

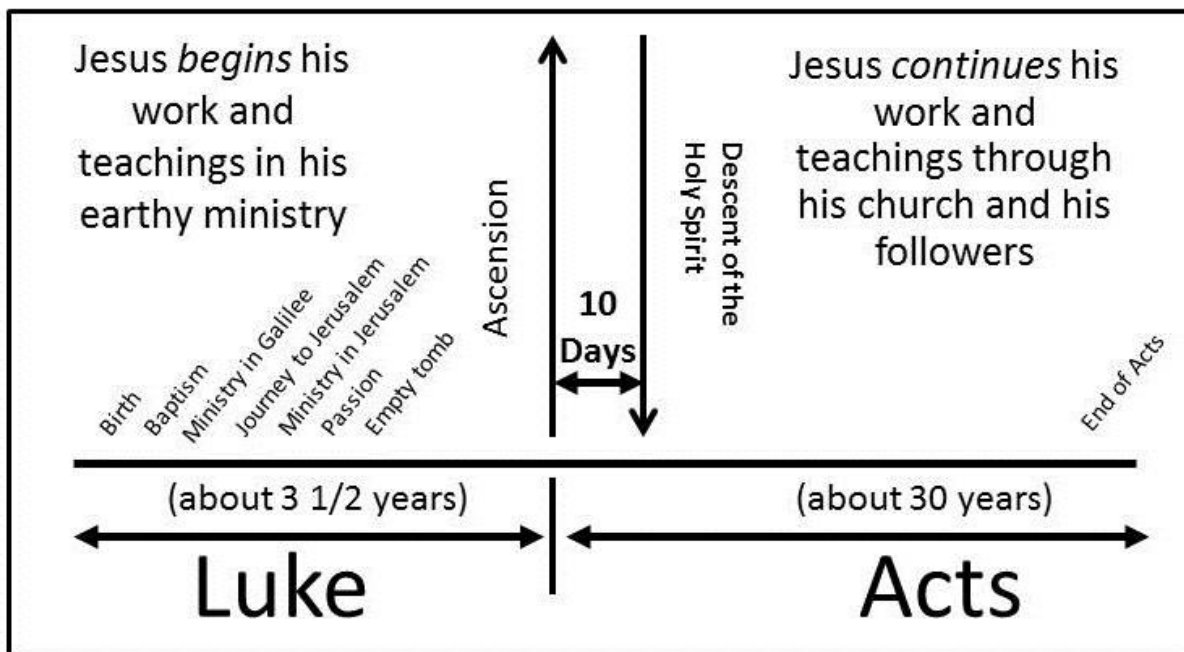


Introduction to the Acts of the Apostles

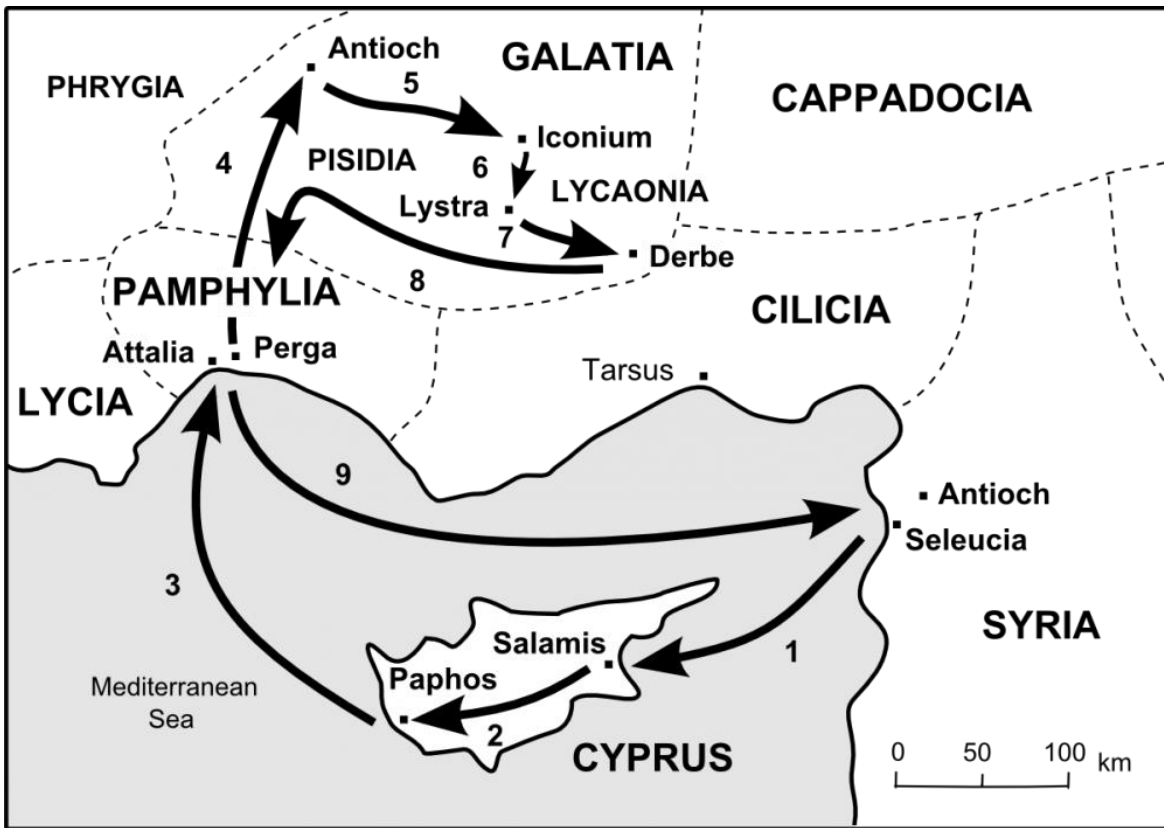
“The Acts of the Apostles fulfills a unique role in the New Testament. Written as a sequel to the Gospel of Luke by the same author (Acts 1:1), Acts continues the Gospel by recounting how Jesus’ mission was carried on by his disciples after he ascended into heaven. It provides the only narrative link we possess of the transition between Jesus’ ministry, death, and resurrection to the spread of the Church beyond its Jewish origins to reach other nations. In addition, the canonical placement of Acts between the four Gospels and Paul’s Letters enables Acts to introduce and situate those letters. Without Acts we would have no way to reconstruct the historical context of Paul’s Letters or to establish some key dates within which his ministry took place.

