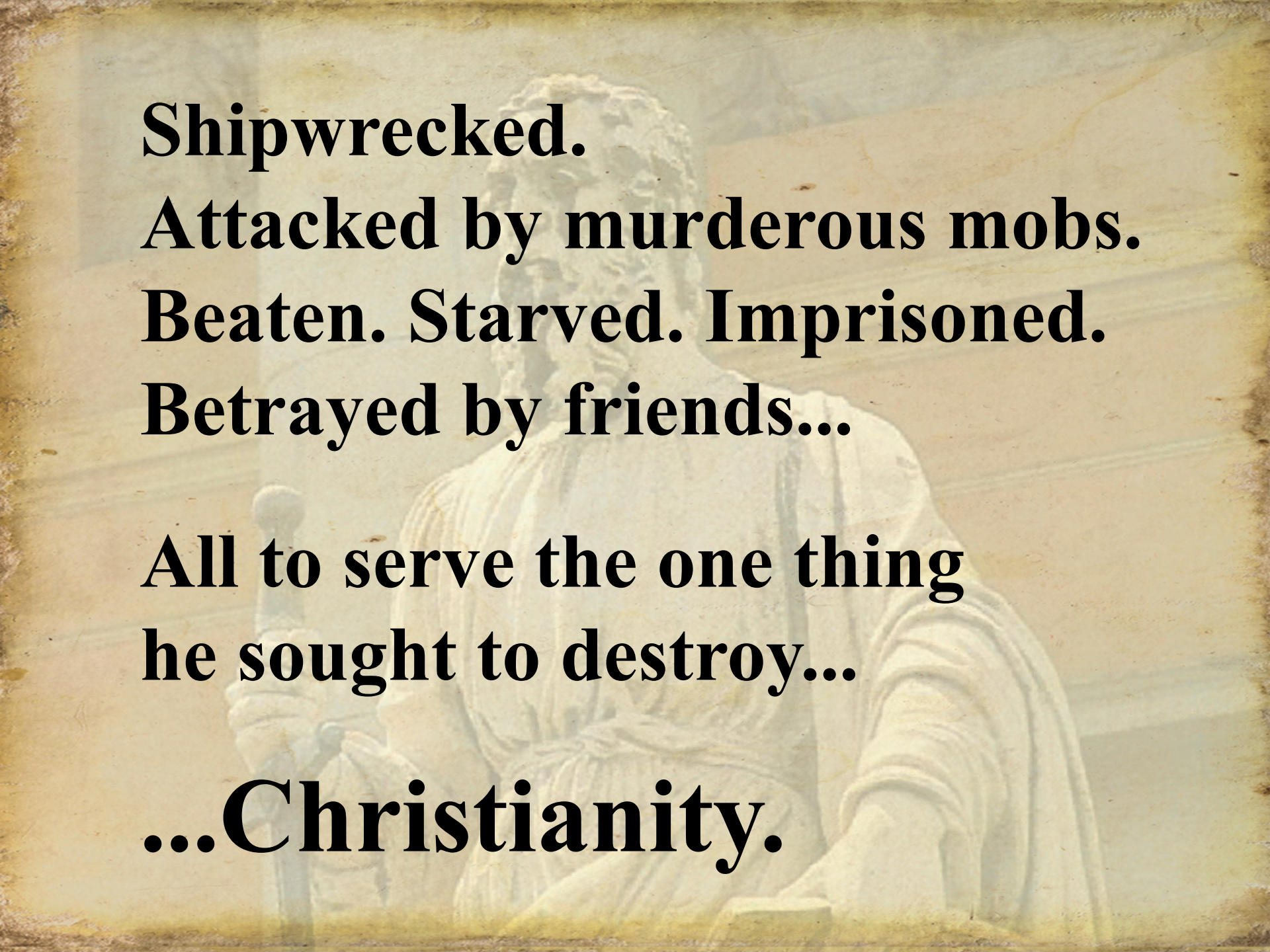


ROSE
PUBLISHING

Presents

The LIFE *of the* APOSTLE PAUL





Shipwrecked.

Attacked by murderous mobs.

Beaten. Starved. Imprisoned.

Betrayed by friends...

All to serve the one thing

he sought to destroy...

...Christianity.

MAIN MENU

WHO *was the* APOSTLE PAUL?

PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY

PAUL'S JOURNEY *to* ROME

PAUL'S OTHER JOURNEYS

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WHO *was the* APOSTLE PAUL?

