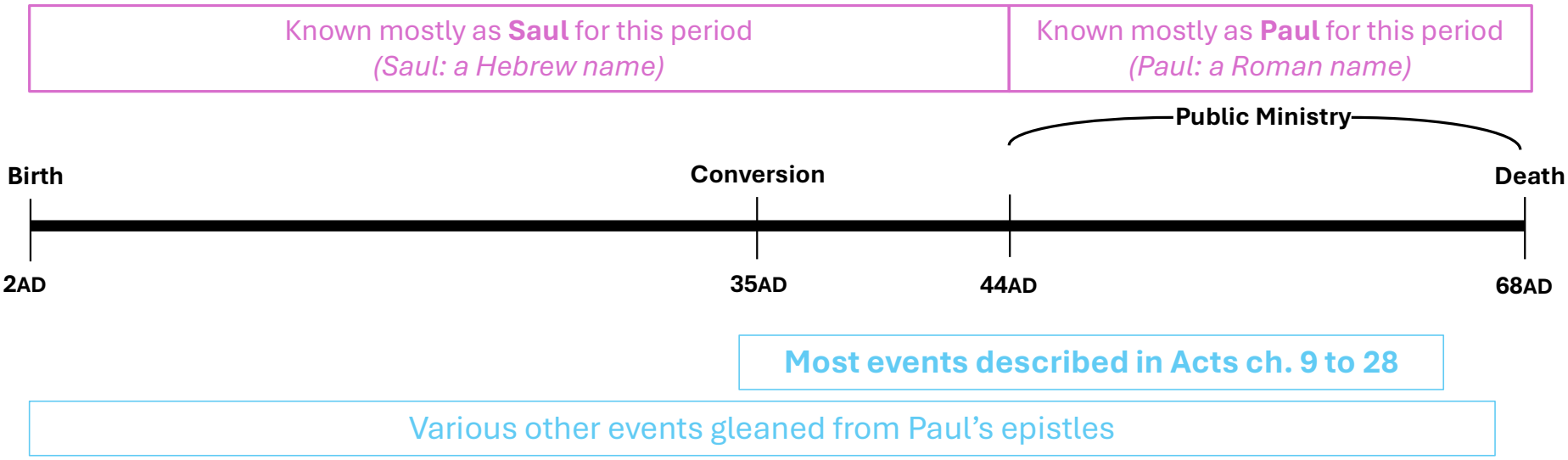
Timeline of Paul's Life & Ministry

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

Chart 1
Simple Overview.



Timeline of Paul's Life & Ministry

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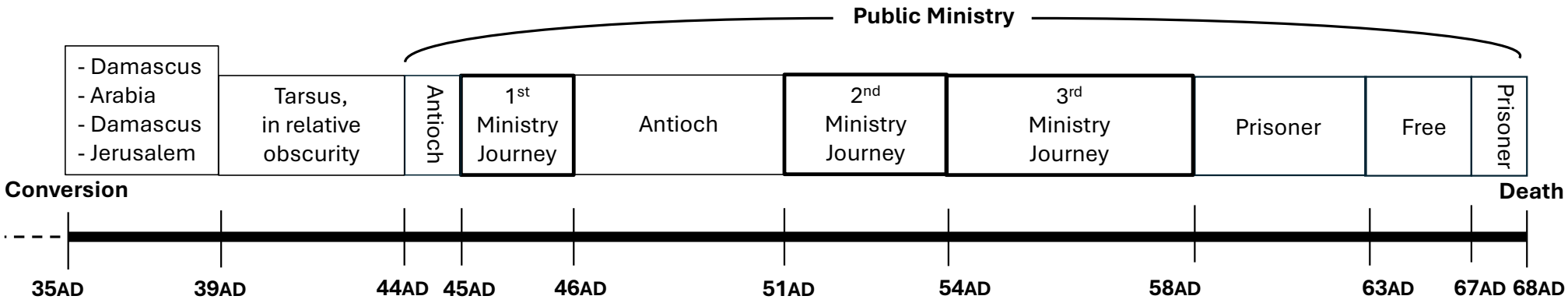
Chart 6
After conversion – details.



Timeline of Paul's Life & Ministry

Most of the dates on this chart are approximate.
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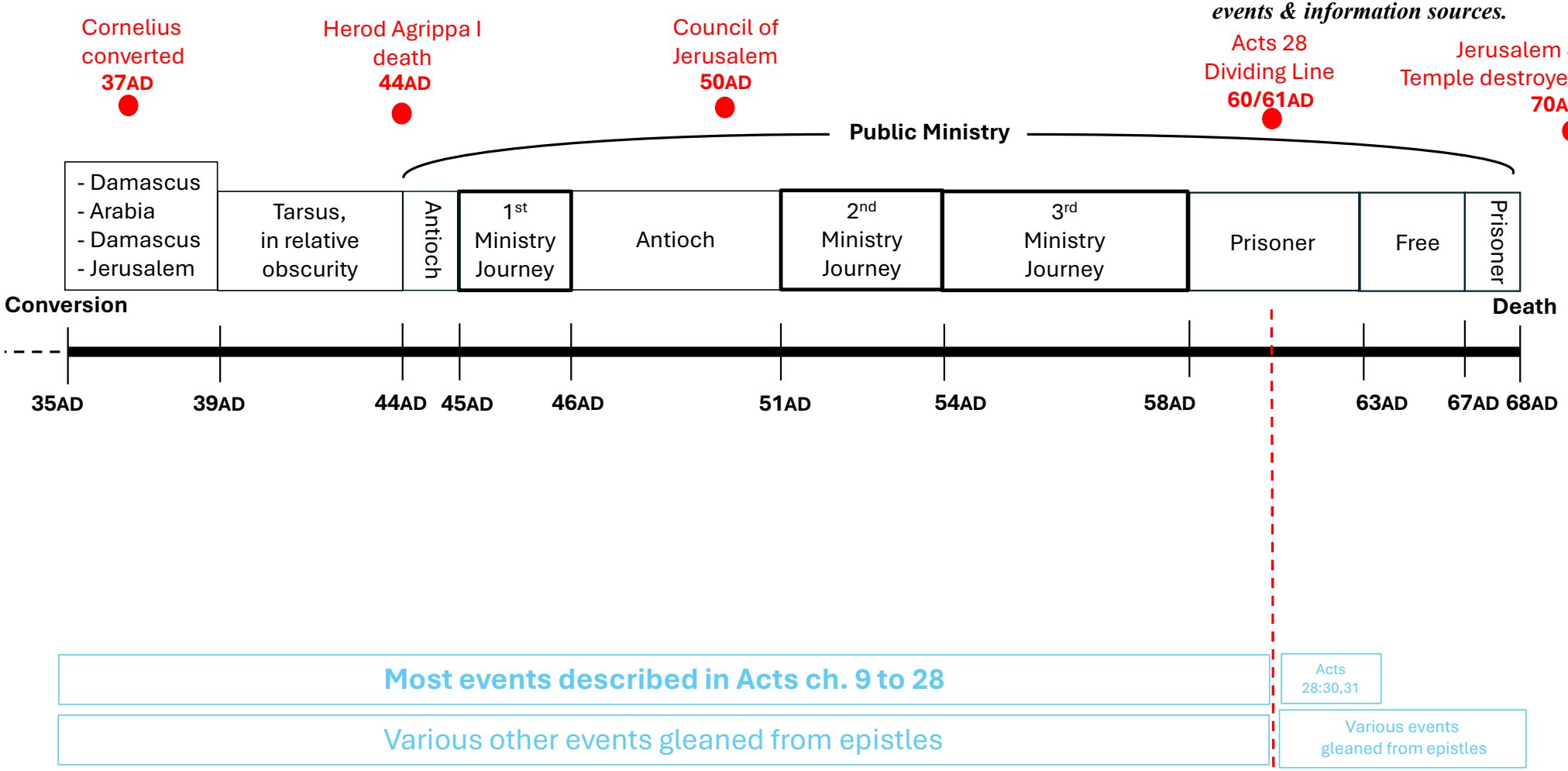
Chart 7
After conversion – details, with contemporary events & information sources.



