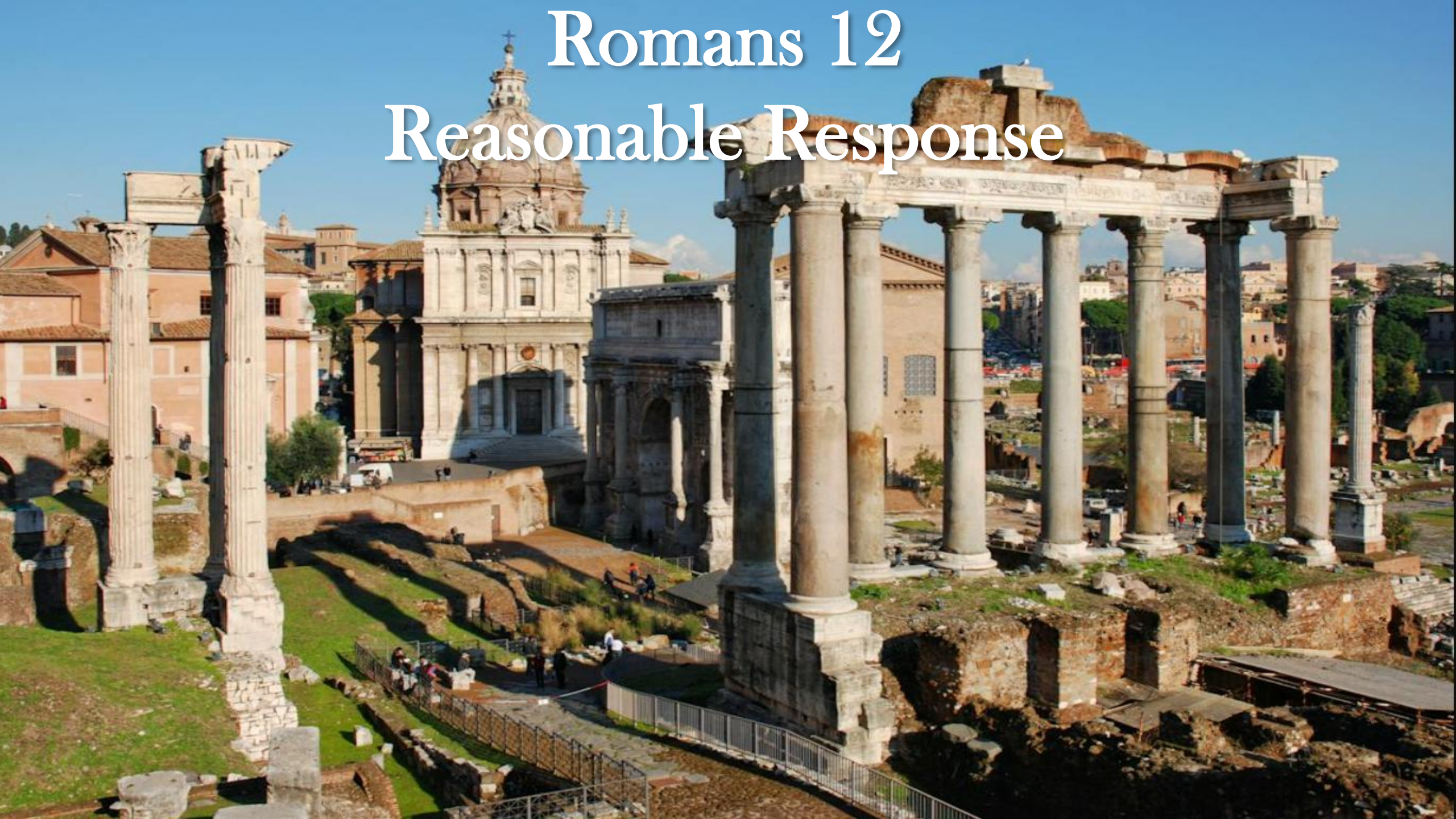
# Romans 12
# Reasonable Response





# The Heart Must Be First

*He that hath an impenitent heart, an unrenewed will, a disobedient mind, an unholy life, may perform outward acts of devotion, but the Lord saith, to such— "Who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts? Bring no more vain oblations unto me."*

*C.H. Spurgeon*

# Opening Questions

- What is the proper response to the gospel truth?
- How should we treat our bodies?
- What does it mean to be fervent in spirit?
- How are we commanded to treat those that wrong us?