PAUL'S EARLY YEARS

PAUL'S PERSONALITY

PAUL'S LETTERS

PAUL'S KEY TEACHINGS

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PAUL'S EARLY YEARS

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Acts 7:58–12:25

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Paul's Early Years

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Background

- ✦ Paul (whose Jewish name was Saul) was an arch-enemy of Christianity who amazingly became the greatest Christian missionary of all time.
- ✦ He authored more books of the Bible than anyone else and is called the “Apostle to the Gentiles.”

Paul's Early Years

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- ✦ Born around AD 5, Paul was a Jew from the tribe of Benjamin and a Roman citizen.
- ✦ He came from a well-respected family in Tarsus of Celicia (Turkey today) where his father was an official (Acts 7:58; 22:25-29).



Paul's Early Years

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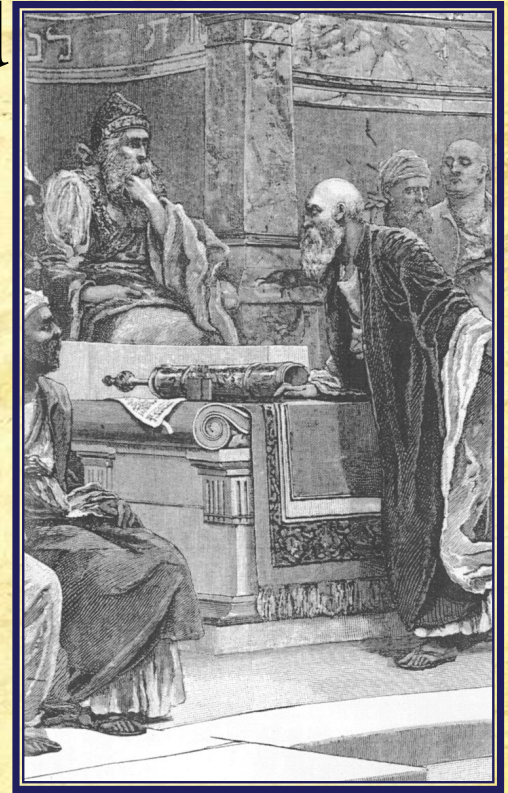
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- ★ Paul excelled in his studies and became a devout Pharisee.
- ★ As a young man, he was sent to Jerusalem to study under the great teacher Gamaliel (Acts 22:3).



Gamaliel's Council
(Acts 5:34-39)

Paul's Early Years

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- ◆ Paul hated followers of Jesus and participated in the execution of Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:5, 8; 7:57-60).



The Stoning of St. Stephen,
Vittore Carpaccio (1520)

Paul's Early Years

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- ✦ Paul was determined to murder all those who followed Jesus, not just in Jerusalem, but elsewhere (Acts 7:54–8:3).
- ✦ From AD 30 to AD 35, he and other Jewish authorities persecuted followers of Jesus in Jerusalem and the surrounding communities.

Paul's Early Years

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What was a Pharisee?

- ★ The Pharisees were a group of Jewish religious leaders who believed a person must keep every one of the traditions of Judaism, as well as the biblical commandments.
- ★ The Pharisees were respected, but were legalistic.

Paul's Early Years

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- ✦ Jesus condemned them for being self-righteous and hypocritical (Matthew 23).
- ✦ Pharisees had plotted to kill Jesus because of his popularity and claim to be God.



Christ Accused by the Pharisees,
Duccio di Buonisegna (1308-11)

Paul's Early Years

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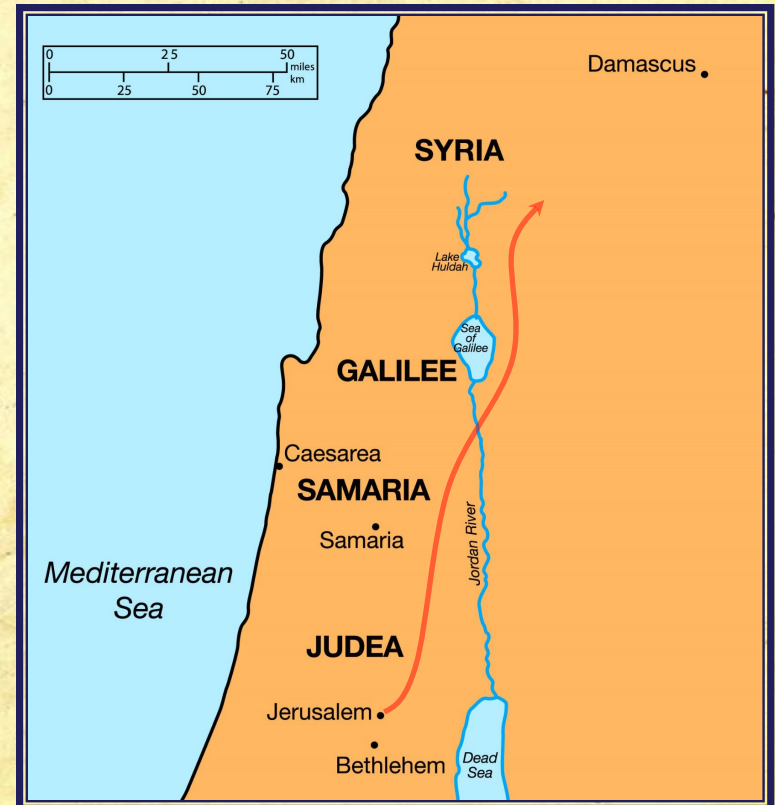
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How did Paul become a believer?

