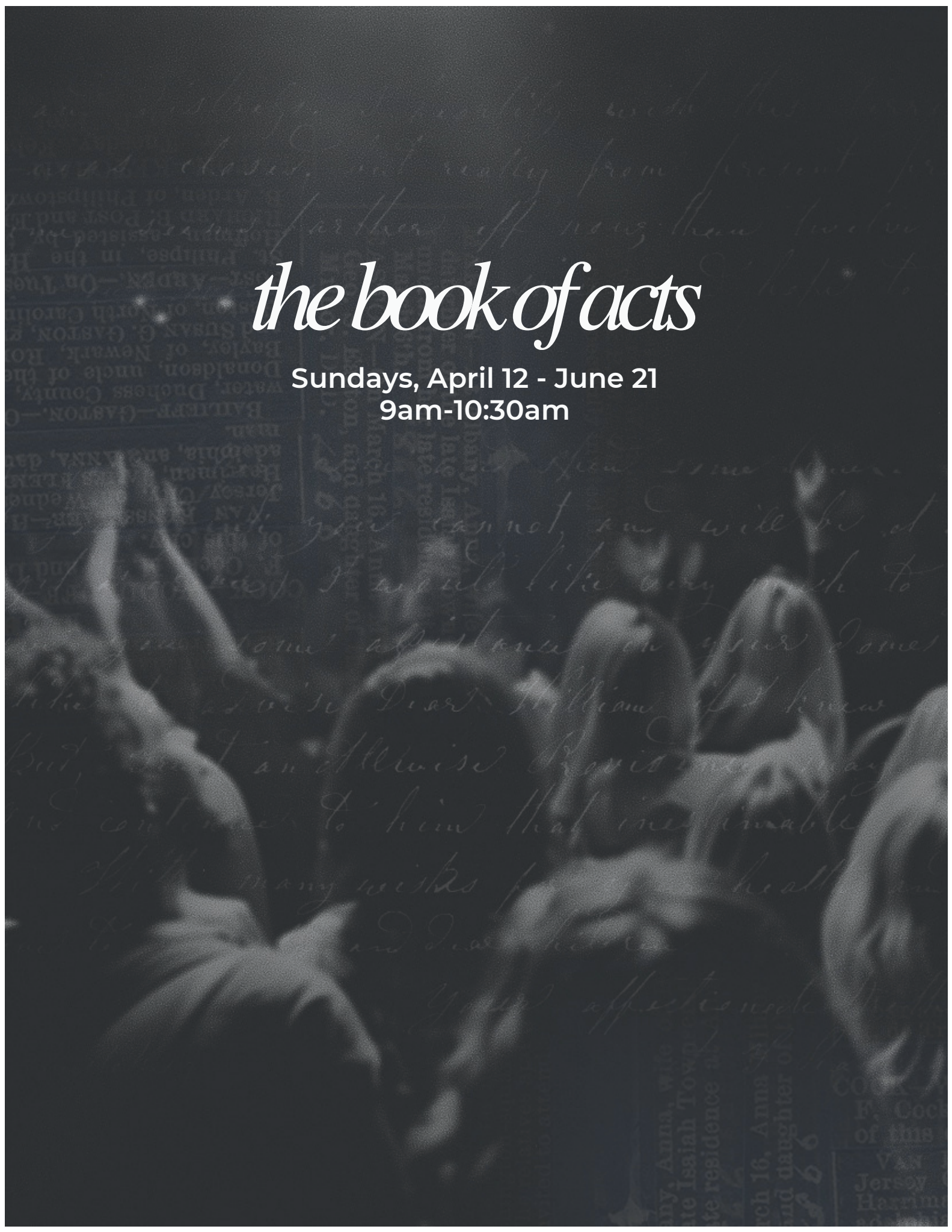


the book of acts

Sundays, April 12 - June 21
9am-10:30am



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The Book of Acts

April 12 - June 21 | Sundays | 9:00AM - 10:30AM | Classroom 1

Course Contact: Jessica Alderman | jalderman@2riverschurch.org

Course Description

This class explores the Book of Acts, tracing the story of the early Church as the gospel spreads from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. Together we will see how the Holy Spirit empowered ordinary believers to carry out an extraordinary mission and consider what that means for the Church today.

Book

Acts | Word and Spirit Commentary on the New Testament by Robert Menzies and Craig Keener.



SCAN HERE

Right Now Media

Students are encouraged to make use of RightNow Media, a free video library available through Two Rivers Church. This resource includes a wide variety of biblical teaching, courses, and study materials that can supplement our study of the Book of Acts.

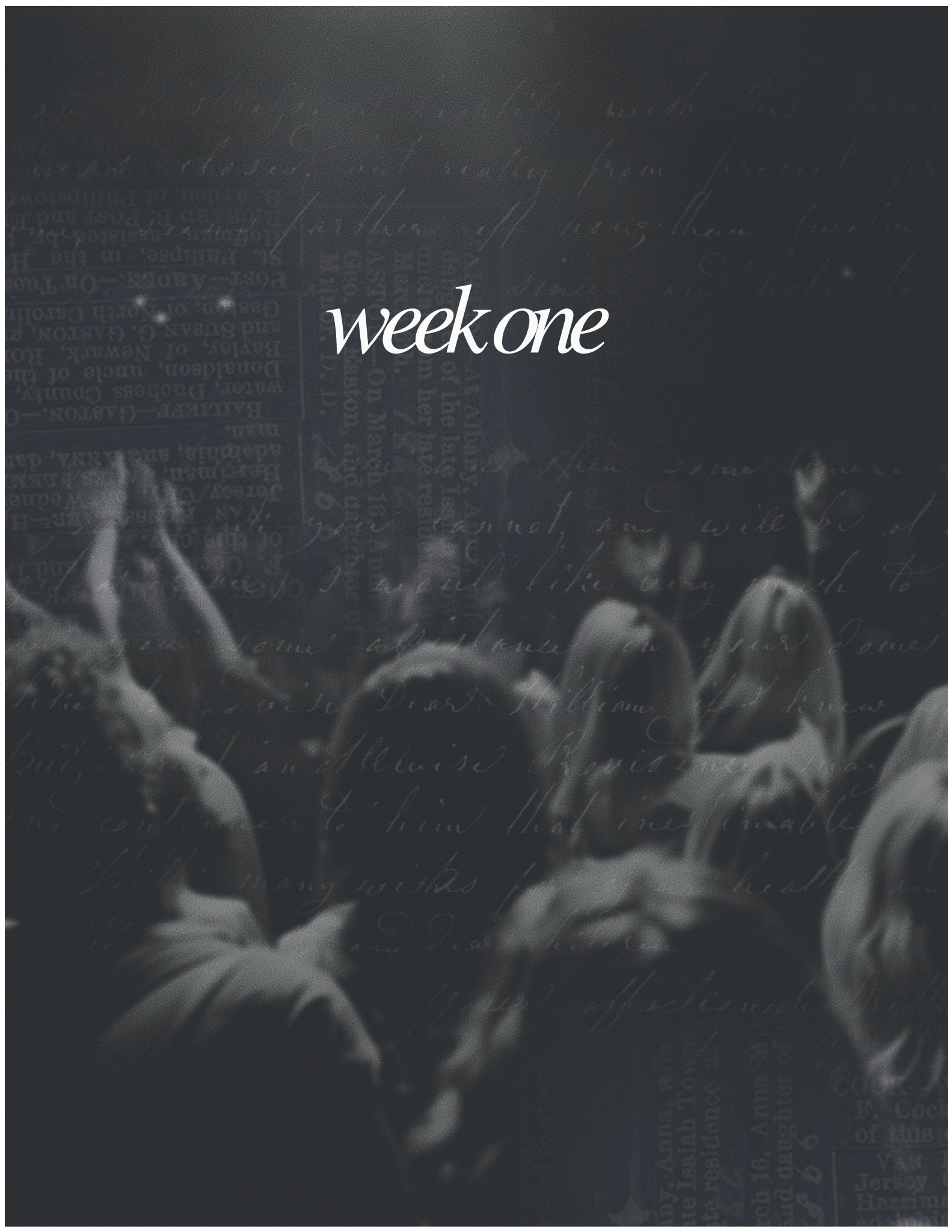


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Class Schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Passage / Topic</i>
<i>Week 1</i>	April 12th	Introduction
<i>Week 2</i>	April 19th	Acts 1:1–14
<i>Week 3</i>	April 26th	Acts 1:14–2:47
<i>Week 4</i>	May 3	Acts 3:1–6:7
<i>Week 5</i>	May 10th	Acts 6:8–9:31
<i>Week 6</i>	May 17th	Acts 9:32–12:25
--	May 24th	No Class — Memorial Day
<i>Week 7</i>	May 31st	Acts 12:25–19:41
<i>Week 8</i>	June 7th	Acts 20:1–23:11
<i>Week 9</i>	June 14th	Acts 23:12–28:31
<i>Week 10</i>	June 21st	Conclusion