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.



**Q: (v1) What's the "therefore" there for?**

- Could be v36 from previous chapter - "For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen."
- Or could be a refrain from the several previous chapters

**Q: (v1) What is the application?**

- All things are done for God's glory
- The only answer to the previous truths is to offer what we are able to God, our bodies as a "living" sacrifice

**Q: (v1) What are some "mercies of God" Paul is referring to?**

- These are the truths spoken of by Paul in the preceding chapters
- God's love(1:7; cf. 5:5; 8:35, 39)
- God's grace (1:6, 7; 3:24; 5:2, 20, 21; 6:15)
- God's righteousness (1:17; 3:21, 22; 4:5, 6, 22–24; 5:17, 19)
- God's gift of faith (1:5, 17; 3:22, 26; 4:5, 13; 5:1; 10:17; 12:3

**Q: (v1) Why is the living sacrifice of our bodies the only holy, acceptable, reasonable (means logical in Greek) service?**

- Jewish sacrifices aren't affective after the sacrifice of Jesus
- Completely yielding our full selves and bodies to God is our highest form of service, not for atonement but as acceptable to Him

**Q: (v2) What does it mean to be "conformed to the world?"**

- Conformance doesn't reflect the internal truth; Saints are not to blend in, or go along with the world instead of our internal truths

**Q: (v2) What does it mean to be "transformed?"**

- This is the metamorphosis spoken about in earlier chapters

**Q: (v2) How are we transformed?"**

- Renewing our minds means re-training our minds to think from the perspective of and surrender to God

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.



**Q: (v3) How do we act soberly?**

- Understanding the truth of who we really are in relation to our holy God
- Strive to eliminate pride, arrogance, or high opinions of our selves

**Q: (v3) What is a "measure of faith?"**

- This is confidence or power to perform our God given work

**Q: (v4-6) Do we all have the same function in the body of Christ?**

- No, we have each been given specific skills, power to perform (by God) and opportunities

**Q: (v8) What is exhortation?**

- Encouragement, comfort, care

**Q: Is there anyone in the body of Christ that does not have a gift?**

- We all have gifts and should be using them, as a living sacrifice (v1)

9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to
what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with
brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;
11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the
Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing
steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the
saints, given to hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those
who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do
not set your mind on high things, but associate with the
humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in
the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends
on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not
avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is
written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.
20 Therefore

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

If he is thirsty, give him a drink;

For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with
good..



**Q: What are characteristics of the Spirit-filled Christian?**

- Open discussion

**Q: (v11) What is "fervent in spirit?"**

- Serving enthusiastically, without complaint. Literally to "boil" in the spirit

**Q: (v12) Why does the Christian rejoice in hope?**

- Once we understand the truth, Who God is, who we are in Him, what His promises are to us, we long for His return and to be united with Him

**Q: (v14) Do we bless those who persecute us in the US?**

- Open discussion

**Q: (v) Why are we to not respond to evil with evil? How about an eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth?**

- That standard (Deut 19:21) was designed as a collective community standard, to prevent excessive punishment
- Repayment is God's place

**Q: (v20) What does it mean to heap coals of fire on a person's head?**

- Egyptian custom to carry a pan of coals on your head when you were feeling shame and guilt
- By treating an un-deserving person with love and kindness, they will naturally feel guilt and drive them to God

# Next Up

Romans 13 –



# Unaccepted Sacrifices

Hosea 8:13 - For the sacrifices of My offerings they sacrifice flesh and eat it, But the LORD does not accept them. Now He will remember their iniquity and punish their sins. They shall return to Egypt.

Hebrews 11:4 - By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous.

Psalm 40:6–8 - Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. 7 Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. 8 I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart."







