

## St Paul the Apostle of Gentiles

*In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen.*

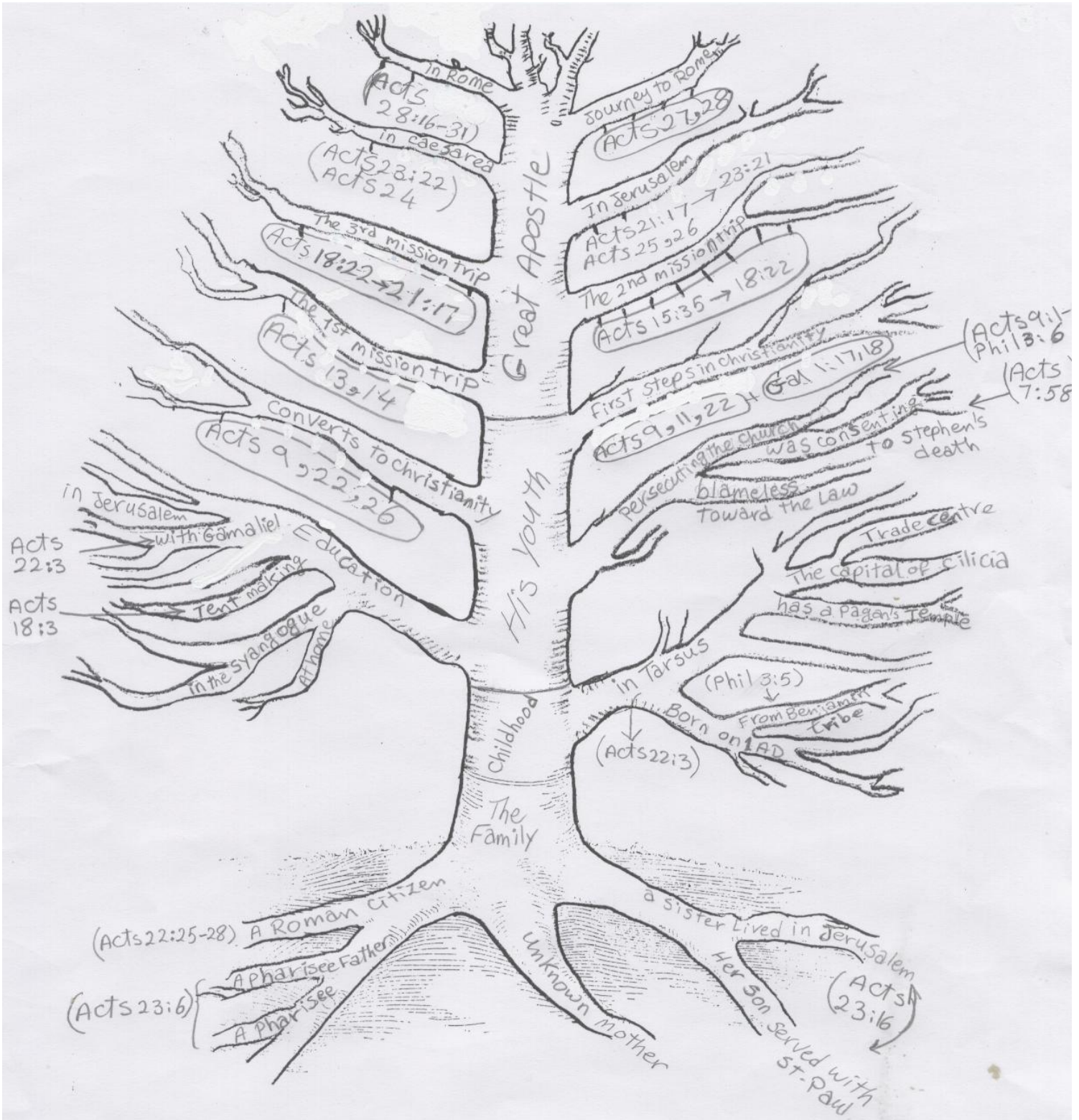
- **Soul** = Wanted, **Paul** = little / small
- He is a **unique person** throughout history, the greatest one who preached of the kingdom of Heaven to the whole world. Words are too limited to describe the Great St. Paul.
- **He crossed all the seas and climbed all the mountains to deliver the Word of Salvation to the entire world.**
- Some of unchristian people put St. Paul directly after our Lord Jesus in the importance to the Christian doctrines! But of course our Lord Jesus is completely different, because He is our Lord, God and Saviour, and St. Paul is only a great servant to the Lord.
- He was born on 1 AD in **Tarsus** and was named **Saul**, a Pharisee, a great disciple of the great Jewish teacher "Gamaliel"(Acts 5: 34). He was a **Roman citizen** (that is why he was beheaded while the Jewish St. Peter was crucified), had a very strong personality, very zeal to his Lord (Gal 1: 14).
- He was invited to carry the great mission from the three Hypostasis, from the Father as in (Gal 1: 15), from our Lord Jesus- the Son- on almost **37AD** as in (Acts 9: 1-19), and from the Holy Spirit as in (Acts 13: 2), then he became a great teacher to all generations from his age till the end of the world.
- Our Lord Jesus appeared to him several times and gave him all what He gave to the holy disciples through the 40 days after the resurrection (1 Cor 11: 23 + Gal 1: 12).
- He who talks about the great St. Paul, talks about the **Ideal Servant**. He said "I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some" (1 Cor 9: 22), "Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?" (2 Cor 11: 29). Acts 13-28 talks mainly about his great preaching. He ordained many bishops, priests, and deacons. Many churches were built everywhere, and he wrote 14 epistles (more than half of the New Testament, which contains 27 books). We read a part from his epistles in every mass in the church. He suffered more than all the apostles (2Cor 11: 23-29). He travelled in **3** main missions trips beside his trip to Rome as a prisoner.

