

1. Macedonia

A. Paul's Journeys

1. First Journey (48-49)

Sent out by the church in Antioch, Barnabas, Saul/Paul and John Mark (Barnabas's cousin) sailed to Cyprus (Barnabas's homeland), then Perge in Pamphylia, whence they headed inland to Galatia: Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, then retraced their steps back to the coast, and Antioch.

2. Jerusalem Council (49)

Men from Judea came to Antioch, teaching that Gentile believers had to become Jews. The church sent Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem for a Council, at which it was decided the Gentiles did not have to become Jews. They returned to Antioch with a letter, addressed to the Gentile believers, and accompanied by delegates from Jerusalem: Judas Barsabbas and Silas.

3. Second Journey (50-52)

Paul proposed that they visit the churches established on the first trip. Paul objected to Barnabas's desire to bring his cousin John Mark, so they parted company. Barnabas and Mark sailed back to Cyprus. Paul took Silas; they passed through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches, then into Galatia, to Derbe and Lystra, delivering the Jerusalem decisions.

Lystra was the home of Timothy, son of a Jewish mother Eunice (and grandmother Lois, 2 Tim 1:5) who had taught him the Scriptures from childhood (2 Tim 3:15). All three had come to faith, presumably on Paul's first journey. But his father was a Gentile. Jewish law incorporated matrilineal descent (Mishnah: a Jew is a child of a Jewish mother or a convert), but Roman law was patrilineal. Though Paul believed that circumcision was no longer necessary, he had Timothy circumcised so as not to cause offense to the local Jews. Timothy joined Paul and Silas.

Twice they were thwarted by the Holy Spirit:

1. Asia: wanted to enter Asia, presumably along the via Sebaste to Ephesus, but were prevented by the Holy Spirit, so they headed north through Phrygia and Galatia.
2. Bithynia: prevented by the Spirit of Jesus, so passed through Mysia to Troas (a region and a city). Antioch–Troas 1000 mi/1600 km.

In Troas, Paul had a vision: the "Macedonian call," and concluded God was calling him to evangelize Macedonia.

Luke joined the party. The "we" sections of Acts: 16:10-17; 20:5-15; 21:1-18; 27:1-28:16. Luke, the "beloved physician" (Col 4:14), was a Gentile, assumed to be from Philippi.

The party of four (Paul, Silas, Timothy, Luke) sailed from Troas, overnighing at the island of Samothrace, past the island of Thasos, arriving at Neapolis (port for Philippi), then walked to Philippi.

I. Neapolis

Founded late 7th c BC by settlers from Thassos. Roman *civitas* in 168 BC.

via Egnatia: Dyrrachium on Adriatic Sea to Byzantium, across Illyricum, Macedonia, Thrace. 1120 km. Constructed 146-120 BC; begun under Gnaeus Egnatius, proconsul of Macedonia. Based on earlier road. Reached Aegean at Thessalonica. c. 6m wide (like other major Roman roads). Byzantine overland route to Europe; Crusader route to Byzantium.

Across the Adriatic Sea from Dyrrachium was Brindisium, whence the via Appia to Rome.

On the via Egnatia from Dyrrachium on Adriatic (whence by ship to Brundisium and the Appian Way to Rome) to Byzantium.

1. Neapolis Today

Neapolis/Kavala Καβάλα, pop 59k. 160km e. of Thessaloniki. 40.935, 24.403.

In the Middle Ages was renamed Christoupolis; etymology of Kavala uncertain.

In the Ottoman empire (1387-1912).

Sights:

- remains of via Egnatia visible.
- aqueduct built by Ibrahim Pasha, Grand Vizier of Suleiman the Magnificent, 16th c.

II. Philippi

1. In the ancient world

Founded as Κρηνίδες Crenides 360/359 BC by Thasian colonists, to mine gold.

