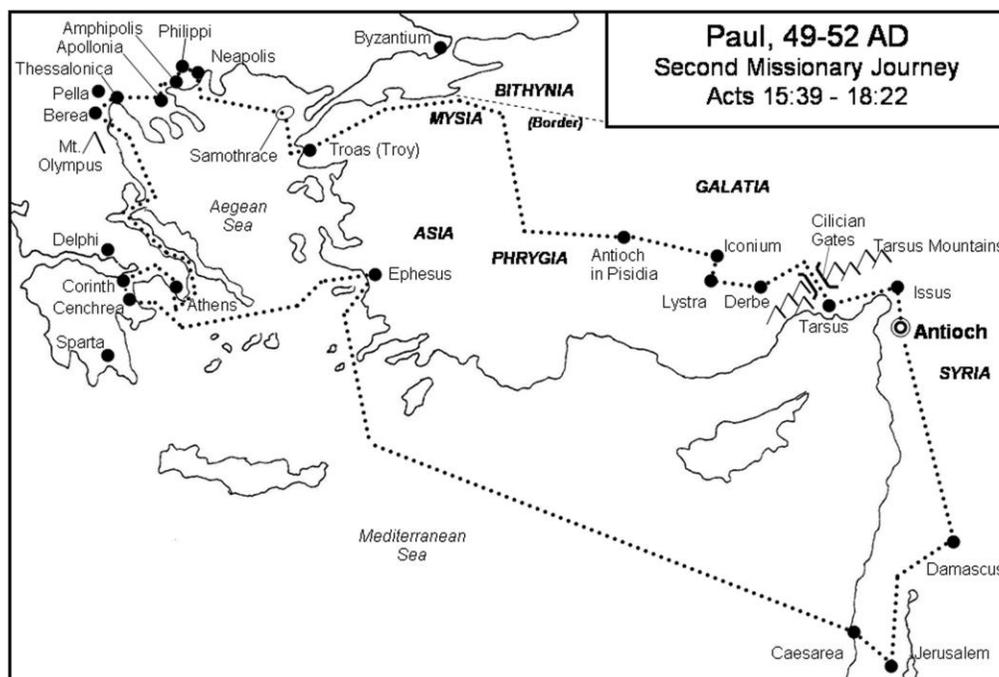
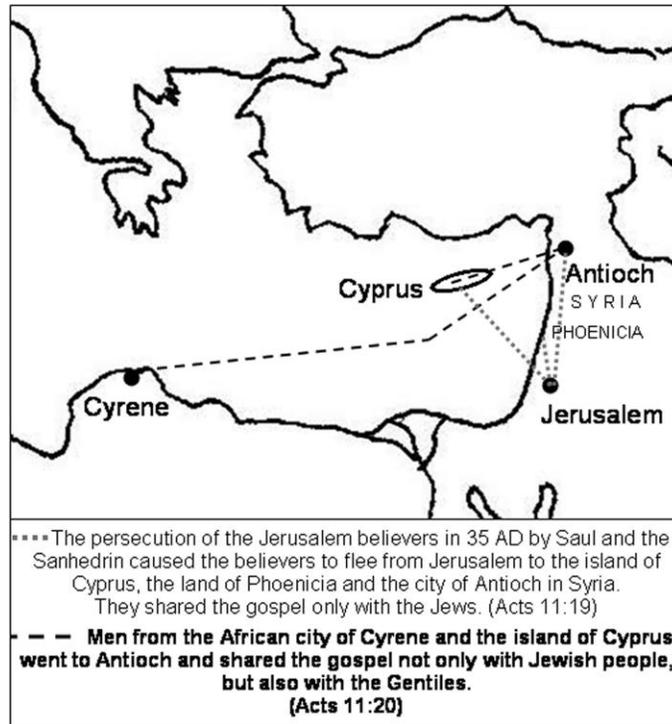