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- He visited Jerusalem **5** times:
  1. Acts 9: 26→ Gal 1:18 on **37AD**.
  2. Acts 11:30 & 12:25 on **44AD**.
  3. Acts 15: 2→ Gal 2:1 on **50AD** to attend the council, after he came back from his first mission trip.
  4. Acts 18: 22 on **54AD**, a quick visit when he came back from his second mission trip.
  5. Acts 21:17 → Rom 15:25 on **58AD**. At the end of his third mission trip and before going to Rome as a prisoner.
- He made great miracles, he rose **Eutychus** from the dead, the viper couldn't harm him, the handkerchiefs and aprons of him caused diseases to depart, and evil spirits to go out (Acts 14: 8-10 + 20: 9-12 + 28: 3-6 + ...+ the fraction of the apostles fasting) **he was caught up to the third heaven** (2Cor 12: 1-4) while the Jews stoned him in **Lystra** (Acts14:19) which he mentioned in 2Cor 1: 8-10.
- He had a very difficult disease in his eyes, which he called "a thorn in the flesh" (2Cor 12: 7) and "my trial which was in my flesh" (Gal 4: 14), that is why the Galatians wanted to pluck out their own eyes and give them to him (Gal 4: 15). This disease started just after his baptism, after "something fell from his eyes like scales" (Acts 9:18); and was giving out a matter with a bad smell, and he couldn't see well, that is why he dictates most of his epistles except the epistle to the Galatians in which he wrote "See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand"(Gal 6: 11).
- He lived celibate, and was martyred by the sword on 12 July 67AD (5 Abib) with St. Peter, in Rome when Nero was the emperor.



