



Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey. Acts 15:41-18:22 Late AD 49-Mid AD 53

The Trip part 1:

1. In Syria and Cilicia: Acts 15:41
2. Timothy joins the team in Lystra. Acts 16:1-5
3. Paul's vision of a man from Macedonia. Acts 16:6-10
4. In Philippi, the conversion of Lydia and a jailer. 16:13-34

The Trip part 2:

5. The founding of the church in Thessalonica. Acts 17:1-9

Why do you think that it would have been necessary for Paul to reason with the Jews that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead?

The scriptures that Paul would have used were probably Is. 50:4-11, 53:1-11; Ps. 16:9-11; Dan. 9:26

Paul's teaching in the synagogue results in many conversions to Christ. Acts 17:4
The persecution revealed by the LORD to Ananias and Paul at His conversion. (Acts 9:16) is being fulfilled. This persecution from the enemy is seen not just in the arrest of Jason and the false accusations against Paul and His companions. It is revealed in the chaos. It is seen in the mob and the riot. God is never in the mob or the riot or the chaos. Our God is a God of order and peace.
1 Cor. 14:33.

6. In Berea. Acts 17:10-15

What the Bereans are best known for is their desire to be spiritually discerning. (verse 11-12)
They received Paul's message eagerly yet measured His words with God's Word.
1 John 2:18-29, 4:1. Many believe in Christ, however those who were persecuting Paul and his companions in Thessalonica travel to Berea to cause trouble. Paul travels to Athens, the others stay in Berea- they plan to meet up in Athens.

7. In Athens. Acts 17:16-33

Upon arriving in Athens, Paul is distressed over all the Idols that he sees. As was his typical procedure he reasons in the synagogues, and also goes out into the marketplace to witness of Christ. In the marketplace he meets some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers.

Epicurean: students of the philosopher Epicurus (341-270 BC) taught that nature rather than reason is the true reality; nothing exists but atoms and void, that is, matter and space. The chief purpose of human beings is to achieve happiness and people have free will to plan and live a life of pleasure.
(Zondervan Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

Stoic: taught that human beings should be free from passion, unmoved by joy or grief and be submissive to natural law, calmly accepting all things with deterministic viewpoint of the world. Their view of God was pantheism, meaning God is in everything. (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

Out of curiosity Paul is invited to speak on Aeropagas (The Mount of Ares) where the wise men and elders of Athens, who were known as the Aeropagas debated and discussed philosophy among other things. Let us read together Paul's sermon. Verses 22-31. Paul speaks into their culture- specifically their idolatry and uses an idol of their own making as a discussion tool. "To an unknown God." He then gives testimony of this God. Quoting their very own philosophers, Epimenides and Aratus. (verse 28).

Once again, as a result of God's moving in Paul's preaching, several come to faith in Jesus Christ.

What specific things in our culture can be used as bridges to witness of Jesus?