# The Believers Future

- We will be transformed into the image of Christ
- We will know God personally face to face, like Adam
- We will have eternal life
- We will live on the new heaven and the new earth in glorified bodies
- We will reign and rule with God forever
- We will worship and be intimately wed to God forever!



## Romans Theme

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.  For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.” – Rom 1:16-17

# The Christian's Riches

1 Corinthians/ 2: Isa 64/65 - Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered the heart of man, The things which God has prepared for those who love Him

John 3:16 – Life that will never end

John 4:14 – A spring of spiritual water that will never dry up

John 6: 37, 39 – A gift that will never be lost

Romans 8: 39 – a love from which he can never be separated

Romans 11: 29 – a calling that will never be revoked

2 Timothy 2: 19 – a foundation that will never be destroyed

1 Peter 1: 4– 5 – An inheritance that will never diminish

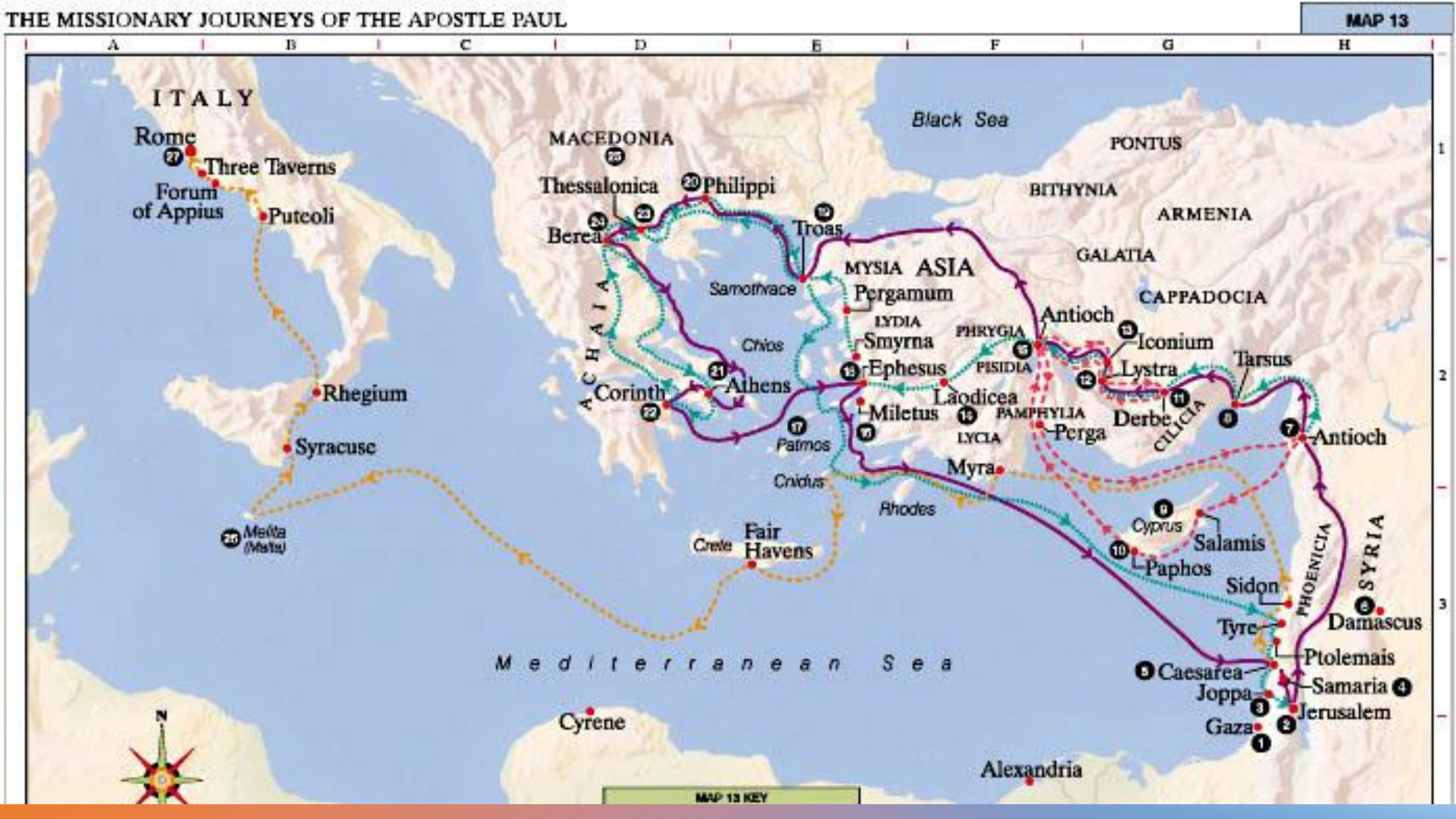


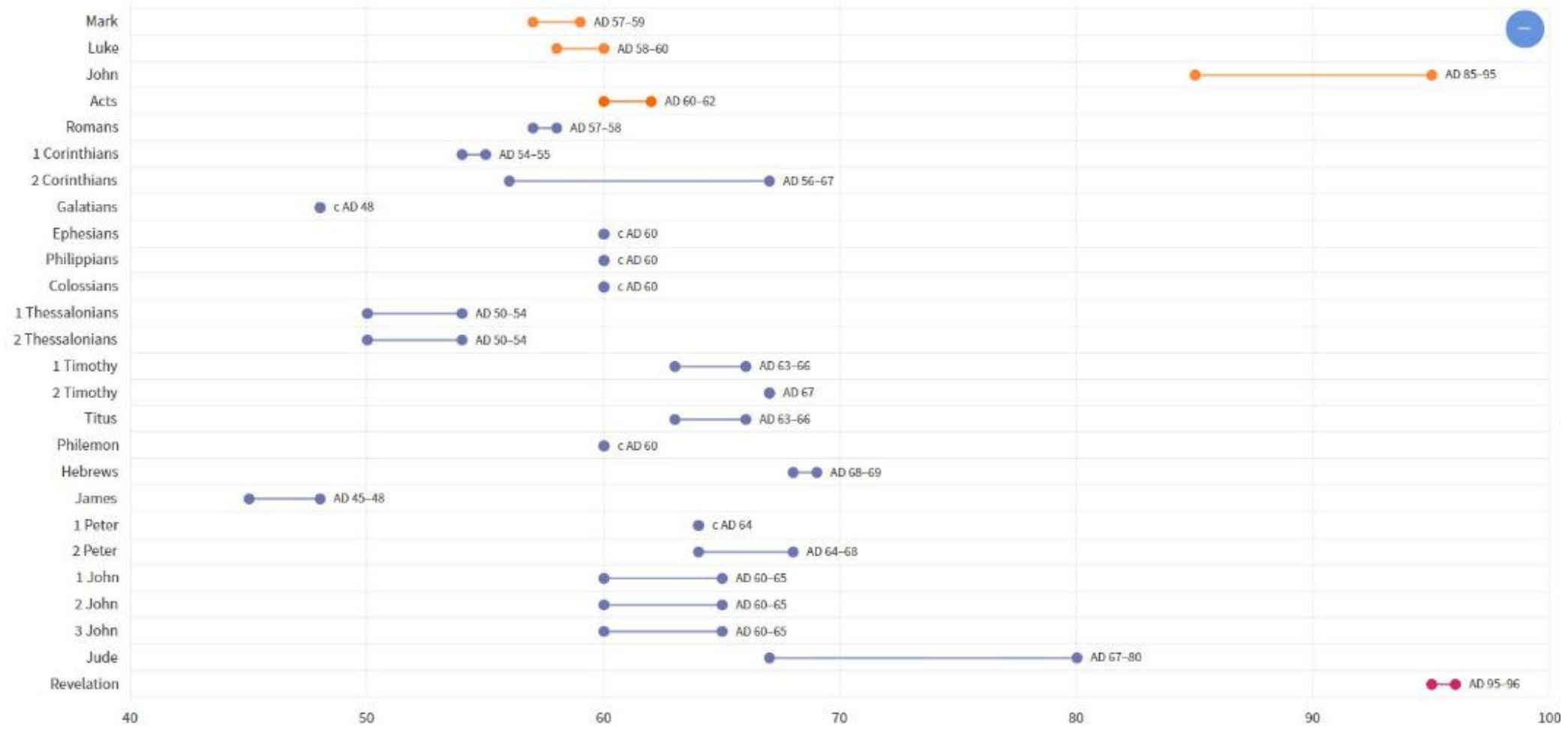
## Co-writer – Apostle Paul

- Born as Saul in Tarsus (on the southern coast of modern-day Turkey). Likely borne about the same time as Jesus.
- Schooled as a Pharisee under the Jerusalem religious famous Gamaliel.
- Became a traveling missionary and preacher for the early church; renamed Paul.
- Worked as an artisan who made tents – maybe subcomponents
- Was imprisoned multiple times by the Roman authorities for his religious agitation.
- Believed to have co-written 6 letters to the churches.
- Died sometime between AD 62–64; Paul, believed to be in Rome.

