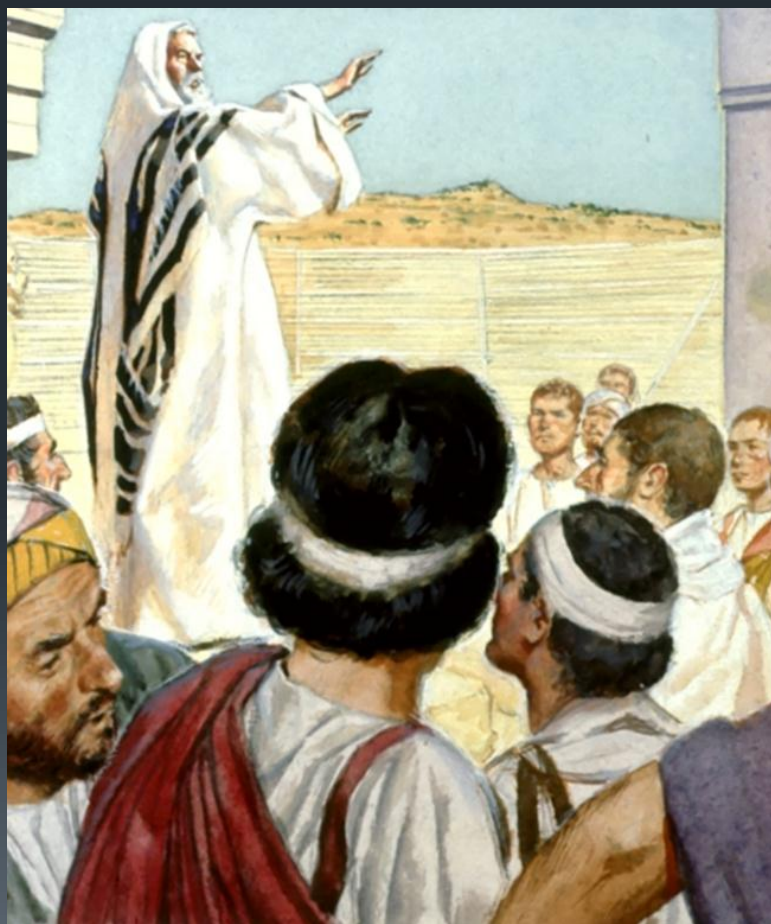
TWELVE MEN BAPTIZED AGAIN — 1-7



- ✦ They had not been baptized into the Lord Jesus — Rom. 6:3-6; Gal. 3:26,27
- ✦ They had not been added to the Lord's church — Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:13
- ✦ Even though they had been baptized — they were STILL needing their sins washed away and added to the church.

Conversions In Ephesus - Acts 19

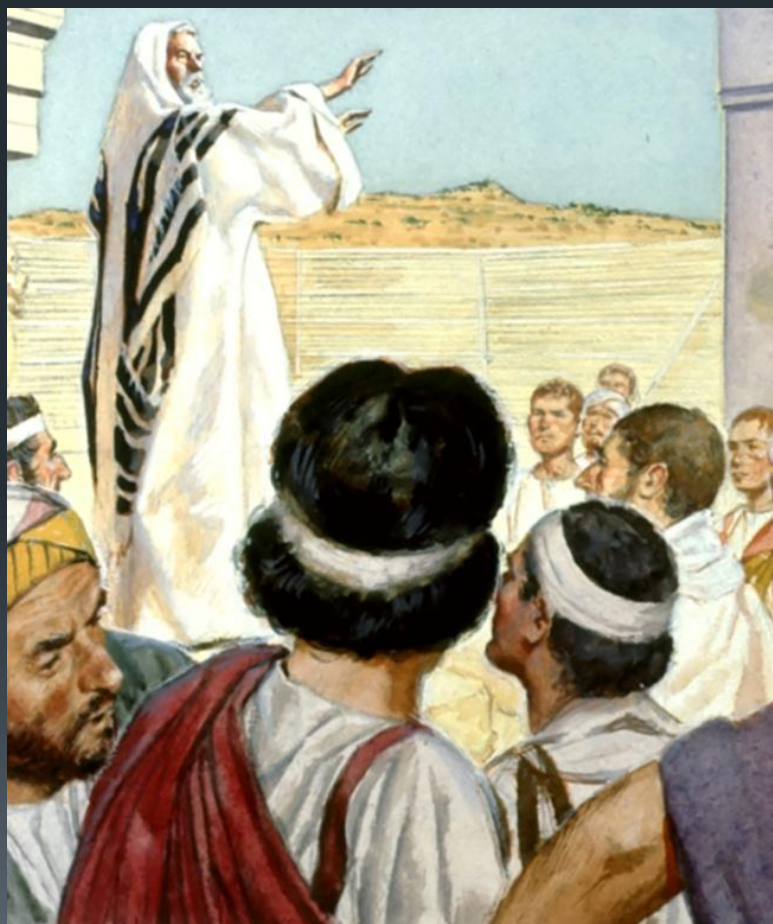
TWELVE MEN BAPTIZED AGAIN — I-7



- ◆ Since the baptism of John was **insufficient** to save — **How can denominational baptism save?**
 - ❖ Not for Remission of sins;
 - ❖ Not unto salvation;
 - ❖ Not into Christ;
 - ❖ Often Not immersion;
 - ❖ False doctrine regarding the church, kingdom, salvation, godhead, etc.