week one

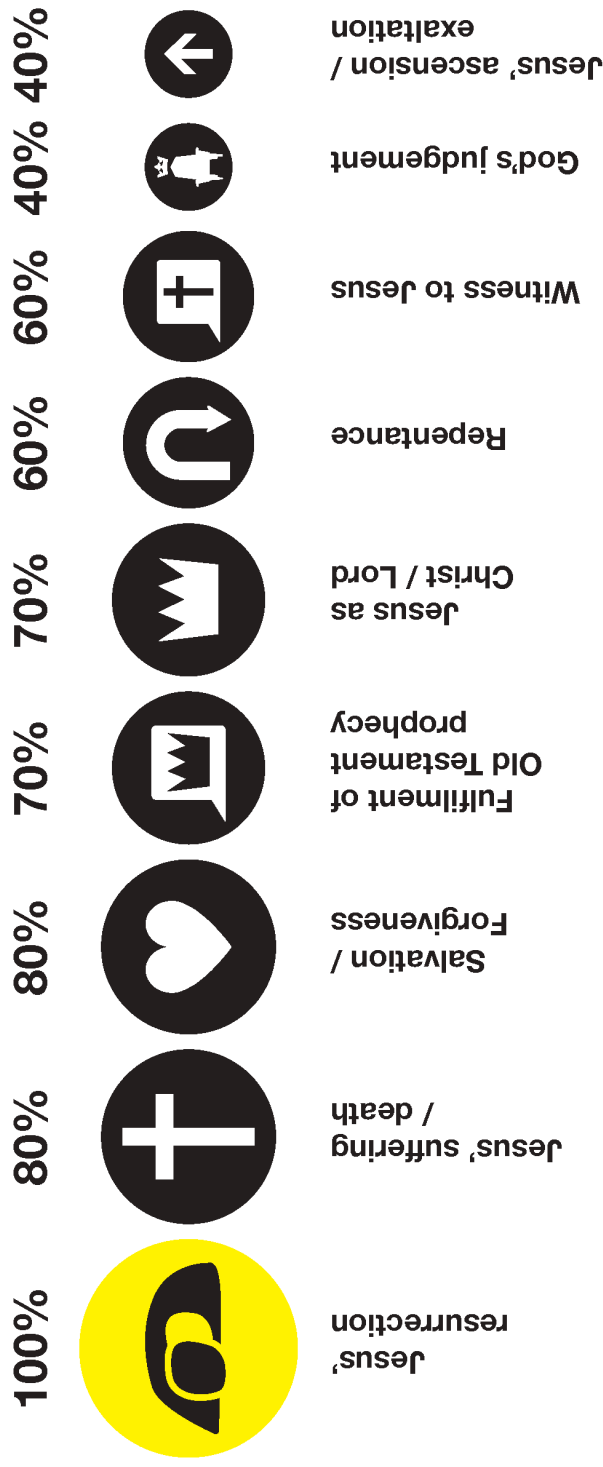


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RESURRECTING THE GOSPEL

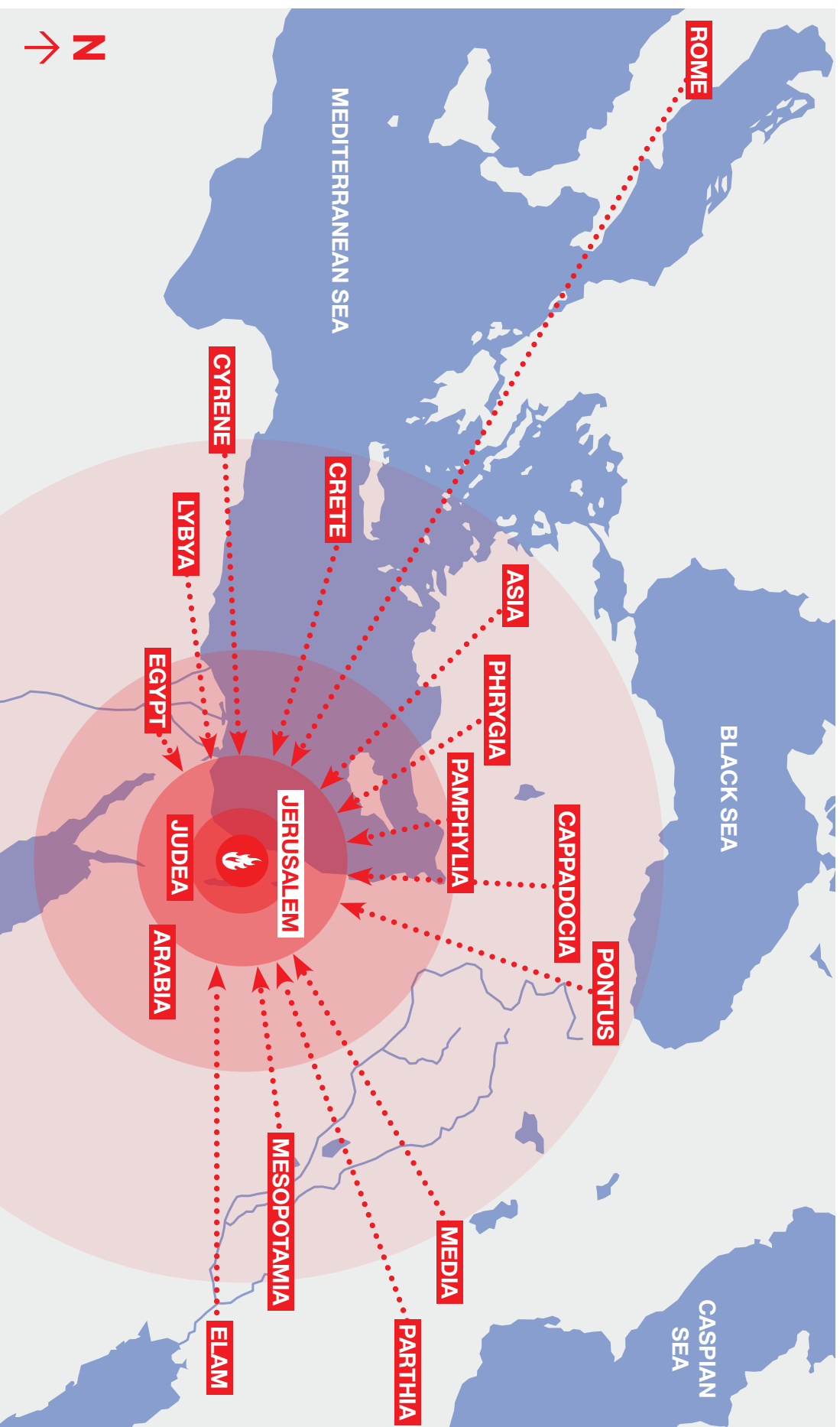
Jesus' resurrection lies at the heart of the apostles' preaching throughout the book of Acts. Although all the themes below are integral to the proclamation of the "good news", the message of the risen Jesus is the single theme that appears in every recorded gospel explanation in the book and is clearly the motivation that drives them to boldly proclaim Jesus "from Jerusalem ... to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). In fact, Paul was renowned for simply "preaching Jesus and the resurrection" (17:18) and was ultimately arrested and put on trial because of his belief in the risen Lord Jesus (23:6; 24:21).