356 Philip II of Macedon (father of Alexander the Great) conquered, renamed after himself.

168 Rome defeated Macedonia.

42 BC Battle of Philippi: Mark Antony & Octavian confronted and defeated Brutus & Cassius, Caesar's assassins.

City refounded as a Roman colony: *Colonia Victrix Philippensis*; renamed *Colonia Iulia Philippensis* (30), *Colonia Augusta Iulia Philippensis* (27). Army veterans were settled here.

Became a Roman colony, settled by army veterans.

As a colony, it was under the municipal law of Rome, governed by two duumviri, military officers appointed by Rome.

2. Paul in Philippi

Second Journey (Acts 16:12-40):

1. Conversion of Lydia (Acts 16:12-15): evidently not enough Jewish men (10) for a synagogue, they went to a place of prayer. Lydia: a seller of purple from Thyatira (in the region of Lydia), a "worshiper of God" (a God-fearer; a Gentile attracted to Judaism).
2. Paul & Silas imprisoned (16:16-24): Paul exorcized the spirit (Python) from a slave-girl, arousing the opposition of her owners who had profited much. They brought them into the agora before the magistrates, charging them with *religio illicita* (illicit religion). As a Roman colony, Philippi had

1. Macedonia

its own government: two magistrates (*duoviri*, or *praetores*, στρατηγοί), under whom were two lictors (*lictores*, ῥαβδοῦχοι 35,38) whose symbol of office was a *fascis*, a bundle (*fascis*) of rods with an axe. Paul received 39 lashes 5× (Jewish punishment), beaten with rods (3× (Roman) (2 Cor 11:24-25).

3. Philippian jailer converted (16:25-34)

4. Paul & Silas released (16:35-40): the magistrates sent the lictors to release Paul and Silas, but reported back with alarm that they were Roman citizens. The magistrates themselves apologized and asked them to leave town.

Luke stayed in Philippi, rejoining Paul in Philippi on the return leg of the third journey (20:5). Paul left behind a fledgling church, meeting probably in Lydia's house: Lydia and her household, the jailer and his household, the slave girl, Luke. Paul had the happiest of relationships with this church.

Third Journey (Acts 20:1-6):

3. Paul's Letter to Philippi

Written by Paul and Timothy.

Addressed to: "all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons" (1:1).

Greetings from: the brothers and saints with Paul, especially those of Caesar's household (4:21-22).

Date: Paul seems to have been under house arrest in Rome (60-62) for a considerable time, and his trial seems more imminent. The letter was probably written near the end of his house arrest. One of the four prison epistles (with Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon).

The Philippian church was always a great help to Paul, sending aid to him in Thessalonica (Phil 4:15). The church had sent Epaphroditus to Rome, bearing gifts to provide for Paul's needs (Phil 2:25; 4:18). Epaphroditus fell seriously ill in Rome; he was distressed that the Philippian church was distressed at news of this. Therefore, Paul is sending Epaphroditus back home.

Paul's letter is a joyful letter (χαίρω rejoice 9, χαρά joy 5), addressed to a church which gives him much to rejoice about. The only negative note is his charge to Euodia and Syntyche to cease their disagreement (4:2).

4. Philippi Today

619 earthquake

Abandoned 14th cent. after Ottoman conquest.

Philippi Φίλιπποι, 13 km nw of Kavala. 41.013, 24.286.

Between the small communities of Κρηνίδες Crenides, Λυδία Lydia. 12k.

Sights:

- UNESCO World Heritage Site: Archaeological Site of Philippi (#1517, 2016). Agora ruins. Archaeological museum.
- Prison, river
- River, Lydia Baptistry

III. Amphipolis & Apollonia

Amphipolis (Ἀμφίπολις, mod Gk Ἀμφίπολη) 40.824, 23.848. pop 2600. ἀμφί+πόλις, around the city. nr River Strymon

437 BC city founded by Athens; main Athenian power base in Thrace.

424 captured by Sparta (gen. Brasidas).