Most events described in Acts ch. 9 to 28

Acts 28:30,31

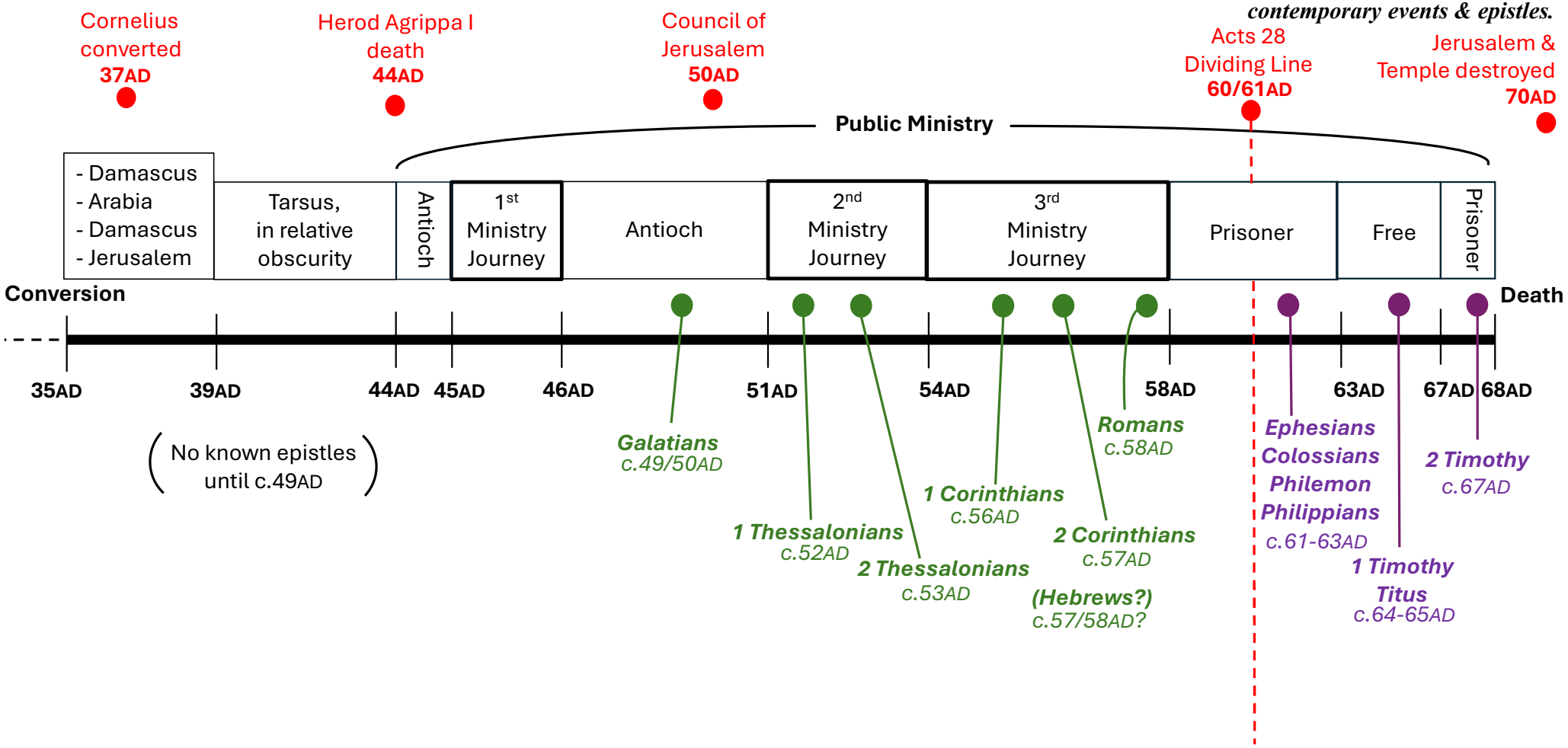
Various other events gleaned from epistles

Various events gleaned from epistles

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.

Chart 8
After conversion – details, with contemporary events & epistles.



