

chapters

13a *I've Been Everywhere*

13b *The Old Rugged Cross*

14 *Eye of the Tiger*

15a *Amazing Grace*

15-16 *The Wanderer*

16 *Every Opportunity*

17 *Believe*

18 *Together*

19 *Motives*

20-21 *Commit*

22 *Witness*

26 *Respond*

27 *Trust*

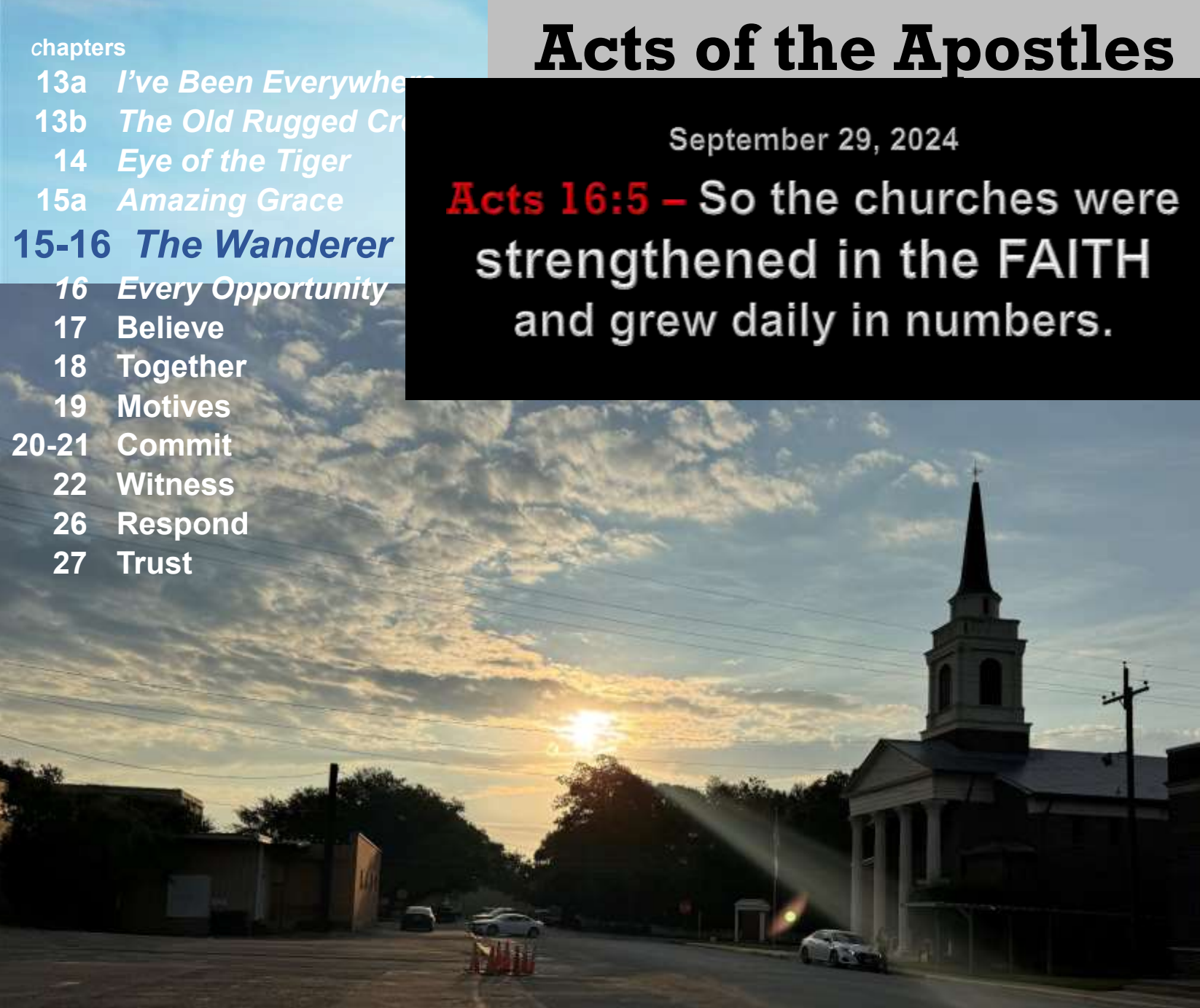
Acts of the Apostles

September 29, 2024

Acts 16:5 – So the churches were strengthened in the FAITH and grew daily in numbers.



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



Paul's Missionary Journeys

| | Chapter | Title | Summary |
|---------|---------|-----------------------------|---|
| Sept 1 | 13a | <i>I've Been Everywhere</i> | Paul to Paphos on Cyprus & Sorcerer Elymus |
| Sept 8 | 13b | <i>The Old Rugged Cross</i> | Paul Gains Ear of Whole City of Pisidian Antioch |
| Sept 15 | 14 | <i>Eye of the Tiger</i> | Paul & Barnabas Divide Iconium, Flee to Lystra & Derbe, – Beaten in Lystra, Flee to Derbe then RETURN |
| Sept 22 | 15a | <i>Amazing Grace</i> | Paul & Barnabas to Jerusalem for 1st Church Council |
| Sept 29 | 15-16 | <i>The Wanderer</i> | Paul, Silas, & Timothy Trek Thru Galatia to Troas |
| Oct 6 | 16 | Every Opportunity | Paul & Crew to Phrygia, Troas, Philippi, Coe... |

- Oct 13 17 Believe
- Oct 20 18 Together
- Oct 27 19 Motives
- Nov 3 20-21 Commit
- Nov 10 22-24 Witness
- Nov 17 25-26 Respond
- Nov 24 27-28 Trust

Paul & Silas trek through interior of Galatia & Asia Minor about 815+ miles



Our Church



Book of Acts – the Early Church

1 Intro – Theophilus, Appearances, Ascension

2-12 Peter – Church from Jerusalem to Antioch

2-7 Jerusalem – Peter, John, Ananias & Sapphira, Stephen

8 Samaria – Paul persecutes, Philip, Simon

9 Conversion of Paul

10-12 Conversion of Cornelius, Peter vision of sheets



13-28 Paul – Church from Antioch to Rome

13 – 14 1st Missionary Journey – Saul/Paul & Barnabas

15:1-35 1st Church Council in Jerusalem

15:36 – 18:22 2nd Missionary Journey of Paul

18:23 – 21:16 3rd Missionary Journey of Paul

21:17 – 23 Paul to Jerusalem

24 – 26 Paul to Caesarea ... 27-28 Paul to Rome

You are **HERE**

13:1 – 14:28 Paul's *FIRST* Missionary Journey

13:1-12 Cyprus 14:1-7 Iconium

13:13-52 Pisidia Antioch 14:8-28 Lystra, Derbe, to Antioch

15:1-35 Jerusalem & First Church Council

15:36 – 18:22 Paul's *SECOND* Missionary Journey

15:36 – 16:10 Antioch to Troas

16:11-40 Troas to Philippi

17:1-34 Philippi to Thessalonica to Athens

18:1-22 Athens to Corinth

18:23 – 21:16 Paul's *THIRD* Missionary Journey

18:23 – 19:41 Ephesian Pentecost

20:1 – 21:16 Macedonia to Troas, Athens, Corinth, return

21:17 – 28:31 Paul in Route to & in Rome

21:17 – 23:35 In Jerusalem

24:1 – 26:32 In Caesarea

27:1 – 28:15 Voyage to Rome

28:16-31 Ministry in Rome

Apostle Paul

**William Ramsay, professor of Humanity at University of Aberdeen,
Pauline and Other Studies in Early Christian History (1906) SAID**

**The fascination of St. Paul's
personality lies in his humanity.**

He is the most human of all the Apostles.