✦ Paul asked the chief priest in Jerusalem to give him authorization to arrest any follower of Jesus in Damascus (about 100 miles away).



Paul's Early Years

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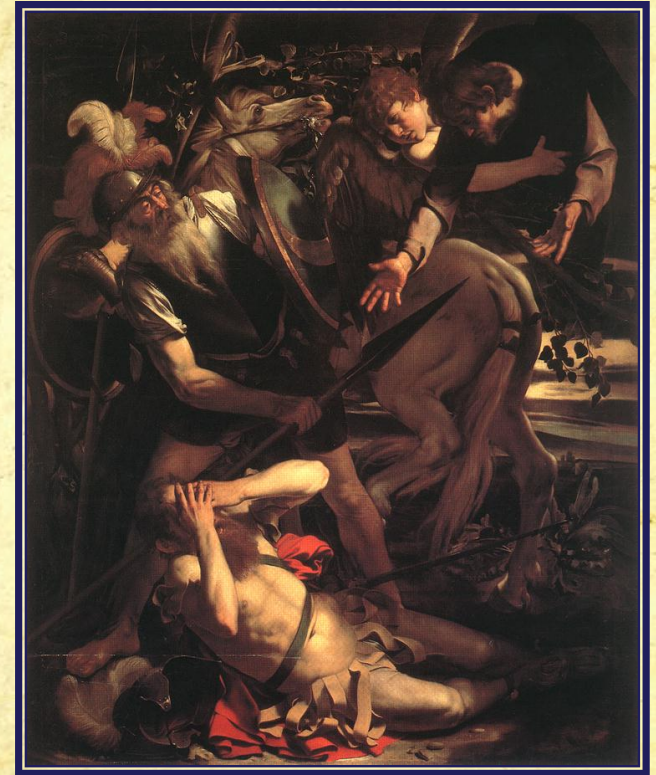
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- ✦ On his way from Judea to Damascus, a light from heaven blinded him.
- ✦ He fell to the ground and a voice said, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”



The Conversion of St. Paul,
Caravaggio (1600)

Paul's Early Years

AD 30

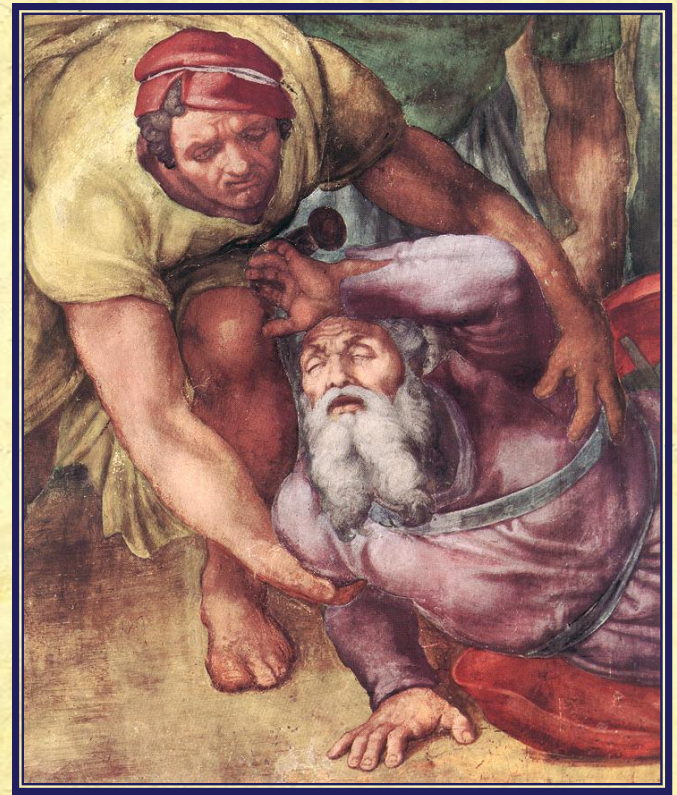
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- ✦ Paul answered, “Who are you?”
- ✦ The voice said, “I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting. Get up! Go into the city, and you will be told what to do.”



