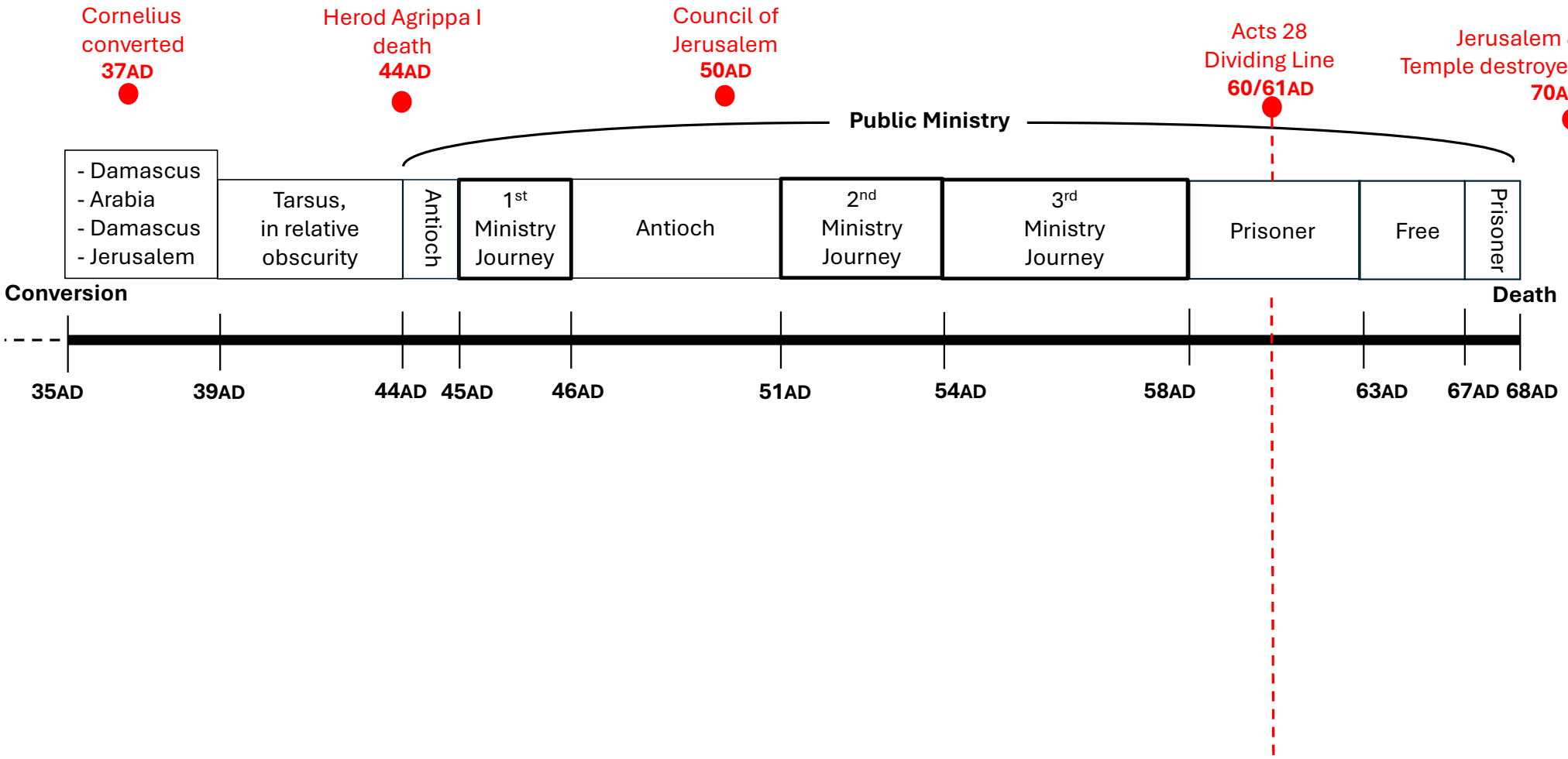
# Timeline of Paul's Life & Ministry

*Most of the dates on this chart are approximate.*
*Some events may be up to 5 years earlier or later than charted here.*