**That he was in many ways the ablest and
the greatest, the most creative mind,
the boldest originator ...**



**St Paul the Apostle
by Claude Vignon (1593-1670)**

Apostle Paul

**William Ramsay, professor of Humanity at University of Aberdeen,
Pauline and Other Studies in Early Christian History (1906) SAID**

**The most impressive and
outstanding personage in
the whole Apostolic circle
—that will be admitted by most readers.
That he was the most clever and
the most brilliant of the Apostles
every one must feel.**



**St Paul the Apostle
by Claude Vignon (1593-1670)**

Theme

God strengthens His church through His faithful servants.

Acts 15 & 16 Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey STARTS in Conflict

- 15:36-40** Parting Ways – Paul & Barnabas Separate
- 15:41** Paul through Syria & Cilicia Strengthening Churches
- 16:1a** Paul & Silas through Derbe & Lystra – **1 ½ verses 300 miles**
- 16:1b-3** In Lystra, Paul & Silas Pick up Timothy
- 16:4-5** Delivered Message of Jerusalem's Letter to Antioch
- 16:6-10** Vision of Macedonia Man to Paul & They Trek Overland to Troas

From Antioch to Derbe & Lystra, then to Troas by **LAND**

Some 815+ Miles in ... **in 16 Verses**



***“The Wanderer,”* by U2, The Edge, & Johnny Cash**

Bono wrote a song in 1993, but could not sing it

Bono said *“The Wanderer”* was inspired by the book of Ecclesiastes—a man venturing into the world

Part apocalyptic, Part consumerist:

the cities are soulless “capitals of tin” ...

Bono said Cash had been a kind of father figure

Paul, then, a father figure to Timothy and many more ...

Not sure, but I suspect Paul does more travelling in these 16 verses than in any other set – 815+ miles without a journal

I went out walking through streets paved with gold

Lifted some stones, saw the skin and bones

Of a city without a soul

Certainly many LOST cities ... Paul comes to bring the Gospel ...



Key Verse Acts – 16:5

So the churches were strengthened in the FAITH & GREW daily in numbers.



Alternate Title

How To Grow a Church

Care Enough to VISIT



That Key Verse: Acts 16:5

So the churches were strengthened in the FAITH
and GREW daily in numbers.



What in the world is that?

one short verse of

NOTHING

Strengthened & Grew

Went Fishing ...

Caught Fish



13:1 – 14:28, Recall Paul's First Missionary Journey

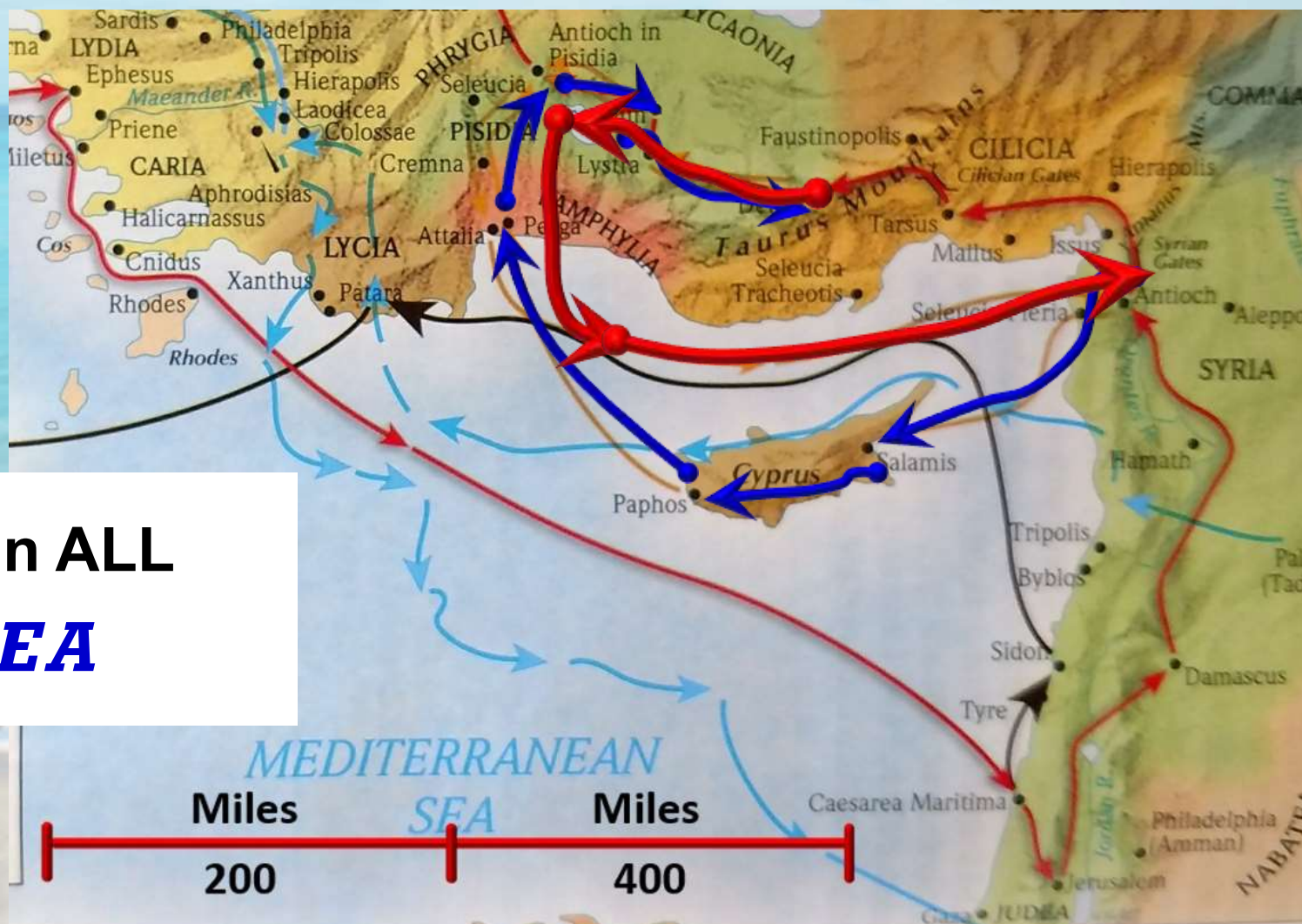
13:1-12 Antioch to Salamis in Cyprus
Overland 100+ miles to Paphos

13:13-52 to Pisidian
Antioch

14:1-7 to Iconium

14:8-28 to Lystra
& Derbe

Back to Antioch in Syria



Perhaps 1,300+ Miles in ALL
Over HALF by **SEA**



Perhaps 1,300+ Miles in ALL
Over HALF by *SEA*
Sailors crammed w **Paul** for 800+ miles



**Greece
Hellás**

Rome

**First leg of Paul's
2nd Journey**

**From Syrian
Antioch
to Lystra
to Troas**

**perhaps about 815+ Miles
NOT even **HALF** his 2nd Journey**

600 Miles

THE ROMAN EMPIRE
AT ITS GREATEST EXTENT
c. 117 A. D.



Acts 15:41 & 16:10 Paul & Silas Antioch to Troas ... 815+ Miles!

