

Philippians Series

Lesson #065

February 22, 2024

Dean Bible Ministries

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Saul to Paul

Philippians 3:4–6



Php. 1:27, “Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, [NKJV]

Php. 1:28, “and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.”

In ch. 3 the focus is on standing firm against error.

Two sources:

- 1. The Judaizers: added human works to justification and/or spiritual growth (sanctification).**

Php. 3:4, “though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:”

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***πείθω* *peithō* perfect tense act part masc plur
nom “to persuade; believe; trust; have
confidence”**

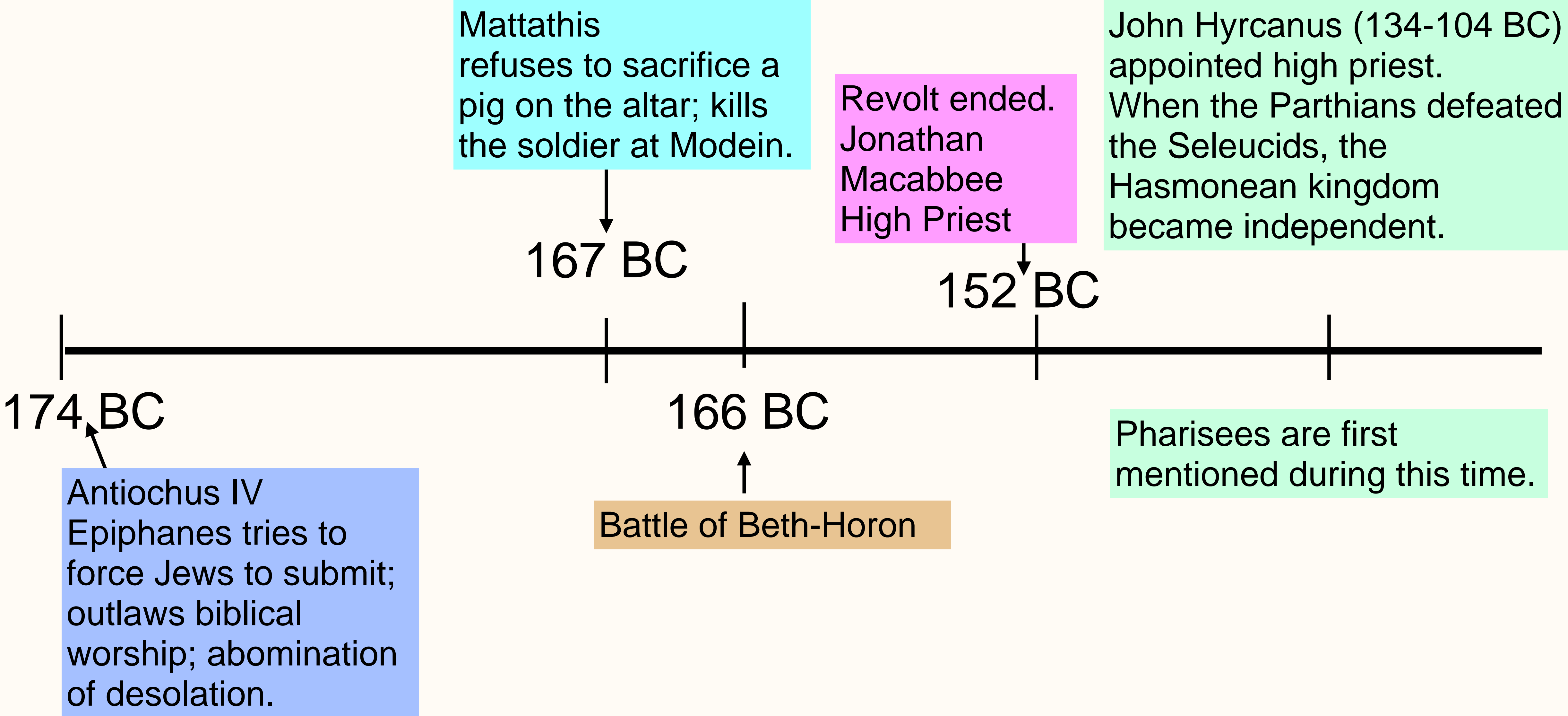
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Php. 3:5, “circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;”

Chronology of the Maccabean Revolt (167–160)



**Php. 3:6, “concerning zeal, persecuting the church;
concerning the righteousness which is in the law,
blameless.”**

What the Bible Teaches About

Saul of Tarsus, Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles



Acts 8:1, “Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Acts 8:2, “And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.

Acts 8:3, “As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.”

1 Cor. 15:8, “Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

1 Cor. 15:9, “For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.”

Gal. 1:13, “For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.”

Gal. 1:14, “And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.”

Gal. 1:15, “But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace,

Gal. 1:16, “to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,”

Php. 3:6, “concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.”

1 Tim. 1:13, “although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.”

Php. 3:5, “circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;

Php. 3:6, “concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.”

Gal. 1:13, “For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.”

Acts 22:3, “I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers’ law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today.

Acts 22:4, “I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women,

Acts 22:5, “as also the high priest bears me witness, and all the council of the elders, from whom I also received letters to the brethren, and went to Damascus to bring in chains even those who were there to Jerusalem to be punished.”