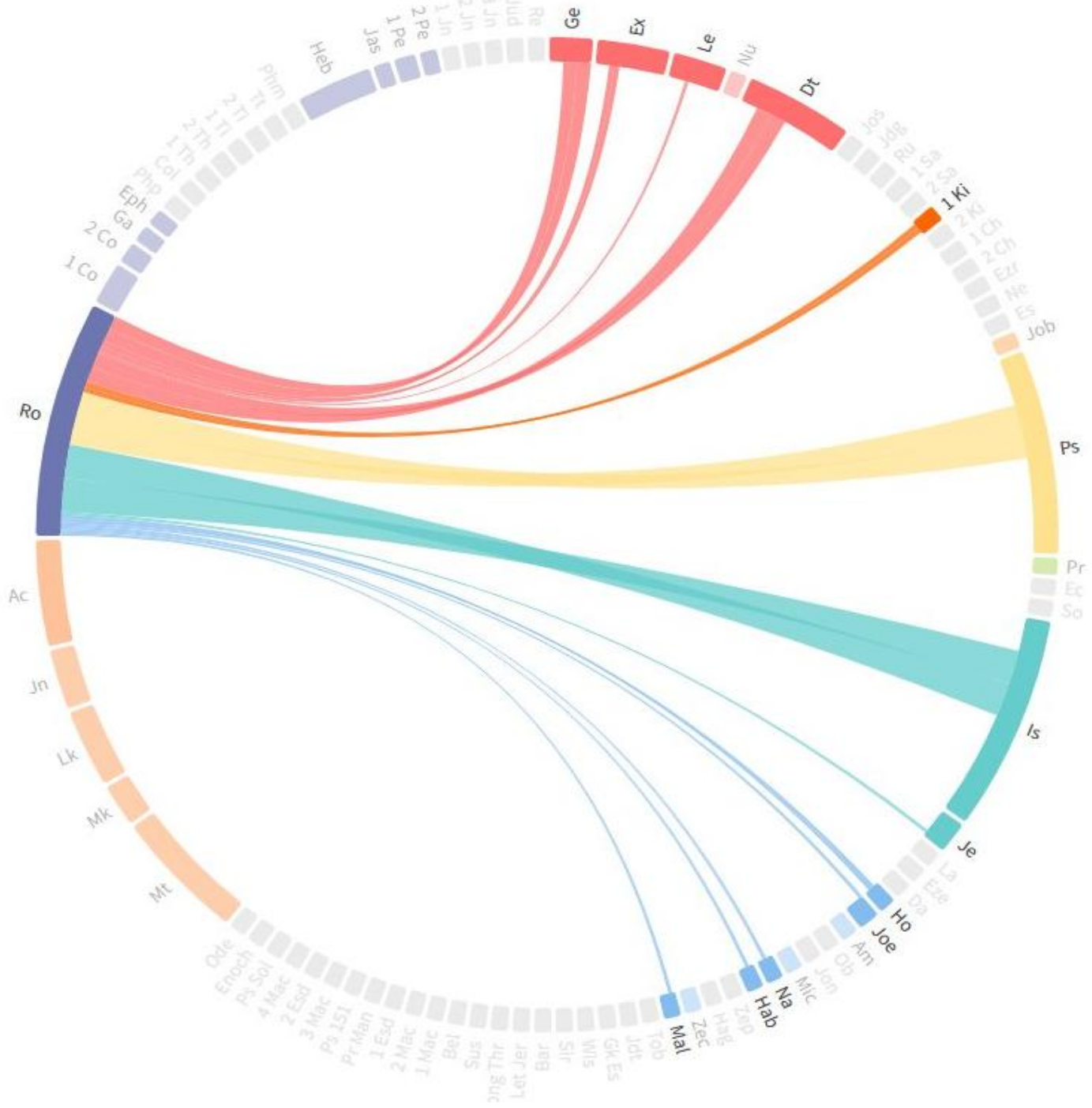


- **AD 33 Damascus – Direct conversion**
- **AD 33-36 Arabia – Receiving direct revelation from the Lord (Gal 1)**
- **3 missionary journeys to Asia minor**
- **AD 56 Wrote Romans on 3rd journey in Corinth**

