

# Acts

THE PROPAGATION OF CHRIST

# A survey through the Bible 8 Week Study

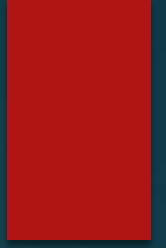
- ▶ Purpose:

- ▶ An 8-week survey through the eight major sections of Scripture, revealing God's salvific plan in Christ as the central theme. Luke 24:26-27 Jesus explains how He can be revealed in the OT.

- ▶ Goals:

- ▶ Reveal God's plan through each section of Scripture
- ▶ Encourage a habit of Bible reading, as the continuity and chronology come into focus
- ▶ Allow personal understanding of the Word result in sharing His gospel

# Acts



- ▶ Timeline of writing: 60-62 AD
- ▶ Timeline of events: Jesus' ascension to Paul under house arrest in Rome 30–60 AD
- ▶ Context for Acts:
  - ▶ Jesus was crucified on Friday, raised on Sunday, and remained for 40 days. (1:3)
  - ▶ Prior to going into heaven, He promises the Holy Spirit would come to them (1:4). This happens on Pentecost, 50 days after Passover (2:1-4).
  - ▶ This is the birth of the church

# Theological significance:

- ▶ The book of Acts is more than just a history of the early church.
- ▶ The sovereign plan of God, to spread the message of the Gospel through the world (1:8), is chronicled over twenty-eight chapters.
- ▶ The simple preaching of the gospel brings multitudes into the family of God.
- ▶ In these chapters, the modern church sees a blueprint for making God known. Regardless of culture, geography, economic status, ethnicity, background, or any other label – God’s message can be simply shared.
- ▶ When necessary, evidences are shown to back the message. A model of apologetic evangelism is seen throughout this book.

# God's plan revealed in Acts:

- ▶ The book of Acts chronicles the first generation of the church age.
- ▶ The Gospel is spread from Jerusalem (1-7), to Judea and Samaria (8-12), and to the ends of the earth (13-28).
- ▶ The promised Holy Spirit is now available to all who believe. The hope of the Gospel is available for both Jew and Gentile.
- ▶ Suffering, persecution, victory, and blessing are all experienced by the church, in carrying out the great commission of Jesus (Matt 28:18-20)

# How to Interpret:

- ▶ Utilize basic interpretive principles (OICA)
  - ▶ Observation, Interpretation, Correlation, Application
- ▶ Use this book to develop/sharpen your view of God, man, sin, salvation, etc.
  - ▶ When reading Acts, allow the text to answer “why would God...” type questions.
  - ▶ Rely on the text itself, not your memory of the events and teaching discussed.
- ▶ Place an emphasis on context (time, location, audience, situation, etc.)
  - ▶ Recognize the unique context of the 1<sup>st</sup> century church
  - ▶ Use a Bible atlas to understand the geography
  - ▶ Pay attention to the audience when sermons/speeches/teachings are given
  - ▶ Remember the chapters are not independent of one another. Know what has happened prior to your particular passage.
- ▶ Keep in mind how the passage can apply to you today, you are not just reading history

Analyze and apply a passage:

▶ Acts 15:1-35

- ▶ What has happened previous to the passage?
- ▶ Holy Spirit is poured out
- ▶ Gospel has spread from Jerusalem to “ends of the earth”
  - ▶ Syria, Asia Minor, etc.
- ▶ First Missionary Journey of Paul complete

- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> Mission Trip
- ▶ Antioch
- ▶ Cyprus
- ▶ Pamphylia
- ▶ Pisidia
- ▶ Iconium
- ▶ Lystra
- ▶ Derbe
- ▶ Iconiom
- ▶ Antioch (Syria)
- ▶ 3 years 700 miles





Analyze and apply a passage:

▶ Acts 15:1-35


▶ What is the location of the passage, any travel?

