

## Chapter 8

# Paul's Third Missionary Journey

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### Acts 18

- ▶ **Acts 18:23 – 21:15**
- ▶ **Length – 4 years**
- ▶ **54 - 58 A.D.**
- ▶ **Total miles traveled – Approximately 2,515+ miles (1,190 by sea, and 1.325 by land)**

#### A. **THE JOURNEY BEGAN FROM ANTIOCH IN SYRIA.**

1. Paul did not have Paul or Silas with him.
2. This may have been the last time Paul ever saw Antioch in Syria.

#### B. **FROM ANTIOCH IN SYRIA PAUL TRAVELED OVER THE COUNTRY OF GALATIA AND PHYRGIA STRENGTHENING THE CHURCHES. Acts 18:22-23**

#### C. **FROM GALATIA AND PHYRGIA PAUL TRAVELED TO EPHESUS. Acts 18:22-23**

1. Apollos of Alexander came to Ephesus. **Acts 18:24-27**
  - a. Apollos was a Jew. **Acts 18:24**
  - b. "An eloquent man." **Acts 18:24**
  - c. "Mighty in the Scriptures." **Acts 18:25**
  - d. "Fervent in spirit." **Acts 18:25**
  - e. "Spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord." **Acts 18:25**
  - f. "Knew only the baptism of John." **Acts 18:25**
  - g. "Began to speak boldly in the synagogue." **Acts 18:26**
  - h. Aquila and Priscilla took him aside and instructed him in the ways of the Lord. **Acts 18:26**
  - i. Apollos desired to go over to Achaia. Brethren sent letters to commend him to the brethren there. **Acts 18:27**
  - j. Paul would later write, "I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase." **1 Corinthians 3:6**
2. Ephesus becomes an important work in Paul's ministry.

#### D. **PAUL AT EPHESUS**

## Acts 19

1. Twelve men who had known only the baptism of John, were “re-baptized” which was their initial scriptural baptism. **Acts 19:1-7**

**NOTE:** This is the last mention of John the Baptist in the New Testament.

2. Paul preached in the synagogue for three months. **Acts 19:8**
3. Paul reasoned daily in the school of Tyrannus. **Acts 19:9**
4. Paul remained in Ephesus for two to three years.
5. All Asia heard the Word. **Acts 19:10**

**NOTE:** The “seven churches of Asia” of Revelation 2 and 3 are all located in the general area of Paul’s work during his stay in Ephesus. This very well may have been the beginning of many of these congregations.

- a. Ephesus . . . . . **Revelation 2:1-7**
  - b. Smyrna . . . . . **Revelation 2:8-11**
  - c. Pergamos . . . . . **Revelation 2:13-17**
  - d. Thyatira. . . . . **Revelation 2:18-19**
  - e. Sardis . . . . . **Revelation 3:1-6**
  - f. Philadelphia . . . . . **Revelation 3:7-13**
  - g. Laodicea . . . . . **Revelation 3:14-22**
6. Paul performed miracles in Ephesus. **Acts 19:11-12**
  7. The seven sons of Sceva. **Acts 19:11-17**
    - a. Sceva was a Jew and chief of the priests. **Acts 19:14**
    - b. Sceva’s sons, and some “itinerant Jewish exorcists”, endeavored to cast out evil spirits. **Acts 19:13** – “. . . We adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.”
    - c. The end result of their efforts.
      1. The man with the evil spirit leaped on them and prevailed.
      2. They fled out of the house both wounded and naked.
    - d. Fear fell on the people and the name of the Lord was magnified.
  8. Further evidence of the people’s sincerity and repentance. **Acts 19:19** – “Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver.”
  9. Paul planned to go through Macedonia and Achaia to Jerusalem then to Rome.
    - a. **Acts 19:22**
    - b. **1 Corinthians 4:17; 16:10-11**
    - c. **1 Corinthians 16:8-9**

10. Paul sent Timothy and Erastus to Macedonia. Timothy continued in Corinth. Paul remained in Ephesus and wrote 1 Corinthians in the spring of 57 A.D.

**NOTE:** It appears that Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthians that is not recorded in the Bible. **1 Corinthians 5:9** – “I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people.”

11. Paul sent Titus and “a brother” to Corinth to inquire concerning the effect of 1 Corinthians and to begin a collection for the poor in Jerusalem.

