

## 9. Paul (Acts 9:1-30)

# Stephen's death...

And Saul approved of his execution.

(Acts 8:1)

Saul was ravaging the church,  
and entering house after house,  
he dragged off men and women  
and committed them to prison.

(Acts 8:3)





Therefore those who were scattered  
went everywhere **preaching the word.**

(Acts 8:4)

## WHO IS SAUL OF TARSUS?

- He was born about 1 AD and was executed in Rome about 64 or 65 AD.
- He was born in Tarsus (Acts 22:3) and was of the tribe of Benjamin (Philippians 3:5).
- His Jewish name was *Sha'ul* (Saul), his Roman *cognomen* was *Paullus* (Paul).
- He was a Roman citizen by birth (Acts 22:28) and a Pharisee like his father (Acts 23:6).
- He studied in Jerusalem under Gamaliel (Acts 22:3) probably from about 14 AD to 20 AD.
- He probably then returned to Tarsus to learn the family trade – tent-making (Acts 18:3).
- Aged about 30, he returned to Jerusalem, probably having married.
- He met the Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus around 34 AD to 36 AD.
- He is the author or 13 (or 14?) books in the New Testament.



We [the apostles] are **fools** for Christ's sake ... **weak** ... **dishonored** ... we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and **beaten**, and **homeless** ... Being **reviled** ... **persecuted** ... **defamed**... We have been made as **the filth of the world**, the offscouring of all things...

(1 Corinthians 4:10-13)

“For his letters,” they say, “are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.”  
(2 Corinthians 10:10)

All who are in Asia **turned away from me**...  
(2 Timothy 1:15)

At my first defense no one stood with me, but **all forsook me**.  
(2 Timothy 4:16)

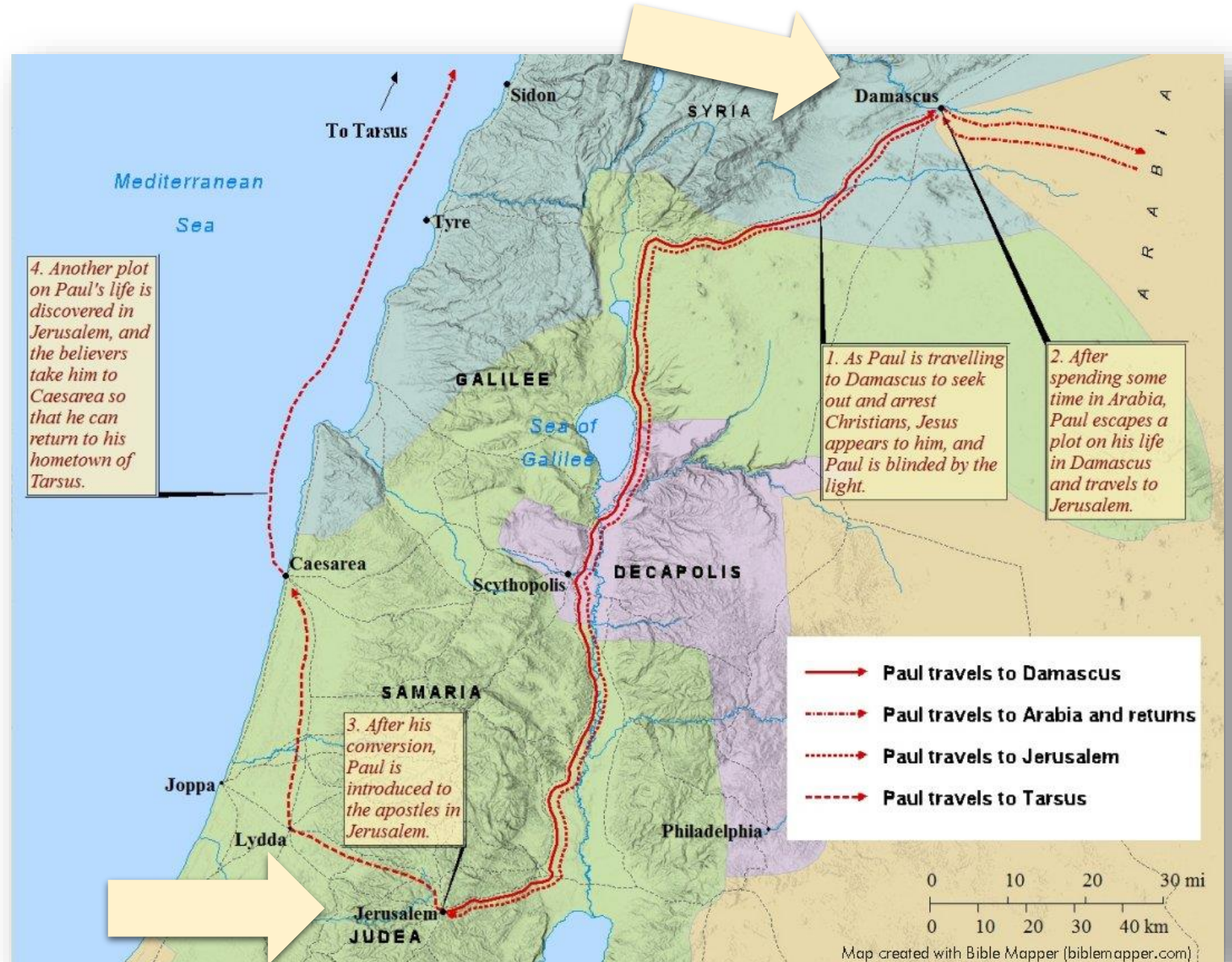
**Demas has forsaken me**...  
(2 Timothy 4:10)