Paul's Early Life

Born between AD 5 and 15

Came to Jerusalem to study under Gamaliel AD 19 or 29

Pentecost

Fri. Apr. 3, 33

The stoning of Stephen

Apr. 35

Paul's conversion to Christianity

Summer 35

Paul's silent years

35–43

Paul's trip to Antioch

43

Epistle of James written

45

Matthew written

mid 40s

“It has indeed been thought that an unnamed pupil of Gamaliel who manifested ‘impudence in matters of learning’ and tried to refute his master was no other than Paul. If this is so (and it is quite uncertain), then the tradition reflects disapproval of Paul’s later departure from the rabbinical path; it preserves no reminiscence of Paul’s actual behavior while he sat at Gamaliel’s feet. But in one respect Paul did deviate from his master’s example: he repudiated the idea that a temporizing policy was the proper one to adopt towards the disciples of Jesus.”

~J. Klausner, *From Jesus to Paul*, E. T. (London, 1944), p. 310, in reference to TB Shabbat 30b.

Birthplace: Tarsus





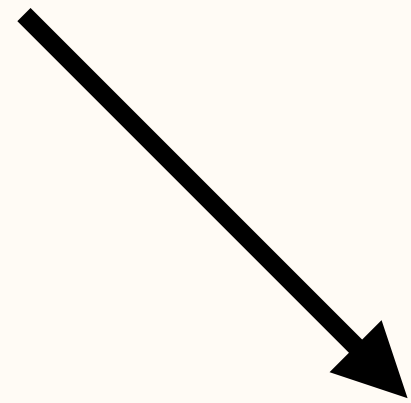
Street from ancient Tarsus

Gal. 1:12, “For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Gal. 1:13, “For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.

Gal. 1:14, “And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.”

The first fence:
Oral Tradition to
prevent breaking the
written Law



TORAH The 613
Commandments of
the Written Law

The traditions of the fathers: “you
have heard it said”

Matt. 5:21, “You have heard that it was
said to those of old, ‘You shall not
murder, and whoever murders will be in
danger of the judgment.’ ”

Matt. 5:27, “You have heard that it was
said to those of old, ‘You shall not
commit adultery.’ ”

Matt. 5:33, “Again you have heard that
it was said to those of old, ‘You shall
not swear falsely, but shall perform your
oaths to the Lord.’ ”

Matt. 15:2, “ ‘Why do Your disciples
transgress the tradition of the elders?
For they do not wash their hands when
they eat bread.’ ”

Matt. 15:3, “He answered and said to
them, ‘Why do you also transgress the
commandment of God because of your
tradition?’ ”

Gal. 1:15, “But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace,

Gal. 1:16, “to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,

Gal. 1:17, “nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

Gal. 1:18, “Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.

Gal. 1:19, “But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord’s brother.”



Acts 9:1, “Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest

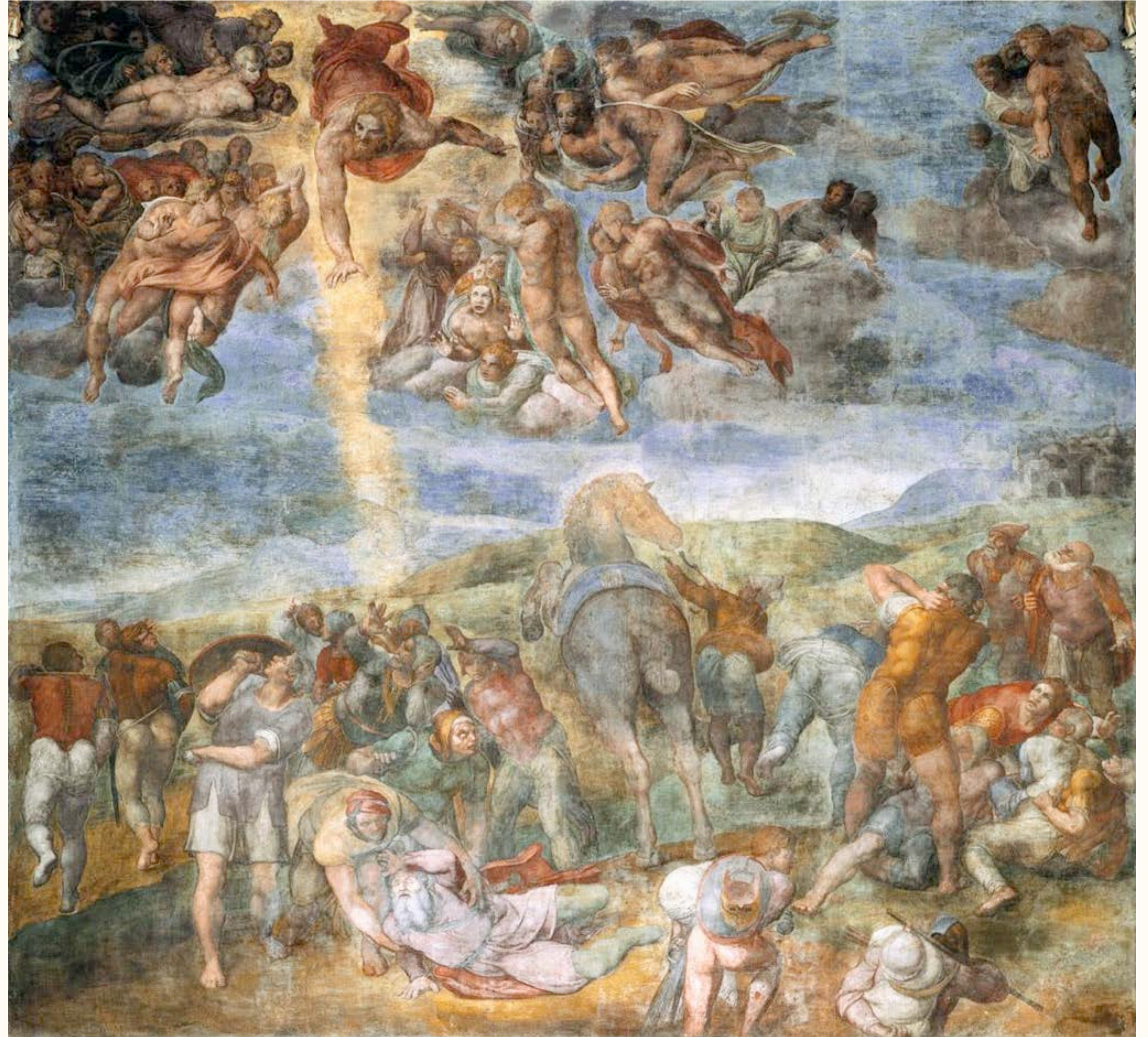
Acts 9:2, “and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.”