Luke’s second volume builds on what Jesus “began to do and teach” during his earthly ministry (Acts 1:1, literal translation). The Gospel covered all that Jesus began to do and teach. By implication, this sequel treats what Jesus continues to do and teach through his followers, after he was taken up to heaven and poured out his Holy Spirit on them. It describes how Jesus’ mission is carried on by his followers, who spoke and acted in his name after they were empowered by the Holy Spirit. But Jesus’ saving mission to all nations is not yet fully accomplished even with the apostles’ ministry narrated in Acts. The narrative abruptly stops with Paul in house arrest in Rome, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ. The reason why the ending of Acts is deliberately left open-ended is to engage its readers. Inspired by the words and deeds of Paul and other followers of Jesus, Christians today are to carry on Jesus’ mission even in the twenty-first century and until Jesus returns.”

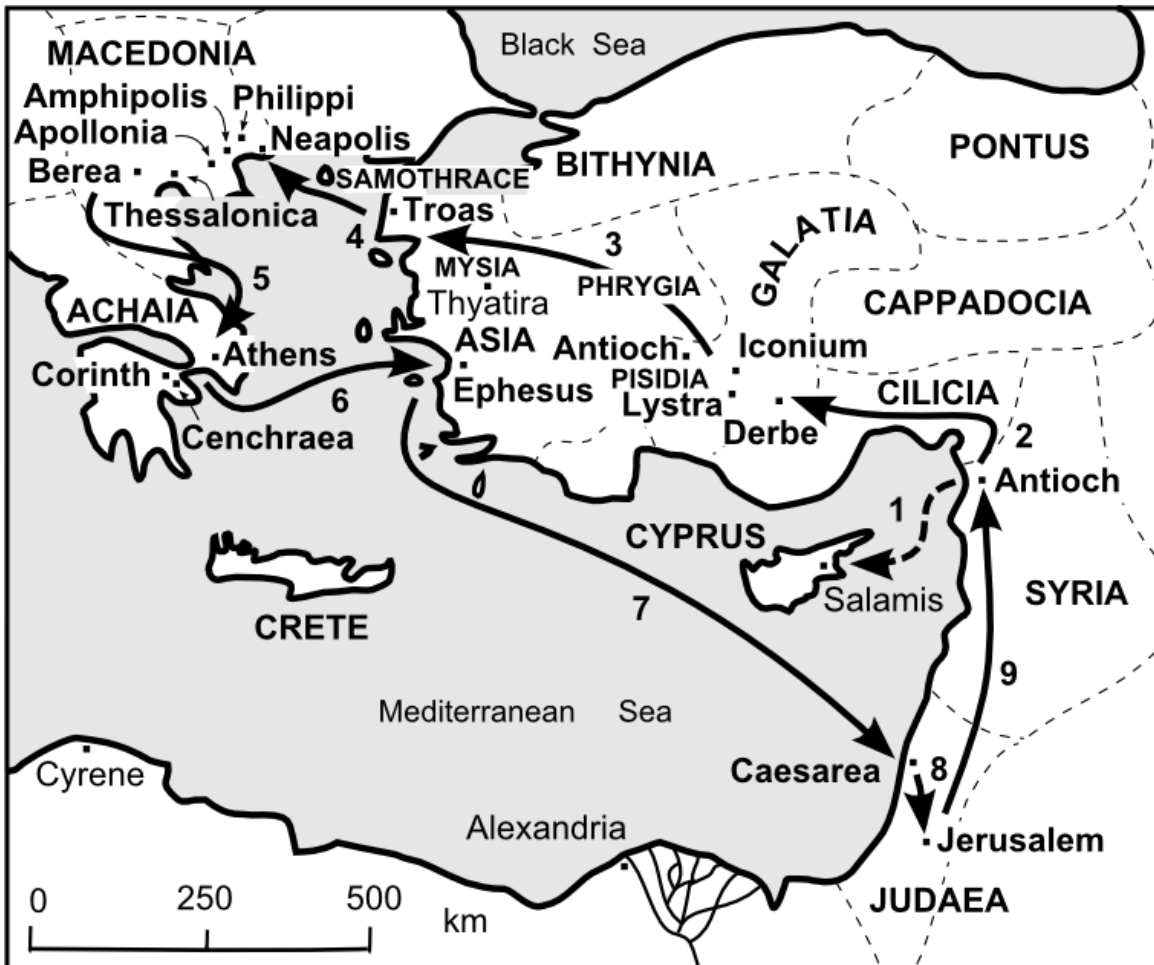
Above quoted from *Acts of the Apostles* by William S. Kurz, SJL Baker Academic, (Baker Publishing Group).