**1 Corinthians 12;17-18; 7:13-15; 8:6**

12. Demetrius the silversmith, maker of shrines of Diana, caused an uproar.

**Acts 19:23-41**

a. Called fellow craftsmen together. **Acts 19:23-41**

b. Motivated by greed. **Acts 19:25, 27**

c. They cried out, “Great is Diana of the Ephesians.” **Acts 19:28**

d. The city of Ephesus was filled with confusion. **Acts 19:29**

e. The crowd seized Paul’s Macedonian traveling companions, Gaius and Aristarchus, and rushed them into the theater. **Acts 19:29**

f. The brethren persuaded Paul not to enter the theater. **Acts 19:30-31**

g. Alexander, a Jew, tried to make a defense. **Acts 19:33**

h. For about two hours the people continued to cry out, “Great is Diana of the Ephesians.” **Acts 19:34**

i. The town clerk reasoned with the people then dismissed the assembly. **Acts 19:35-41**

13. Paul would later write the Ephesian letter to the brethren at Ephesus.

14. Additional information on Paul’s stay in Ephesus can be found in:

a. Acts 20

b. 1 Corinthians

c. 2 Corinthians

## Acts 20

### E. FROM EPHESUS PAUL WENT TO MACEDONIA FROM WHENCE HE WROTE 2 CORINTHIANS IN THE SUMMER OF 57 A.D.

### F. FROM MACEDONIA PAUL TRAVELED TO GREECE

1. Paul stayed in Greece three months. **Acts 20:3**

2. The Jews plotted against Paul, so he departed. **Acts 20:3**

3. Paul related an account of his visit to Greece in 2 Corinthians and Romans.

a. Paul’s third visit to Corinth from which

1. Paul wrote Galatians in the winter of 67 A.D.

2. Paul wrote Romans in the spring of 58 A.D.

- 3. 2 Corinthians 2:1; 9:3-4; 12:14; 20-21; 13:1-2**
- b. Paul's companions in Corinth.
1. Phoebe
  2. Timothy
  3. Lucius
  4. Jason
  5. Sosipater
  6. Tertius
  7. Gaius
  8. Erastus
  9. Quartus
  10. Stephanas
  11. Achaicus
  12. Fortunatas
4. Paul planned to sail from Syria with alms for the Jerusalem church but was forced to change plans due to a plot by the Jews.
5. **Romans 15:25-27** – “But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints.
- 26 For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem.
- 27 It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things.

### G. FROM GREECE PAUL RETURNED TO MACEDONIA AND TO PHILIPPI.

1. Luke rejoined Paul in Philippi.
2. Paul preached to the disciples. **Acts 20:3-12**
3. Those who accompanying Paul to Asia. **Acts 20:4**
  - a. Sopater of Berea
  - b. Aristarchus of Thessalonica
  - c. Secundus of Thessalonica
  - d. Gaius of Derbe
  - e. Timothy
  - f. Tychicus of Asia
  - g. Trophimus of Asia
4. Paul companions. **1 Corinthians 1:1; 16:15-19**
  - a. Sosthenes
  - b. Stephanas
  - c. Fortunatas
  - d. Achaicus
  - e. Aquila and Priscilla

## H. FROM PHILIPPI TO TROAS

1. Remained seven days. **Acts 20:6**
2. Paul met with the brethren on the first day of the week (Sunday) to break bread (Lord's Supper). **Acts 20:7** – “Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.”
3. The death and resurrection of Eutychus. **Acts 20:9-12**
  - a. Sat in a window in the third loft. **Acts 20:9**
  - b. Fell into a deep sleep while Paul was “long preaching.” **Acts 20:9**
  - c. **Acts 20:9** – “And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead.
  - d. **Acts 20:10** – “But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing him said, ‘Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him.’”
  - e. **Acts 20:12** – “they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted.”
  - f. **Acts 20:7** refers to the Lord's Supper. **Acts 20:11** refers to a common meal.
4. Although this is the first time that we have service mentioned “Upon the first day of the week,” please note:
  - a. Paul had already written 1 Corinthians prior to this, and in that letter he had designated that collections or contributions should be taken on the first day of the week (Sunday). **1 Corinthians 16:1-2** – “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also:
    - 2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.”
  - b. He indicates that he had given the same “order to the churches of Galatia.