Timeline of Paul's Life & Ministry

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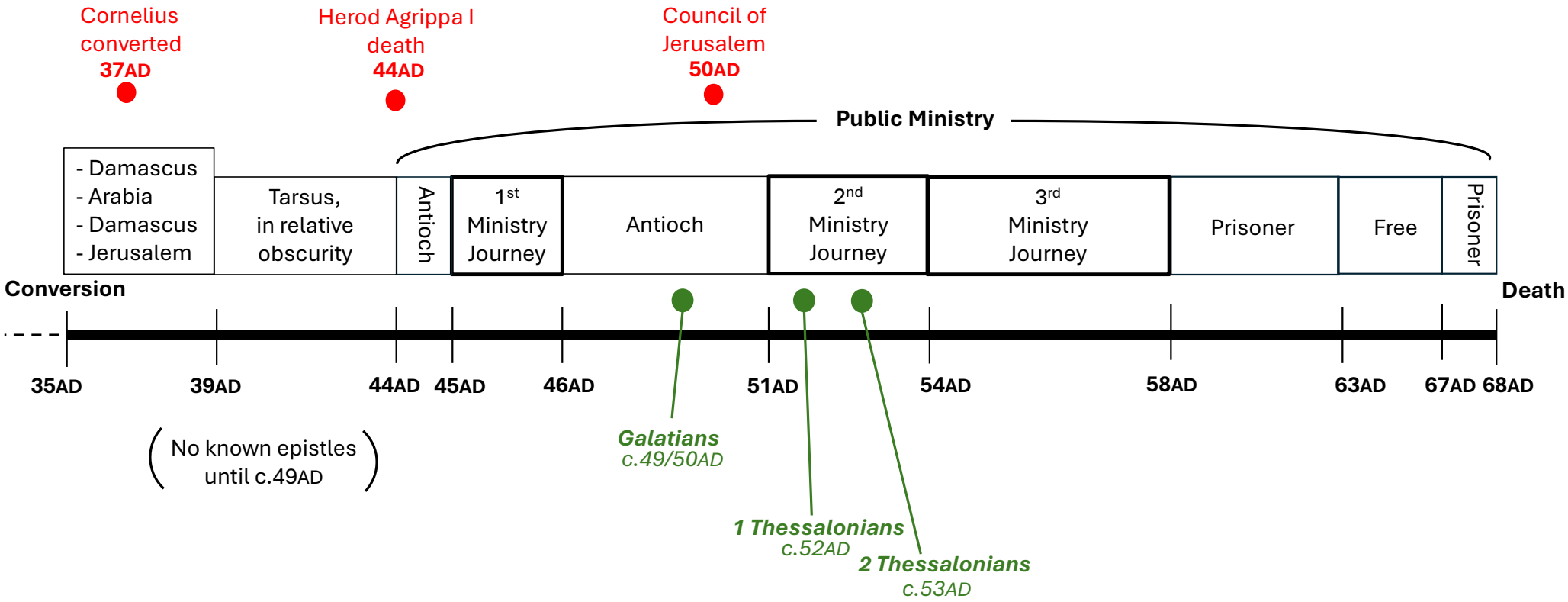
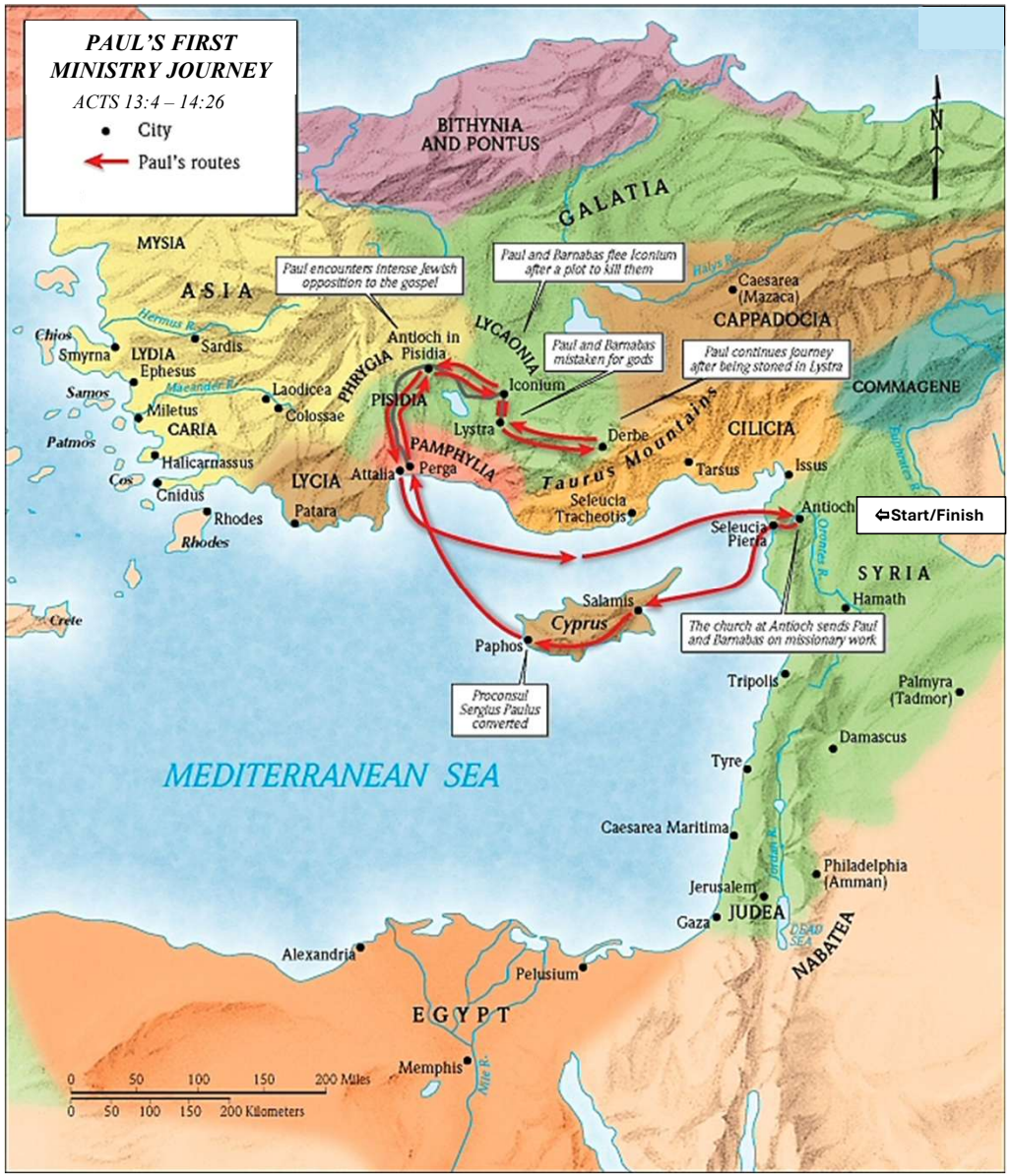
Some events may be up to 5 years earlier or later than charted here.



So far ...


PAUL'S FIRST MINISTRY JOURNEY
ACTS 13:4 – 14:26
City
Paul's routes
BITHYNIA AND PONTUS
GALATIA
MYSIA
ASIA
Paul encounters intense Jewish opposition to the gospel
Paul and Barnabas flee Iconium after a plot to kill them
Caesarea (Mazaca)
CAPPADOCIA
Chios
Smyrna
LYDIA
Sardis
Ephesus
Hermus R.
Maeander R.
Samos
Laodicea
Colossae
PHRYGIA
Antioch in Pisidia
LYCAONIA
Paul and Barnabas mistaken for gods
Paul continues journey after being stoned in Lystra
COMMAGENE
Iconium
PISIDIA
Lystra
Derbe
Taurus Mountains
CILICIA
Miletus
CARIA
Patmos
PAMPHYLIA
Halicarnassus
Cos
Attalia
Perga
Tarsus
Issus
LYCIA
Cnidus
Seleucia Tracheotis
Rhodes
Patara
Rhodes
Antioch
⇦Start/Finish
Seleucia Pieria
Orontes R.
SYRIA
Salamis
Hamath
Crete
Cyprus
The church at Antioch sends Paul and Barnabas on missionary work
Paphos
Tripolis
Palmyra (Tadmor)
Proconsul Sergius Paulus converted
Damascus
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Tyre
Caesarea Maritima
Jordan R.
Philadelphia (Amman)
Jerusalem
JUDEA
Gaza
DEAD SEA
NABATEA
Alexandria
Pelusium
EGYPT
Memphis
Nile R.
0 50 100 150 200 Miles
0 50 100 150 200 Kilometers

Between the “first” and “second” ministry journeys, Paul and Barnabas travel from Antioch to the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15:1-4) and then return again to Antioch (Acts 15:30,35).

Some time after the Council of Jerusalem, the “second” journey begins (Acts 15:36).