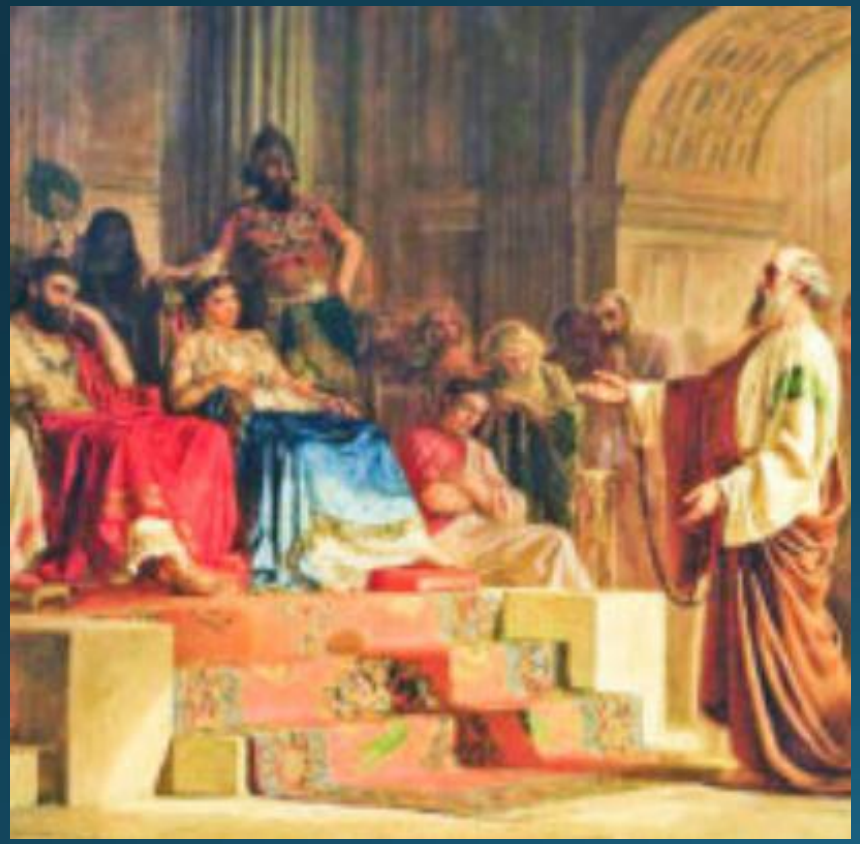

THE MISSIONARY JOURNEYS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL
MAP 13
A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
1
2
3
ITALY
Rome
Three Taverns
Forum of Appius
Puteoli
Rhegium
Syracuse
Melita (Malta)
MACEDONIA
Thessalonica
Philippi
Berea
Troas
Samothrace
ACHAIA
Corinth
Athens
Chios
Patmos
Crete
Fair Havens
Cnidus
Rhodes
Myra
Black Sea
PONTUS
BITHYNIA
ARMENIA
GALATIA
MYSIA
ASIA
Pergamum
LYDIA
Smyrna
Ephesus
Miletus
Laodicea
PHRYGIA
PISIDIA
LYCIA
PAMPHYLIA
Perga
CAPPADOCIA
Antioch
Iconium
Lystra
Derbe
Tarsus
CILICIA
Antioch
Cyprus
Salamis
Paphos
PHOENICIA
SYRIA
Damascus
Sidon
Tyre
Ptolemais
Caesarea
Joppa
Samaria
Jerusalem
Gaza
Mediterranean Sea
Cyrene
Alexandria
N
MAP 13 KEY


Mark
Luke
John
Acts
Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude
Revelation
AD 57–59