Cross Aegean to Philippi

Then to Athens, Corinth

Another 400+ Miles

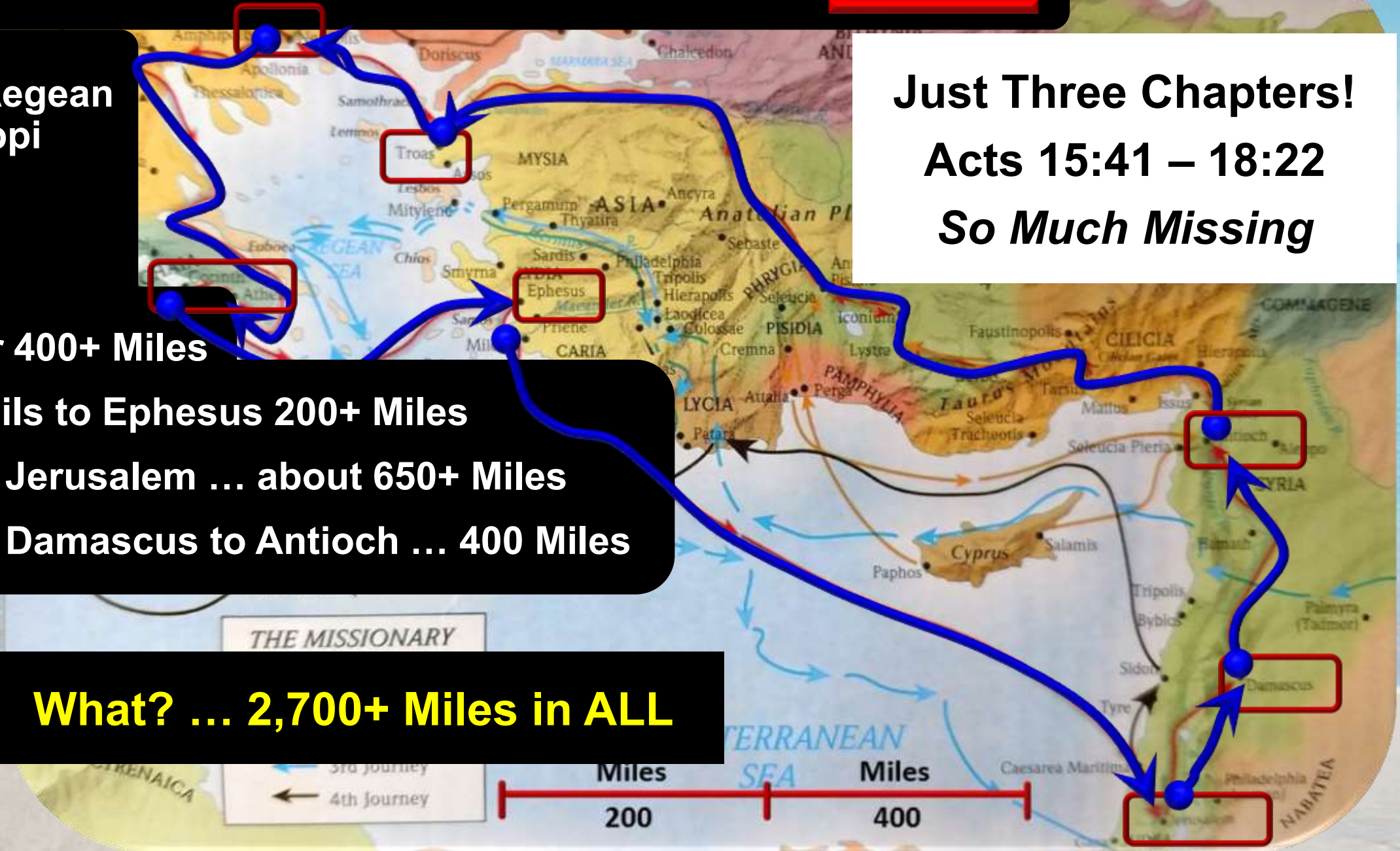
Then sails to Ephesus 200+ Miles

Then to Jerusalem ... about 650+ Miles

Then to Damascus to Antioch ... 400 Miles

**Just Three Chapters!
Acts 15:41 – 18:22
*So Much Missing***

What? ... 2,700+ Miles in ALL



Barnes Bible Chart lists the mileage accordingly

Acts 15:41 & 16:10 Paul & Silas Antioch to Troas ... 800+ Miles!

Cross Aegean to Philippi

Then to Athens, Corinth

Another 400+ Miles

Then sail to Ephesus 200+ Miles

Then to Jerusalem ... about 650+ Miles

Then to Damascus to Antioch ... 400 Miles

What? ... 2,700+ Miles in

2,703 Miles

Just Three Chapters!
Acts 15:41 – 18:22
So Much Missing

| | Approximate Miles |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Antioch in Syria to Cilician Gates | 140 |
| • Cilician gates to Derbe | 100 |
| • Derbe to Lystra | 30 |
| • Lystra to Iconium | 30 |
| • Iconium to Antioch in Pisidia | 85 |
| • Phrygia and Galatia | |
| • To Troas | |
| • Troas to Samothrace | |
| • Samothrace to Neapolis | 70 |
| • Neapolis to Philippi | 10 |
| • Philippi to Amphipolis | 30 |
| • Amphipolis to Apollonia | 35 |
| • Apollonia to Thessalonica | 40 |
| • Thessalonica to Berea | 50 |
| • Berea to the coast | 20 |
| • To Athens | 250 |
| • Athens to Corinth | 50 |
| • Corinth to Cenchræa | 8 |
| • Cenchræa to Ephesus | 250 |
| • Ephesus to Caesarea | 650+ |
| • Caesarea to Jerusalem | 65 |
| • Jerusalem to Antioch in Syria | 320+ |
| Approximate Distance Traveled | 2,703 |

815 miles

Paul & Silas' **SECOND** Missionary Journey

2,700-plus Miles ... just a handful of towns given

2,700-plus Miles ... a measly 3 short chapters in Acts

2,700-plus Miles ... how many **SANDALS** did they

WEAR OUT

How many **PEOPLE**
travelled **WITH** them

OR

Said in another way



Yes, Paul & Silas nearly travelled the border of Texas

Oh ... as the bird flies

USA is **2,680 miles** wide

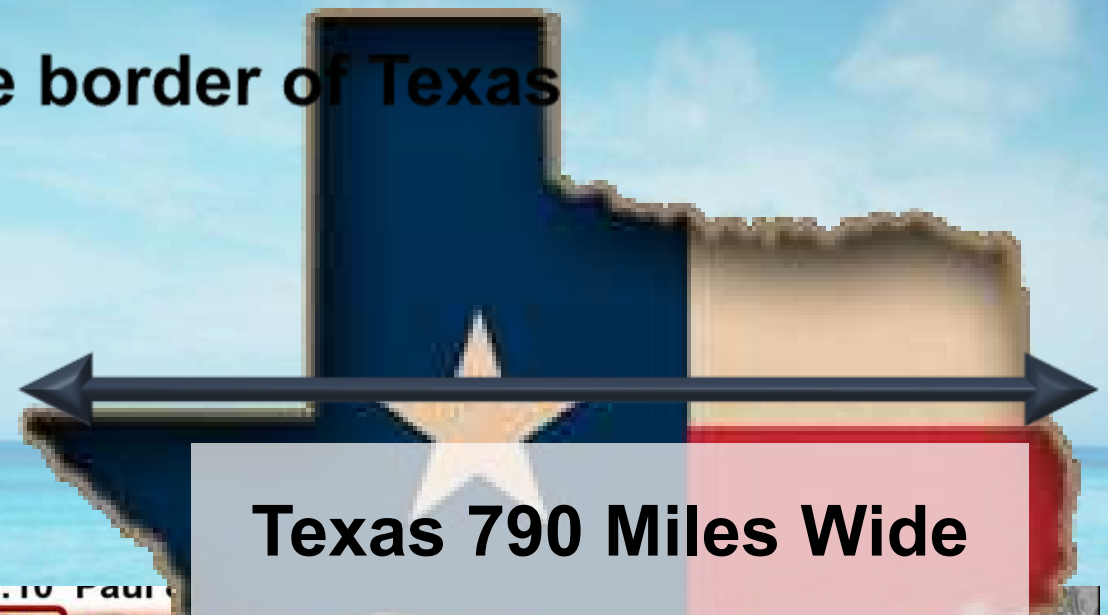
Two years in 1804-6 Lewis & Clark travelled **4,000 miles**

from St. Louis to the Pacific & back

2,179 miles is the Appalachian Trail

Paul & Silas may have travelled more

Much More



What? .. 2,700+ Miles in ALL

“The Wanderer,” by U2, The Edge, & Johnny Cash
Bono wrote a song in 1993, but could not sing it

**I went out walking under an atomic sky
Where the ground won't turn
and the rain it burns
Like the tears when I said goodbye.**

**Yeah, I went with nothing,
nothing but the thought of you.
I went wandering.**

What is Paul feeling, seeing, hurting, loving ...