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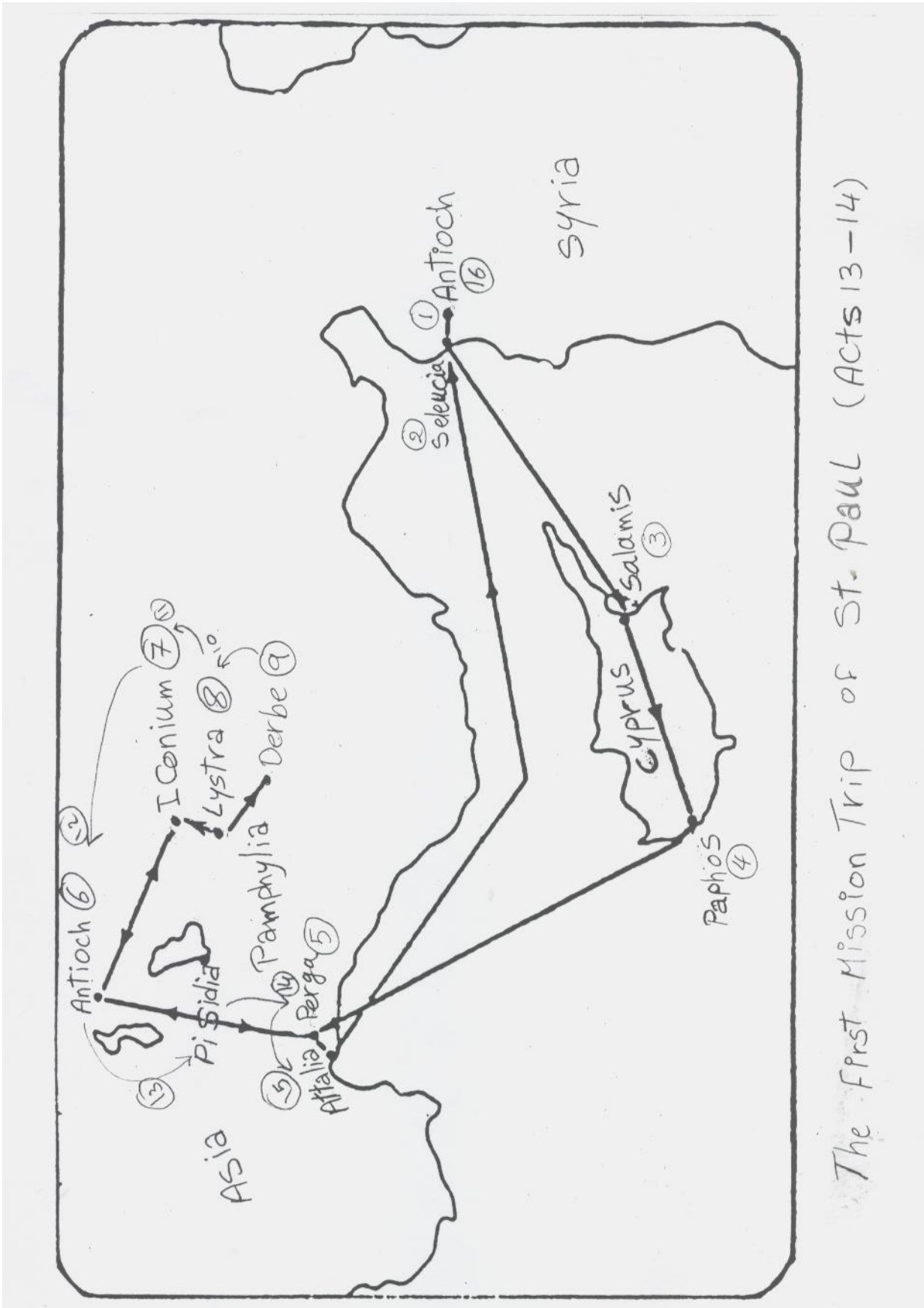
⊗ The Life Tree of St. Paul the Apostle. (1AD - 67AD)

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### The First Journey (Acts 13, 14): (45AD- 50AD)

1. According to the Holy Spirit's call, Saul, Barnabas and John (St. Mark) went out from **Antioch** (in Syria) to **Seleucia** then took a boat to **Cyprus** (Acts 13: 2-4).
2. From **Salamis** (a Warf in Cyprus) to **Paphos** on the other side of Cyprus (Acts 13: 5, 6). At that time Saul had a new name which is Paul. Elymas the sorcerer became blind.
3. Then a long trip in the Mediterranean Sea from **Paphos** (in Cyprus) to **Perga** (in Pamphylia) (Acts 13: 13). John (Mark) left them in Pamphylia and went back to Jerusalem with unknown reason.
4. Then Paul and Barnabas went from **Perga** to **Antioch in Pisidia**, where St. Paul gave a very concentrated speech in the synagogue. And a lot of people accepted the faith from the Gentiles, but the Jews refused them and cast them out from the city. They spent there one week.
5. From **Antioch** (in Pisidia) to **Iconium** (Acts 13: 50, 51), then they fled to **Lystra**, where St. Paul healed a cripple man that's made the people there to worship them as gods and tried to offer them sacrifices, but the Jews came and persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. At that time he was caught up to the third heaven (2Cor 12: 1-4).
6. On the next day he went with Barnabas from **Lystra** to **Derbe** (Acts 14: 20).
7. Then they passed through **Lystra**, **Iconium**, and **Antioch** (in Pisidia) in their way back to **Perga** (in Pamphylia). They established churches everywhere, and ordained priests. (Acts 14: 21-23).
8. Then from Perga to **Attalia** (Acts 14: 25), then they sailed in a quick return to **Antioch** (in Syria) (Acts 14: 26-28), which was the start point of this trip. They spent around a year with the church there and attended the council in Jerusalem (50AD-51AD) as in Acts 15.