BLACK SEA
MACEDONIA
THRACE
BITHYNIA AND PONTUS
GALATIA
CAPPADOCIA
ASIA
MYSIA
LYDIA
PHRYGIA
LYCAONIA
PISIDIA
PAMPHYLIA
CILICIA
COMMAGENE
CARIA
LYCIA
SYRIA
JUDEA
AEGEAN SEA
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
EGYPT
CYRENAICA
NABATEA
Anatolian Plateau
Taurus Mountains
Cilician Gates
Syrian Gates
Pontus Mts.
Amastris
Heraclea
Byzantium (Istanbul)
Chalcedon
Pompeiopolis
Hadrianopolis
Amisus
Amaseia
Ancyra (Ankara)
Tavium
Parnassus
Caesarea (Mazaca)
Archelais
Antioch in Pisidia
Iconium
Derbe
Lystra
Tarsus
Issus
Seleucia Pieria
Antioch
Seleucia Tracheotis
Cremna
Colossae
Laodicea
Hierapolis
Philadelphia
Sardis
Thyatira
Pergamum
Ancyra
Sebaste
Adramyttium
Assos
Troas
Lesbos
Mitylene
Chios
Smyrna
Ephesus
Tripolis
Priene
Aphrodisias
Miletus
Samos
Patmos
Halicarnassus
Cnidus
Xanthus
Patara
Attalia
Perga
Rhodes
Cos
Cyclades Islands
Crete
Fair Havens
Cyprus
Paphos
Salamis
Hamath
Tripolis
Byblos
Palmyra (Tadmor)
Sidon
Damascus
Tyre
Ptolemais (Acco)
Caesarea Maritima
Antipatris
Jerusalem
Gaza
Alexandria
Pelusium
Memphis
Qattara Depression
Nile R.
Jordan R.
Dead Sea
Euphrates
Orontes R.
Macedonia
Philippi
Amphipolis
Neapolis
Porsule
Perinthus
Doriscus
Marmara Sea
Pella
Berea
Apollonia
Thessalonica
Mt. Olympus
Samothrace
Lemnos
Larissa
Delphi
Euboea
Corinth
Achaia
Athens
Cenchreae
Epidaurus
Sounion
Sparta
Cyrene
Paul restores life to young Eutychus
Paul revisits the troubled church at Corinth
Paul establishes churches and writes 1 and 2 Corinthians
Paul revisits the churches of Galatia
Paul resumes his missionary travels
⇦Start
⇦Finish
PAUL'S THIRD MINISTRY JOURNEY
ACTS 18:23-21:17
City
Site of the Seven Churches of Asia
Mountain peak
Roads
Pass
Paul's routes
0 100 200 300 Miles
0 100 200 300 Kilometers
N

The Third Journey, in brief …

Acts 18:23 to 21:17

- **Visited Galatian churches yet again** *(18:23)*

- **Ephesus - Paul's base for 3 years** *(19:1,8,10,22; 20:31)*
  - Other journeys, not detailed in Acts, took place during the Ephesus stay *(2 Cor 2:1; 12:14; 13:1,2)*
  - 1 Corinthians written during this time
  - Ephesus & Corinth ministries dominate this journey

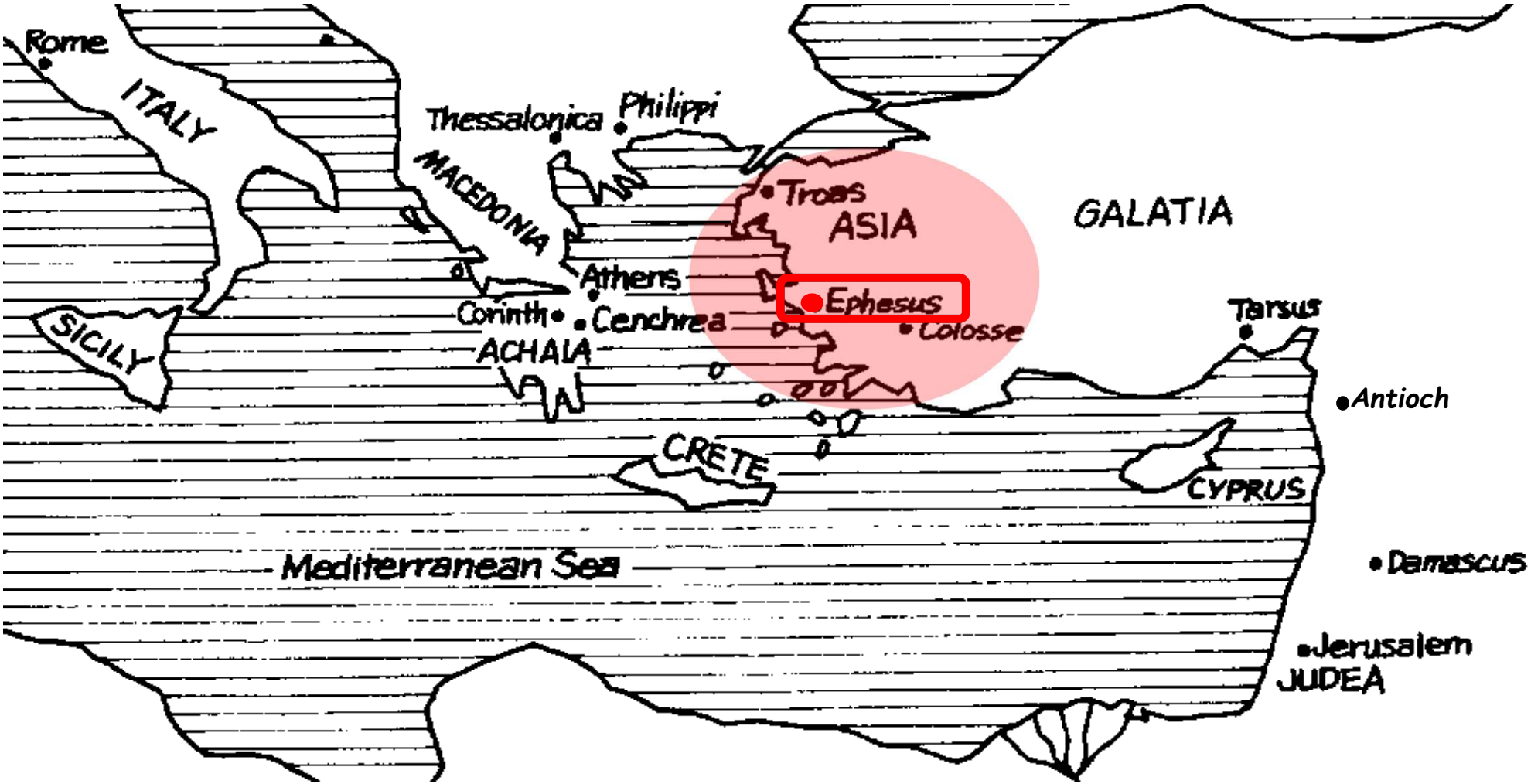
- **Ministering in Macedonia** *(20:1,2)*
  - Probably Philippi, Thessalonica & Berea at least
  - 2 Corinthians written during this time

- **Three months ministering in Achaia** *(20:2b,3a)*
  - Romans written during this time

- **The Journey to Palestine** *(20:3b – 21:17)*
  - Macedonia
  - Asia (Troas, Miletus, Patara)
  - Palestine (Tyre, Caesarea, Jerusalem)

- **Personnel on this journey is hard to identify precisely.** The narrative mostly follows Paul, who is accompanied by various companions at different times and places.
- **Mainly following up centres already visited** in first two journeys
- **Brief details only** of events in centres already visited.