Conversions In Ephesus - Acts 19

TWELVE MEN BAPTIZED AGAIN — 1-7



- ✦ They were baptized AGAIN in the name of the Lord Jesus . . .
 - ❖ By His authority – the baptism taught by Jesus and commanded by His apostles – Mat 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:12; 10:47,48
 - ❖ Only one effective baptism – Acts 19:5; Eph. 4:5

CONVERSIONS IN ACTS

Examples	Believed	Repented	Confessed	Baptized
Pentecost – 2:14-41	Implied	✓ 37,38	Implied	✓ 38,41
Samaria – 8:5-13	✓ 12	Implied	Implied	✓ 12,13
Eunuch – 8:35-39	✓ 36,37	Implied	✓ 37	✓ 38
Saul – 9,22,26	Implied	Implied	Implied	✓ 9:18
Cornelius - 10:34-48	✓ 43	Implied	Implied	✓ 48
Lydia – 16:13-15	✓ 14	Implied	Implied	✓ 15
Jailor – 16:30-34	✓ 31	Implied	Implied	✓ 33
Corinthians - 18:8	✓ 8	Implied	Implied	✓ 8
Ephesians - 19:3-5	Implied	Implied	Implied	✓ 5

Conversions In Corinth - Acts 18:1-18

LESSONS & APPLICATIONS



- ♦ Strong faith and honest convictions, when possessed in error, are not enough to be obedient and pleasing to the Lord.
- ♦ One cannot be taught error pertaining to one's salvation, (including baptism), believe that error, and then be obedient to the Lord.

Conversions In Ephesus - Acts 19

Into What Were You Baptized?



- ✦ If baptized as an infant or small child? - Mark 16:16; Rom. 10:14-17; Acts 8:37
- ✦ If "*baptized*" by sprinkling or pouring? – Rom. 6:3-6; Col. 2:11-13; Acts 8:38,39
- ✦ If baptized 'because' already saved? – Mk 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- ✦ If baptized into a denominational church? Acts 2:38,47; 8:35-39; 1 Cor. 12:13 . . .
- ✦ If baptized to please parents or friends – Rom. 6:3-6, 16-18; Gal. 3:26,27

Conversions In Ephesus - Acts 19

Do You Need To Be Baptized Again?

✦ Maybe you believe that you were baptized unto the remission of sins, but what did you know about the Lord's church – (Acts 8:12; 1 Cor 12:13; Rom 6:3-6; Gal. 3:26,27)



- ❖ Were the men who Paul met baptized unto the remission of sins?
- ❖ Were they baptized to obey God?
- ❖ Were they sincere when they were baptized?
- ❖ Were they humble enough to submit to the truth when they learned it?

Conversions In Corinth - Acts 18:1-18

LESSONS & APPLICATIONS



- ♦ The Lord should be respected with reverence and obeyed!
- ♦ Repentance is not just a change of mind – but a change of actions.
- ♦ Although societal change is NOT the main objective of the gospel – It is a powerful force for change in society

Conversions In Corinth - Acts 18:1-18

LESSONS & APPLICATIONS



- ◆ Those baptized, but not according to the authority of Jesus Christ, has a need to submit to the Lord's commands and be baptized in the name, (authority) of Jesus Christ.
- ◆ Those who have been baptized correctly must put away sin from themselves.

HAVE YOU BEEN CONVERTED?



27



- ◆ Have you heard, and do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God?
- ◆ Have you confessed Jesus as the Christ?
- ◆ Have you by faith, obeyed the truth in repentance and baptism? (1 Pet. 1:22,23)
- ◆ Have you been baptized into the body of Christ? – Rom. 6:3-6; Gal. 3:26,27; 1 Cor 12:13



EXAMPLES OF CONVERSIONS IN ACTS

Conversions In Ephesus - Acts 19

Charts by Don McClain

Prepared September 1-3, 2011

Preached September 4, 2011

West 65th Street church of Christ

P.O. Box 190062

Little Rock AR 72219

501-568-1062

Prepared using PPT 2010 -

Email - donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

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Ephesians 2:1-10 (NKJV)

¹ And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

Ephesians 2:1-10 (NKJV)

⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.