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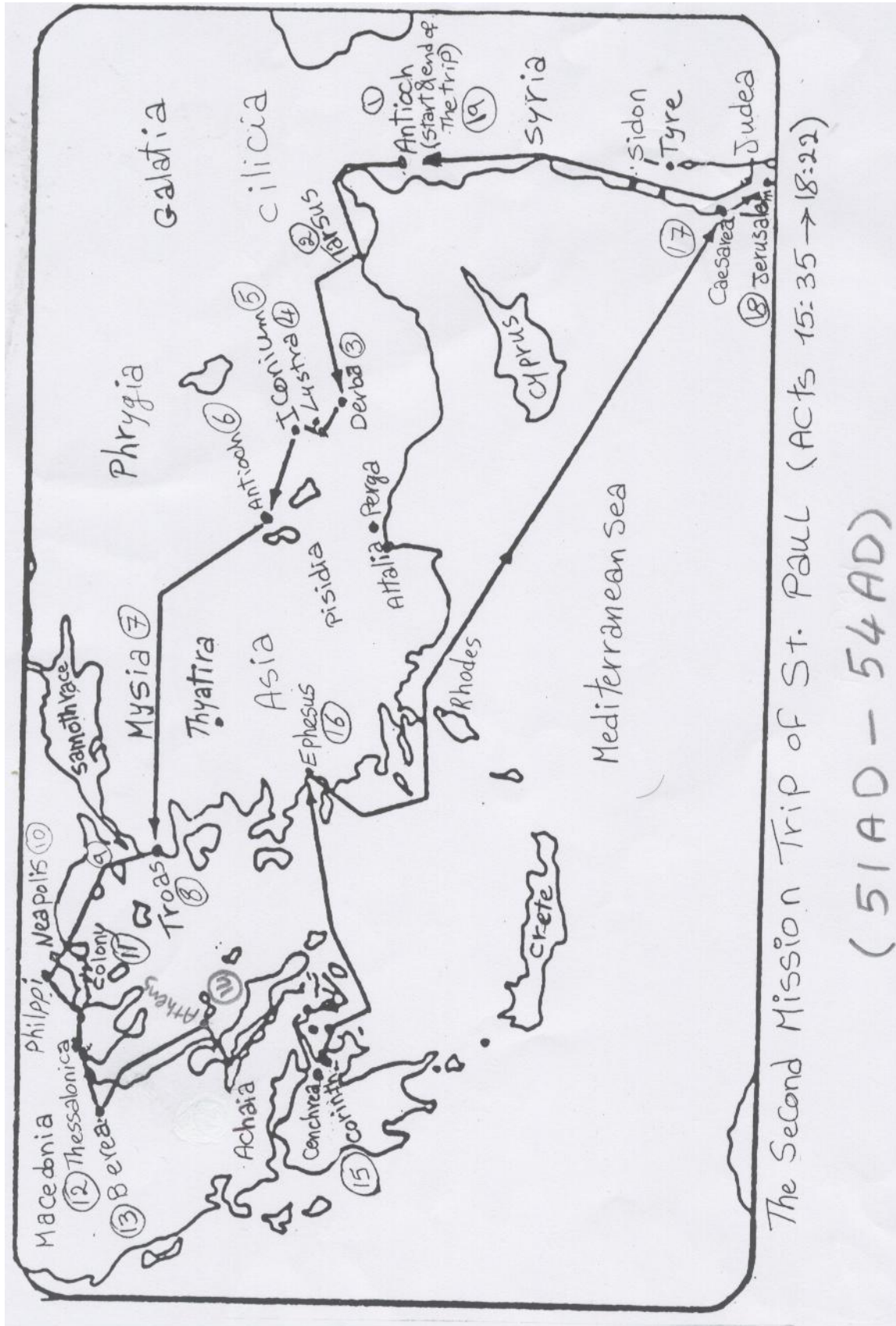
The First Mission Trip of St. Paul (Acts 13-14)

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### The Second Journey (Acts 15: 35 – 18:22):                      (51AD- 54AD)