Conversion to Missionary Journeys, (Summer, A.D. 35–April, 48)

Resurrected, glorified Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1–5; cf., 22:4–8; 26:9–18).

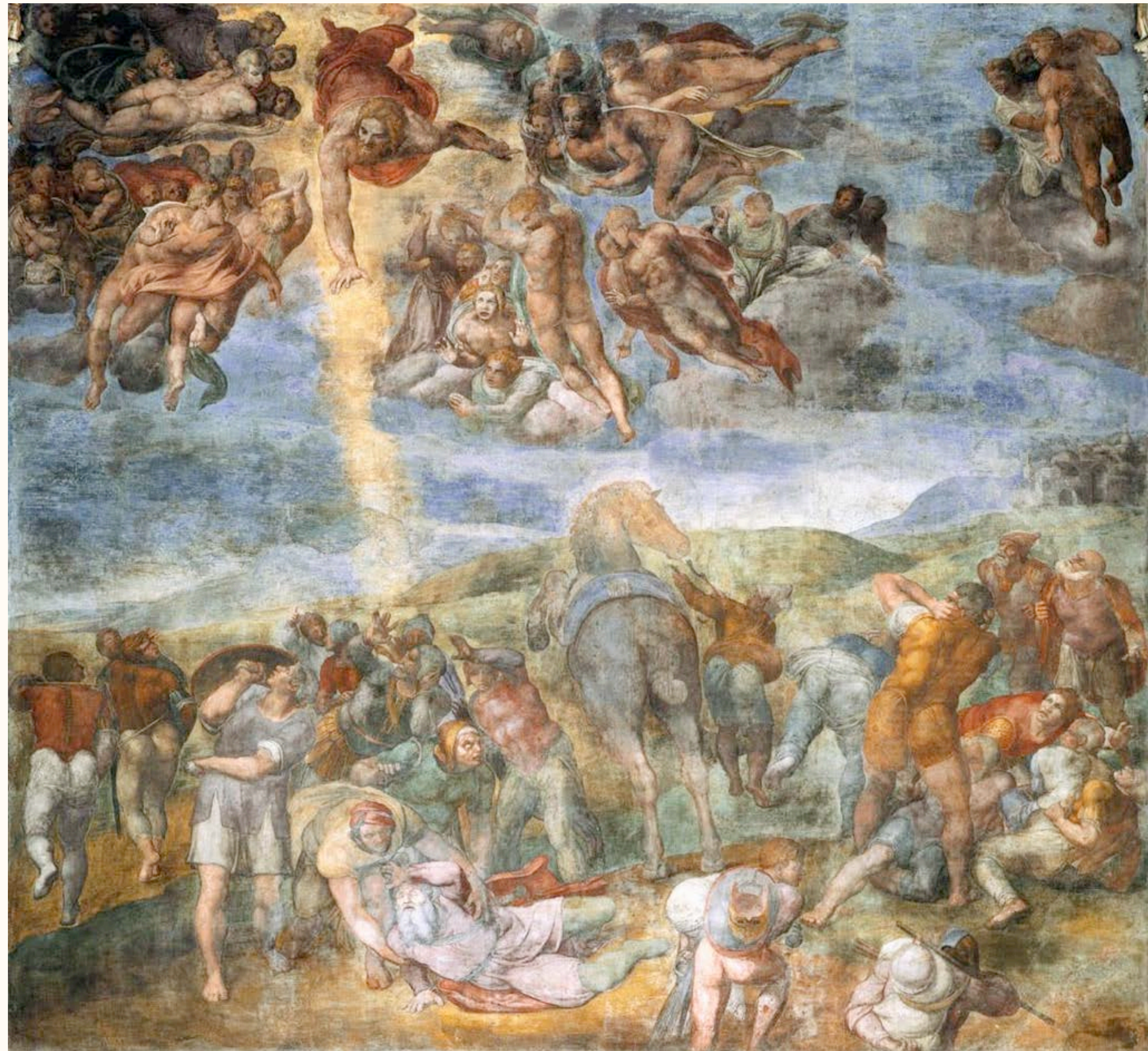
Acts 9:3, “As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.

