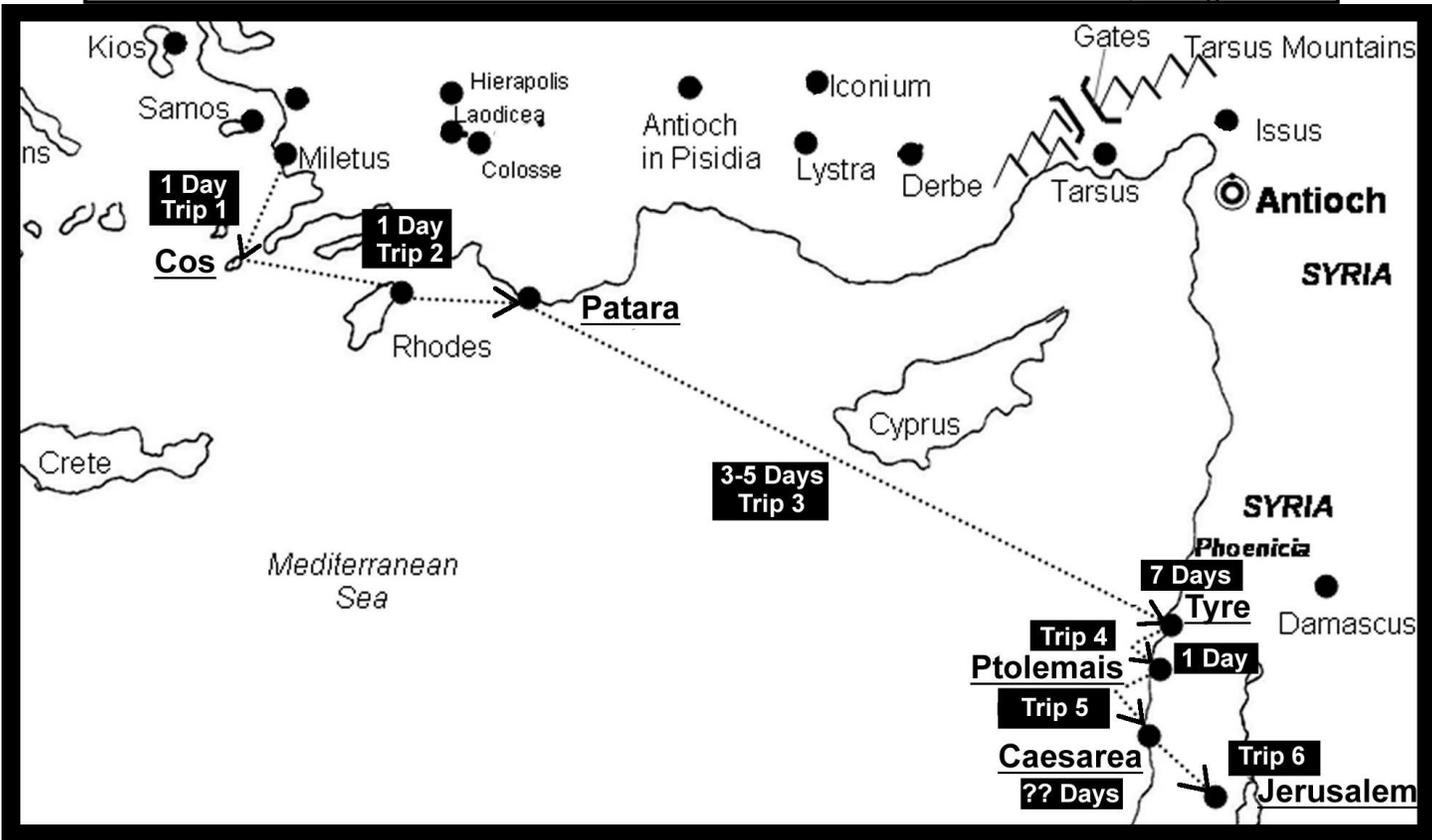