# The Second Journey, in brief …

## Acts 15:36 to 18:22

- **Paul and Silas undertake this journey** *(Acts 15:36-40)*
  - To be a follow up to Paul's first journey *(15:36)*
  - Delivering the decrees of the Jerusalem Council *(16:4)*
- **Starting with Syria & Cilicia** *(15:41)*
- **Timothy joins them in Galatia** *(16:1-5)*
- **Events in Macedonia** *(16:12-17:15)*
  - Philippi
  - Thessalonica
  - Berea
- **Events in Achaia** *(17:16-18:18)*
  - Athens
  - Corinth
  - Cenchrae

  } 1 & 2 Thessalonians written and sent from here
- **Brief visit to Ephesus** *(18:19-21)*
- **Back home** (via Caesarea) **to Antioch** *(18:22)*

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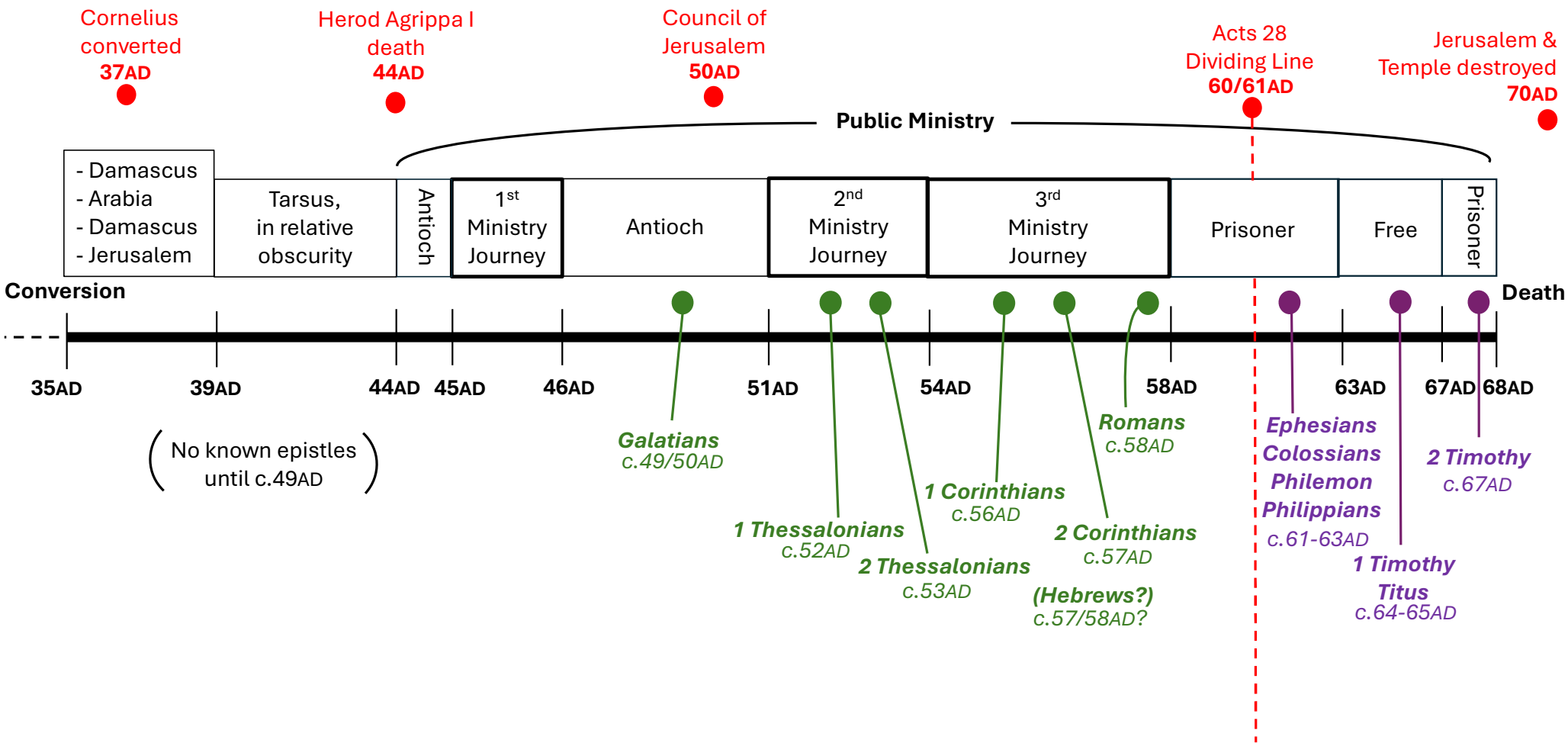
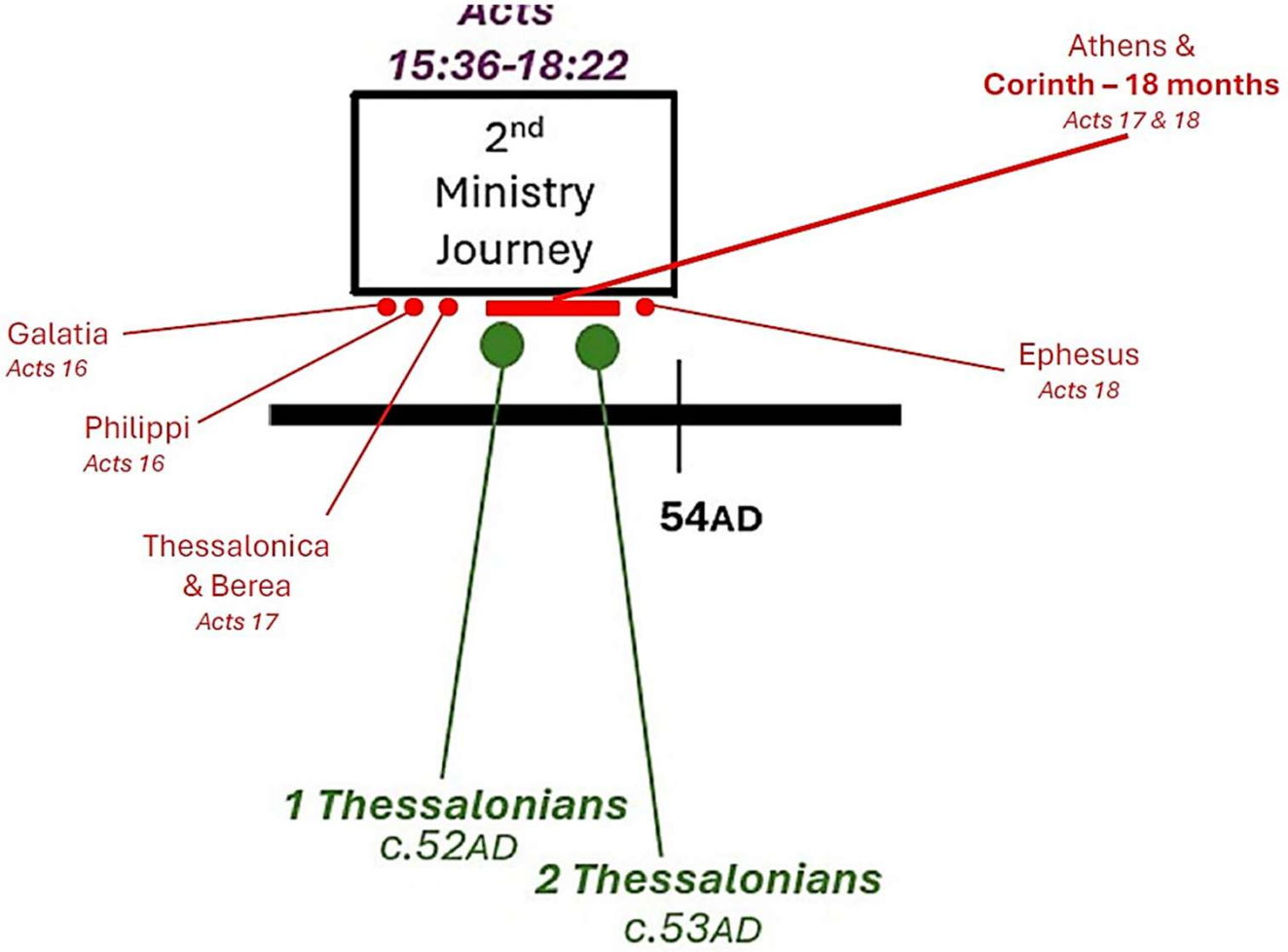