The place of Ephesus (and Asia) in the Bible ...



The Books of the New Testament

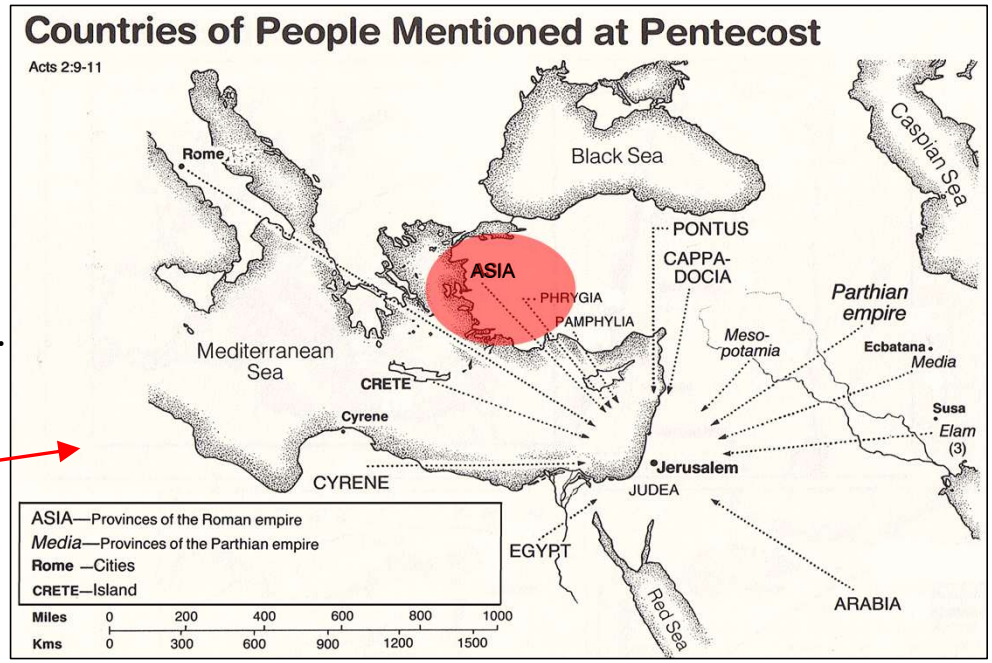
Christ on Earth	Acts Period	After Acts
approx 4B.C.- 29 A.D	approx 29 A.D - 62 A.D	approx 62 A.D. - 68 A.D.
Matthew	Romans	Ephesians
Mark	1 & 2 Corinthians	Philippians
Luke	Galatians	Colossians
John	1 & 2 Thessalonians	1 & 2 Timothy
	Hebrews	Titus
	James	Philemon
	1 & 2 Peter	
	1,2 & 3 John	
	Jude	
	Revelation	
	(Acts)	
Many miracles	**Many miracles**	**No miracles**

The place of Ephesus (and Asia) in the Bible …

Ephesus and **Ephesians** are mentioned 21 times in the NT (0 times in OT, an area not referred to in OT).

Asia is mentioned about 20 times in the NT, and at least some of these references would include Ephesus.

- The first mention of Asia is Acts 2:9 – The Day of Pentecost.
- The second mention of Asia is in Acts 6:9 – Synagogue of the Freedmen.



In the Roman Empire first century, the term "Freed man" usually refers to a a person who was formerly a slave, but had since been "freed", or released from duty by the slave owner. Paul, whose background was that of a Roman citizen with a good education and high social standing, probably wasn't a "freed man" under this definition.

However, there is a likely connection since at least one of these "freed men" was from Cilicia, Paul's home province. We are introduced to a young man named "Saul" after this group of people argue with Stephen and bring him before the Sanhedrin. Stephen speaks to them about Christ, after which he was stoned to death while Saul – later better known as Paul – stood nearby.

The place of Ephesus (and Asia) in the Bible …

In the 1st Century, Ephesus was the biggest city in the Roman province of Asia.

It was a major city in the Roman Empire in the 1st Century - the 3rd or 4th largest in the Empire behind Rome, Alexandria. and possibly Antioch.

Approximately 250,000 people in 1st Century times.

Today it is a ruined city in modern day Western Turkey.

- Large tourist attraction
- A Unesco World Heritage site since 2015

Part of Ephesus, in its ruined state today

“Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” Acts 19:28,34 (NIV)

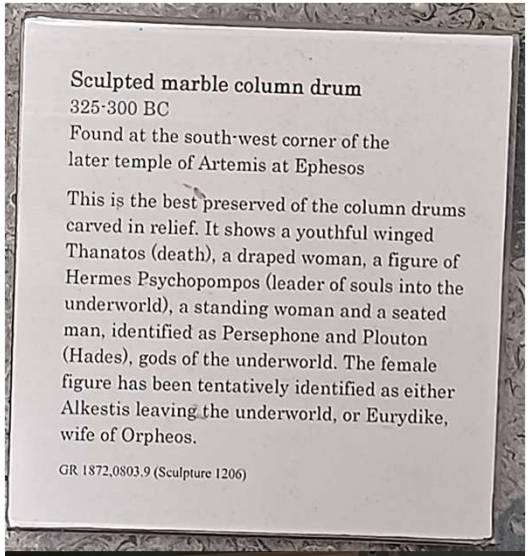
The Temple of Artemis

The temple of Artemis in Ephesus was one of the so-called seven wonders of the ancient world … and declared to be the greatest of them by Antipater of Sidon (a Greek poet) c.100 BC.

Ruins of the Artemis Temple near Ephesus today

Today, the British Museum in London holds one of the original column drums from the Artemis Temple site.

The arrows show where it originally would have been placed.



“Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” Acts 19:28,34 (NIV)

Inscription recording Augustus’ restoration of the temples of Artemis and Augustus at Ephesus.

(Roman Emperor)

“The Emperor Caesar Augustus, son of a god, Consul for the twelfth time, with tribunitian power for the eighteenth time, chief Pontifex, caused the Temple of Diana and the Augusteum to be surrounded by a wall, the cost to be defrayed out of the revenues of the goddess Diana, in the time of C. Asinius Gallus, Pro-consul: Sextus Lartidius the legate had charge of the work.”

T. J. Wood
P. 177 DXXII. Block of white marble, height 1 ft. 51/2 in.; length 5 ft. 91/2 in.; found in situ built into the peribolos-wall of the Artemision. Wood, Ephesus, p. 133, and Appendix, Inscriptions from the Peribolus Wall, No. 1; Waddington, Fastes, p. 94; C. I. L. iii, 6070. The lapidary divides ΣΕΒΑΣ ΤΟΣ in line 5, to allow for a hole in the surface of his marble.