Acts 9:4, “Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’ ”



Acts 9:5, “And he said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ Then the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ ” (only in TR)

Acts 9:6, “So he, trembling and astonished, said, ‘Lord, what do You want me to do?’ Then the Lord said to him, ‘Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.’ ”



Acts 9:8, “Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.

Acts 9:9, “And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.”



**Damascus,
Bab Sharqi,
Straight Street
gateway**

Acts 9:10, “Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, ‘Ananias.’ And he said, ‘Here I am, Lord.’”

Acts 9:11, “So the Lord said to him, ‘Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying.’”

Damascus, Straight Street



Acts 9:12, “ ‘And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight.’ ”

Acts 9:13, “Then Ananias answered, ‘Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem.’ ”

Acts 9:14, “ ‘And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.’ ”

Damascus,
Straight Street, near east gate



Acts 9:15, “But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.

Acts 9:16, “ ‘For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.’ ”

Damascus,
House of Ananias





Acts 9:17, “And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’

Acts 9:18, “Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.

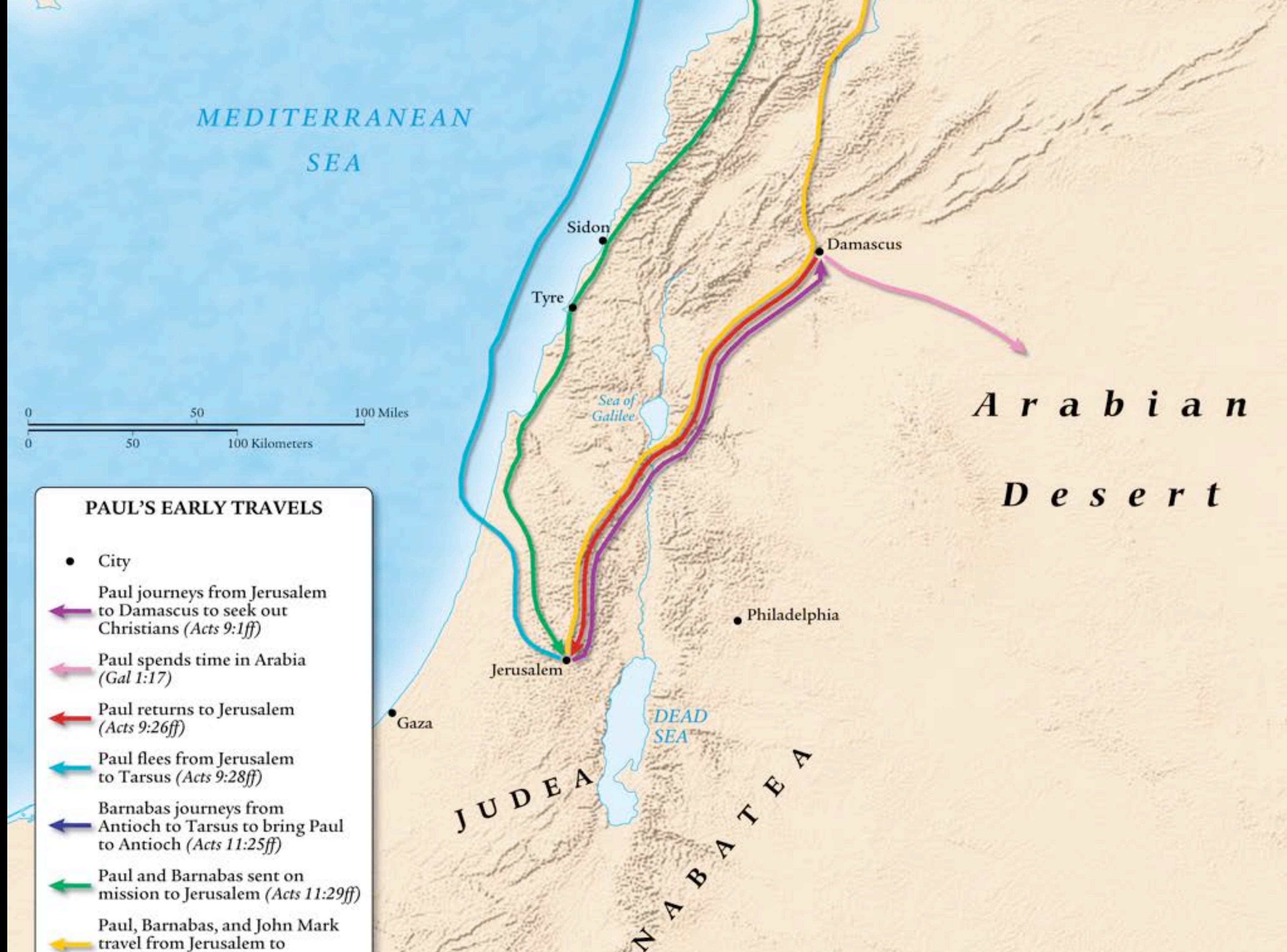
Acts 9:19, “So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.”