% of appearances in gospel explanations



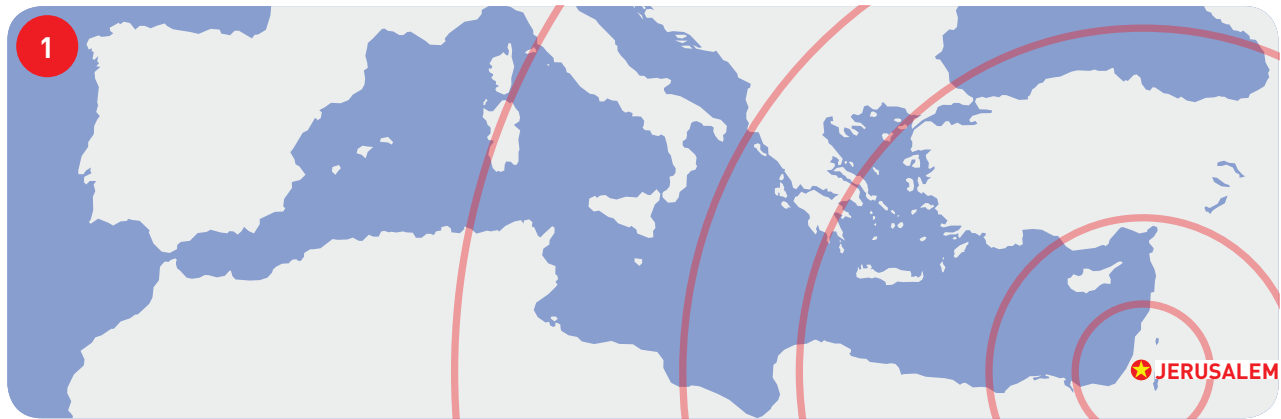
THE NATIONS OF PENTECOST ACTS 2:9-11

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GOSPEL PROGRESS IN ACTS

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1:1 - 6:7

THE GOSPEL STARTS IN JERUSALEM

1:1-26

The risen Lord Jesus promises his gathered disciples that they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on them and they will be his “witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (1:8).

2:1-47

Many Jewish people, gathered from “every nation under heaven” to celebrate Pentecost in Jerusalem, hear the word of God about Jesus. More than 3000 people receive the good news and are baptised as believers (2:41, 47).

3:1 - 4:31

Many of the Jews who heard Peter and John preach the message about Jesus boldly in the temple believe, in total about 5000 men (4:4).

4:32 - 6:7

Despite much persecution, the word of the Lord continues to spread, with multitudes of both men and women in Jerusalem being added to the Lord, including a great number of the priests (5:14; 6:7).



6:8 - 9:31

THE GOSPEL SPREADS TO JUDEA & SAMARIA

6:8 - 7:60

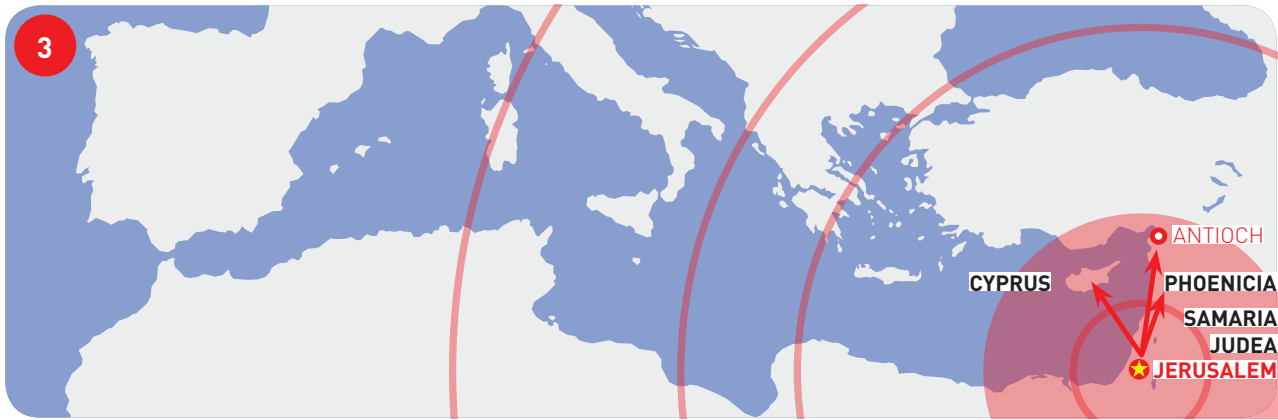
The word continues to be powerfully preached by Stephen, until he is executed by the Jewish leaders.

8:1-40

In God’s sovereignty, the persecution of the church leads to the spread of the gospel throughout Judea and Samaria (8:1), fulfilling the first stage of Jesus’ mission (1:8). Philip preaches in Samaria, with many locals joyfully embracing the word of the Lord, including Simon the Magician (8:6, 12-13, 25). Lastly, Philip sees an Ethiopian eunuch come to faith in Jesus (8:35-38).

9:1-31

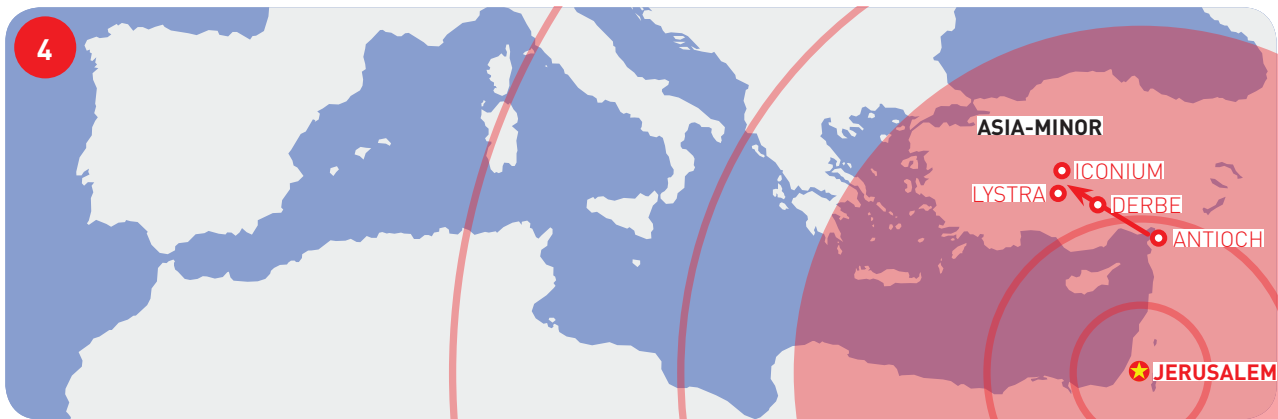
Saul, the great persecutor of the Christian church, comes to faith after being confronted by the risen Lord Jesus (9:17-22) and is commissioned to evangelise “the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel” (9:15). To the shock of the Jews, Saul (now Paul) immediately proclaims Jesus in the synagogues of Damascus (9:20) and the church multiplies, with newfound peace throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria (9:31).



9:32 - 12:24 THE GOSPEL SPREADS TO THE GENTILES

- 9:32 - 11:18** After Aeneas is healed, residents of Lydda and Sharon turn to the Lord (9:35). Likewise, after Tabitha is raised, many in Joppa trust in Jesus (9:42). Finally, to the shock of the Jewish believers, the Holy Spirit converts the Gentile Cornelius and all his household to the message of Jesus (10:44). The doors are now open for the Gentile mission to begin!