## I. PAUL IN MACEDONIA

1. The distance from Troas to Assos was about 30 miles by sea (20 miles by land). **Acts 20:13**
  - a. Paul's companions went by ship.
  - b. Paul chose to “go on foot” and met them at Assos where he would board the ship.
2. From Assos to Mitylene (30 miles by land). **Acts 20:15**
3. From Mitylene the next morning over against Chios in the Aegean Sea. **Acts 20:15**
4. From Chios to Samos and tarried at Trogyllium. **Acts 20:15**

## 5. From Trogyllium to Miletus. **Acts 20:15**

- a. By land, Miletus was approximately 28 miles south of Ephesus.
- b. Paul called for the elders from Ephesus to meet with him at Miletus.

### **Acts 20:17-28**

1. It had been approximately four years since Paul had established the work in Ephesus.
2. Paul addressed the Ephesian elders at Miletus.
  - a. Review his efforts among them. **Acts 20:18-21**
  - b. Revealed his immediate plans to them. **Acts 20:22-24**
  - c. Related the sad news that they would see his face no more. **Acts 20:25**
  - d. Reiterated that he was “pure from the blood of all men.” **Acts 20:26**
  - e. Admonished them to teach the church properly **Acts 20:28** – “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”
  - f. Paul warned against false teachers from both within and without the church. **Acts 20:29-31** – “For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.”

- g. Paul had worked among them for three years. **Acts 20:31**
- h. Paul reminded them of the words of the Lord “. . . It is more blessed to give than to receive.” **Acts 20:35**
- i. They had prayer together. **Acts 20:36**
- j. The sad parting when it was time to leave. **Acts 20:37-38** – Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him,
 

38 sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship.

## Acts 21

### J. FROM MILETUS TO COOS AND THE FOLLOWING DAY TO RHODES.

### K. FROM RHODES TO PATARA WHERE THEY CHANGED SHIPS.

**L. FROM PATARA TO TYRE**

1. 350 miles by sea – 40 or 5 days with favorable sailing.
2. The spent seven days with the brethren. **Acts 21:4**
3. The brethren told Paul not to go to Jerusalem. **Acts 21:4**
5. **NOTE:** This is the first mention of Children in connection with the early church. **Acts 21:5**

**M. FROM TYRE TO PTOLEMAIS. Acts 21:7**

1. 30 miles by sea.
2. Abode with the brethren one day.

**N. FROM PTOLEMAIS TO CAESAREA. Acts 21:7-16**

1. This is Paul's third visit to Caesarea since becoming a Christian.
  - a. The 1<sup>st</sup> visit – His journey from Jerusalem to Tarsus. **Acts 9:30**
  - b. The 2<sup>nd</sup> visit – On his return at the close of the 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey.
  - c. The 3<sup>rd</sup> visit – The present visit in the home of Philip the evangelist.
  - d. The 4<sup>th</sup> visit – Will be as a prisoner when taken from Jerusalem due to the conspiracy of the 40 or so Jews planning to take his life. **Acts 23:12-33**
2. Paul visited in the home of Philip the evangelist.
  - a. Philip was one of the seven chosen in Jerusalem. **Acts 6:5**
  - b. This same Philip had preached in Samaria and was called away to teach the Eithopian Eunuch. Therefore, Philip had a part in two of the ten cases of conversion recorded in the Book of Acts.
    1. The Samaritans. **Acts 8:4-12**
    2. The Eithopian Eunuch. **Acts 8:26-39**
3. Agabus came from Judea and demonstrated that Paul would be bound if he went to Jerusalem. **Acts 21:10-11** – “And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.
 

11 When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit,'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’”

  - a. Luke and the brethren tried to persuade Paul not to continue on to Jerusalem. **Acts 21:12** – “Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem.”
  - b. Paul's response. **Acts 21:13** – “Paul answered, ‘What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.’”
  - c. The brethren's conclusion. **Acts 21:14** – “So when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, ‘The will of the Lord be done.’”

**NOTE:** During his third missionary journey, lasting some four years years, Paul had traveled some **2,505** miles, of which, **1,190** were by sea and some **1,325** were by land.

**End of 3rd Missionary Journey**