**Damascus,
House of Ananias**

Conversion to Missionary Journeys, (Summer, A.D. 35–April, 48)

Resurrected, glorified Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1–5; cf., 22:4–8; 26:9–18);

Spent time in Damascus – 3 years (Galatians 1:18–24
(Summer A.D. 35–Autumn, 37)



MEDITERRANEAN
SEA

0 50 100 Miles
0 50 100 Kilometers

- PAUL'S EARLY TRAVELS**
- City
 - ← Paul journeys from Jerusalem to Damascus to seek out Christians (*Acts 9:1ff*)
 - ← Paul spends time in Arabia (*Gal 1:17*)
 - ← Paul returns to Jerusalem (*Acts 9:26ff*)
 - ← Paul flees from Jerusalem to Tarsus (*Acts 9:28ff*)
 - ← Barnabas journeys from Antioch to Tarsus to bring Paul to Antioch (*Acts 11:25ff*)
 - ← Paul and Barnabas sent on mission to Jerusalem (*Acts 11:29ff*)
 - ← Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark travel from Jerusalem to

Arabian
Desert

JUDEA

NABATEA

Acts 9:20, “Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.

Acts 9:21, “Then all who heard were amazed, and said, ‘Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?’

Acts 9:22, “But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ.”

**Damascus, Straight Street,
covered portion**



Acts 9:23, “Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to kill him.

Acts 9:24, “But their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night, to kill him.

Acts 9:25, “Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket.”

Damascus, wall
where Paul escaped
in basket



Acts 9:19, “So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.”

ἐνισχύω *enischuō*

aor act indic 3 sing

“to recover from loss of strength, to regain one’s strength, to impart strength and vigor, to gain, acquire, or recover strength and vigor, to be strengthened.”

Acts 9:19

Expanded Translation:

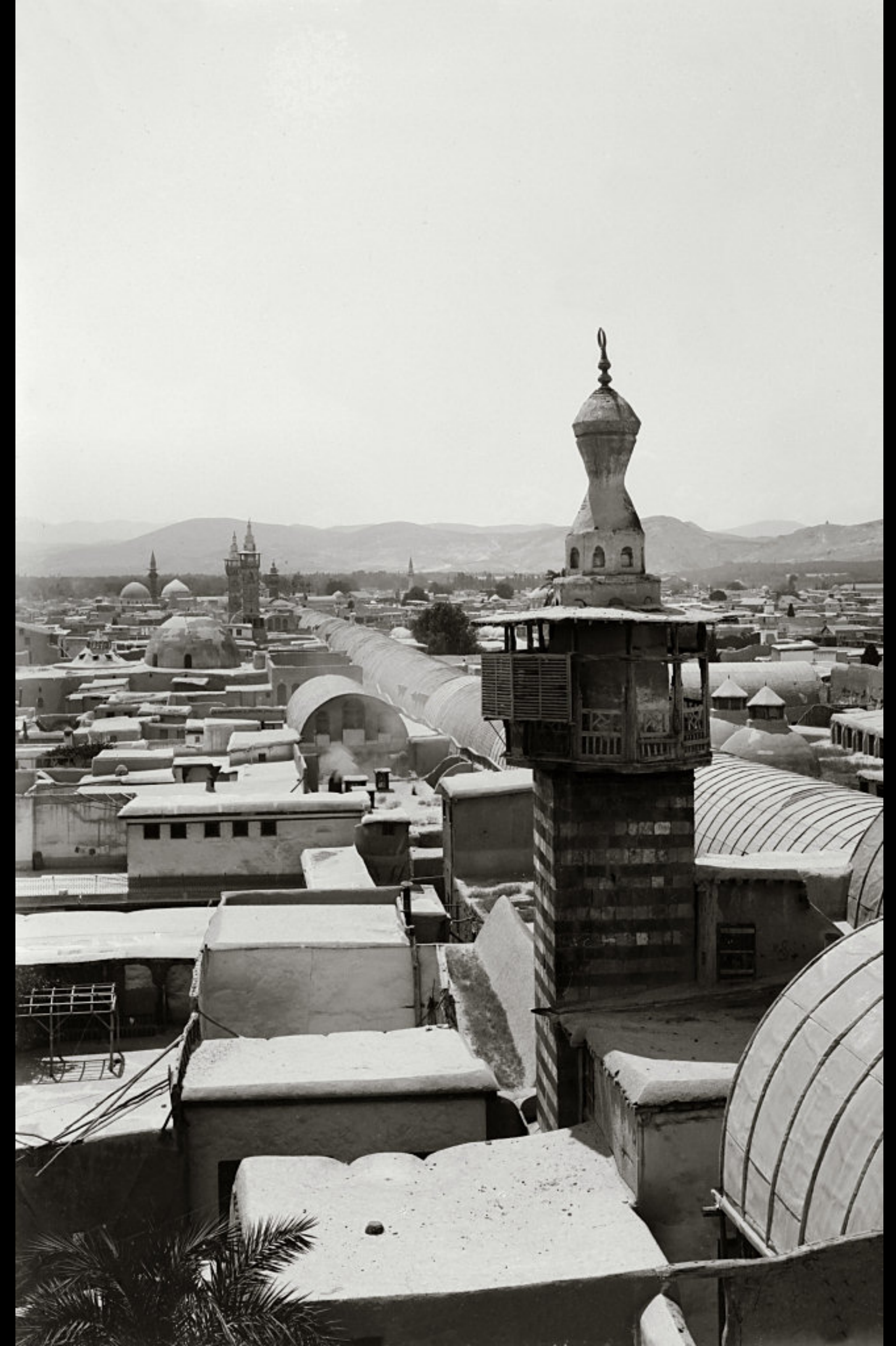
And after receiving food, he recovered his physical strength.