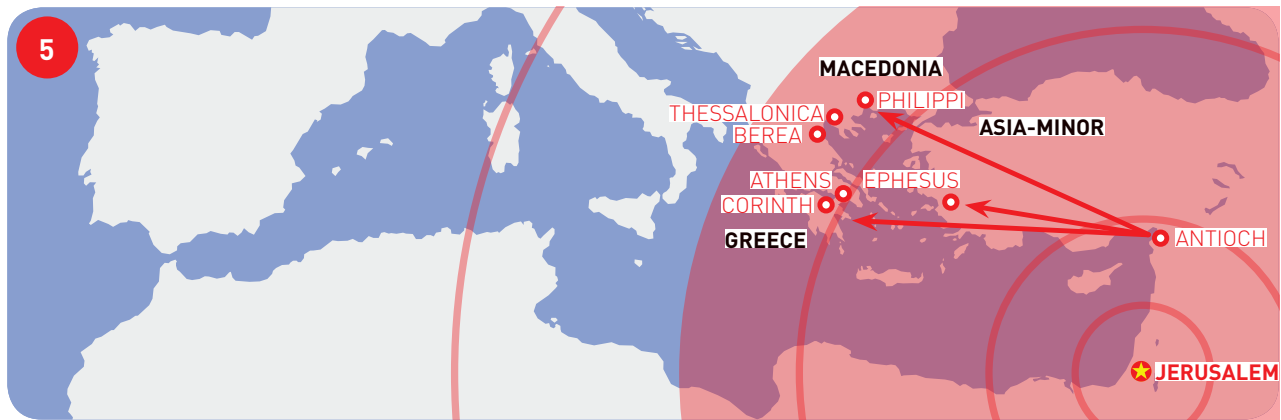
- 11:19 - 12:24** On account of the persecution, the gospel spreads to the Jews as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch. Uniquely, the gospel is preached to the Gentiles as well in Antioch, with many coming to faith in Jesus (11:21-24). The church is fully established through the preaching ministry of Barnabas and Saul (11:26), and Antioch becomes the new base for Paul's three missionary journeys into Asia-minor, Macedonia and Greece. Back in Jerusalem, the word of God continues to spread and flourish, despite the imprisonment of Peter and execution of James (12:24).



12:25 - 16:5 THE GOSPEL SPREADS TO ASIA-MINOR

- 12:25 - 14:28** After being commissioned (13:2-3), Paul and Barnabas sail from Antioch (in Syria) to Cyprus and then onto Pisidia and Galatia, visiting the cities of Antioch, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe. Along the way they face much opposition to their preaching from both Jews and Gentiles, culminating in Paul almost being stoned to death (14:19). Nevertheless, by God's grace, a Roman leader (13:9), and many Gentiles believe and the word of the Lord spreads through the whole region (13:48-49; 14:1, 21, 27).

- 15:1 - 16:5** Despite the call for Gentile believers to be circumcised, the Jerusalem Council sends delegates to the largely Gentile church in Antioch to encourage them in their faith, though urging them to not be a stumbling block to the Jewish believers. Furthermore, though Paul and Barnabas part company, the apostles revisit and strengthen the churches planted on their previous mission together (15:39-40; 16:1), and the number of believers continue to grow (16:5).



16:6 - 21:16 THE GOSPEL SPREADS TO EUROPE

- 16:6 - 17:15** Guided and empowered by the Spirit, Paul and Silas bring the preach the word in Macedonia, namely in the cities of Philippi, Thessalonica and Berea. Despite them being imprisoned, beaten and lynched, many come to faith in Jesus: Lydia and her household (16:14-15), the Philippian jailer and his family (16:30-34), a few Jews, many devout Greeks and several leading women (17:4-5, 12).
- 17:16 - 18:22** Despite Paul being mocked for his belief in the resurrection in Athens, some men and women join him and trust in Jesus (17:34). Likewise in Corinth, despite strong opposition from the Jews, Crispus the ruler of the Synagogue, his whole household and many Corinthians believe the gospel of God and are baptised (18:8).
- 18:23 - 19:41** Paul teaches for two years in Ephesus "so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord" (19:10). After Paul performs extraordinary healings and exorcisms in the name of Jesus, fear falls on the residents, who praise the name of Jesus and many repent of their evil practices. "In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power." (19:20)
- 20:1 - 21:16** Paul travels throughout Macedonia and Greece, encouraging, instructing and farewelling the churches of these regions, as well as the Ephesian elders, on his way to Jerusalem.



21:17 - 28:31 THE GOSPEL ON THE WAY TO ROME

- 21:17 - 23:35** In the face of hostility, arrest, imprisonment and an assassination plot, Paul still manages to preach to all the gathered Jews in Jerusalem, to the Jewish council and to his Roman captors.
- 24:1 - 26:32** Again during his self-defence, Paul explains the message of Jesus to the Roman Governors, Felix and Festus, and Agrippa, King of Judea in fulfilment of Jesus' promise to him (Acts 9:15-16).
- 27:1 - 28:31** Despite being bound on a ship, shipwrecked on Malta and imprisoned in Rome, Paul witnesses to the sailors and soldiers, the Maltese people, and the Jews and Gentiles in Rome. The book of Acts concludes with Paul proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ "boldly and without hindrance" (28:31). From Rome, over many centuries, the word of God continues to spread to 'the ends of the earth'.



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Moms, Let's Talk
Gather Moms



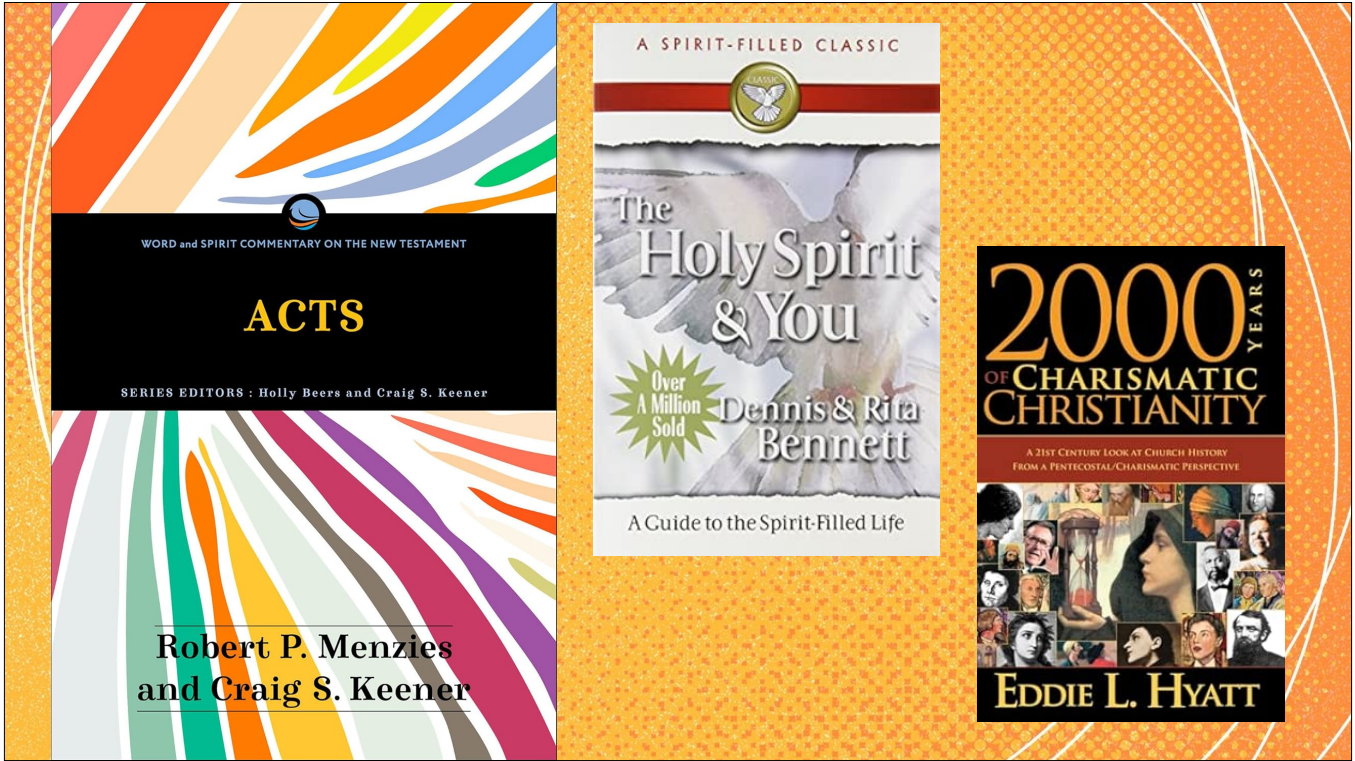
The Book of 2 Corinthians
Rich Villodas



Why Do We Need the Bible?
Lisa Harper



Your Story Has a Villain
Jonathan Pokluda



The Perspectives of Luke and Paul

- Paul tends to focus on the soteriological dimension of the Holy Spirit's work, while Luke portrays the Spirit as the source of power for service. Luke consistently presents the gift of the Spirit as a prophetic enabling that empowers its recipient for participation in the mission of God.
- In Luke's view, the Spirit is the "Spirit of God's redeeming love, active in believers toward others."