AD 58–60
AD 85–95
AD 60–62
AD 57–58
AD 54–55
AD 56–67
c AD 48
c AD 60
c AD 60
c AD 60
AD 50–54
AD 50–54
AD 63–66
AD 67
AD 63–66
c AD 60
AD 68–69
AD 45–48
c AD 64
AD 64–68
AD 60–65
AD 60–65
AD 60–65
AD 67–80
AD 95–96
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- **Romans ties to other books of the bible**



# Paul's Testimony to Agrippa – Acts 26



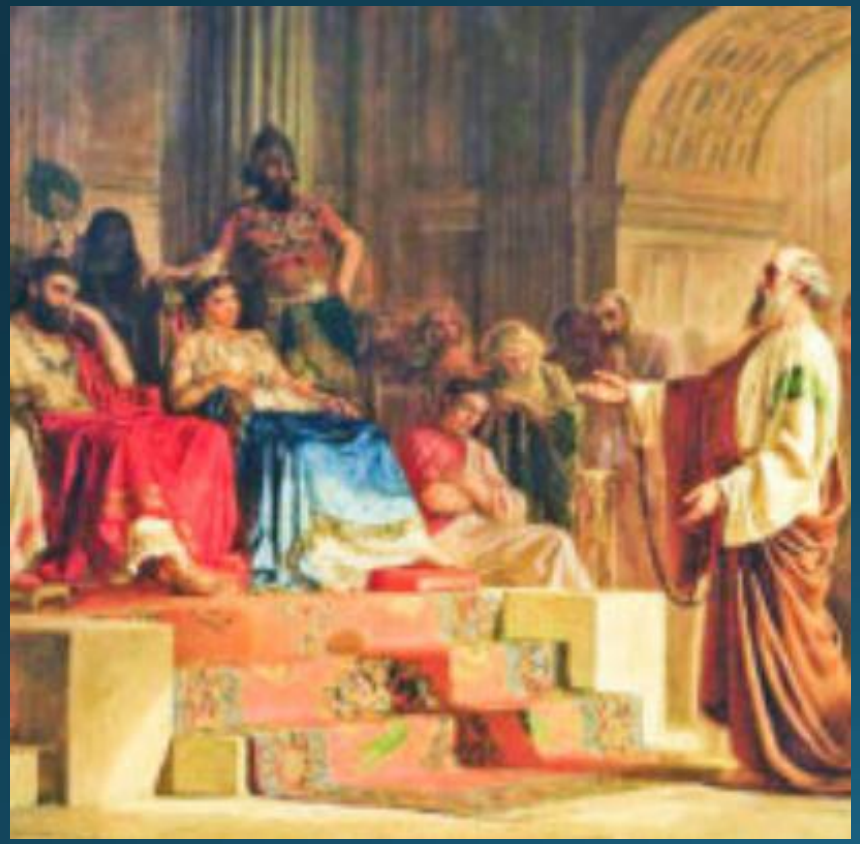
1. Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You are permitted to speak for yourself."

So Paul stretched out his hand and answered for himself: 2 "I think myself happy, King Agrippa, because today I shall answer for myself before you concerning all the things of which I am accused by the Jews, 3 especially because you are expert in all customs and questions which have to do with the Jews. Therefore I beg you to hear me patiently.