Acts
15:36-18:22
2nd
Ministry
Journey
Athens &
Corinth – 18 months
Acts 17 & 18
Galatia
Acts 16
Philippi
Acts 16
Thessalonica
& Berea
Acts 17
Ephesus
Acts 18
54AD
1 Thessalonians
c.52AD
2 Thessalonians
c.53AD

# Thessalonica – Acts 17:1-10

There are a lot more details about this visit in the two epistles to the Thessalonians, written a few months after Paul, Silas and Timothy visited there.

**Part 1 - The conduct and activity of Paul, Silas & Timothy in Thessalonica – 17:1-4**
(generally, this seems to be the pattern of Paul his co-workers as they travelled)

- Regular prayer for the churches / Christians *(1 Thessalonians 1:2,3; 2 Thessalonians 1:3,11,12)*
- Ministry in the context of persecution, and continuing despite it *(1 Th. 2:2,3)*
- No flattering words *(1 Th. 2:5)*
- No motivation of financial or material gain *(1 Th. 2:5)*
- No seeking of praise, even though ordained by God *(1 Th. 2:6)*
- Gentle, nurturing *(1 Th. 2:7)*
- Self-sacrificing *(1 Th. 2:8)*
- Didn't impose any burden on the people *(1 Th. 2:9)*
- Devoted to the cause *(1 Th. 2:10)*
- Appropriate behaviour *(1 Th. 2:10)*
- Exhortation & comfort, maybe some strong words of correction also *(1 Th. 2:11,12)*
- A goal of helping God's people walk worthy of God *(1 Th. 2:12)*
- Set an example to be followed (imitated) *(2 Th.3:7-9)*
  - Not disorderly
  - Worked for a living (being a dedicated Christian, whether in formal ministry or not, doesn't mean other responsibilities can be thrown aside)

# Thessalonica – Acts 17:1-10

There are a lot more details about this visit in the two epistles to the Thessalonians, written a few months after Paul, Silas and Timothy visited there.

**Part 2 – Opposition & Faithfulness in Thessalonica – 17:5-9,13,14**
(generally, this seems to be the pattern of Paul his co-workers as they travelled)

- Patience / endurance *(1 Thess. 1:2,3)*
- Followers = imitators *(1 Th. 1:6)*
  *(note: becoming "followers" of Paul would be contrary to his strong message in 1 Corinthians ch.1 to 4 regarding such practice, esp. 1 Corinthians 3:4-7)*
- Received the message *(1 Th. 2:13)*
- Suffered persecution because of it *(1 Th. 2:14-16)*
  - when they first received it during Paul & co.'s visit *(1 Th. 1:6, Acts 17:5-9)*
  - after Paul & co. had moved on *(Acts 17:13.14; 2 Th. 1:3,4)*
  - Hence words of encouragement and strength *(2 Th.2:16,17)*

# “Search the Scriptures” (Acts 17:11)

After the Bible itself, a concordance or an electronic search tool is the best tool for “searching the Scriptures”. This can be done at different levels of study.

**Hard copy concordances** (i.e. real paper books!)

- based on different Bible versions such as KJV, NIV, etc
- use an “exhaustive” or “complete” concordance (e.g. “Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance”) rather than “compact”, “handy” or “concise” concordances which often omit many references

**Electronic Bible apps** for phone / ipad / tablet / computer

**Offline:** doesn’t require wifi, internet connection, etc

e.g. - Life Bible (Android – most non-Apple or i-devices)
- Hebrew/Greek Interlinear Bible
- Olive Tree (Apple devices, IOS, iphone, etc)

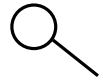
Use the “Search” tool function, often a magnifying glass symbol:

**Online:** requires wifi, internet connection, etc.

e.g. - Bible Hub
- FarAboveAll Bible Translation
- Blue Letter Bible

Search tool symbol:

OR



**Basic English word searches on an electronic device:**

- Type in the complete word (e.g. “love”), and click “Go” or “Enter”, etc.
- A list of Bible verses containing that word should appear

Here’s a few tips that might help:

- Experiment with your Bible app to find out what kind of searches your Bible app will do.