Then afterward he spent some days with the disciples in Damascus.

Acts 9:20, “Immediately he preached the Messiah in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.

Acts 9:21, “Then all who heard were amazed, and said, ‘Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?’ ”

**Damascus, Straight Street,
covered portion**



Gal. 1:16, “to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood,”

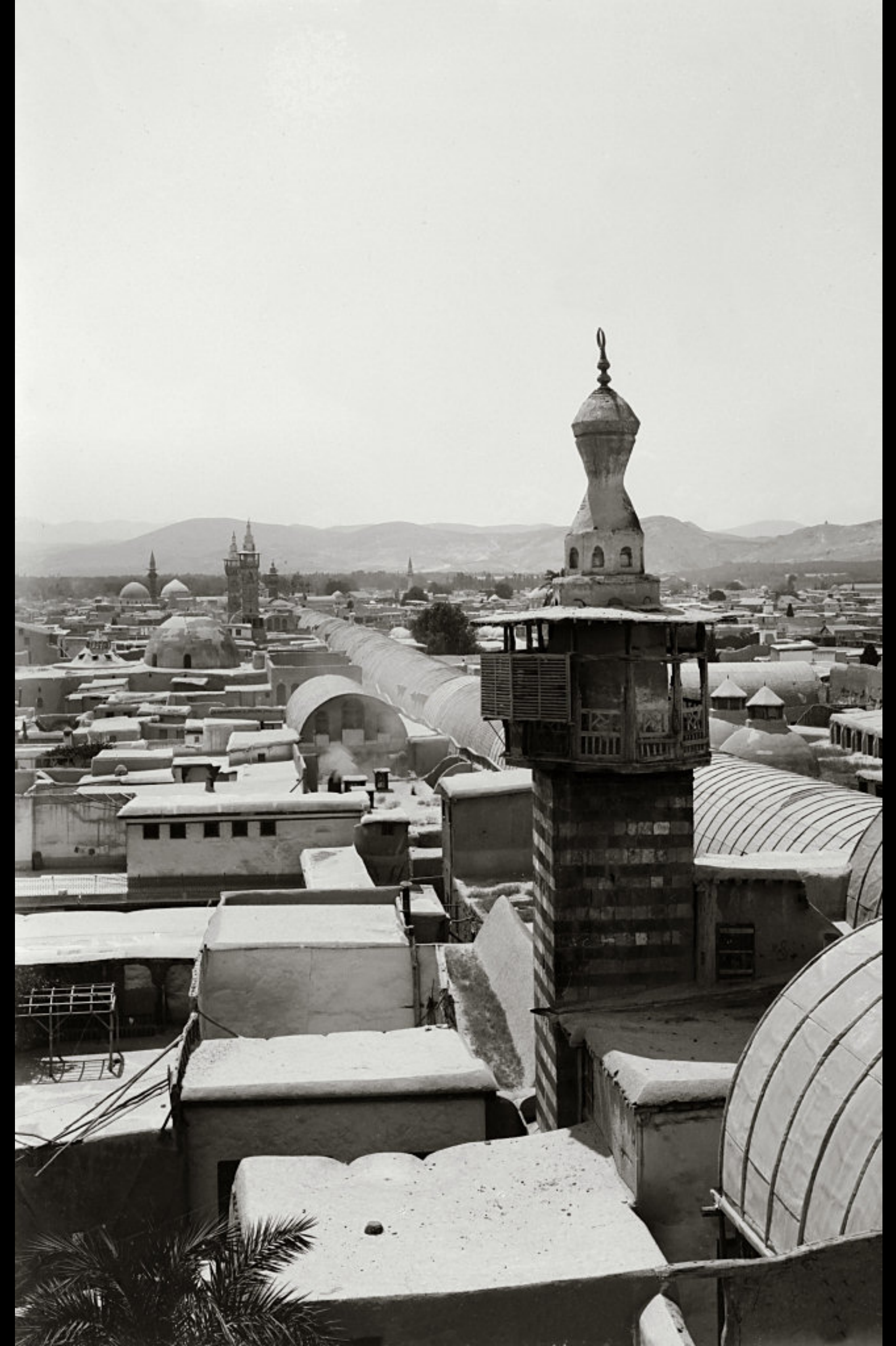
Acts 9:20, “Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.