4 "My manner of life from my youth, which was spent from the beginning among my own nation at Jerusalem, all the Jews know. 5 They knew me from the first, if they were willing to testify, that according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee. 6 And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers. 7 To this promise our twelve tribes, earnestly serving God night and day, hope to attain. For this hope's sake, King Agrippa, I am accused by the Jews. 8 Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead?

9 "Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. 11 And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

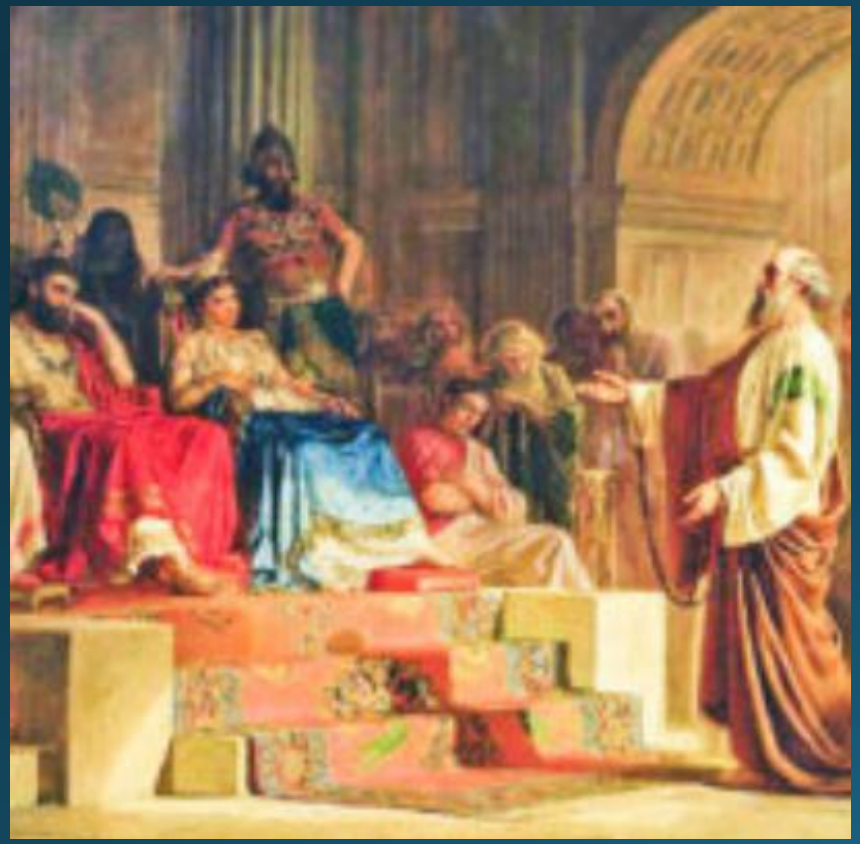
# Paul's Testimony to Agrippa – Acts 26



12 "While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and
commission from the chief priests, 13 at midday, O king, along the road I saw
a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who
journeyed with me. 14 And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a
voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are
you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' 15 So I said,
'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.
16 But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose,
to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen
and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. 17 I will deliver you from the
Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, 18 to
open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the
power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an
inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

19 "Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,
20 but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout
all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn
to God, and do works befitting repentance. 21 For these reasons the Jews
seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. 22 Therefore, having obtained
help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying
no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come—
23 that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the
dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles."

# Paul's Testimony to Agrippa – Acts 26



24 Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!"

25 But he said, "I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason. 26 For the king, before whom I also speak freely, knows these things; for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention, since this thing was not done in a corner. 27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe."

28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."

29 And Paul said, "I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains."

30 When he had said these things, the king stood up, as well as the governor and Bernice and those who sat with them; 31 and when they had gone aside, they talked among themselves, saying, "This man is doing nothing deserving of death or chains."

32 Then Agrippa said to Festus, "This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."

# The Depravity of Man – The Bad News

Self-will and self satisfaction reign in mans heart

This produces guilt, masked with even more self-seeking

This produces meaninglessness, as nothing truly satisfies

This produces hopelessness, we sense the supernatural promise of life after death and the consequences of it