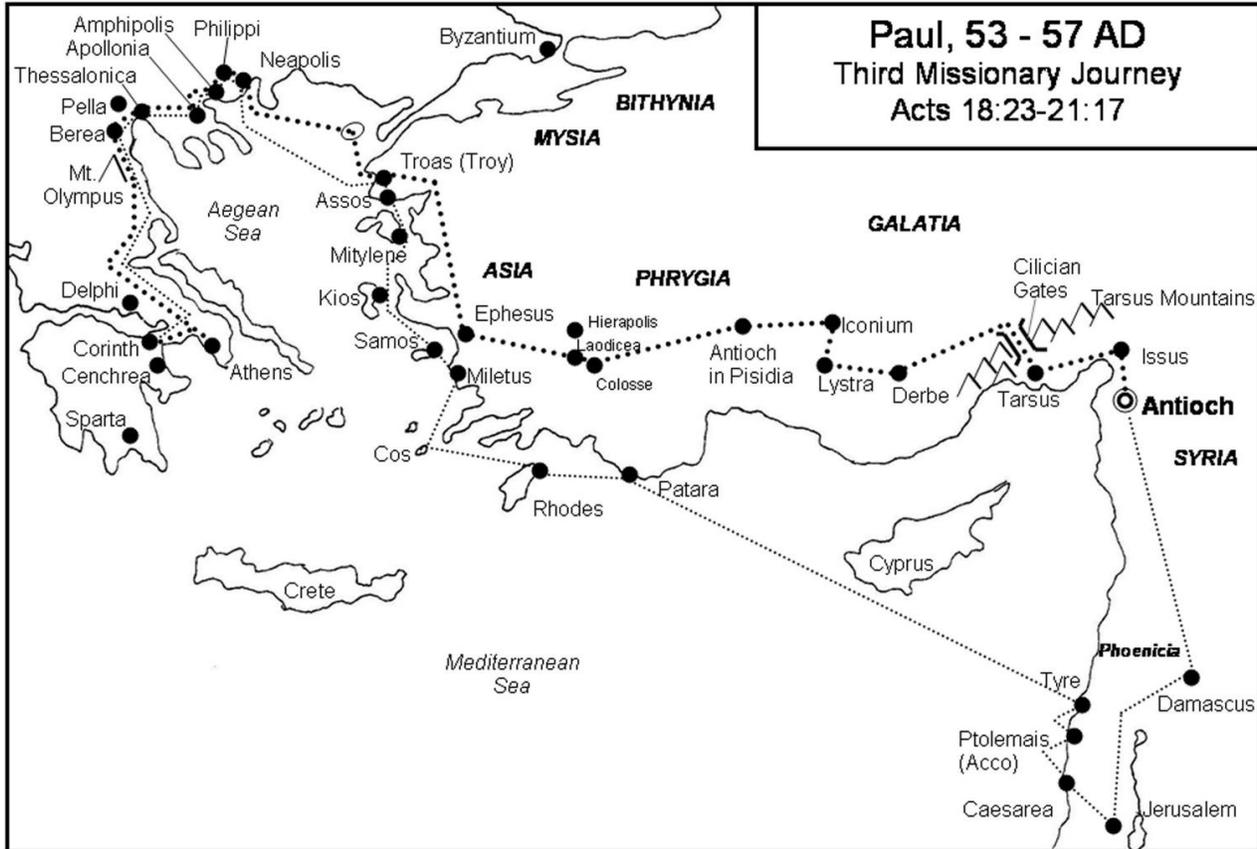