Tablet recording the rebuilding of the peribolos of the Artemision by order of Augustus, B.C. 6.

This plaque refers to a shrine to Emperor Augustus, constructed within the precinct of the Temple to Artemis (which is here referred to as the temple of “Diana”, the Roman equivalent).

Photo by Jordan Klein from San Francisco, United States - Flickr, CC BY 2.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1372207

Remains of
the **Theatre in Ephesus** –
the setting of Acts 19:29-41

Paul's connection with Ephesus *(page 1)*

- **Paul briefly visited Ephesus towards the end of his 2nd journey**, enough to establish a Christian base there, but indicated a desire to return soon if possible (Acts 18:19-21). He returned during his third journey (see below).

- **A substantial portion of the duration of Paul's 3rd journey was spent at Ephesus**, and it became the home base of his ministry for about three years. During that time ...
    - He met with those who only knew of the promise of Christ's coming, but not about the coming of Jesus of Nazareth (Acts 19:1-7, cp. 18:24-28).
    - He ministered in the synagogue, and then a private building (Acts 19:8-10).
    - He performed miracles which some imposters tried to replicate (Acts 19:11-20).
    - Extra details about Paul's 3 years in Ephesus are given when he later recounts this time ...
        - That he proclaimed and declared all he knew of the things of God and Christ up to that point in time (20:20,21,27).
        - That he continued to support himself financially, probably by tentmaking (20:33-35, cp. 18:3).
        - That he lived in humility and with tears (20:19,31).
    - **The Corinthian church** was also on Paul's mind during this time (see separate slide for that ministry).
    - Both **Timothy and Titus**, Paul's co-workers, were with him for some of this time (1 Corinthians 4:17; 2 Corinthians 7:13 – see separate slide on the Corinthian church during this 3 year period).
    - A riot concerning Artemis erupted (Acts 19:23-41; 2 Corinthians 1:8), after which Paul left Ephesus.
    - Having left Ephesus (Acts 20:1), and travelling to Achaia, Paul began to make his way back to Jerusalem. During this latter part of the journey, Paul met with the elders of Ephesus again, this time at Miletus. On that occasion, he reminded them about his earlier stay in Ephesus. (Acts 20:17-38).

Paul's connection with Ephesus *(page 2)*

- **Men from Asia and one of Paul's friends (who was definitely an Ephesian) played a role in his arrest** soon after Paul's arrival in Jerusalem. This commenced a five year period of captivity for Paul (Acts 21:27-29).

- **Timothy ministered in Ephesus under the guidance of Paul** during and after Paul's 5 year captivity (1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 4:11-13).

- **Others at Ephesus connected with Paul's ministry in Ephesus include:**
  - **Aquilla and Priscilla** (Acts 18:18,19, 26; 1 Corinthians 16:19; 2 Timothy 4:19)
  - **Onesiphorus** (2 Timothy 1:16-18; 4:19).

- **The Bible includes a letter from Paul we know as his "Epistle to the Ephesians"**, though the words "in Ephesus" do not appear in all manuscripts (1:1). It may have been a circular letter, or even the letter to the Laodiceans mentioned in Colossians 4:16.

- **Paul's support throughout Asia eventually dwindled** (2 Timothy 1:15).

Other apostles' connections with Ephesus

John's connection with Ephesus:

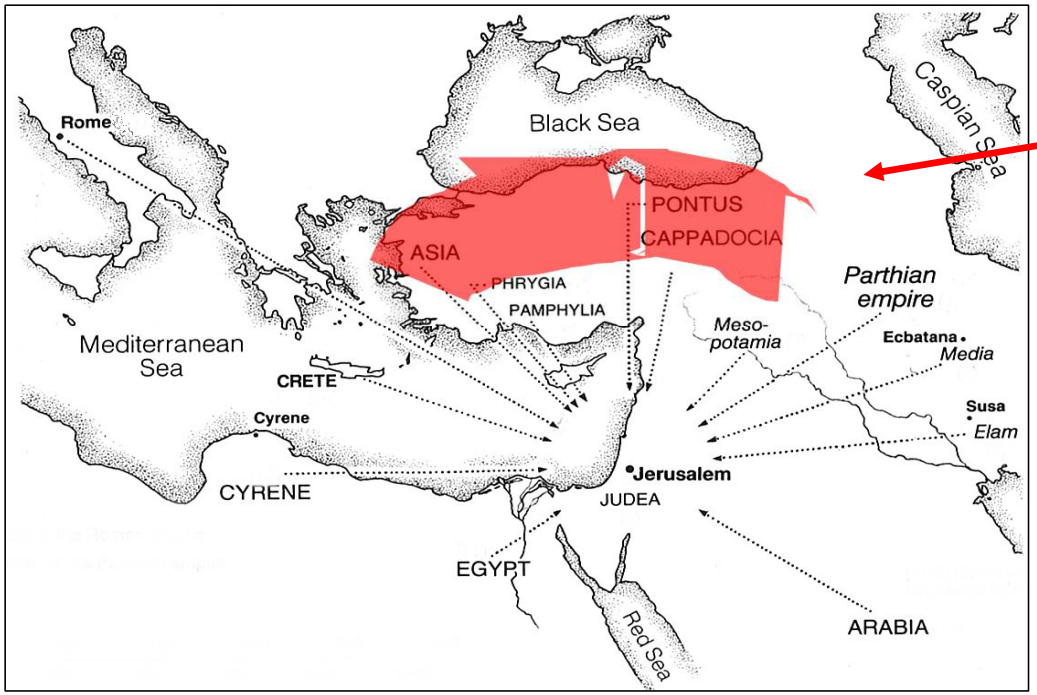
- **The Book of Revelation features Ephesus** as one of the seven churches in Asia, mentioned in 1:4,11,20; 2:1-7; 22:16.

- **Various <u>traditions</u> suggest that …**
  - **John lived in Ephesus after he left Jerusalem.** He probably ministered to some or all of the churches in Asia, and was arrested before being exiled to the island of Patmos, not too far from Ephesus.
  - **John also lived in Ephesus after his time of exile was over.** He lived there until he died and is buried there. The Church of St. John the Theologian was erected on this site.
  - **Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ went with John and also lived in Ephesus.** Today, the House of the Virgin Mary near Ephesus is a popular pilgrimage site.

Other apostles' connections with Ephesus

Peter's connection with Ephesus:

- **Peter addressed his first letter (and most likely his second) to the dispersion in various provinces, including Asia** … (1:1). Ephesus was the largest city in ancient "Asia" (Western Turkiye).



Recipients of the epistles of 1 & 2 Peter

Ephesus after Bible Times

- The early church father **Ignatius addressed one of his letters to the church in Ephesus** c.110 AD.

- **The Council of Ephesus**, the third ecumenical council, an important gathering of church leaders, mostly from the eastern half of the Roman Empire / Byzantine Empire, was held in Ephesus in 431 AD.

- **The city of Ephesus was eventually abandoned by the 1500's AD.**

“Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” Acts 19:28,34 (NIV)

Typical representations of the goddess Artemis, found near Ephesus.

