

Antioch in Syria



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- Located on the river Orontes, about 16 miles from the Mediterranean, and some 300 miles north of Jerusalem.
 - It was the metropolis of Syria, and afterwards became the capital of the Roman province in Asia.
 - It ranked third, after Rome and Alexandria in importance, of the cities of the Roman empire. It was called the "first city of the East."
 - Christianity was introduced early into this city (**Acts 11:19, 21, 24**).
 - **Acts 11:26** – “And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. **And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.**”
 - It is intimately connected with the early history of the gospel (**Acts 6:5; 11:19, 27,28,30; 12:25**).
 - In **Acts 15:22-35**, brethren went to Jerusalem to meet with the apostles regarding the matter of Jewish beliefs being bound on Gentiles.

- In **3** – Paul withstood Peter to the face for his drawing away from the Gentile brethren when Jewish brethren arrived. ‘Gal 2:11-13
- Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.”
- It was the great central point from where missionaries to the Gentiles were sent forth.
- It was the birthplace of the famous Christian father Chrysostom, who died A.D. 407.
- It bears the modern name of Antakia.
- Like Philippi, it was raised to the rank of a Roman colony. Such colonies were ruled by "praetors" (**Acts 16:20,21**).
- Antioch in Syria probably had the largest and strongest Gentile church in the 1st
- Paul’s missionary journeys began from here.