Luke as Historian and Theologian

- Most evangelicals believe that Luke, as a historian, wrote Acts to provide the church with its message, not its methods
- The assumption is that the ONLY reason that Luke wrote Acts was to provide a historical account of the beginnings of the church so that subsequent readers might have an accurate account of the Gospel message and be assured of the historical basis of the account
- We also have a tendency to focus on Paul with regards to theology and we often read Luke's language around the Holy Spirit within a Pauline paradise
- Pentecost, then, is reduced to simply being the birthday of the church.
- The other events are reduced to "early church" or the apostolic age. However, Luke writes about the events with the assumption that they would be repeated in the lives of the readers.

4 Themes of Acts

1. Bridging the gap between the Gospels and Paul's letters
2. Tracing the growth of the church
 - Growing numerically (from the number of believers who could fit in one room to many thousands of Christians)
 - Spreading geographically (from Jerusalem to Rome)
 - Expanding missionally (from reaching only Jews to reaching Samaritans, then Gentiles)
 - Growing theologically (from strict adherence to the law of Moses to salvation by grace through faith)
3. Guiding faith and apologetics
4. Emphasizing the Holy Spirit's power for witnessing and service

3 Common Ways to Outline Acts

1. Geographically

- Acts 1-7 Jerusalem
- Acts 8-12 Judea
- Acts 13-28 the whole world

2. By Ministry (Peter, then Paul)

- Acts 1-12 Peter
- Acts 13-28 Paul

3. By Message Preached

NEW TESTAMENT HISTORY FROM ACTS-JUDE

ACTS 2

PENTECOST



ACTS 3 - 7

GOSPEL SPREADS, OPPOSITION GATHERS



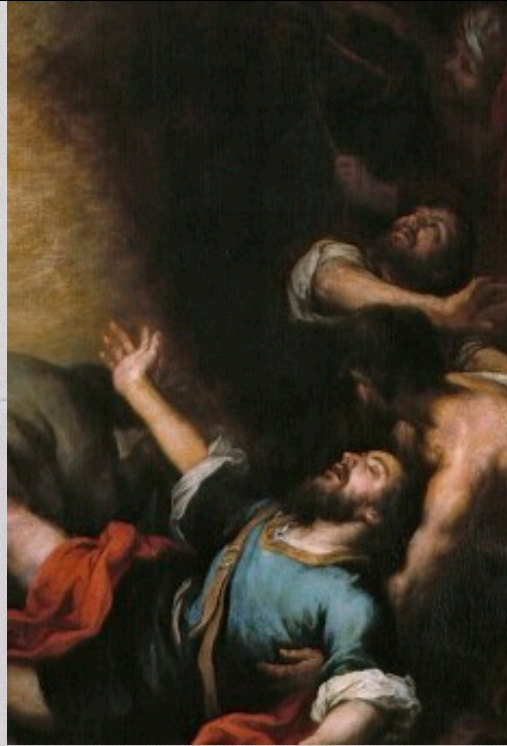
ACTS 8 - 11

KEY FIGURES: PHILIP,
ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH, ANANIAS,
AENEAS, TABITHA, SIMON THE
TANNER, CORNELIUS,
BARNABAS, AGABUS, JAMES
(BROTHER OF JOHN), JOHN,
PETER, AND PAUL



ACTS 9 (33AD)

PAUL'S CONVERSION ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS



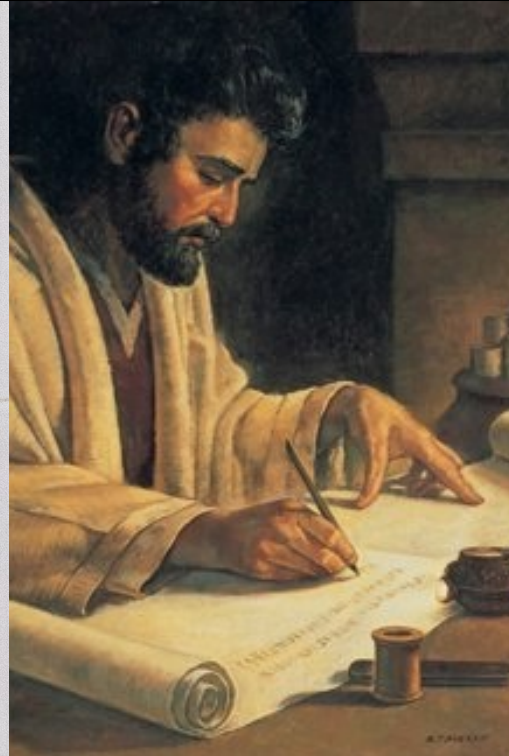
ACTS 12

JAMES (BROTHER OF JOHN) IS KILLED + PETER IS IMPRISONED AND FREED



45AD

JAMES (BROTHER OF JESUS) WRITES HIS LETTER



PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

- Read Acts 13: 1 - 14: 28
- Paul leaves Antioch in about 47AD
- They travel to Cyprus, through Asia Minor, through Galatia (Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe)



48 - 49 AD

PAUL WRITES GALATIANS



JERUSALEM COUNCIL (49/50 AD)

- Read Acts 15:1-21
- Paul, Barnabas, James, Peter, and other leaders meet
- They set the theological record straight — it is a false teaching to say that salvation is through Christ plus works



PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

- Read Acts 15:36 -18:22
- Journey takes about 3 years
- Paul travels from Antioch and visits churches established on 1st missionary journey.
- From Troas, they go into Macedonia — Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, and Corinth
- Paul remains in Corinth 50 - 52AD (see next slide)
- Paul leaves Corinth, visits Ephesus before landing in Caesarea, visits Jerusalem, and returns to Antioch



PAUL WRITES TO THE THESSALONIANS (50AD)

- The church at Thessalonica was founded (17:1 - 9)
- At some point, Paul and Silas had to slip away to Berea
- Trouble also came to a head in Berea so Paul moved south to Athens and the eventually to Corinth (50 - 52AD)
- Paul writes 1 Thessalonians and sends it with Timothy
- A few months later he writes 2 Thessalonians



PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY

- Read Acts 18: 23 - 21: 15
- After Paul's second missionary journey, he returns to his home base in Syria to re-organize and sets back out
- He travels back through previously established churches in Asia Minor before arriving in Ephesus where he stays for 3 years



54 AD

NERO BECOMES
EMPEROR



PAUL WRITES 1 CORINTHIANS (54 - 55 AD)

- Paul is in Ephesus when he writes to the Corinthians
- He promises to visit them to discuss what is going on
 - The congregation was torn apart by quarreling
 - Dissatisfaction with Paul's authority arose



PAUL VISITS CORINTH BUT LEAVES IN DISGUST

SENDS A "SEVERE" LETTER
FROM EPHESUS (NOT EXTANT)



PAUL LEAVES EPHESUS

- A riot forces Paul to leave Ephesus so he returns back through Macedonia and Achaia (northern and southern Greece)
- Paul had moved up to Troas as he received back the news from Titus and the severe second letter to the Corinthians, he writes what we call 2 Corinthians.
- Paul writes Romans in 57AD while in Achaia (Acts 20: 2-3)
- On his way back to Jerusalem, Paul goes north through Macedonia and south through Miletus



PAUL'S FIRST ARREST (57 - 58 AD)

- Read Acts 21: 16 - 26:32
- Paul's is arrested and held in Caesarea
- It is possible that he wrote Hebrews during this time