# Acts 21:1-17



**21:1 –**

- Miletus to Cos in one day and find a ship moving east along the coast.
- Cos is 112 square miles and 27 miles long. Home to a school of medicine founded in the 400's BC by Hippocrates.
- Cos to Rhodes is 6 miles. Rhodes is 540 square miles, 20 miles from the coast. The harbor was the location of the great Colossus, a hundred-foot statue of the sun god Helios, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world that had been destroyed by an earthquake in the 200's BC.

**21:2 –**

- Patara was Roman province of Lycia and a key shipping port for grain coming out of Alexandria, Egypt.
- Paul finds a cargo ship scheduled to cross the 400 miles non-stop across the Mediterranean Sea
- 3-5 days depending on the wind.

**21:3 –**

**21:4 –**

- "finding" believers is a word that means Paul searched for them.
- The prophets there warn Paul about Jerusalem. One of two things is happening:
  - Paul's being "compelled" by the Spirit to go where danger will face him is confirmed.
  - Paul is being warned that he can avoid the danger by avoiding Jerusalem

**21:5 –**

- Recently acquainted with Paul the believers and their families are quickly attracted to Paul.

**21:6 –**

**21:7 –**

- Ptolemais is the southernmost Phoenician Port.
- This is Acco of the OT

- Gentiles here were hostile to Jews and nine years later in 66 AD 2,000 Jews were massacred here helping set off the Jewish Wars of 66-72 AD.

**21:8 –**

- 30 mile trip by ship to Caesares
- Caesarea was a magnificent sea port created by Herod the Great
- Philip:
  - Luke’s only use of the word “evangelist” in Acts.
  - Philip was evangelized Samaritans (8:4-25) and the Ethiopian (8:26-40)
  - Philip was taken by the Spirit to Azotus about 50 miles south of Caesarea about 20 years earlier.
  - Philip had settled down, married and had three daughters.
  - Philip also had a source (job) of income to provide for a family with a house that could host this group of nine delegates.
  - Philip would have provided historical details for Luke’s research.
  - Philip was an early Hellenistic Jew believer



**21:9 –**

- Four daughters prophesied which was proof of Joel’s prophecy and Peter’s words on the Day of Pentecost
- Eusebius quotes an Ephesian church leader from the 100’s AD to report that Philip moved with his daughters to Hierapolis (near Colossae and Laodicea.) Two daughters married, two remained unmarried in Hierapolis.



Amid the remains of a fourth- or fifth-century church at Hierapolis, one of the most significant Christian sites in Turkey, Francesco D’Andria found this first-century Roman tomb that he believes once held the remains of the apostle Philip.

**21:10 –** The prophet Agabus has already been referred to by Luke in Acts 11:28. Paul was wearing a girdle, *zonen*, ζώνην) which means:

- a girdle, belt, waistband; because the purse was kept there, also: a purse.
- This *zonen*, belt, would have been a long piece of cloth wound round his body.
- a belt (waistband), pulled tightly to remove all the slack from a garment.
- *zōnē* ("a belt") was tied around the mid-section – hence, called "a girdle" in the *KJV*.

- Called a belt in:
  - Matthew 3:4 – “John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist.”
  - Matthew 10:9 – “Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts.”
- Called a sash in:
  - Revelation 1:13 – “and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.”

21:11 –

- “Thus says the Holy Spirit” equals the OT prophets opening statement of “Thus says the Lord.”
- The fate of going to Jerusalem, being bound and handed over to the Gentiles repeats Jesus’ warning about himself in Mark 9:31 and Mark 10:33.
- The words are also similar to Jesus’ words to Peter in John 21:8.
- The events in Jerusalem were not exactly as the wording of the prophecy go because the Jews did not actually hand Paul over to the Romans, but instead the Romans delivered Paul from the hands of the Jews. The result and the basic intention of the prophecy is accurate since it was through the actions of the Jews that the Gentiles (Romans) ended up having Paul in prison for five years.

21:12 –

- Paul was willing to go to his fate just as Jesus was willing to go.

21:13 –

- Paul says the pleading of his friends was “breaking” his heart. This is a word used to refer to woman pounding their clothes with stones to wash them.

21:14 –

- Paul’s friends and companions (including Luke, see the “we” in the statements) say something similar to Jesus’ words in the Garden of Gethsemane when he resigned himself to the will of God (Luke 22:42). They say here, “The Lord’s will be done.”