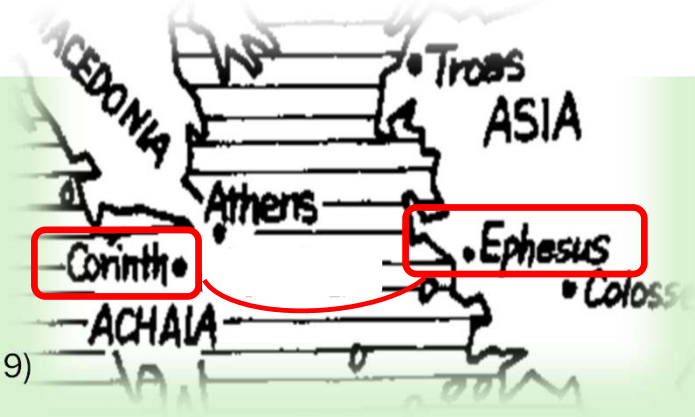
The Greek goddess Artemis was linked with childbirth and the bringing of new life. So was the Roman goddess Diana.

When the Romans conquered this area, they saw a similarity and equated Artemis with Diana, even though some of their other features differed. Characteristics of ancient gods and goddesses tended to evolve over time, often becoming associated with different features.

Note on Acts 19:28,34 - KJV , NKJV, etc. say “Great is **Diana** of the Ephesians”. Diana was the Roman equivalent of Artemis. However, the Greek text specifically says *Ἄρτεμις* (Artemis), as translated by the NIV, and Artemis is probably the better translation here. Notably, there are few, if any, references or monuments to “Diana” among ancient ruins in Turkiye today; on the other hand, there are hundreds of references to “Artemis” in her various roles.

Paul's ongoing ministry to the Corinthian Church

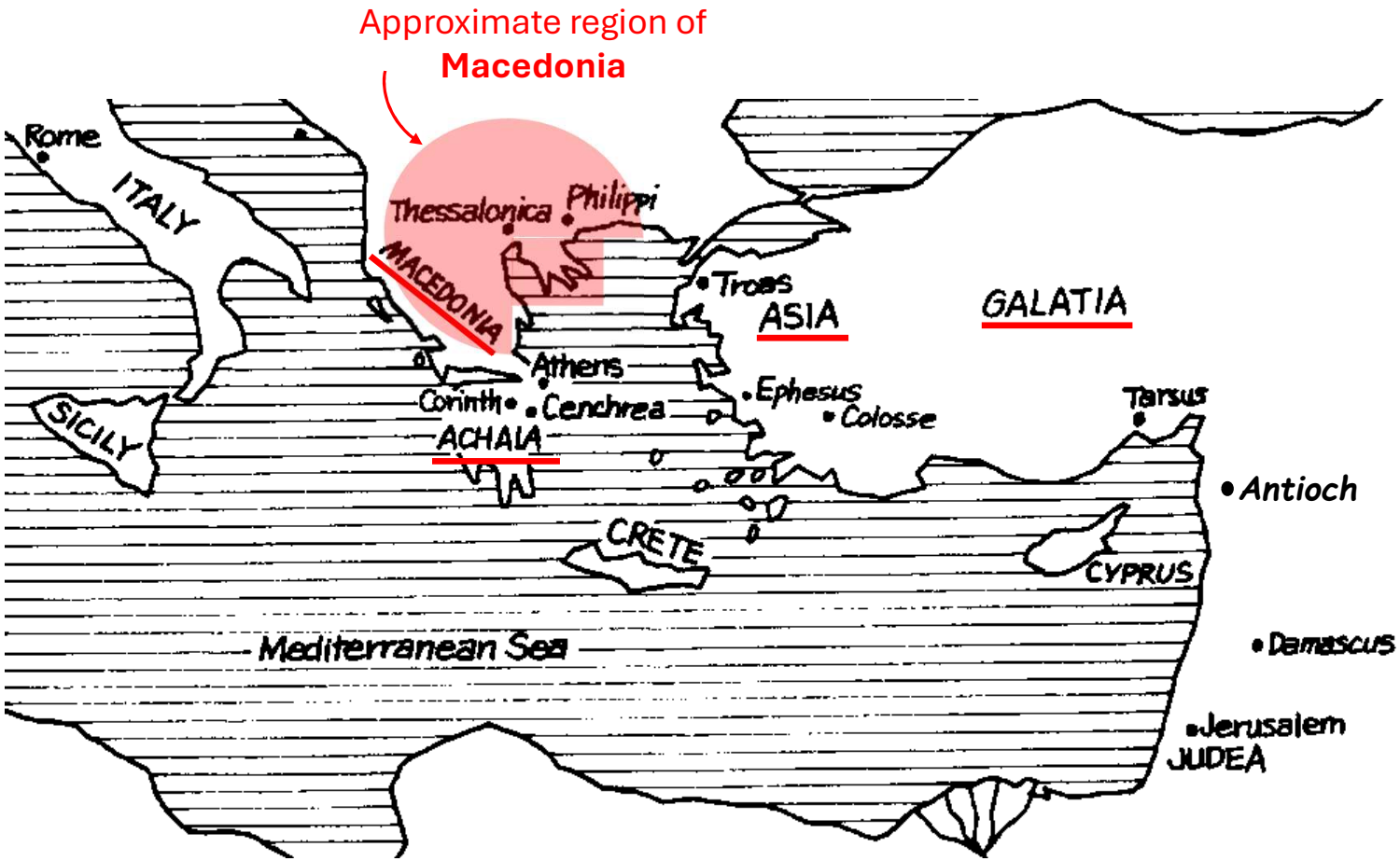
during his 3 year stay in Ephesus (Acts 20:31)



The Corinthian church was very much on Paul's mind during his 3 year stay in Ephesus.

Below is a possible chronology of Corinth-related events during that time:

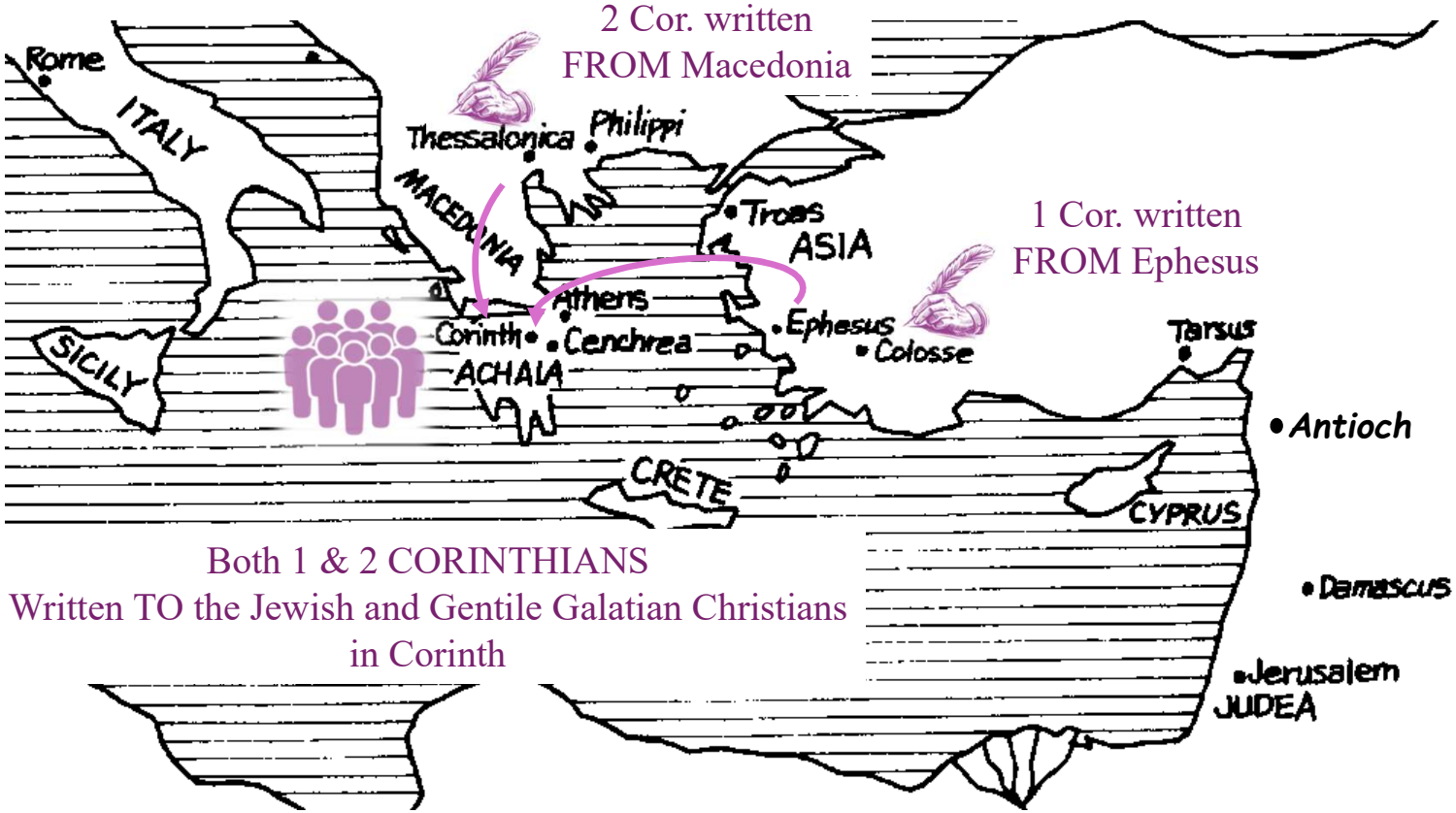
- Paul received news about some problems at Corinth, and responded by writing a letter to the Corinthians that is no longer in existence (1 Corinthians 5:9)
- The Corinthians then wrote to Paul about several issues concerning the faith (1 Corinthians 7:1)
- Paul wrote the letter we call 1 Corinthians, covering a range of issues listed above (1 Corinthians 1 to 16, see also 16:19; 15:32; 7:1).
- Timothy was sent to Corinth to further instruct them. (1 Corinthians 4:17). He may have taken 1 Cor. with him to deliver.
- Paul himself travelled to Corinth (2 Corinthians 13:1,2; 12:14)
- On his return to Ephesus, Paul wrote another letter to the Corinthians that is no longer in existence (2 Corinthians 7:8,12)
- Titus was sent from Ephesus to Corinth (2 Corinthians 7:13). He may have taken the extinct letter with him. The result was an improvement in some areas of the Corinthian church (2 Corinthians 7:13-16).


Approximate region of
Macedonia
Rome
ITALY
SICILY
Thessalonica
Philippi
MACEDONIA
Troas
ASIA
GALATIA
Athens
Corinth
Cenchrea
ACHAIA
Ephesus
Colosse
Tarsus
Antioch
CRETE
CYPRUS
Mediterranean Sea
Damascus
Jerusalem
JUDEA

1 & 2 Corinthians were written during Paul's 3rd Journey.

1 Cor. written while staying two or three years in Ephesus.

2 Cor. written during a much shorter stay in Macedonia.



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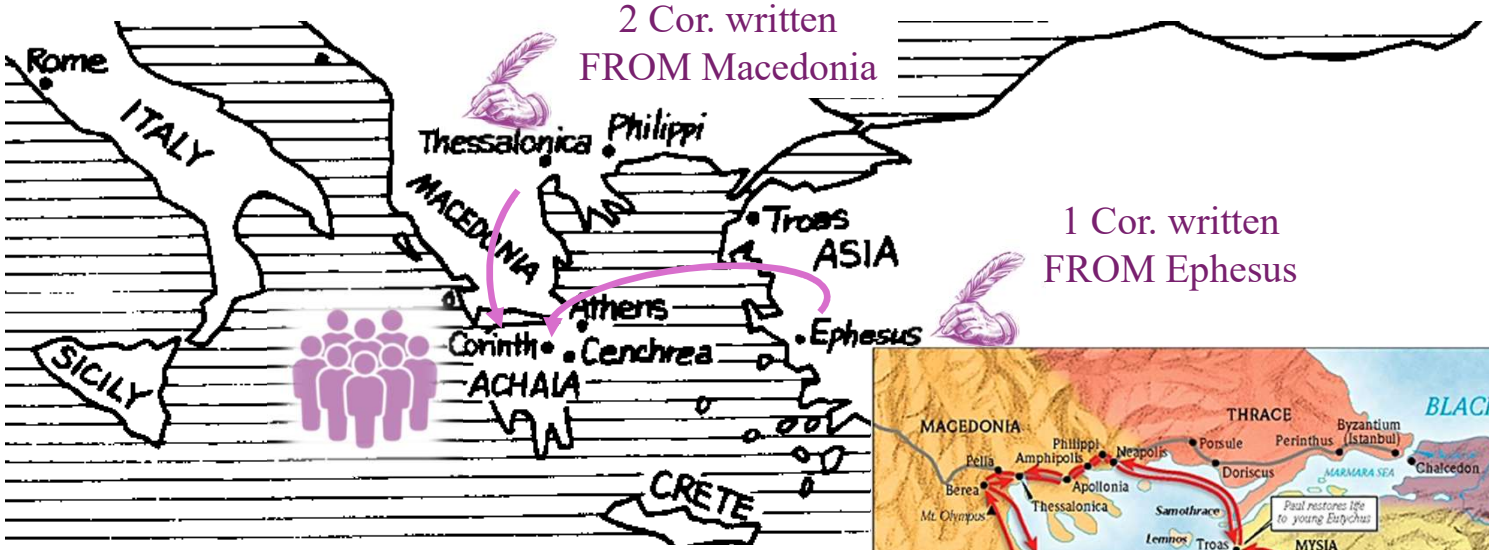

Both 1 & 2 CORINTHIANS
Written TO the Jewish and Gentile Galatian Christians
in Corinth

Romans was written during Paul's 3rd Journey,
while staying three months in Corinth or nearby (Acts 20:3).

ROMANS
Written TO the Jewish and Gentile Galatian Christians
in Rome (whom he had not yet visited)

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