LATE 50S / EARLY 60S

GOSPELS OF LUKE + MARK ARE WRITTEN



PAUL JOURNEYS TO ROME

- Read Acts 27:1 - 28:31
- In 60AD, Paul journeys to Rome to make his appeal to Nero as a Roman citizen since he did not feel that his imprisonment in Caesarea was going to end justly (Acts 27-28)
 - Here, he writes the Prison Epistles (Acts 28) while under house arrest (from 60-62 AD)
 - At some point, he realizes he will be released (likely never even saw Nero) — “I trust in the Lord that I myself also [as well as Timothy] shall come shortly” (Phil. 2:24)



JUDE IS WRITTEN
(60 - 65 AD)

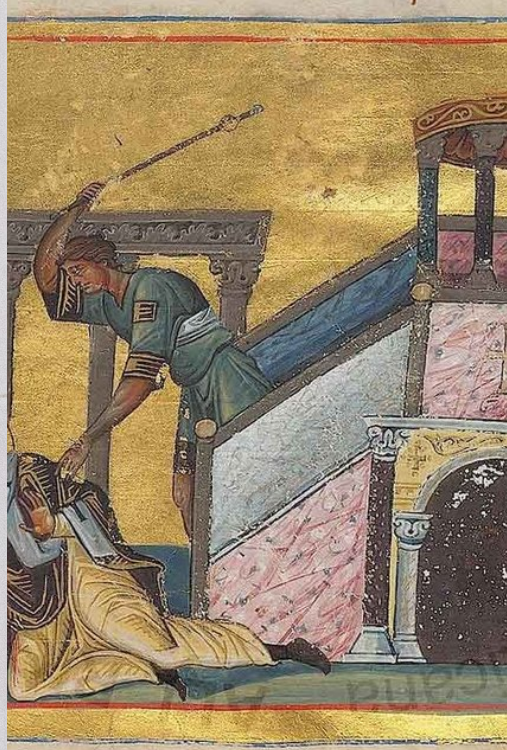


PETER WRITES 1+
2 PETER FROM
ROME (60 - 67 AD)



62 AD

JAMES IS MARTYRED // GOSPEL OF LUKE IS WRITTEN



PAUL IS ACQUITTED

- After his acquittal, we think he may have undergone a 4th missionary journey to Spain and Gaul
- We don't learn of the outcome of his 1st imprisonment in Acts but from the Pastoral Epistles themselves
- Likely wrote 1 Timothy, Titus, and possibly Hebrews during this time



EARLY 60S

LUKE WRITES THE BOOK OF ACTS



64 AD

GREAT FIRE IN ROME

CHRISTIANS WERE BLAMED —
STARTED THE FIRST PERSECUTION
AGAINST CHRISTIANS



PAUL'S SECOND ARREST (66AD)

- Paul is arrested in Troas
- “When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments (2 Tim 4:13)— he was likely taken prisoner in Troas
- We are told this imprisonment is much more difficult
- Paul writes 2 Timothy



PAUL + PETER ARE MARTYRED IN ROME

- 64 - 67 AD Peter is martyred
 - traditionally described as a crucifixion (possibly head down) after the destruction of Rome by fire.
 - 64 AD would have been the 10 year anniversary of Nero taking the throne which was often commemorated with widespread bloodshed.
 - Combined with the desire to persecute Christians, Roman authorities sentenced Peter to death.
- 67 AD Paul is martyred

The Deaths of Peter and Paul

The Roman Tertullian is likewise a witness of this. He writes as follows: “Examine your records. There you will find that Nero was the first that persecuted this doctrine, particularly then when after subduing all the east, he exercised his cruelty against all at Rome. We glory in having such a man the leader in our punishment. For whoever knows him can understand that nothing was condemned by Nero unless it was something of great excellence.”

Thus publicly announcing himself as the first among God's chief enemies, he was led on to the slaughter of the apostles. It is, therefore, recorded that Paul was beheaded in Rome itself, and that Peter likewise was crucified under Nero. This account of Peter and Paul is substantiated by the fact that their names are preserved in the cemeteries of that place even to the present day.

—Eusebius, *H.E.* 3.25.4–5 (*NPNF*² 1:156–57); ca. AD 265–339

68 AD

MARK EXECUTED

PAGANS IN ALEXANDRIA PLACED A ROPE
AROUND HIS NECK AND DRAGGED HIM
THROUGH THE STREETS UNTIL HE WAS DEAD



JERUSALEM IS DESTROYED (70 AD)

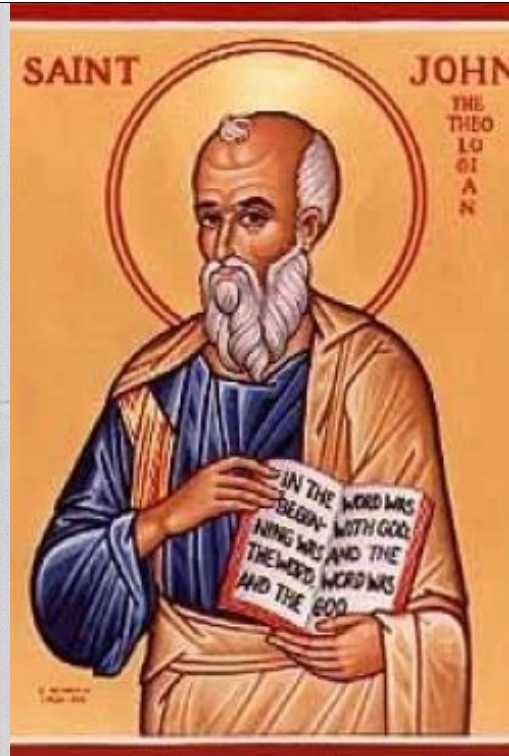
- In 66 AD, the Jews rebel against Roman rule in Judea and expel the Romans from Jerusalem
- Nero sends Vespasian and Titus to crush the rebellion
- Jerusalem falls in August 70 AD, the temple is burned, and the Jewish state collapses



70 - 95 AD (LIKELY LATER DATE
CLOSER TO THE END OF HIS LIFE)

JOHN WRITES 1 - 3 JOHN

WRITTEN FROM EPHESUS



MID- 70S

MATTHEW DIES

THE TAX COLLECTOR AND WRITER OF A GOSPEL MINISTERED IN PERSIA AND ETHIOPIA. SOME OF THE OLDEST REPORTS SAY HE WAS NOT MARTYRED, WHILE OTHERS SAY HE WAS STABBED TO DEATH IN ETHIOPIA