Today – a nuclear war seems as real as during the Cold War

Paul walks through lands to him known ... fearless ...

Pagan lands, many as hostile to the gospel as some are today



Can you imagine ...

Walking ... or riding a donkey

Completely **AROUND**

Texas?

That's a **LONG** way

Lot of Camp Fires

Lot of Fireside Chats

Lot Sharing ...

Lot of

CARING



Cross Aegean
to Philippi

Then to
Athens,
Corinth

Another 40

Then sail to

Then to Je

Then to Da

What?

3,200 Miles *ROUND*

pters!
- 18:22
ing

COM'ARGENE

SYRIA

Palmyra (Tadmor)

Antiochia

ATEA

DRAMA in Syrian Antioch before departure

Paul & Barnabas PART WAYS

15:36 Some time later Paul said to Barnabas,

“Let us go back and visit the believers in ALL the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.”

15:37 Barnabas **wanted** to take John, also called Mark, with them,

Paul tells us WHY



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

Sadly ... even forlorn ...

15:38 but Paul did NOT think it wise to take him,
because he had deserted them in Pamphylia
and had NOT continued with them in the work.



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

John Mark **DESERTED** them

John Mark ...

Acts 12:12 Son of Mary, sister to Martha, in whose house the Jerusalem church met

6th-century Syriac inscription at the Monastery of Saint Mark in Old City of Jerusalem: "This is the house of Mary, mother of John Mark."

- ✓ **Wrote the Gospel of Mark**
- ✓ **Col. 4:10** Cousin to Barnabas
- ✓ **Col. 4:10** w Paul when Colossians written
- ✓ **2 Tim 4:11** "USEFUL to me in ministry"
- ✓ **Philemon 24** coworker with Paul

**John Mark ... slow to gain Paul's
Trust & Confidence**

John Mark, circa 1625-30
by Frans Hals (1582-1666)



1657
(1606-69)

We see a lot about Paul

**³⁹ They had such a sharp disagreement
that they parted company.**

Barnabas took Mark & sailed for Cyprus

**⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and left,
commended by the believers to
the grace of the Lord.**

Paul had little tolerance for WHAT?

Hard to see ... * Paul chose Silas

*** Barnabas took Mark ...**

Gospel CAN be Hard on Friendships

I GUESS I don't know WHAT to make of this



**Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)**

Paul & Silas ... **THE Missionaries**

- ✓ Parting Ways with strangers is **EASY**
- ✓ Parting Ways with enemies is a **DELIGHT**
- ✓ Parting Ways with **FRIENDS** is **HARD**

None of us **LIKE** Conflict ...

Some can tolerate conflict better than others

Police & some Politicians = **Conflict Daily**

FACT ... a brutal **FACT of Life** is that we

CANNOT be **Best Friends** with

EVERYONE



Paul, c. 1657
van Rijn (1606-69)

Until we get to
Heaven

Paul & Silas ... **THE Missionaries**
Are going back to ... back to **WHERE?**

Stoneville

Do they have a Death Wish?

They are going back, yet again to
the place where Paul was

Stoned to Death

They are going back to **HOSTILE Country**

STONEVILLE



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

Paul & Barnabas ... 815+ Miles of travel

Paul & Barnabas ... Trusted each other

Paul was **BEATEN to Death** in Lystra

Barnabas helped patch Paul back together

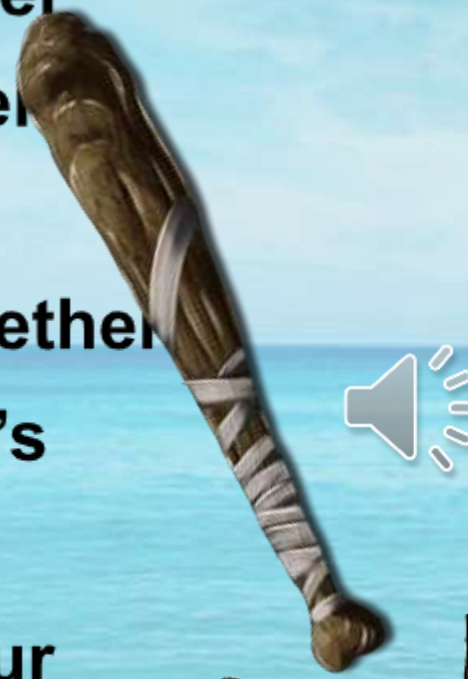
Barnabas changed bandages on Paul's

broken toe

What is **HARD** is to part ways with your

Best Friend

For Paul, the **MISSION's** Integrity came First |



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

or ... Paul did not **YET** trust John Mark

Paul & Barnabas ... TRUSTED each other

Trust is such a virtue ... a treasure

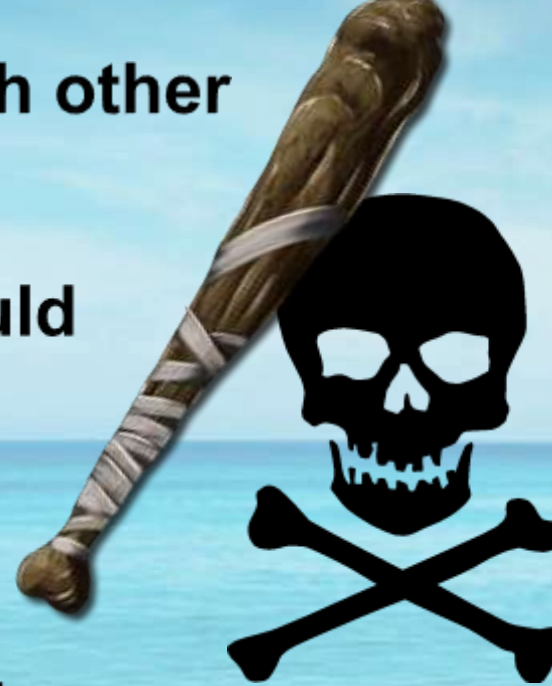
Where PAUL was going ... you could

- ✓ Get Beaten w Clubs
- ✓ Get Stoned to Death
- ✓ Get Bull Whipped

Paul ... did NOT need a SLACKER!

Paul ... LIKED Barnabas ... took Silas

They had Paul's Back



Apostle Paul, c. 1657

Paul was walking **INTO** Danger ... Conflict ... Hostility

Paul knew his path **LIKELY** had more **Beatings**

***“The Wanderer,”* by U2, The Edge, & Johnny Cash**
Bono wrote a song in 1993, but could not sing it

What is Paul feeling, seeing, hurting, loving ...

**I went drifting through the capitals of tin
Where men can't walk or freely talk
And sons turn their fathers in.**

**I stopped outside a church house
Where the citizens like to sit.
They say they want the Kingdom
But they don't want God in it.**

**Certainly, today as then, many “assemblies” – “churches”
want the “Kingdom” but struggle with the Kingdom’s God**



Acts 15 & 16 Paul & Silas head to Troas

They stop in
Tarsus & see
his Uncle Bill

Then, to their
old haunts in
Derbe & Lystra

What? ... 5 verses

Antioch – Tarsus – Lystra = perhaps 300 miles

GOODNESS so much **MISSING!**



Almost 150+ miles from Antioch to Tarsus
That is the last verse of Acts 15 ... 15:41

⁴¹ Paul went through Syria & Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Antioch to Tarsus 150+ miles
STRENGTHENING churches
throughout Syria & Cilicia ...