Acts 9:21, “Then all who heard were amazed, and said, ‘Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?’ ”

κηρύσσω *kērussō*

imperf act indic 3 sing
to proclaim, announce

Damascus, Straight Street,
covered portion

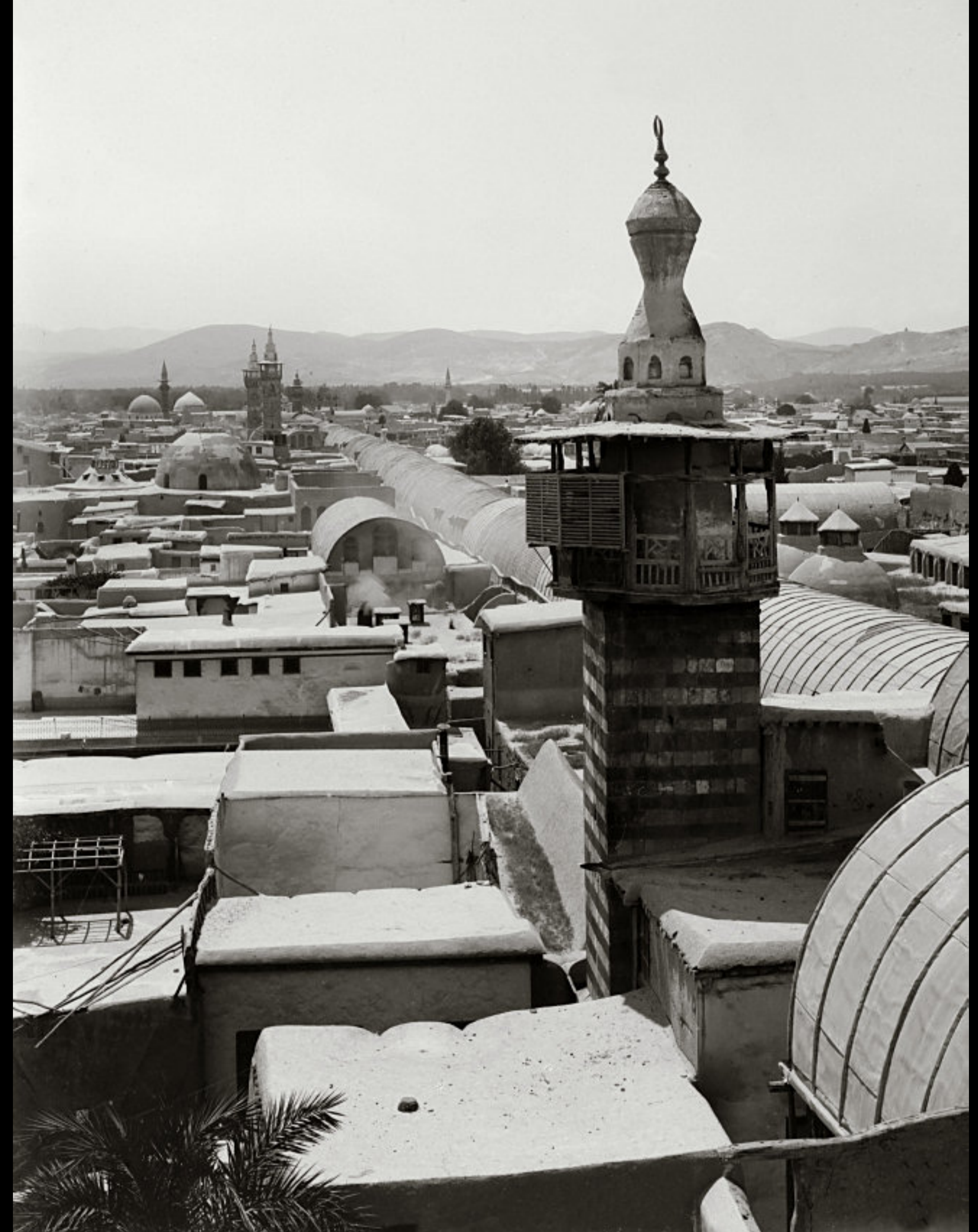


Acts 9:20, “Immediately he proclaimed the Messiah in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.

Acts 9:21, “Then all who heard were amazed, and said, ‘Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?’ ”