84AD

LUKE DIES

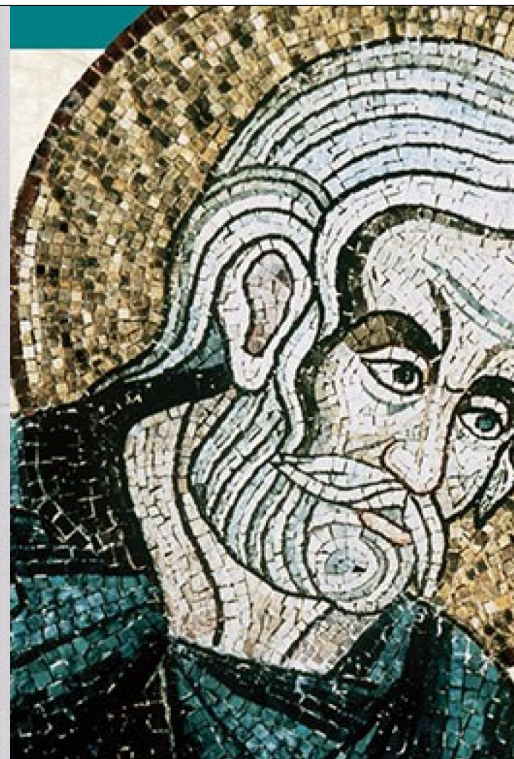
BASED ON TRADITION, NOT
KNOWN FOR SURE



90S

JOHN WRITES GOSPEL OF JOHN

WRITTEN FROM EPHESUS



LATE 90S

JOHN WRITES REVELATION

WRITTEN FROM PATMOS
DURING THE PERSECUTIONS
OF THE EMPEROR DOMITIAN



98 AD

THE APOSTLE JOHN DIES



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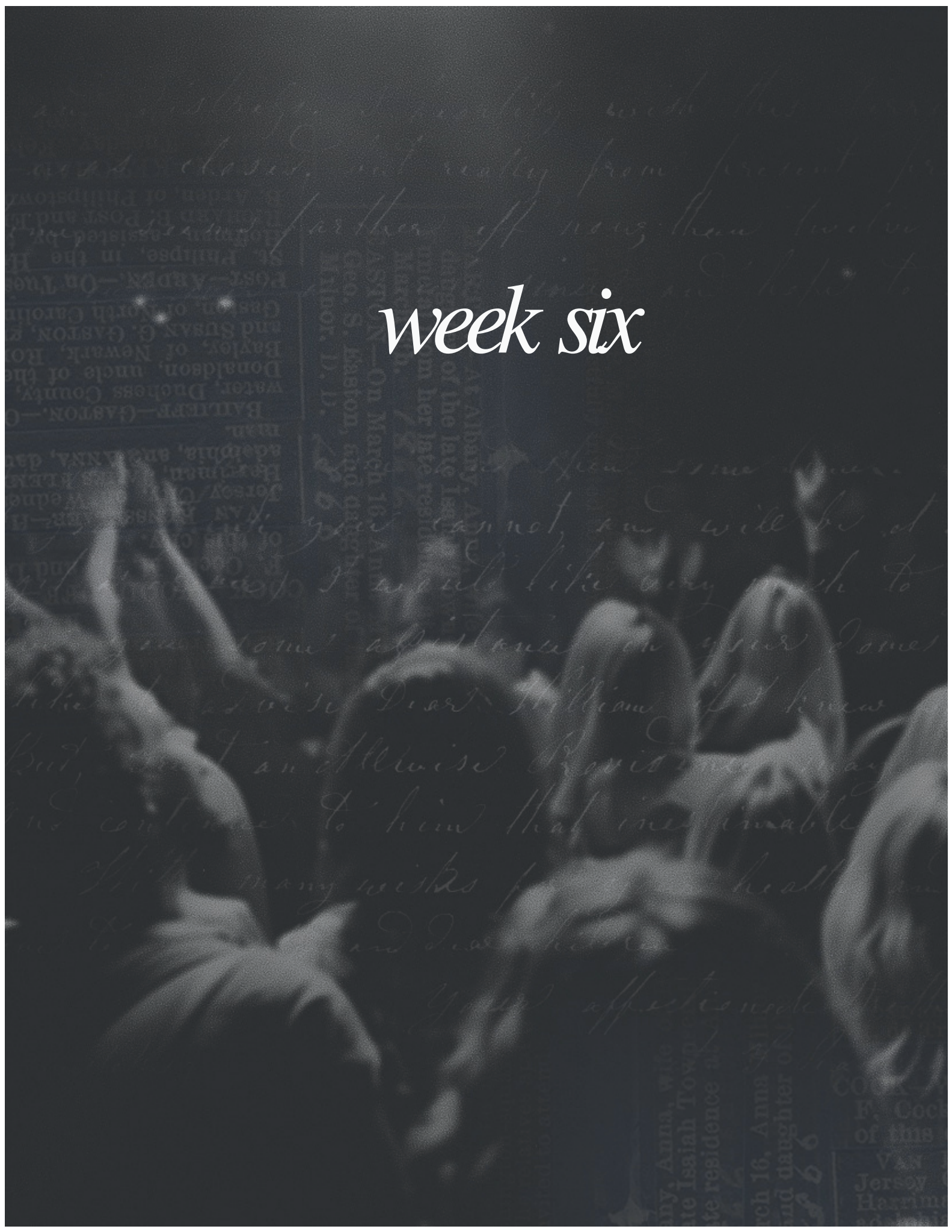
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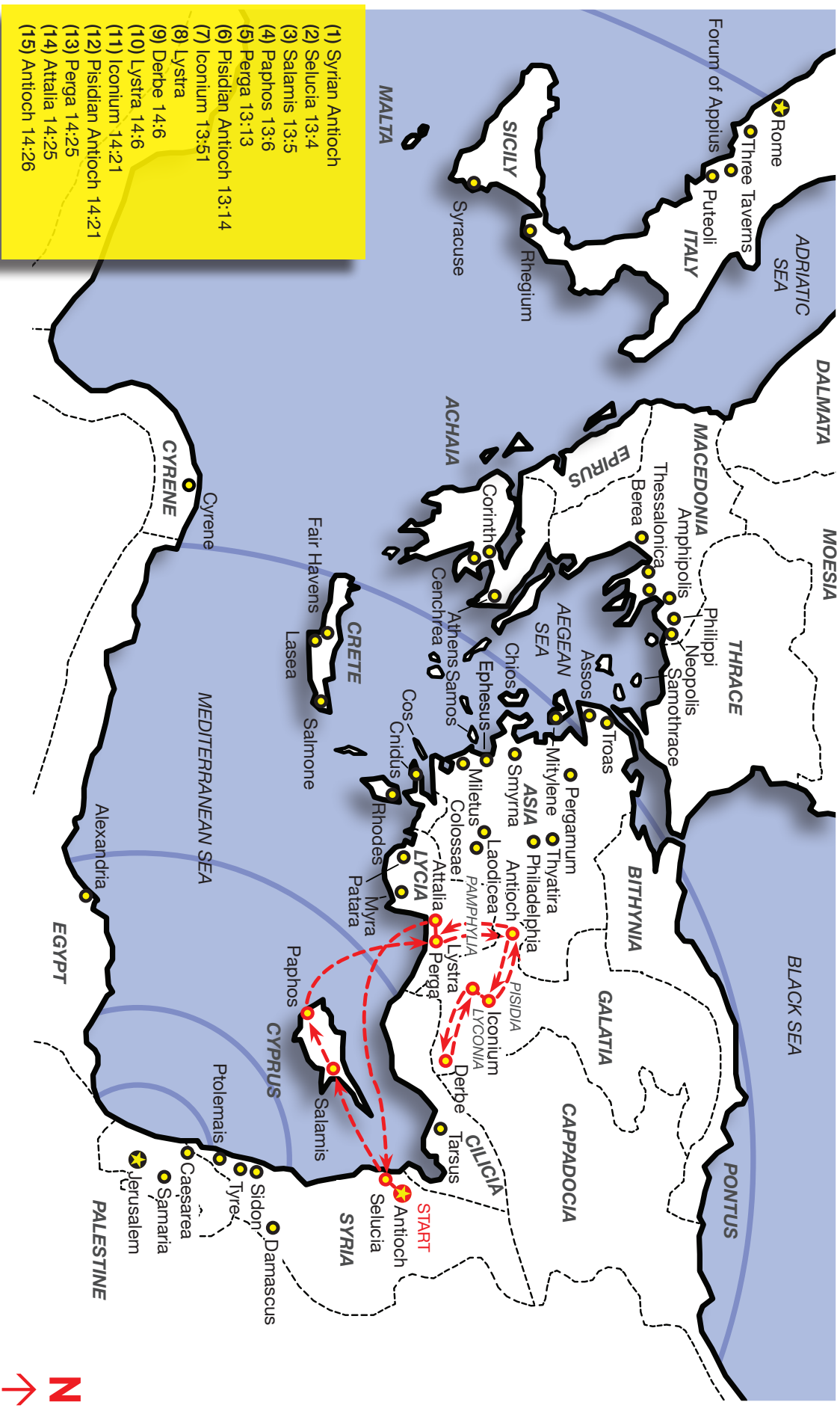
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week seven