422 Battle of Amphipolis: Athens vs Sparta: Athens failed to retake city; both generals (Brasidas, Cleon) killed.

357 Philip II of Macedon conquered city; Alexander the Great's base for invading Asia. After Alexander's death, his wife Roxanne and their small son Alexander IV exiled by Cassander, later murdered here.

168 Rome defeated Antigonid kingdom of Macedonia (Third Macedonian War; divided into four states (*merides*)); Amphipolis capital of one.

abandoned late 8th cent.

Sights:

- archaeological museum.

IV. Thessalonica

1. In the ancient world

Founded 315 BC by Cassander of Macedon; he named it after wife, half-sister of Alexander the Great.

2. Paul in Thessalonica

Second Journey (Acts 17:1-9)

Paul, Silas and Timothy continued west along the Egnatian Way through Amphipolis and Apollonia to Thessalonica (100 mi/160 km from Philippi), the capital of Macedonia and a large city with a synagogue. For three weeks Paul spoke in the synagogue. Some Jews, many Gentile God-fearers, and a considerable number of prominent women believed. But jealous Jews whipped up a mob; unable to find Paul and Silas, they dragged some believers before the authorities, charging, "These men who have turned the world upside down...are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying there there is another king, Jesus." This news of other allegiance (*Christos Kurios* vs. *Caesar Kurios*) alarmed the people and the city authorities. Jason was made to post bond for them. The believers hustled Paul and Silas out of town under cover of darkness and sent them to Berea. Silas and Timothy stayed in Thessalonica, later joining Paul in Corinth.

3. Paul's Letters to Thessalonica

Both written by Paul, Silvanus (Silas) and Timothy.

Historical setting: in Berea Paul was again hustled out of town to Athens, where he was later joined by Silas and Timothy. From Athens he sent Timothy back to Thessalonica to encourage the church, while he continued to Corinth, where Timothy reported back to him.

Authors: both letters were written by Paul, Silas and Timothy.

Written from: both letters were written from Corinth, where Paul stayed for 1• years (50-52).

1. Macedonia

1 Thessalonians

Paul wrote in response to Timothy's good report about the church. The believers are suffering opposition.

2 Thessalonians

Paul wrote the second letter to clear up misunderstandings about what he had said in the first letter, especially about the Lord's return.

4. Thessalonica today

Thessaloniki Θεσσαλονίκη (fam. Thessalonica, Salonika; Turk. Selanik).

2d largest city in Greece; metro area c. 1m; Greece's cultural capital.

Roman Empire tetrarchy: Thessaloniki capital of Galerius Maximianus Caesar.

2d largest, wealthiest city of Byzantine Empire.

1430 Ottomans conquered

1912 became part of Greece.

Nickname η Συμπρωτεύουσα (*Symprotévousa*); "the co-capital"; was Συμβασιλεύουσα "co-reigning" city of Byzantine empire.

UNESCO World Heritage Site: Paleochristian and Byzantine Monuments of Thessaloniki (#456, 1988). 15 buildings. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paleochristian_and_Byzantine_monuments_of_Thessaloniki. airport SKG

V. Berea

Acts 17:10-15

They left the Egnatian Way for Berea, a quieter town, off the main road, also with a synagogue. The Jews "received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures to see if these things were so"; Berean has been a popular name for Christian churches etc. But Jews from Thessalonica came and stirred up trouble, so Paul was hustled out of town: some brothers took him to the sea, then to Athens, returning with a message for Silas and Timothy to join him. Paul probably did not intend to go to Athens, but to continue along the Egnatian Way to Dyrrachium on the Adriatic (still in Macedonia).

Berea (NT Βέροια), Today: Βέροια Veroia, Veria, pop 48k. 73 km sw of Thessalonica. 40.52, 22.20.

Sights:

- archaeological museum, Byzantine museum.
- UNESCO World Heritage Site: Archaeological Site of Aigai (modern name Vergina) (#780, 1996). 12km sw of Veria; ancient Aegea, summer capital of Macedon; tomb of Philip II of Macedon.