

leave for Beroea. There they were well met, but with the arrival of some Jews from Thessalonika, Paul left for Athens (Acts 17) leaving Silas and Timothy behind.



In Athens Paul preached to the Greeks but mention of the resurrection brought him humiliation and derision. Accordingly, Paul left for Corinth (Acts 18) where he first stayed with a Jew, Aquila, and his wife, Priscilla, fellow tentmakers. Paul stayed in Corinth for 18 months, and is rejoined in his mission by Silas and Timothy. He initially preached in the synagogue, converting the President Crispus and his household, but after his rejection turned to the gentiles. Despite being brought by the Jews before the Roman proconsul, Gallio, Paul's mission is a success and he eventually returns to Antioch, paying a short visit to Ephesus, a major city on the west coast of Turkey, and promises to return.

### **Paul's Third Journey (54-58AD)**

Paul's third journey had Ephesus as its objective, and he went there via Galatia in central Turkey. In Ephesus he met a dozen Christian men who had only received baptism from a Jew called Apollos, and Paul gave them the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 19). As was his normal practise, Paul initially went to preach in the synagogue but when he was rejected held daily discussions in a local hall. According to Acts, Paul was a remarkable success there, working many miracles including exorcisms. However, as Ephesus was a city devoted to the goddess Diana, Paul's opposition to the trade of idol-makers forced him to go to Greece (Corinth), where he stayed for 3 months, before going on to Troas. There it is recorded that Paul gives such a long sermon after a Eucharistic meal that a young man falls asleep and toppled to his death. However, Paul raised him back to life. After addressing the elders of Ephesus at Miletus, Paul sails home to Phoenicia from where he makes his last fateful visit to Jerusalem.



# St. Paul

## 2 An Outline of the Journeys of St. Paul



### Questions for Reflection

1. Why do you think that Paul, the apostle of the gentiles, always addressed Jews first whenever he visited a new place?
2. When Paul returns to towns from where he had been ejected, what does that reveal to us?
3. What influences led Paul to go to Greece?

Although Acts describes **three** missionary journeys of St. Paul, it is wrong to narrow Paul's influence to these alone.

Information about St. Paul's life makes it clear he spent several years in southern Palestine (Arabia), Damascus, Antioch, Rome and, according to Clement of Rome, made a journey west, possibly to Spain (as Paul intended Rm.12), while 2 Timothy implies a fourth journey back to Greece and the west of what is modern Turkey. However, it is the three prime journeys that single Paul out as the apostle to the gentiles.



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### **Paul's First Journey (46-49AD)**

Paul's first journey (Acts 13-14) is taken under the initial leadership of Barnabas, who had taken Paul under his wing (Acts 9 and 11). They travelled with John Mark and first went to Cyprus, as that was where Barnabas (originally called Joseph Acts 4) came from. There they preached to the Jews in the synagogues of Salamis and Paphos, as these cities were the industrial and political centres of the island. At Paphos they converted the Roman proconsul, Sergius Paulus, but only after a conflict with a Jewish magician, Bar Joseph, called Elymas in Greek, whom Paul blinded.

The success of the mission in Cyprus persuaded Paul to go to the mainland of what is now southern Turkey, where he made his way inland to the city of Pisidian Antioch, again first addressing the Jews in the synagogue where he preached the risen Jesus. After initial success they were met with opposition and turned to offer the promises of salvation to the gentiles. The Jews drove them from the city and they travelled eastwards to the city of Iconium where the same process repeated itself and they went on to Lystra and Derbe. It was here that Paul healed a crippled man and they were proclaimed as the gods Zeus and Hermes! The fickleness of the human spirit is next shown by the way the same people are persuaded by Jewish visitors from Iconium to reject Paul and he is stoned and left for dead.

After this episode Paul and Barnabas retrace their steps back home to Syrian Antioch.

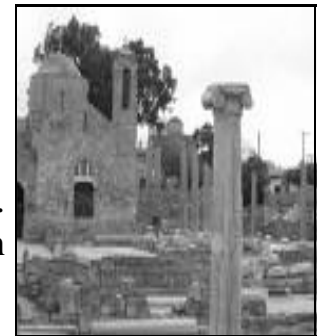
### **Paul's Second Journey (50-52AD)**

This is Paul's most important journey., as he eventually preaches in mainland Europe and founds the churches associated with his name.



It is recorded that he intended to go with Barnabas (Acts 15) but they had a sharp altercation over whether to take John Mark and Paul is left to take the lead, bringing Silas with him. They travel through Syria and southern Turkey eventually reaching Lystra (Acts 16) where he had been stoned. Paul was indeed a man of courage, intent on building up the communities he had founded. There he meets Timothy, inexplicably agrees to him being circumcised, and accepts him as a companion.

Paul seemed intent on reaching Ephesus on the west coast of Turkey but mysterious circumstances 'the Holy Spirit' (Acts 16) forced him north to Galatia where he became ill (Gal.4). When he recovered he wanted to go further north to Bithynia but again a vision of some kind 'the Spirit of Jesus' sent them west to Mysia in the north west of Turkey. There Paul had a dream of a Macedonian calling him to cross over into Greece to preach there.



Accordingly, Paul set out for Greece and headed for Philippi, a Roman colony. There he converted a woman from the purple dye trade called Lydia and her family was baptised with her. Later Paul exorcised a slave girl who was a soothsayer, incurring the wrath of her owner. As a result Paul and Silas were flogged and imprisoned. However, they were miraculously freed, an incident that caused the gaoler to become converted and led to them being allowed to leave the town once it was realised they were Roman citizens. They eventually reached Thessalonika, initially preaching in the synagogue and making converts. As usual, dissension followed and they had to