HELP ME LORD!
1 single VERSE

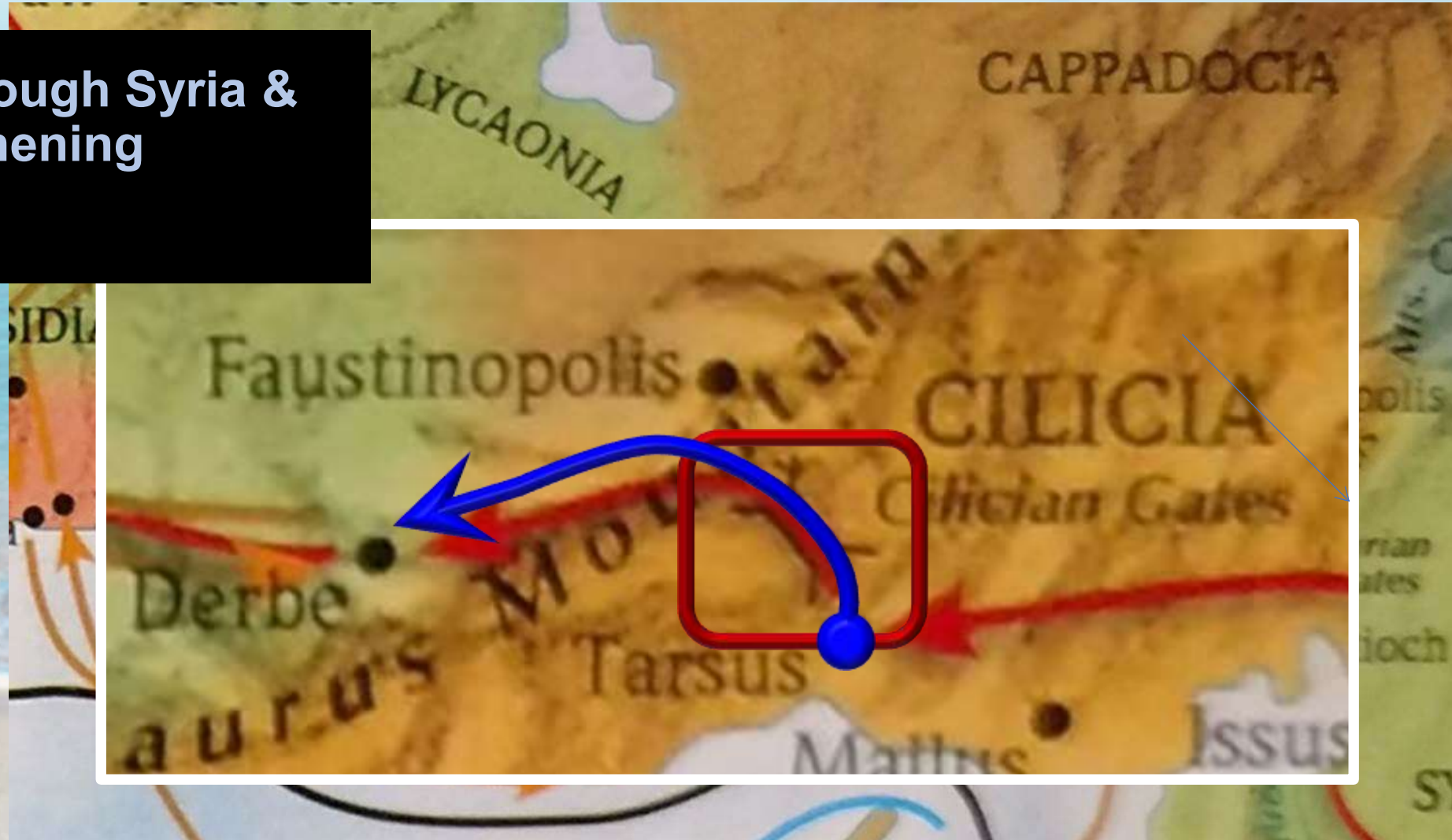


AFTER 150= miles from Antioch to Tarsus

Then Paul has to pass through the Cilician Gates

Pass through the Taurus Mountains to Derbe

15:41 Paul went through Syria & Cilicia, strengthening the churches.



Assyrian King Sennacherib rebuilt Tarsus
in c. 705–681 B.C.

Hellenism & Greek culture spread from 300 B.C. ...

67 B.C. – Tarsus became **Roman Province** of Cilicia

Tarsus known for flourishing school of Greek philosophy

41 B.C. – **Mark Antony met Cleopatra** there

About 20 miles from coast

Some of the plains were marshy

Even a delta wasteland ...



**Prof. Ramsay quoted Homer's poetic descriptions
Of the Aléian Plain near Tarsus ... Homer said:**

**When at last, distracted in his mind,
Forsook of Heaven, forsaking human kind,
Wide o'er the Aléian Plain he chose to stray,
A long, forlorn, uncomfortable way. ...**

**wander alone, eating his own soul,
avoiding the paths of men.**

**Point of Homer, said Ramsay,
is that the PLAIN is a wasteland**



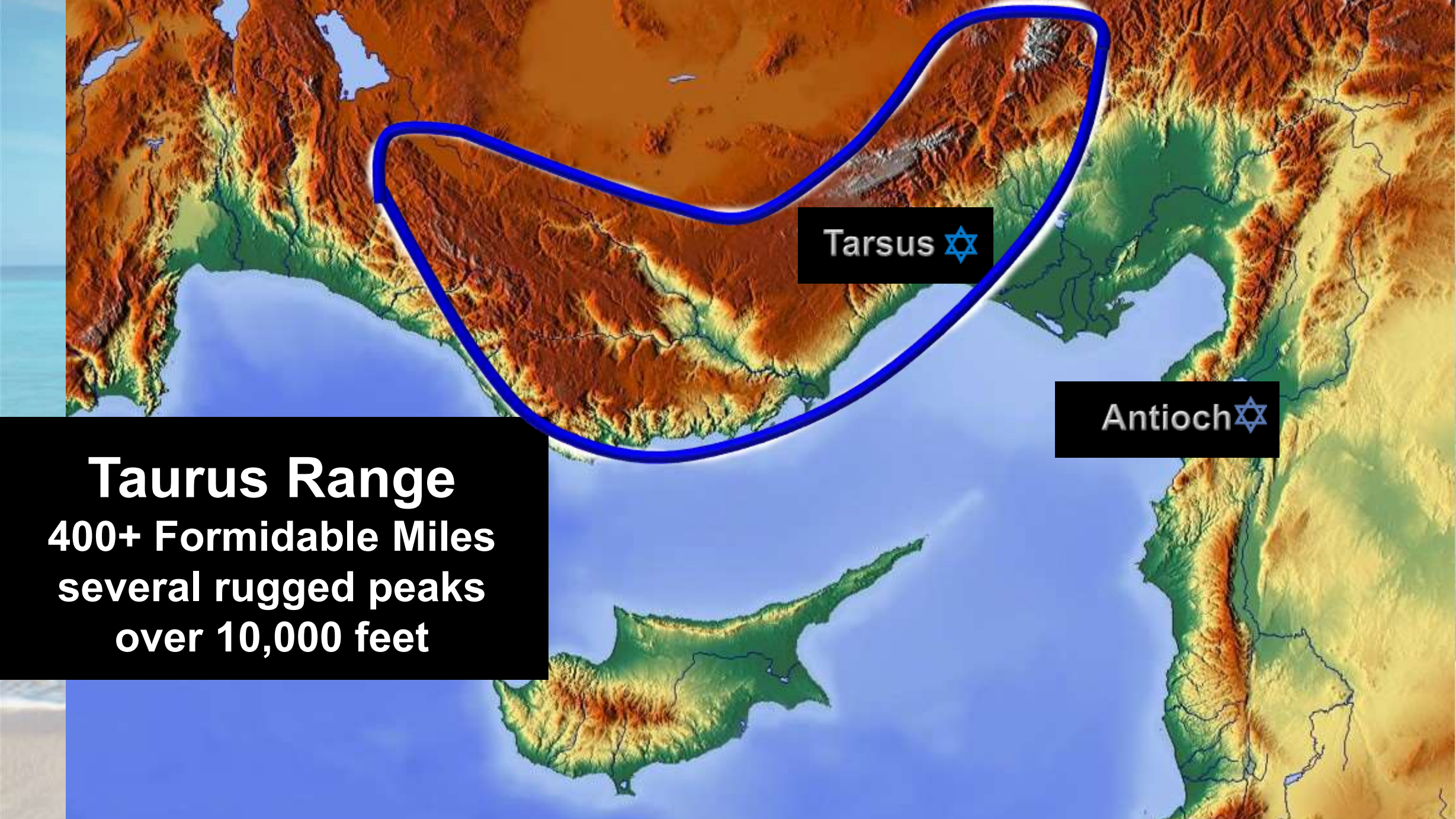
Point of Homer ... Ramsay said:
... untraversed by any path,
uninhabited by man, a scar upon
the smiling face of the land,