1. St. Barnabas took his nephew St. Mark (John) and went to Cyprus, and St. Paul took St. Silas (one of the 70 apostles) and went through **Syria** (Antioch), **Cilicia**, **Derbe**, and to **Lystra**. (Acts 15:40 -16: 1).
2. **St. Timothy** joined Paul and Silas in **Lystra**, they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem that they should abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality as mentioned in Acts 15:29.
3. They traveled to **Phrygia**, **Galatia**, and **Mysia** but the Holy Spirit did not allow them to preach there, so they went to **Troas** (Acts 16: 6-8). In Troas Paul saw a vision inviting him to go to **Macedonia** (Acts 16:9). **St. Luke** (the writer of the Acts) joined them in Troas. (Verse 8 he used the term THEY, but in verse 10 and after he used the term US).
4. They took a boat from **Troas** to **Philippi** which is the foremost city of **Macedonia**, and was called **Colony** as well (Acts 16:11, 12).
5. In Philippi, **Lydia** the seller of purple from **Thyatira** believed and was baptized with all her household. Paul cast out an evil spirit from a slave girl, her masters took Paul and Silas, they beat them with rods (see 2 Cor 11: 23 & 25), then they put the apostles in the prison. The keeper of the prison believed and was baptized with his entire household.
6. Paul, Silas and Timothy went from **Philippi** to **Thessalonica** (Acts 17:1), then to **Berea** (Acts 17:10). A large numbers of the Greek (Gentiles) accepted the new faith, but the Jews caused a lot of troubles. Silas and Timothy remained in **Thessalonica**, Paul went to **Athens** (Acts 17: 14, 15). In **Areopagus** (in Athens) Paul gave a speech about the Unknown God and told them about Christ. Few people believed like **Dionysius the Areopagite**, who became the first bishop of Athens later on, and a lady named **Damaris**. (Acts 17:16- 34).
7. St. Paul went from Athens to **Corinth** (Acts 18: 1), where he met **Aquila** and his wife **Priscilla**. They were Jews from Rome and were tentmakers like St. Paul. Timothy and Silas joined him again in Corinth; they stayed there 18 months (1 & 1/2 years), Paul wrote the 2 epistles to the Thessalonians from Corinth on 52 or 53 AD.
8. Passing through **Cenchrea**, Paul went to **Ephesus**, he left Aquila and Priscilla there, then he went to **Caesarea** then **Jerusalem** then went back to **Antioch** in Syria (Acts 18: 18- 23).

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### **The third Journey (Acts 18:23 – 21: 17):** (54AD – 58AD)

1. St Paul spent only few days or weeks with the mother church in Jerusalem and Antioch then he took **Timothy** and some other disciples and started his third trip.
2. They went from **Antioch** (Syria) to **Galatia, Phrygia**, and then to **Ephesus** (Acts 18: 23 & 19: 1). He spent in Ephesus 2 years and 3 months, where he wrote the epistle to the Galatians on 56AD and the 1<sup>st</sup> epistle to the Corinthians on 57AD.
3. St Paul made a lot of miracles, a lot of people joined the church, many of the magicians burned their books, and a great commotion arose from the Ephesians, but the word of God grew mightily (Acts 19).
4. St Paul went out from Ephesus to **Macedonia**, where he wrote his 2<sup>nd</sup> epistle to the Corinthians on 57AD. Then to **Greece** and stayed there for 3 months, where he wrote his epistle to the Romans on 57AD. Then through **Philippi** to **Troas** where he spent a week, and arose Eutychus from death (Acts 20: 1- 12).
5. From Troas to **Assos** where *Luke rejoined Paul again.* Then they went to **Miletus**. He sent to Ephesus and called for the priests of the church, and gave them a wonderful talk about the responsibilities of the servants (Acts 20:13- 38).
6. Then they went out passing through many cities by Sea till they reach **Tyre** (in Syria) where they spent a week (Acts 21: 1- 6).
7. From Tyre to **Ptolemais** for one day, then to **Caesarea** (in Palestine) where they met **St. Philip** who was one of the 7 deacons ordained by the apostles in Acts 6: 5.
8. They went from Caesarea to **Jerusalem** (Acts 21: 15- 17), where the Jews seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple, and that was the first step in the journey to Rome as a prisoner.
9. St. Paul spent the rest of his life as a prisoner in Rome in **2** different jails; the first one was from **58AD to 63AD**, when he wrote **4** of his epistles which are: to the Ephesians, to the Philippians, to the Colossians, and to Philemon his disciple. On **63AD** Paul went to **Macedonia**, where he wrote the 1<sup>st</sup> epistle to Timothy, then to **Ephesus** where he wrote the epistle to Titus. The second jail was from **64AD to 67AD**, when he wrote the epistle to the Hebrews and the 2<sup>nd</sup> epistle to Timothy on 67AD. This jail ended by his martyrdom by the sword when Neuron was the Roman emperor.

**May his prayers be with us all. Amen**

**And Glory is to God, forever. Amen.**