...our beloved brother Paul  
... has written to you ...  
in which are some things  
**hard to understand**...  
(2 Peter 3:15-16)

And I will very gladly spend  
and be spent for your souls;  
**though the more abundantly  
I love you, the less I am loved.**  
(2 Corinthians 12:15)

# The Road to Damascus

Then Saul,  
still breathing threats and murder  
against **the disciples of the Lord**,  
went to the high priest  
and asked letters from him  
to **the synagogues of Damascus**...  
(Acts 9:1)



# The Road to Damascus

Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?

Who are you, Lord?

I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.

Lord, what do you want me to do?

Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.

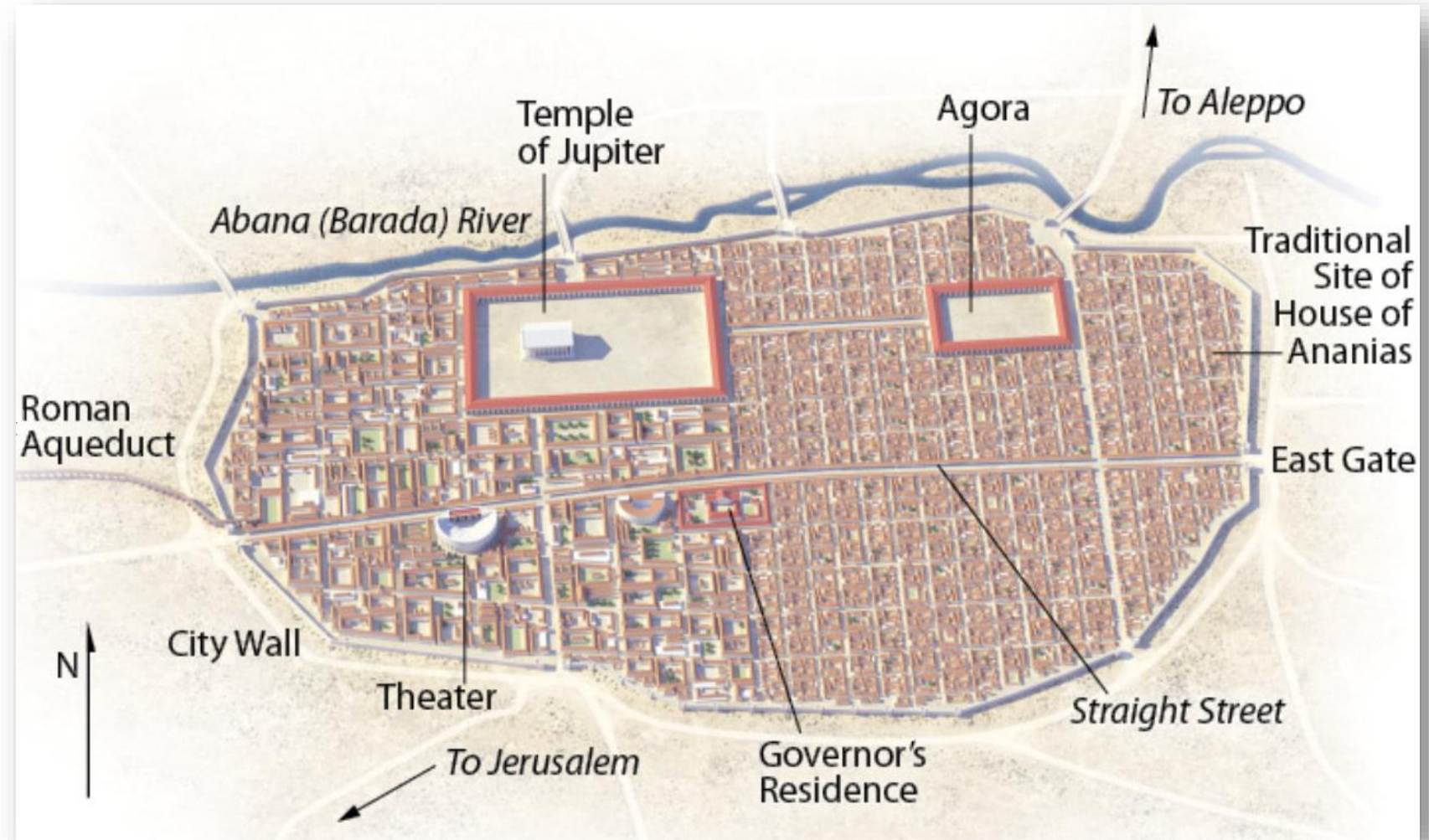
Acts 9:1-6, Acts 22:6-11, Acts 26:12-18



## Damascus...

Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.

**And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.**  
(Acts 9:8-9)

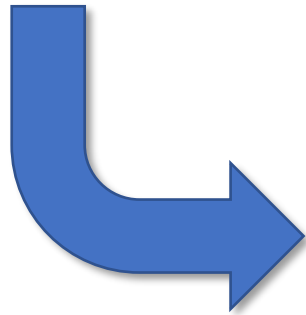




## Ananias...

*“Go, for he is **a chosen vessel** of mine to bear my name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for my name's sake.”*

(Acts 9:15-16)



**Brother Saul**, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road as you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

## Ananias...

And now why are you waiting?  
**Arise and be baptised,**  
and wash away your sins,  
calling on the name of the Lord.

Immediately there fell from his eyes  
something like scales,  
and he received his sight at once;  
and **he arose and was baptised.**



So when he had received food,  
he was strengthened.

(Acts 9:18-19)

# The call...

The God of our fathers has **chosen** you

- that you should know His will,
- and see the Just One,
- and hear the voice of His mouth.

For you will be **His witness** to all men of what you have seen and heard.

(Acts 22:14-15)

I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you **a minister and a witness** both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.

I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them

- from **darkness** to **light**, and
- from **the power of Satan** to **God**,

that they may receive

- **forgiveness of sins** and
- **an inheritance** among those who are sanctified by faith in me.

(Acts 26:16-18)



I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,  
nor did I go up to Jerusalem  
to those who were apostles before me;  
but **I went to Arabia,**  
and **returned again to Damascus.**

(Galatians 1:16-17)

...the Jews plotted to kill him. And they watched  
the gates day and night, to kill him.

(Acts 9:23,24)

At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas  
was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me...

