

The Acts of the Apostles

Act 7

Expanding the New Community

The Acts of the Apostles

Acts 7:58 When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

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Acts 8:3 But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.

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I Cor. 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

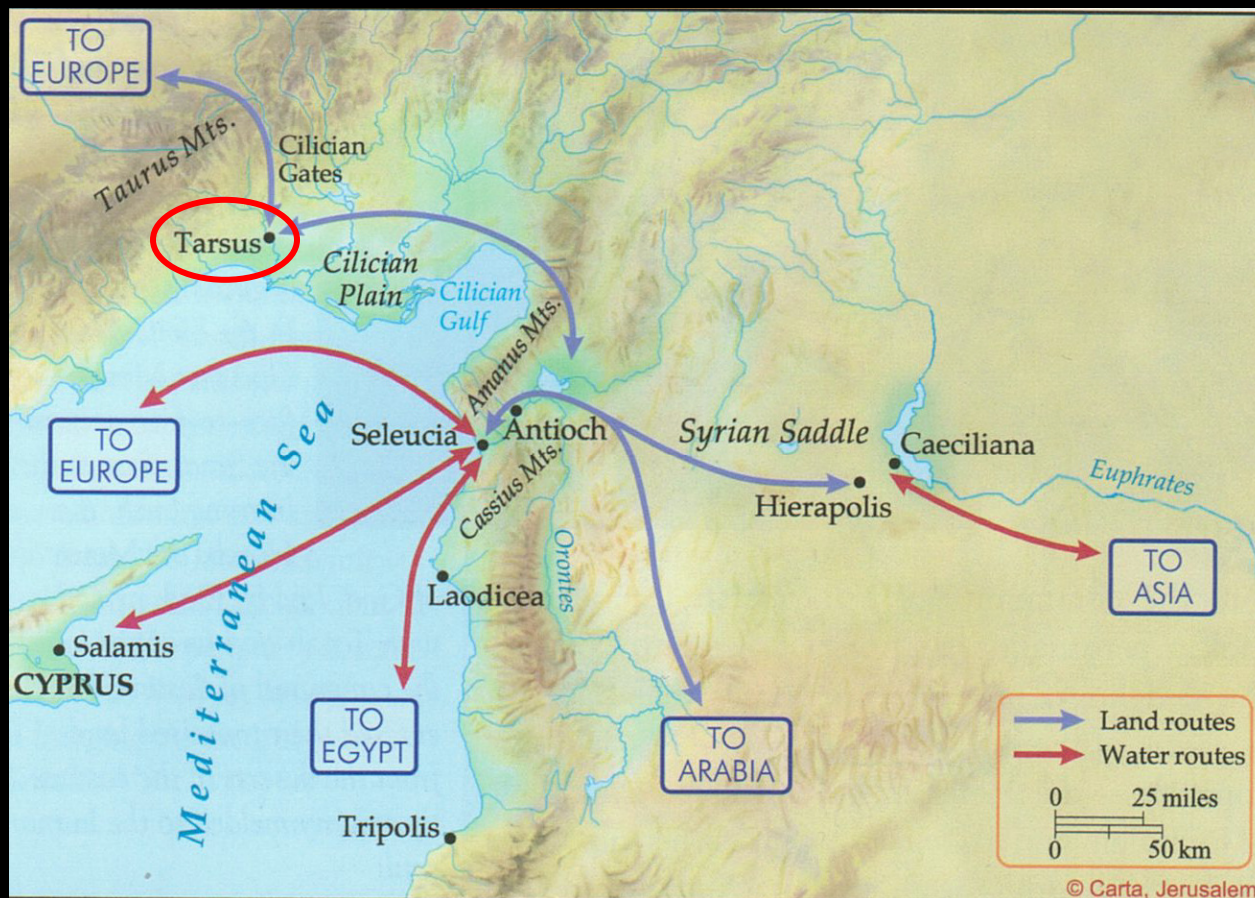
Gal. 1:13 For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it;

I Tim. 1:13 even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief;

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Background:

1. *Probably born a decade or so after Jesus' birth*



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Background:

2. *Was a Pharisee*
 3. *A Benjamite*
 4. *Rabbinically trained by Gamaliel*
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- Acts 9:1-2



The Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 9:3

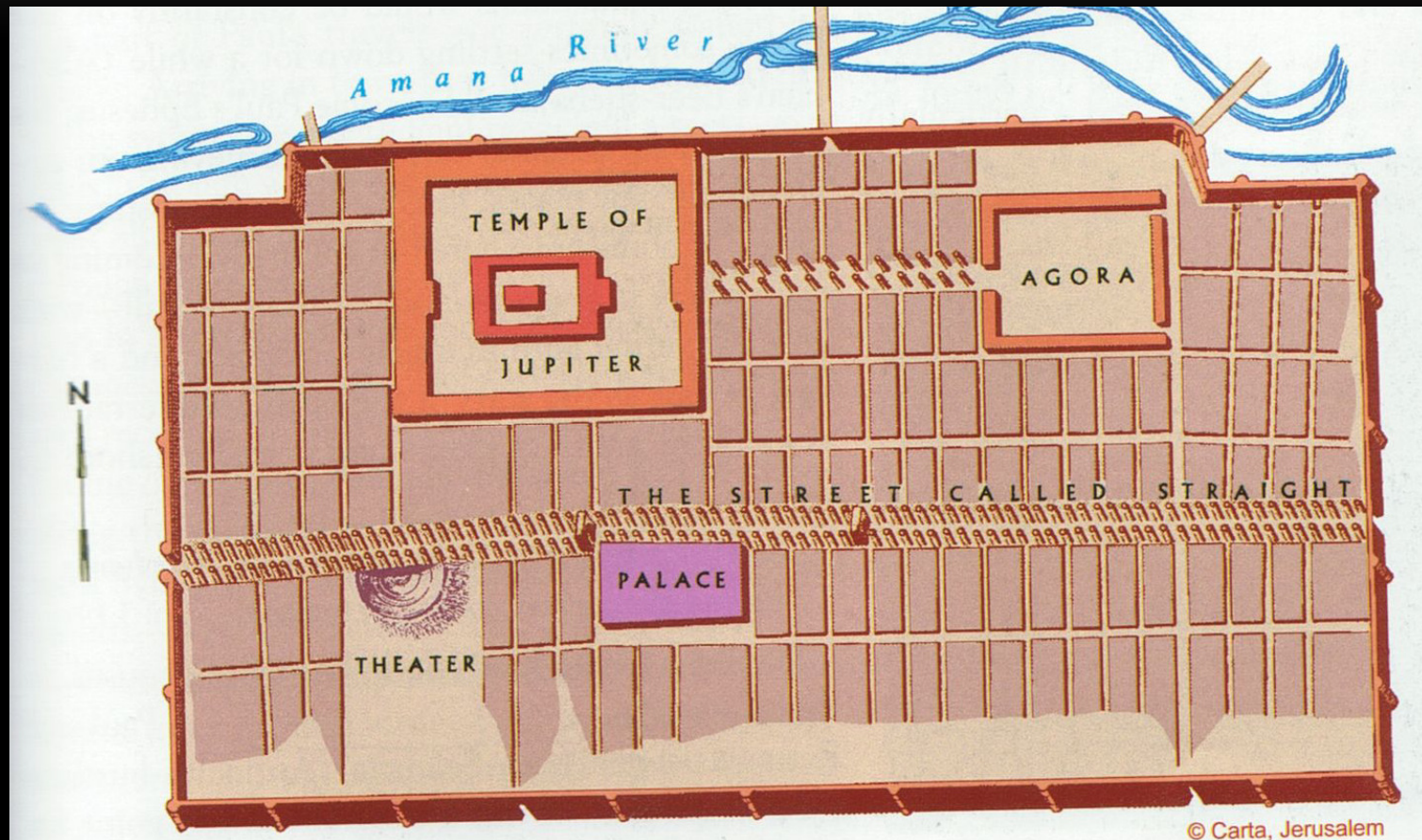
Background:

1. *Flashing light is a Theophany*
2. *Famous Jewish Meditation on Ezekiel 1*



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- Acts 9:4-20



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- Acts 9:21-25



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II Cor. 11:32-33 In Damascus the ethnarch (Governor) under Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to seize me, and I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and so escaped his hands.

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Gal. 1:15-18 But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus. Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and stayed with him fifteen days.



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- Acts 9:26-31



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Closing thoughts:

- 1. Saul's coming to Jesus doesn't make life go away!*
- 2. The great life forging of God*