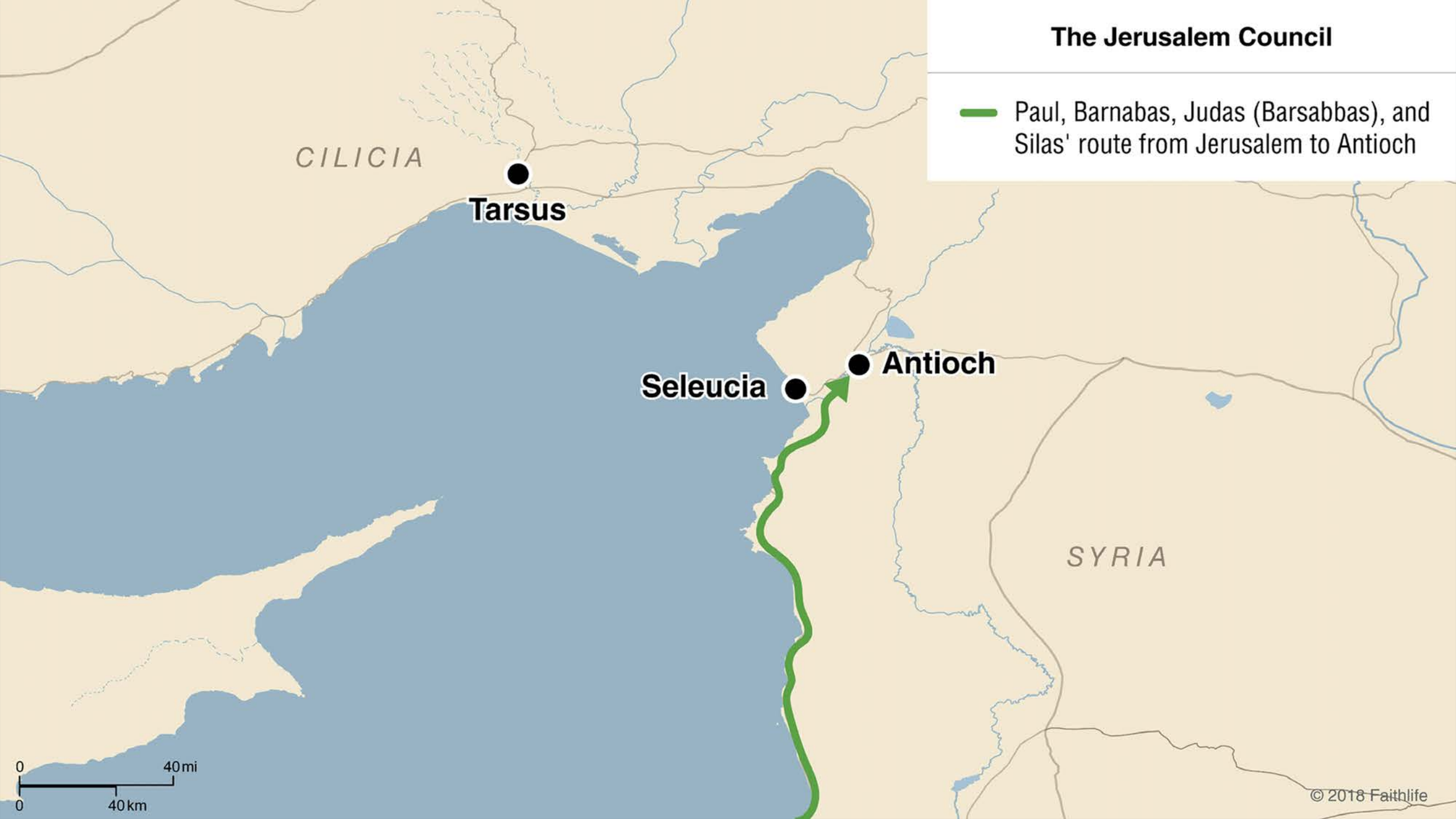
## The Jerusalem Council

 Paul and Barnabas' route from Antioch to Jerusalem



## The Jerusalem Council

 Paul, Barnabas, Judas (Barsabbas), and Silas' route from Jerusalem to Antioch



CILICIA

Tarsus

Seleucia

Antioch

SYRIA

0 40mi  
0 40km

Analyze and apply a passage:

▶ Acts 15:1-35

- ▶ What is the occasion/purpose for any speeches (Jerusalem Council)?
- ▶ What four specific things are chosen and why?
- ▶ What was the response to the speech?

Analyze and apply a passage:

## ▶ Acts 15:1-35

### ▶ How can this apply to me?

- ▶ What things are you doing that you KNOW are dishonoring to God.
- ▶ Can you think of something you have done to fit in with friends, family, or anyone else who is not a believer, knowing it is against God's word?
- ▶ When you talk, is God listening gladly, or covering His ears?

▶ Matt 6 – Jesus says do not worry -- are you?

▶ John 13 – By this all will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. – Do you demonstrate this?

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