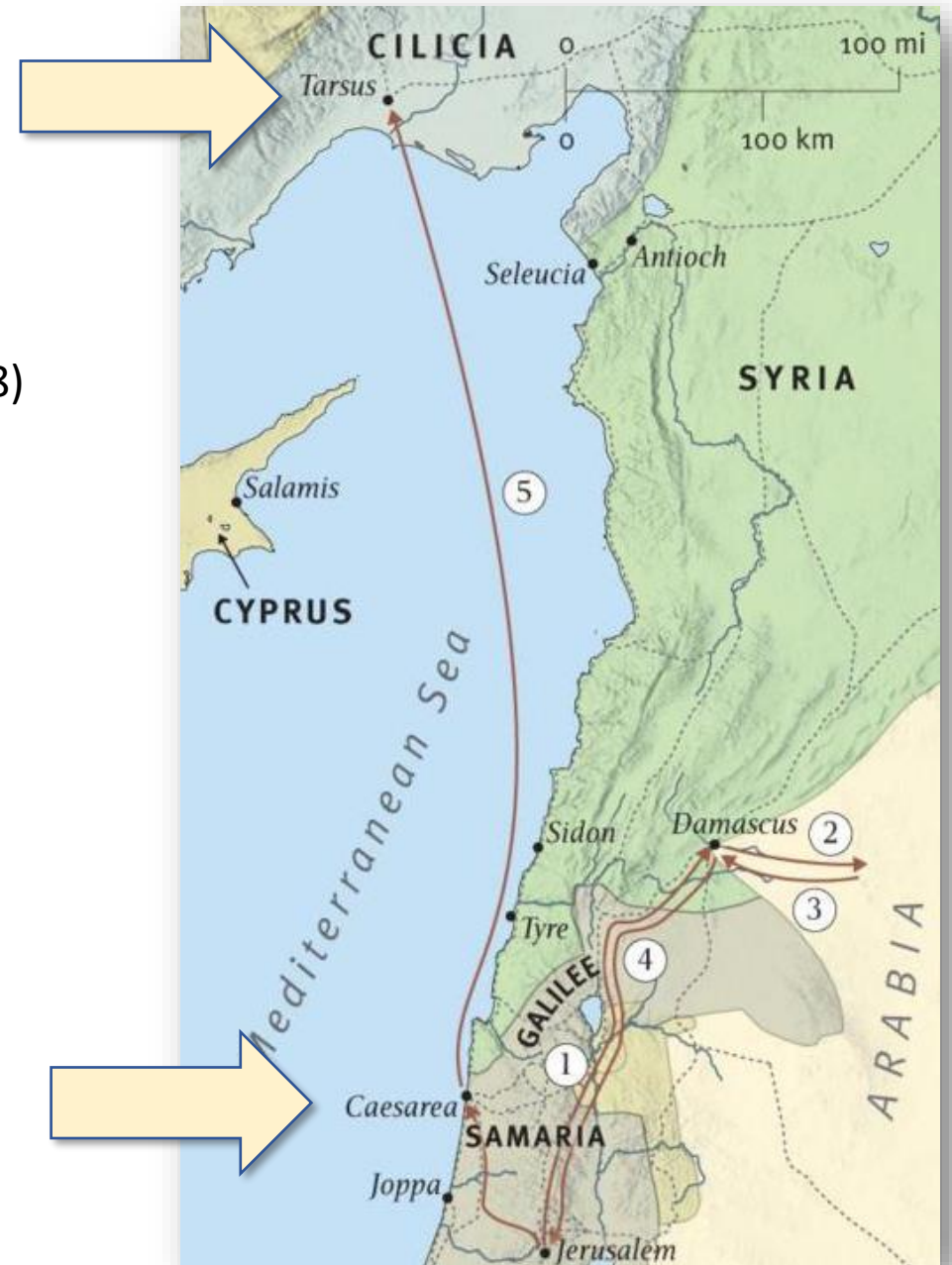
(2 Corinthians 11:32)



“Then after three years I went up to **Jerusalem**  
to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.”  
(Galatians 1:18)

He spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus  
and disputed against the Hellenists,  
but they attempted to kill him.  
When the brethren found out,  
they brought him down to **Caesarea**  
and sent him out to **Tarsus**.

(Acts 9:29-30)



# Paul of Tarsus...

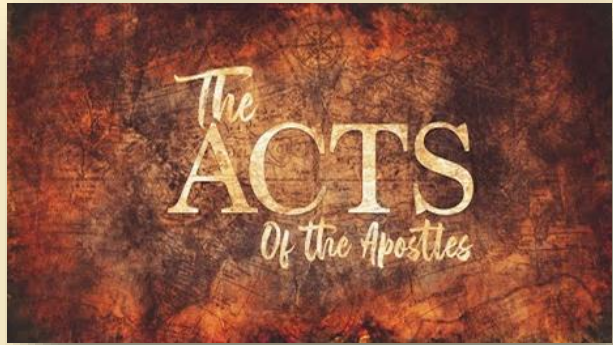
- A chosen vessel
- Prepared from birth (Galatians 1:15)
- Obedient to the call (Acts 26:19)
- An example to us...

The chief  
of sinners

But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display His perfect patience **as an example** to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life.

(1 Timothy 1:16)





Next: **Peter and the Gentiles...**