Paul & Silas travelled through the

WASTELANDS

- ❖ To get to beloved churches
- ❖ To get to the people they loved
- ❖ To see about their welfare





Tarsus ✧

Antioch ✧

Taurus Range
400+ Formidable Miles
several rugged peaks
over 10,000 feet

Antioch to Tarsus
is about 150+ miles
30 Miles South of the
Cilician Gates

Cilician
Gates

Tarsus

Antioch

Antioch on the East side of
Orontos River - *Antakya* today
Paul goes through Syrian Gates
called "Belen Pass" today to
Tarsus—Paul's home town

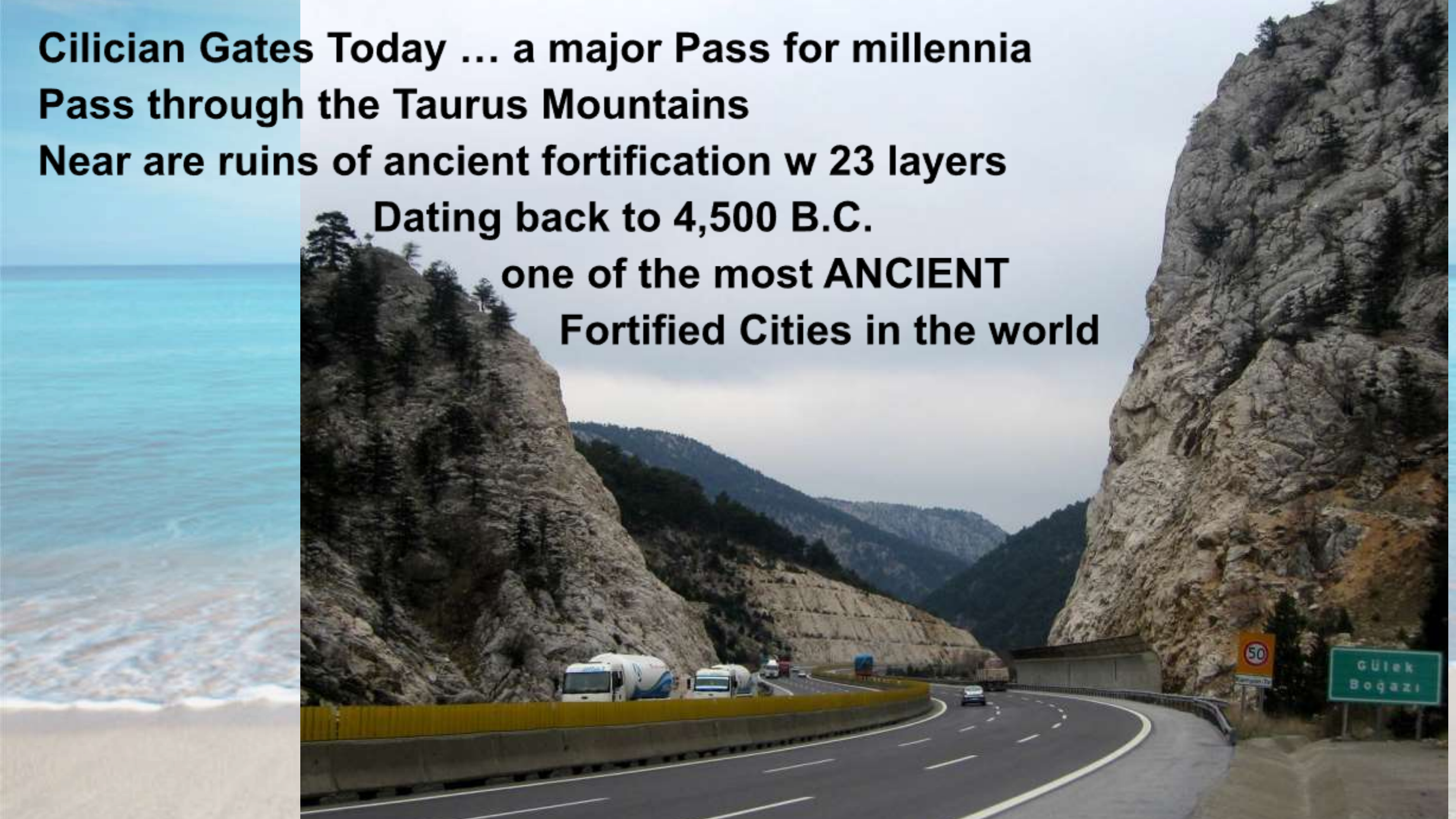


**Cilician Gates Today ... a major Pass for millennia
Pass through the Taurus Mountains**

Near are ruins of ancient fortification w 23 layers

Dating back to 4,500 B.C.

**one of the most ANCIENT
Fortified Cities in the world**



**Prof. William M. Ramsay
wrote a treasure**

**Cilicia, Tarsus and the
Great Taurus Pass,
The Geographical Journal
22:4 (Oct. 1903): 357-413**

Unsurpassed work on Taurus Pass, or the Cilician Gates

The
Geographical Journal.

No. 4.

OCTOBER, 1903.

VOL. XXII.

CILICIA, TARSUS, AND THE GREAT TAURUS PASS.

By Prof. W. M. RAMSAY.*

Cilician Gates c. 1900

Whole journal here:

[https://books.google.com/books?id=mzEMAAAAIAAJ
&printsec=frontcover&dq=#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=mzEMAAAAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=#v=onepage&q&f=false)