*The Conversion of Saul (detail),
Michelangelo (1542-45)*

Paul's Early Years

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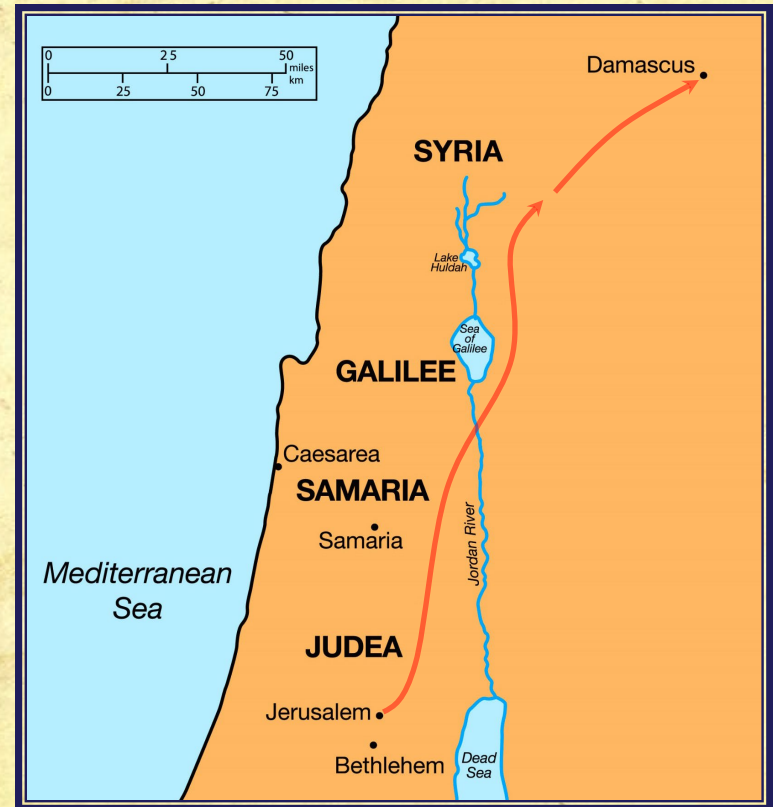
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✦ Paul was told to go to a house and wait for a believer named Ananias to come restore his sight (Acts 9:1-12).



Paul's Early Years

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What did other believers think?

- ✦ The Lord spoke to Ananias, and Ananias was afraid.
- ✦ He knew Paul's reputation, but went to the house in spite of his fear.
- ✦ The Lord said that Paul was chosen to take the Lord's name to Gentiles, to their kings, and to the Jews.

Paul's Early Years

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- ✦ Ananias placed his hands on Paul and Paul's sight was restored.
- ✦ Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit and was baptized.



Ananias Anoints Paul
(14th century Syrian icon)

Paul's Early Years

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- ✦ Paul started speaking in synagogues and convincing people that Jesus was the Messiah.
- ✦ People were amazed and confused.
- ✦ The believers back in Jerusalem refused to believe he had changed until one of their leaders, Barnabas, vouched for him (Acts 9:13-28).

Paul's Early Years

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What did the Pharisees think?

- ✦ Because the Lord had spoken to him, Paul kept preaching in the synagogues in Damascus, saying that Jesus was the Son of God.
- ✦ He gave proofs from the Scriptures to show that Jesus was the fulfillment of the Bible prophecies.

Paul's Early Years

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- ✦ To the Jews, Paul's claims about Jesus were considered blasphemous.
- ✦ The Jews were outraged and they plotted to kill Paul as he walked out of the city gates.
- ✦ Paul learned of the plot, and his friends put him in a basket and lowered him down the city wall to escape (Acts 9:20-25).

Paul's Early Years

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Life as a Fugitive

✦ Paul spent three years in Arabia and Damascus (Galatians 1:17).