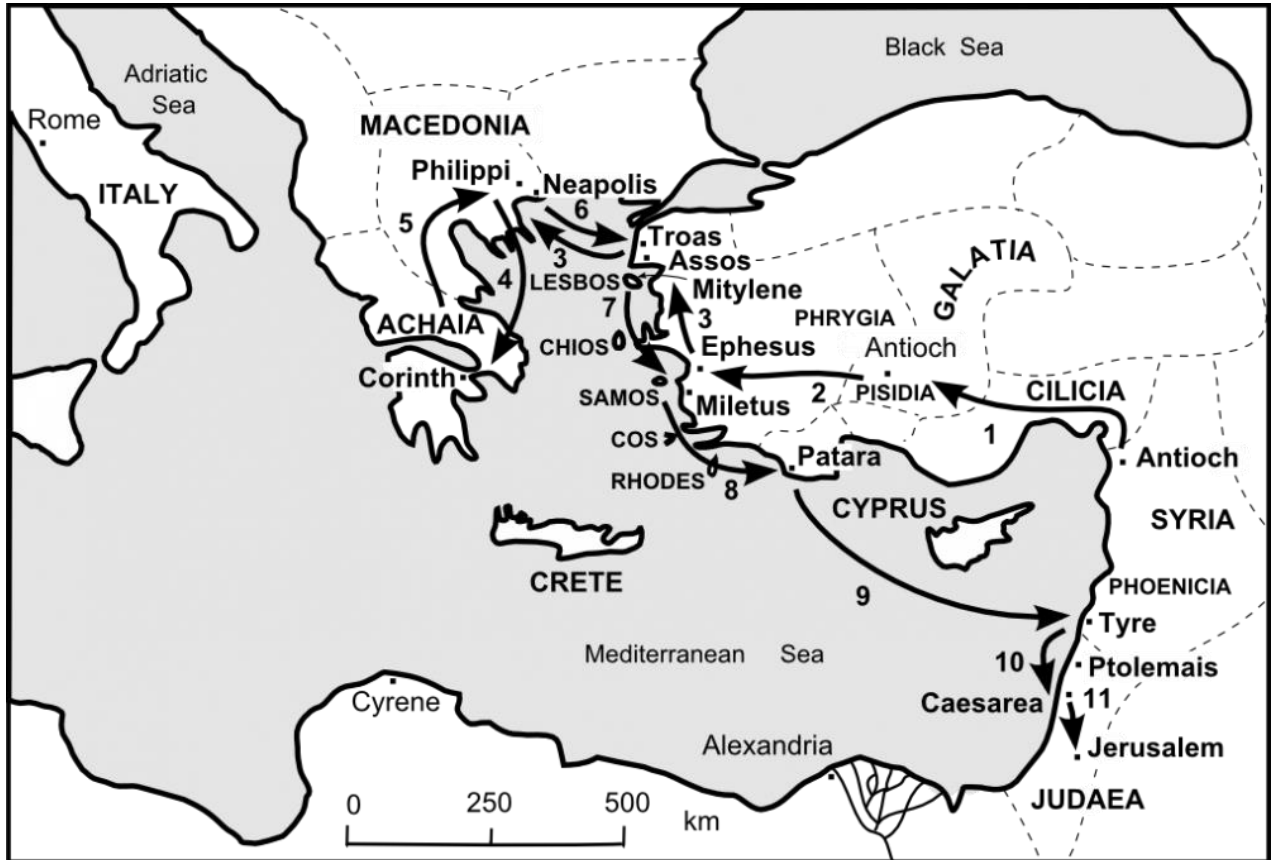
First Missionary Journey



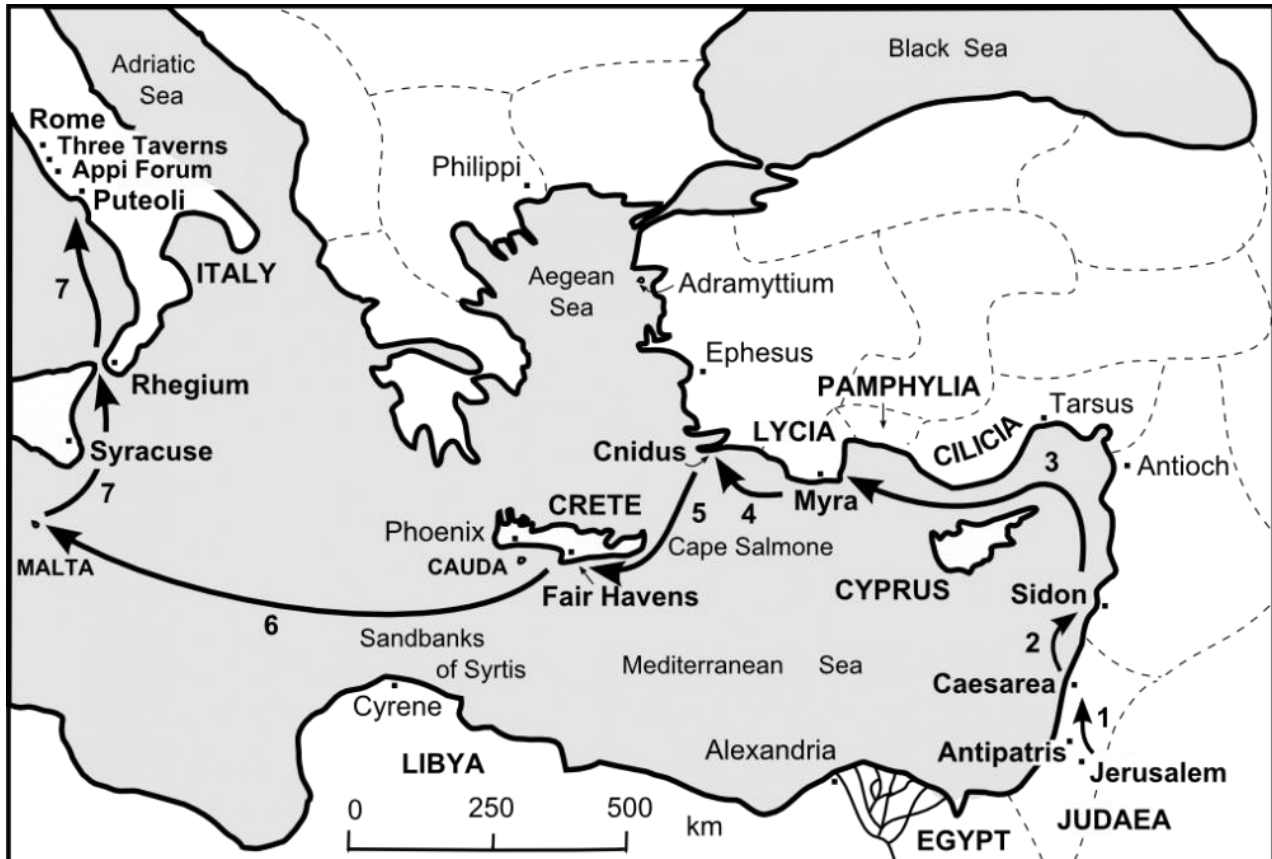
Second Missionary Journey



Third Missionary Journey



Journey to Rome



OUTLINE OF THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

The Beginning of the Church (Acts 1:1-8:1)

The Persecution & Dispersion of the Church (Acts 8:2-12:23)

Paul's 1st Missionary Trip (Acts 12:24-14:28)

The Council at Jerusalem (Acts 15:1-35)

Paul's 2nd Missionary Trip (Acts 15:36-18:22)

Paul's 3rd Missionary Trip (Acts 18:23-20:38)

Paul Arrested in Jerusalem (Acts 21-26)

Paul's Trip to Rome (Acts 27-28)