Cilician Pass through the Taurus Mountains

Taurus Range over 400 miles ... highest peak 12,323 feet

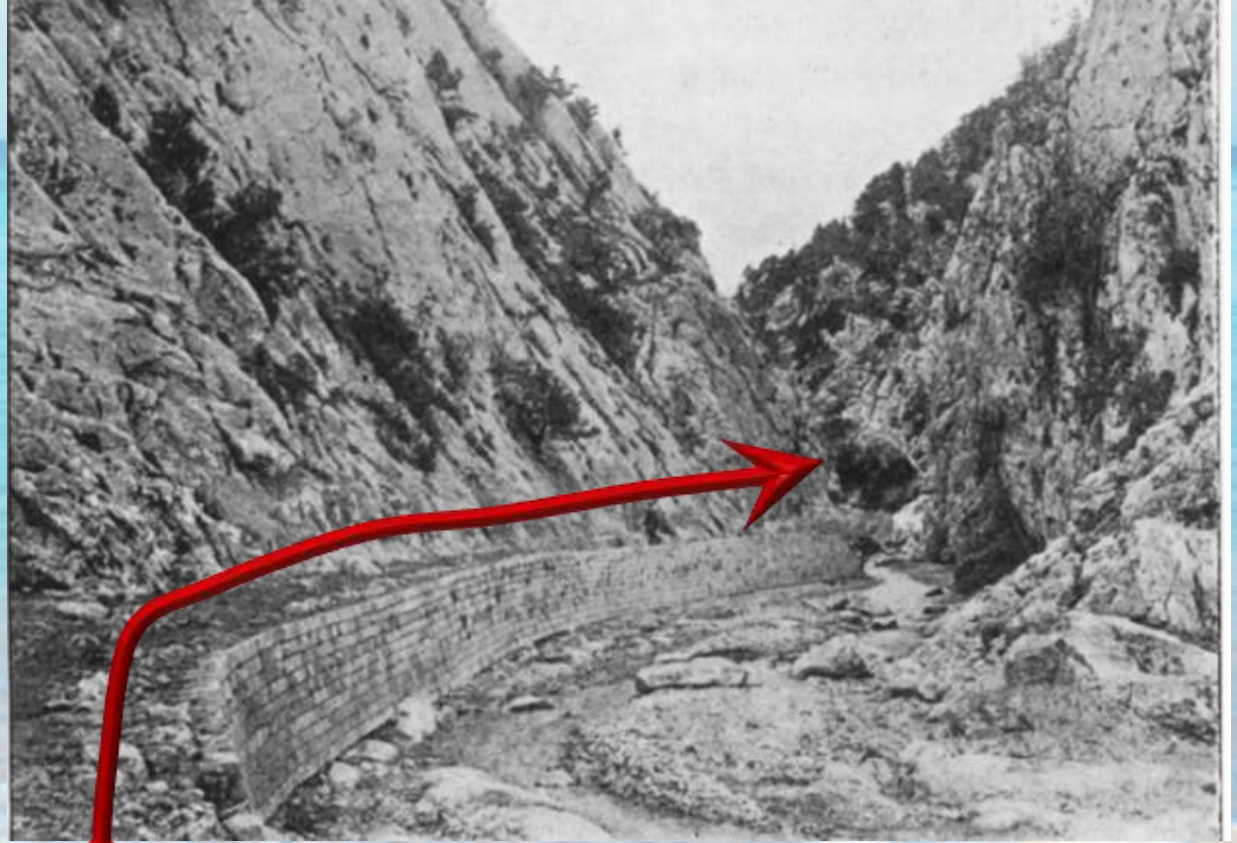
Cilician Gates are at
one point, only 150 ft wide

with the River 80 ft wide

Roman Road cut through
to allow carts to travel

In Paul's time, winter
CLOSES the Pass

Ramsay's article details a
journey through the pass
with history at every turn



Cilician Gates c. 1900

Whole journal here:

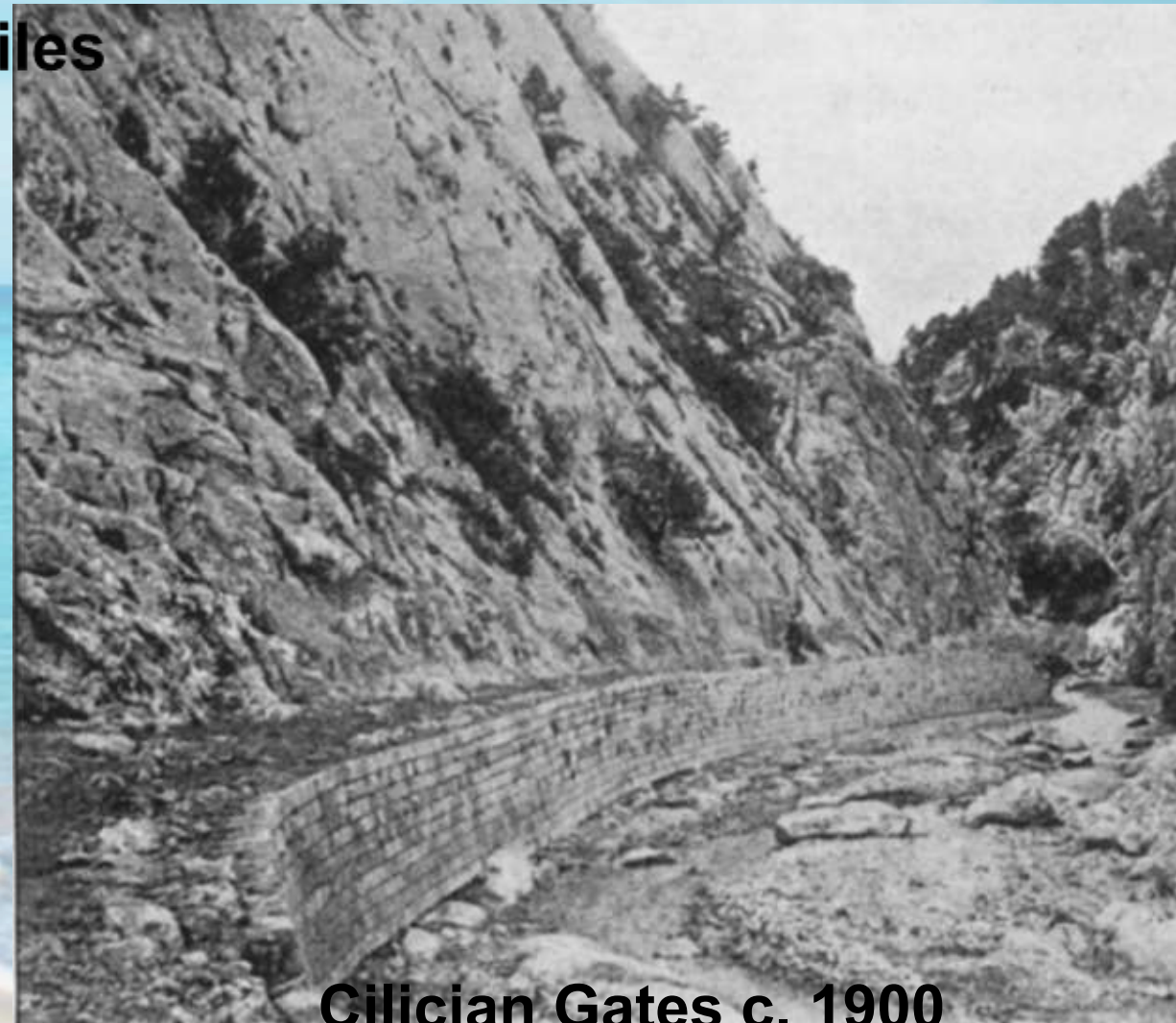
[https://books.google.com/books?id=mzEMAAAIAAJ
&printsec=frontcover&dq=#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=mzEMAAAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=#v=onepage&q&f=false)

Roman ingenuity: road CUT & formed through Pass

Was a Great Achievement ... 70+ miles

Ramsay on the entrance:

At last there appeared in front of us a lofty ridge or wall of rock, stretching from east to west right across the line of our path, the front of the wall of the main mass of Taurus.



Cilician Gates c. 1900

Whole journal here:

[https://books.google.com/books?id=mzEMAAAAIAAJ
&printsec=frontcover&dq=#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=mzEMAAAAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=#v=onepage&q&f=false)

Ramsay continues ... in the year 1902

It can hardly be less than
1,500 feet in sheer height ...
It would bar the progress of any
one except an active mountaineer,
were it not for a narrow cleft which
pierces it from north to south ...
stream finds a passage from the
broad back of the Taurus ... down
our gorge to the Cilician Plain.

**This cleft is the Cilician Gates
in the strict sense.**



Cilician Gates c. 1900

Whole journal here:

[https://books.google.com/books?id=mzEMAAAAIAAJ
&printsec=frontcover&dq=#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=mzEMAAAAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=#v=onepage&q&f=false)

Enter chapter 16 ...

¹ Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra,
where a disciple named Timothy lived,
whose mother was Jewish and a believer
but whose father was a Greek.

- ✓ Timothy ... Paul writes TWO letters to him
- ✓ Phil 2:19-22 Paul's trusted friend
- ✓ 2 Tim. 1:5 & 3:15 ... Mother & G-Mother
KNOW the Scriptures

Remember, they LEFT John Mark ...