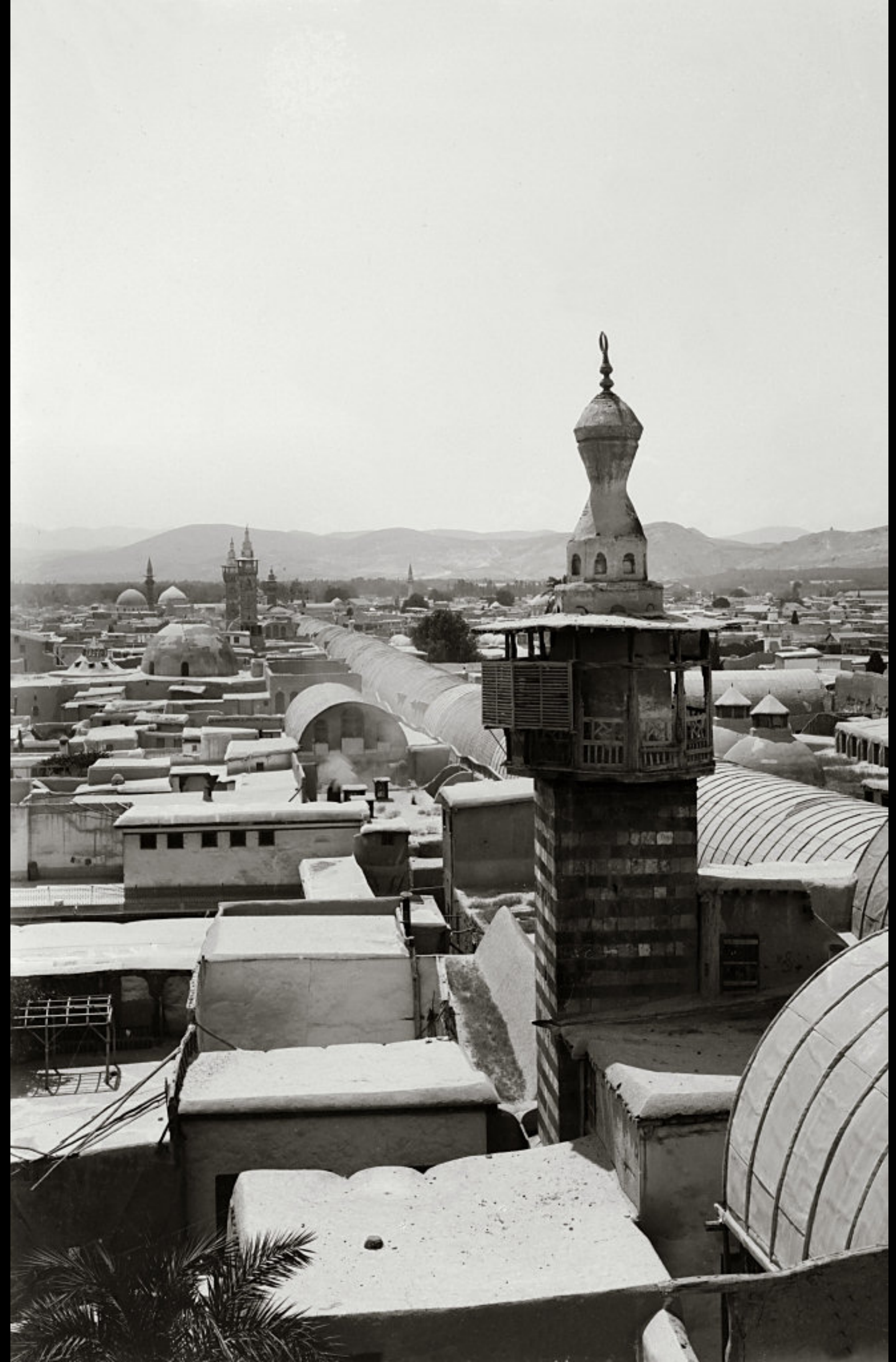
ἐξίσταμι *existemi*
impf mid ind,
continuous action in past time,
“amazed, astonished,
confused” described a state
where things make little sense

Damascus, Straight Street,
covered portion



Acts 9:22, “But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ.”

**Damascus, Straight Street,
covered portion**



Acts 9:22, “But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, logically putting together the Messianic prophecies to demonstrate through sound biblical arguments and evidence that this Jesus is the Messiah.” [~RD expanded translation]

Acts 9:23, “Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to kill him.

Acts 9:24, “But their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night, to kill him.

Acts 9:25, “Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket.”

**Damascus, wall
where Paul
escaped in basket**



Conversion to Missionary Journeys (Summer, A.D. 35–April, 48)

Resurrected, glorified Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1–5; cf., 22:4–8; 26:9–18);

Spent time in Damascus — 3 years [Galatians 1:18–24 (Summer A.D. 35–Autumn, 37)];

Went to Jerusalem — 15 days (Galatians 1:18–24);

Returned to Tarsus for approximately 10–14 years [Gal. 2:1—debate over whether the 14 years is from his conversion or just from his departure from Jerusalem. (Hoehner puts Paul going to Antioch first in Summer, 43, then a second trip to Jerusalem A.D. 47, Autumn, then back to Antioch, A.D. 47, Autumn–Spring, A.D. 48)]

Rom. 1:1, “Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God

Rom. 1:2, “which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures,

Rom. 1:3, “concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,

Rom. 1:4, “and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”

2 Cor. 1:19, “For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes.”

2 Cor. 11:32, “In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me;

2 Cor. 11:33, “but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.”

3. Missionary Journeys

First Missionary Journey: Crete, southern Turkey; then wrote Galatians (April 48–Sept. 49)

Second Journey: revisit southern Turkey, then to Troas, Greece (Apr. 51–Sept. 52), then wrote 1, 2, Thess.

Third Journey: retraces visit to Greece (Spring 53–May 57), then wrote 1, 2, Corinthians, Romans.