Paul's Early Years

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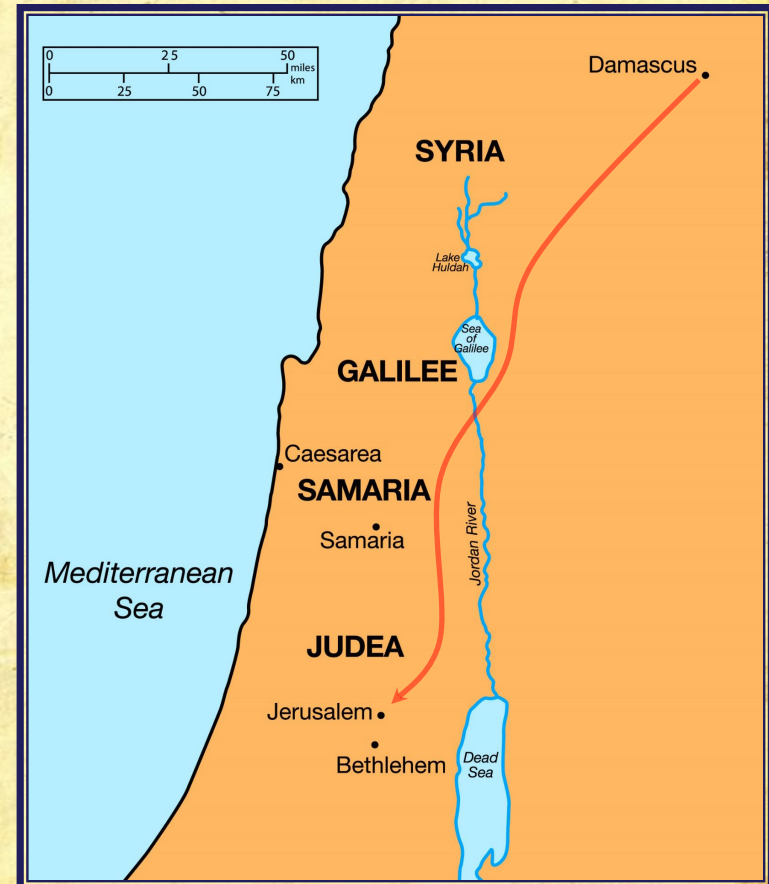
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- ✦ Paul went to Jerusalem and boldly preached in the synagogues.
- ✦ He tried to convince people about Jesus, preached fearlessly, and debated at every opportunity.



Paul's Early Years

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✦ Paul received death threats and the believers brought him out of Jerusalem to Caesarea.

✦ He went back home to Tarsus (Acts 9:28-30).



Paul's Early Years

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Is Jesus for the Jews Only?

- ✦ During the early years of Christianity, most of the believers were Jewish.
- ✦ Jesus' disciples preached only to Jews, yet as Jewish people scattered throughout the Roman Empire, they told their neighbors about Jesus.
- ✦ Many of these Gentiles (non-Jews) became followers of Jesus, too (Acts 11:19-21).

Paul's Early Years

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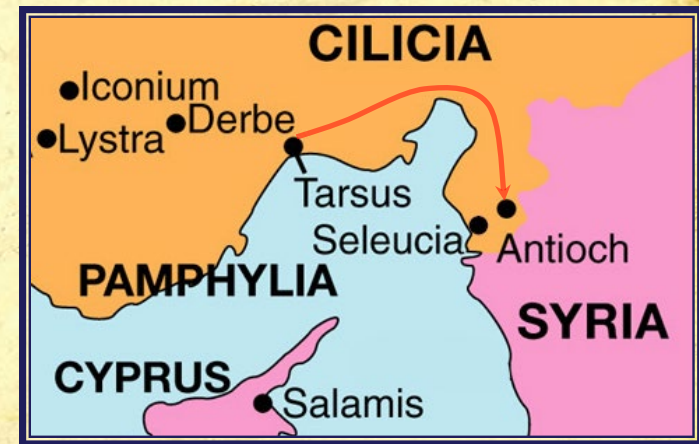
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Barnabas Finds Paul

✦ Barnabas went to Tarsus and, with Paul, preached to non-Jews.

✦ Barnabas took Paul to Syrian Antioch where they ministered for a year.

✦ At the city of Antioch, these believers were first called Christians (Acts 11:25, 26).



Paul's Early Years

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- ✦ A famine hit Jerusalem and the Christians wanted to send relief to their fellow believers.
- ✦ They sent Barnabas and Paul back to Jerusalem with gifts (Acts 11:28-30).



Paul's Early Years

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✦ When their mission was accomplished, Barnabas and Paul, along with a young man named John Mark, headed back north to start a missionary journey throughout Asia Minor (Acts 13:1-5).