What a remarkable young man Timothy

MUST have been!



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

Then ...

² The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him.

³ Paul wanted to take him on the journey,
so he circumcised him

because of the Jews who lived in that area,
for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

REALLY? ... Circumcised Timothy?

Quite a lot has been made of this ...

But suffice it to say ... the ***MOST OBVIOUS***



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

Often ... the easiest is the truest
Ah ... care for the most obvious?

When in Rome

Do as the Romans

Only for Paul, the easiest interpretation is:

- ✓ Circumcision is Okay
- ✓ Jewish Salvation is Important
- ✓ Non-circumcised BARRIER to Ministry
- ✓ Last, but not least ... is ... *wait for it*



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

PAIN is LESS important than the MESSAGE

Now I can very well IMAGINE ...

Maness Loose-Leaf *G U E S S*

Paul pulled Timothy aside ... says, ahh ...

Young man ... you don't HAVE to go ... yet

On THIS trip ... got to be CUT ... otherwise

We will NOT be able to get into synagogues

You got to be CUT ... to go on THIS trip!!

Timothy says okay ... for the Message's sake

Paul looks up Alibaba.com or Walmart.com

Gets a Cutting KIT



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



Now Timothy joins them ...

LIMPING ... I do assume ... for a few days

**4 As they traveled from town to town,
they delivered the decisions
reached by the apostles and elders
in Jerusalem for the people to obey.**

Timothy had to be **VERY** remarkable

Timothy's limps along ... and the **MESSAGE**

DON'T have to be **CUT**

to Get into the Kingdom

Limping Timothy ... Quite The MAN



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

Following verse 4 ... about the

Decisions Delivered from Jerusalem

Following verse 4 ... VERSE 5 is a daunting
yet a rather notable & thankful conclusion

**⁵ So the churches were strengthened
in the faith and grew daily in numbers.**

As Timothy heals on the Way ... helping Paul

As Paul STRENGTHENS the churches ...



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

16:6 Paul & crew travel thru region of Phrygia and Galatia ...
kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching ... Asia.

7 ... border of Mysia ... Spirit of Jesus would not allow them.

8 They passed by Mysia & went down to Troas. **500+ MILES**



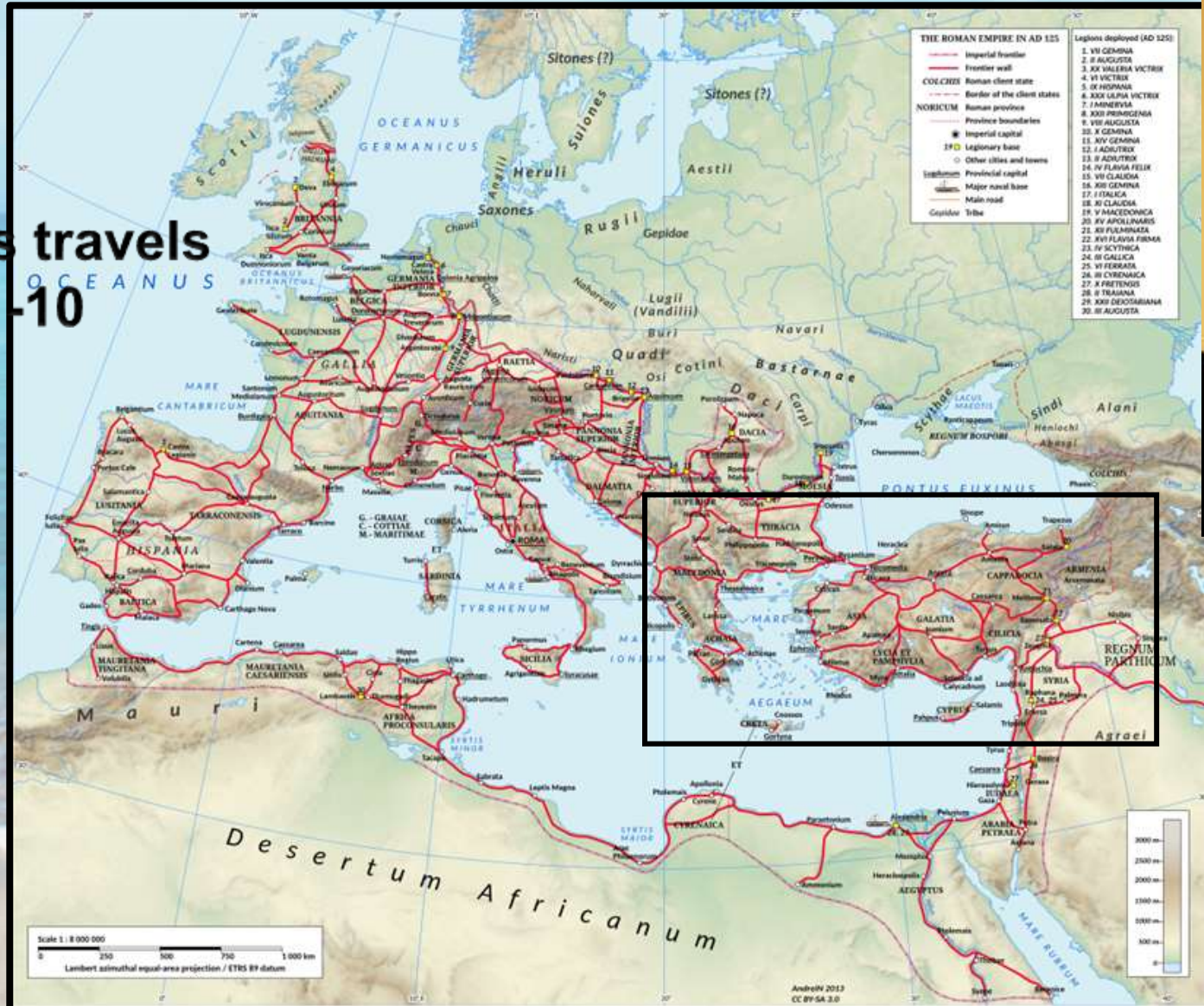
Portrait of Paul, c. 1657
by Hendrick van Rijn (1606-69)

When Paul travels the interior of Anatolia ... today's Turkey

There are Roman Roads ... here is a map of A.D. 125

Quite a network

Area of Paul's travels in Acts 16:1-10



From Lystra & Derbe to Troas ... some of these A.D. 125 roads could have been travelled by Paul in A.D. 50

Maybe
500 miles

Thoroughly
Pagan all the
way ...

In other words,
we know **NOTHING**
of "The WAY"
in these provinces



16:9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him,
“Come over to Macedonia and help us.”

10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

**“The Wanderer,” by U2, The Edge, & Johnny Cash
Bono wrote a song in 1993, but could not sing it**

What is Paul feeling, seeing, hurting, loving ...

**I went with nothing
but the thought you'd be there too,
*Looking for you.***

Paul – led by the Spirit into Roman lands as a gospel light

**I went out searching, looking for one good man
A spirit who would not bend or break
Who would sit at his father's right hand**

**I went out walking with a Bible and a gun
The word of God lay heavy on my heart
I was sure I was the one.**



**Few then ... Few today ...
Have the Conviction, Drive,
Energy, Determined to CARE,
with the Force LOVE of
Apostle Paul**

What is the LESSON?

First and foremost

Look at Paul & Silas ... between the lines

Look at Paul & Silas ... traveling BACK

READ between the **LINES** ... we must

What do we see? ...

How to **STRENGTHEN** the Church

“Concern”—**LOVE** driving Paul & Silas

to go back where they were **STONED**



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

For us ... it is ALMOST as simple.

How do we strengthen OUR Church

1. How far **WILL** you Travel?
2. Is it **LOVE** that **DRIVES** you?
3. Would you **GO BACK** to Stoneville?

Strengthen the Church?

Only One Way

Great Love



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)