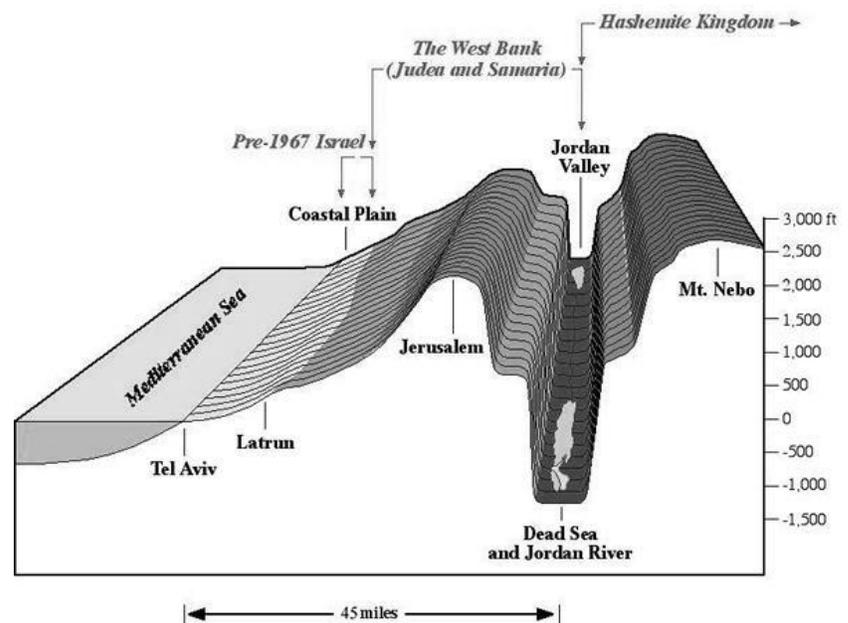
21:15 –

- “They made ready” would likely include preparing saddled horses (*episkeuazo* is used in Greek for saddling and packing horses for a trip) for the 64 mile journey uphill to Jerusalem from Caesarea.
- The Christian/Jews would have already been planning to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of Pentecost.

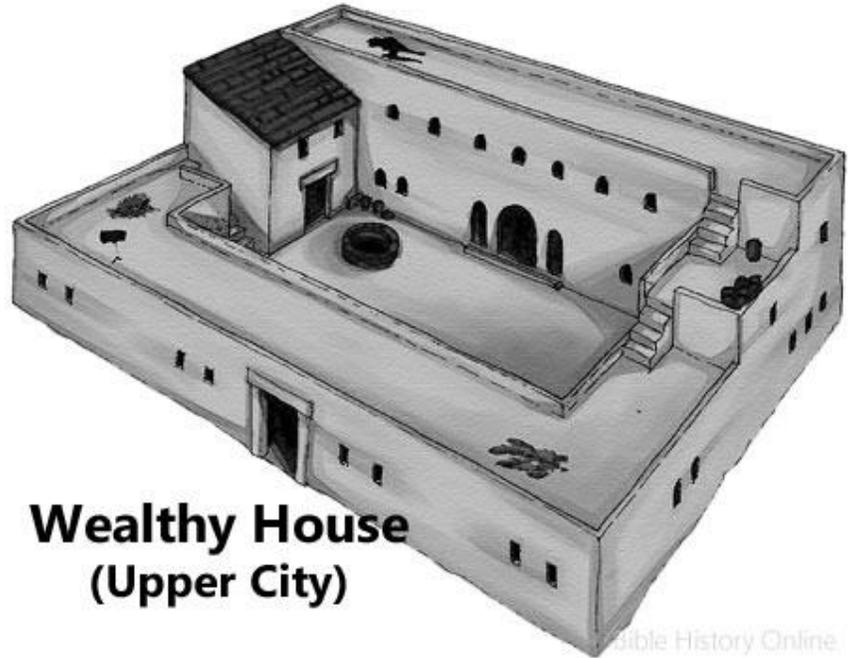
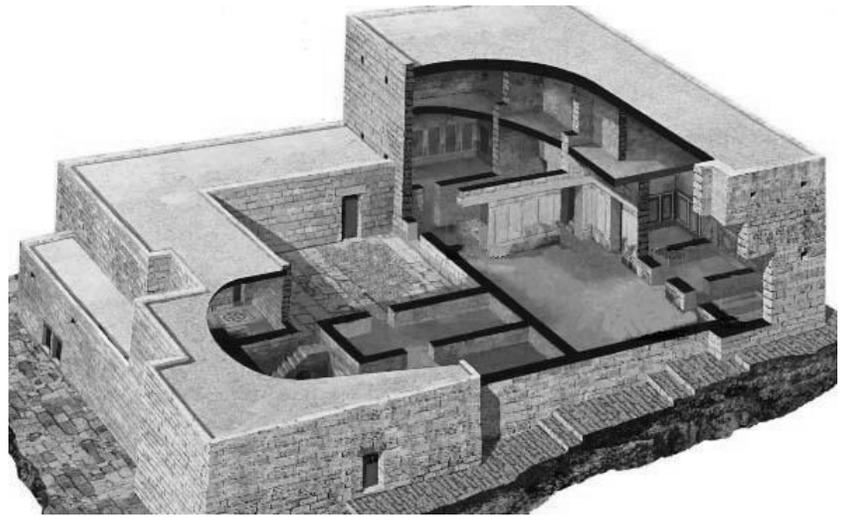
21:16 –