PAUL'S FIRST MISSION ACTS 13:4 - 14:28 AD 46-48

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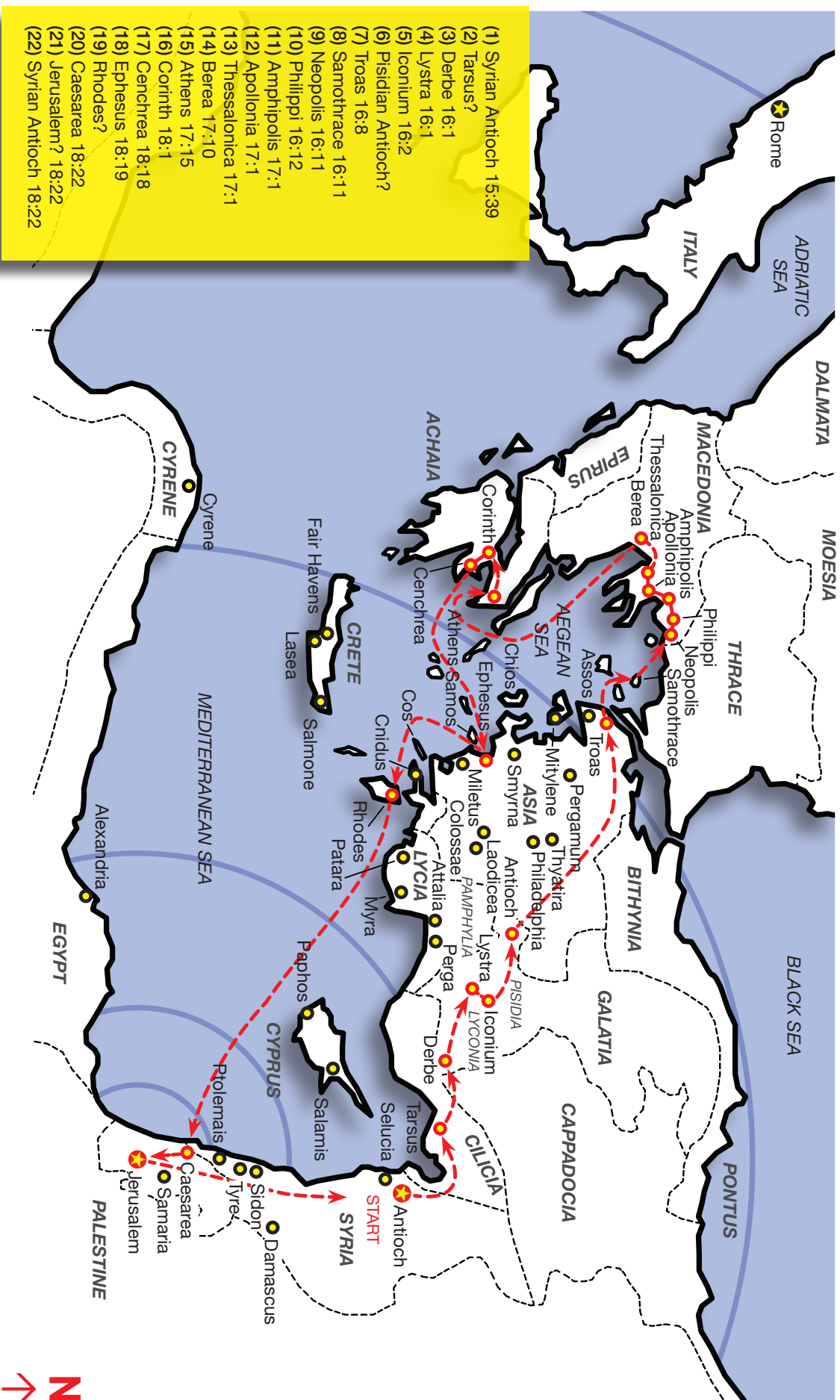


- (1) Syrian Antioch
- (2) Selucia 13:4
- (3) Salamis 13:5
- (4) Paphos 13:6
- (5) Perga 13:13
- (6) Pisidian Antioch 13:14
- (7) Iconium 13:51
- (8) Lystra
- (9) Derbe 14:6
- (10) Lystra 14:6
- (11) Iconium 14:21
- (12) Pisidian Antioch 14:21
- (13) Perga 14:25
- (14) Attalia 14:25
- (15) Antioch 14:26



PAUL'S SECOND MISSION ACTS 15:39 - 18:22 AD 49-52

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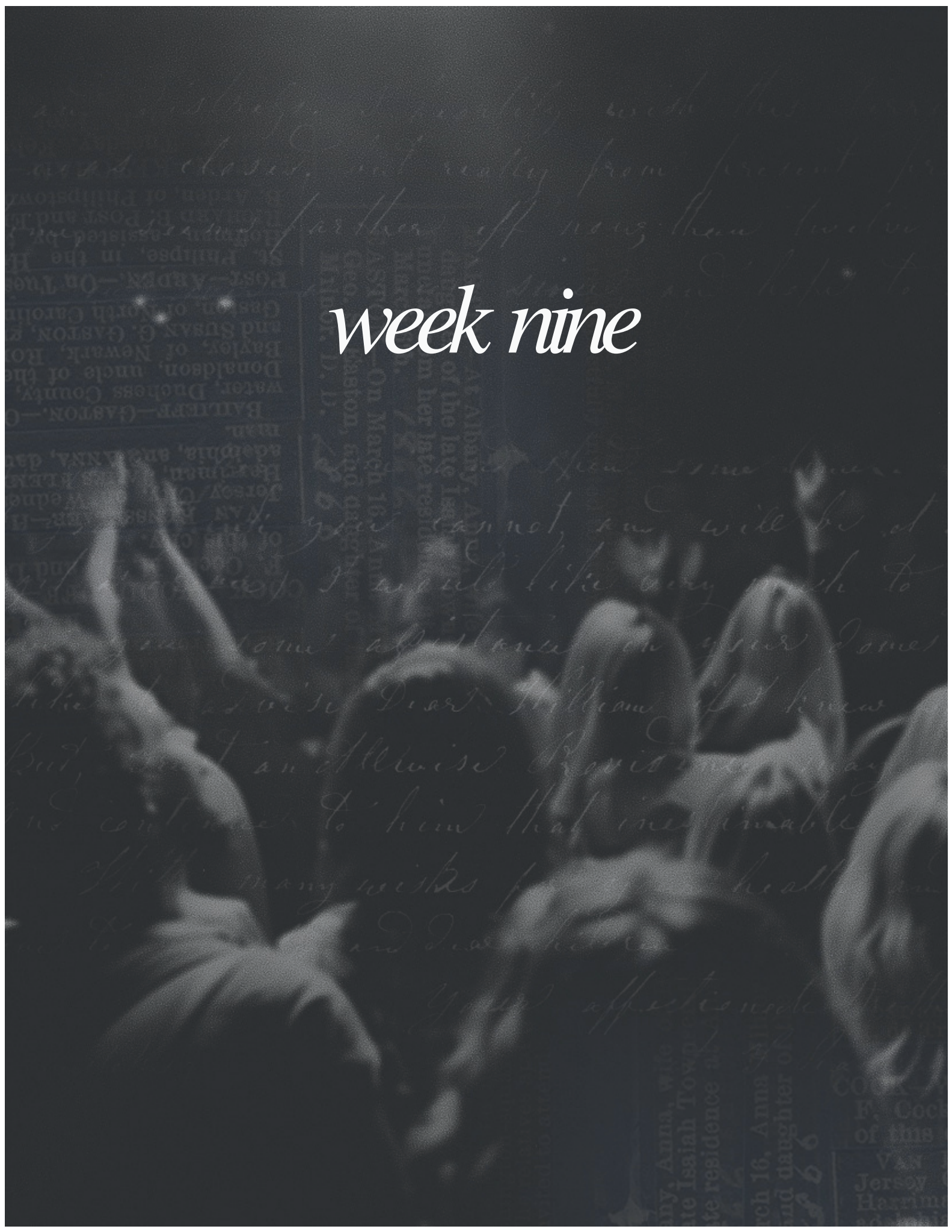
- (1) Syrian Antioch 15:39
- (2) Tarsus?
- (3) Derbe 16:1
- (4) Lystra 16:1
- (5) Iconium 16:2
- (6) Pisidian Antioch?
- (7) Troas 16:8
- (8) Samothrace 16:11
- (9) Neopolis 16:11
- (10) Philippi 16:12
- (11) Amphipolis 17:1
- (12) Apollonia 17:1
- (13) Thessalonica 17:1
- (14) Berea 17:10
- (15) Athens 17:15
- (16) Corinth 18:1
- (17) Cenchrea 18:18
- (18) Ephesus 18:19
- (19) Rhodes?
- (20) Caesarea 18:22
- (21) Jerusalem? 18:22
- (22) Syrian Antioch 18:22



week eight

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