- If too many results come up, try limiting your search. Most apps will let you limit your search to just OT or NT, a section of books, such as the Gospels, or a single book, such as Ephesians.

- Remember that many modern Bible versions use American spellings. Adjust your search according to the version you are using. (e.g. KJV says “neighbour”; whereas NKJV, NIV, ESV each say “neighbor”)

- Try typing in just the first few letters of a word (e.g. “lov” instead of “love”).
  - In most apps, the results will bring up a range of relevant related words
    e.g. love, loves, loved, loving, lover, lovers, lovely, lovingkindness

- Try searching for two or more words (or partial words) at a time
  (e.g. “love neighbor” or just “lov neighb”)

**Greek or Hebrew word search tools:**

**Books (real hard copy paper books!)**

For the English reader with little or no knowledge of Greek or Hebrew:

NT - Critical Concordance and Lexicon of the N.T. by E.W. Bullinger

OT – Wison's Old Testament Word Studies by William Wilson

The Interlinear Bible (single volume) Jay P. Green

There are many other helpful hard copy works available. Check your Christian bookstore.

**Electronic Bible Apps:**

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e.g. - Hebrew/Greek Interlinear Bible (Android – most non-Apple or i-devices)

- Olive Tree (Apple devices, IOS, iphone, etc)

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e.g. **Hebrew/Greek Interlinear Bible** (Android – most non-Apple or i-devices)
**Olive Tree** (Apple devices, IOS, iphone, etc)

Tip: Use the "Search" tool function, often a magnifying glass symbol

**Online:** requires wifi, internet connection, etc.

e.g. **Bible Hub** website (biblehub.com)
- click on the Bible book & verse bar at the top to find a verse
- click on the "INT" (for Interlinear) tab
- click on the Strong's number. A working definition will appear, and a sample list of how it is translated.
- To see every occurrence, scroll down to the end of sample list to see how many occurrences there are (e.g. 143 occurrences). Click on this number and every occurrence in the Bible will be shown.

TIP: By looking at **every** reference of the Gk / Heb word in the list, and observing its usage in context, you should be able to come up with a "basic" sense of the word that can always be applied, to be distinguished from "extended" meanings where the word means something more specific, as defined by its use within a passage.

For example, the Greek word *charis (g5485)*, often translated as "grace", doesn't always mean "unmerited favour". The basic sense is always "favour", and can be applied in each occurrence. Often, by extension, *charis* can mean "unmerited favour"; at other times it has the meaning of favour, or pleasure. Reading charis as "unmerited favour" every time will bring about some theological problems.

## **Areopagus** meanings:

**(1) A location**, literally the “Hill of Ares” close to the Acropolis in Athens.

The hill (*pagus*) of Ares (the Greek god of war). Sometimes called “Mars Hill”, because Mars was the Roman god of war, and Athens was under Roman control in the first century.

**(2) A group of people** who were a council or court that met at this location. These were the people Paul addressed in Acts 17:22-31.

Artist's impression of
**Paul addressing**
**the Areopagus in Athens**.

The site of the Areopagus (Mars Hill) is in the foreground.
**In the distance is the Acropolis or "high city"**
(which includes the famous building, the Parthenon).

**The Acropolis in Athens** (featuring the Parthenon).
This site was not far from the Areopagus / Mars Hill, where Paul made his speech in Acts 17:22-31.

As it appeared in Paul's day.

As it appears today.

Dated around c.100-200 A.D., and discovered in Rome, this altar was a restoration of an earlier altar, and inscribed as being "sacred to a god or to a goddess"; i.e. an unknown god or goddess.

# Ancient altars to unknown god/s

*Paul in Athens:*

***"I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD."***
***Acts 17:23***

Some ancient cultures, such as the Egyptians and the Greeks, are known to have attributed certain acts and phenomena to a god, or gods, unknown, even though the worshippers didn't know who to attribute the act to.

An altar such as this was used to offer sacrifices. In effect, the worshippers were saying:
"Whoever you are [who does/did this thing, or carried out this act, etc.] we acknowledge you, worship you, and offer this sacrificial gift to you."