- Mnason’s (ma-nay-son) house was where the delegation of eight men stayed.

Map 7: Topography and Israeli Security: Utilizing the 4,200-Foot Mountain Barrier to Protect Israel's Vulnerable Coastal Plain



- Mnason was likely a Hellenistic Jew having returned from the dispersion. Possibly Paul knew him before in his younger days.
- Mnason had been a believer since the beginning days of Christianity:
  - He may have been one of Jesus' followers during Jesus' ministry (This is most likely the option).
  - He may have been one of the early converts from 30 AD, the original Pentecost.
  - He may have been one of Paul's early converts from 35-40 AD.
- Mnason was wealthy with a large house.
- Along with Philip and other early believers, Mnason was able to provide Luke with information concerning the early days of Christianity.



**Wealthy House  
(Upper City)**

Bible History Online

**21:17 –**

- The eight delegates from the Gentile churches were “warmly” welcomed by the leadership of the believing Jews in Jerusalem

**21:18 –**

- James, Jesus' brother and author of the book of James, was there to greet Paul and his delegation.
- Peter and John are not mentioned. They may have been there, or they may have been away.
- It is at this time Paul and his team of delegates present the leadership of the Jerusalem church with the large financial offering they have collected from the Gentile churches.

**21:19 –**

**21:20 –**

- The new converts to Christianity from the Jews have not fully understood or processed the fullness of the New Testament revelation as taught by Paul and accepted by James. These new Jewish converts are still “zealous for the law” and they understand Paul to be teaching people to turn away from Moses. Paul is actually teaching the fulfillment of Moses, but the people do not understand this, yet.

**21:21 –**

**21:22 –**

- James says, “what shall we do?” They agree with Paul theologically, but are facing masses who do not understand Paul’s teaching. (Thus see Peter’s words concerning Paul’s difficult teaching.”

**21:23 –**

- James and the Jerusalem church leaders have come up with a plan that will demonstrate to the Jewish Christian population that Paul is reasonably still observant of the law and NOT opposed to Temple worship.

**21:24 –**

- Paul is to take four men who have taken a Nazarite vow (Numbers 6:2-21) to dedicate themselves to the Lord for a period of time (usually 30 days or 7 days). During this time they abstained from wine (grapes), contact with dead bodies and left their hair uncut (consider lifetime Nazarites such as Samson, Samuel and John the Baptist.)
- At the end of the period of consecration they would:
  - Shave their hair and offer at the temple.
  - Present an offerings of considerable expense of:
    - a year-old male lamb
    - a year old ewe lamb
    - a ram
    - a basket of bread
    - grain offerings
    - drink offerings (see Numbers 6:14-17)
- Paul was to help these four men that had fulfilled their Nazarite vow pay for these offering expenses.
- This was not uncommon. Herod Agrippa I had paid the expenses for a group of poor Nazirites
- ALSO, Paul would JOIN in the purification rites. Not a personal Nazarite vow (though possible), but some purification ritual as in Numbers 8:21; 19:12; 31:19. Possibly for the purification of having come from Gentile lands into Jerusalem:
  - A seven day purification rite
  - Washings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> day

**21:25 –**

**21:26 –**