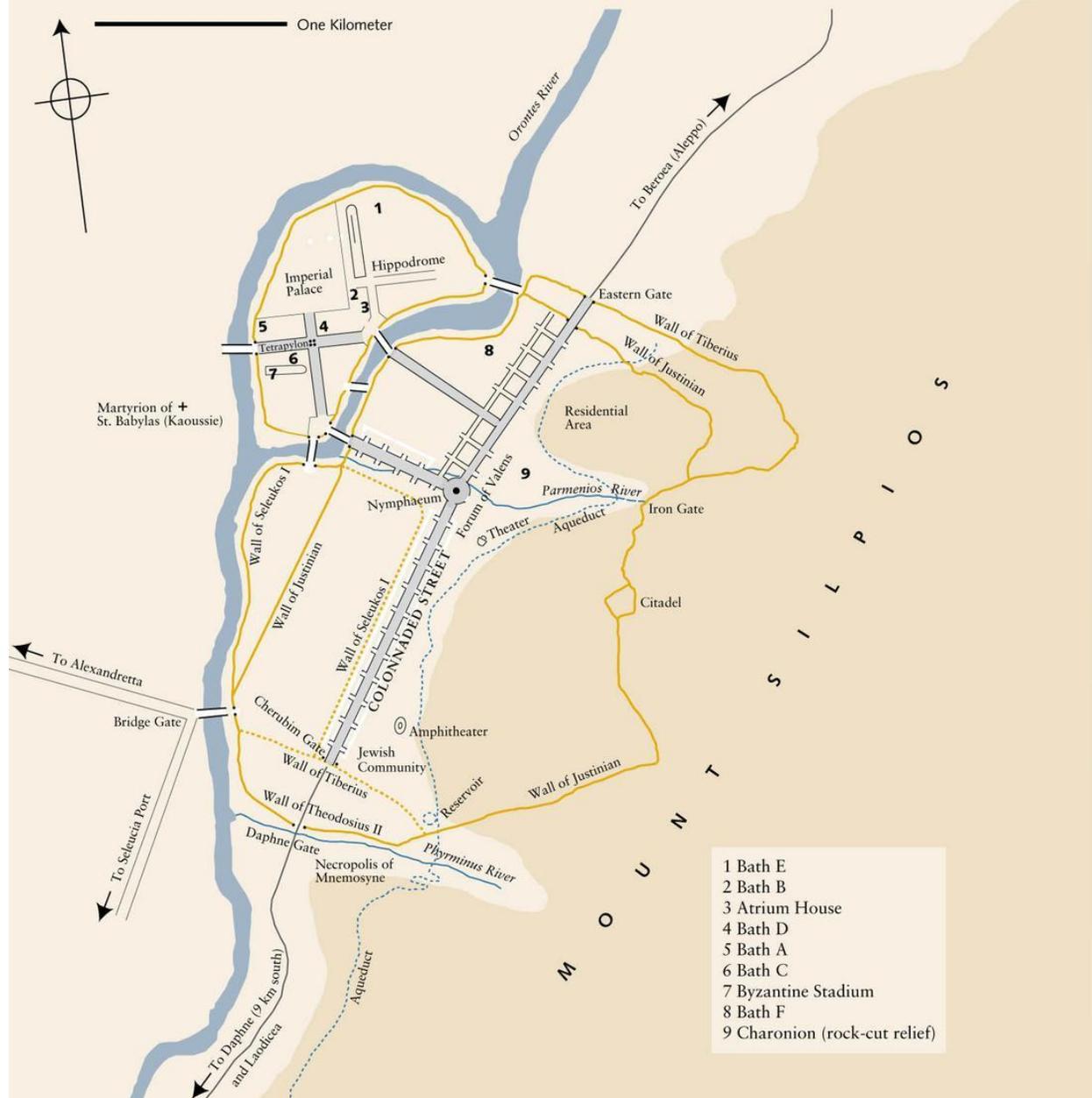
Acts 11 - OUTREACH strategy – “tell the message” and “teach the word.”

Antioch is on the Orontes River, which drains into the Mediterranean Sea, with Mount Silpios to the south of the city. Covered an area of 1 mile x 2 miles, a typical Hellenistic city laid out in a grid, Seleucus I built the original wall. There was the north-south colonnaded cardo street running the full length of the city that was paved by Herod. Population is about 300,000 with a very large Jewish population according to Josephus, who also says these Jews were wealthy and constantly attracted “to their religious ceremonies multitudes of Greeks.”

According to Eusebius (church historian 350 AD), **Peter** was the first bishop of Antioch, and was followed by **Evodius**, a pagan converted of Peter, and then **Ignatius** of Antioch (we have 7 letters of Ignatius including one to Polycarp). Then, **Heron** (117-127), **Cornelius** (127-154), **Eros** (154-169), **Theophilus** (169-182, a pagan who was converted by reading scripture, we have his book *Apology to Autolycom*, kept Gnostics out of Antioch), **Maximus** (182-191, **Serapion** (191-211, wrote many things including a pamphlet against the Gospel of Peter.)



ANCIENT CITY OF ANTIOCH



In 1910 Arabs were digging a well in Antioch and found a plain silver cup 7.5 inches tall and 6 inches in diameter that was held in a highly decorated silver holder that portrays Christ in two scenes with five disciples around him. This out frame that holds the plain silver cup is dated by the best authorities to the 100 AD-400 AD.

The plain silver cup was highly prized for such an elaborate silver holder. This is called the "Silver Chalice of Antioch."

Or, it could be a church Eucharist cup from 500 AD or, more recently thought, a standing lamp like used in 500 AD.



Acts 11:19-21 – The Word or the message went first and produced believers

11:20 – converts from Apollo, Artemis, Zeus, Syrian Baal cults

11:21 – “The hand of the Lord” is OT metaphor for a manifestation of the Lord in presence and power: Elijah, Elisha, Ezra and Jesus in Luke 1:66

11:22 – Barnabas is familiar with the area since he was from Cyprus

11:22-24 – Jerusalem church sends Barnabas to inspect and approve of Antioch Jews and their outreach (43 AD)

11:25-26 – Saul was a trained rabbi, competent in Scripture, an effective debater, schooled in his native language Greek and called by God to reach the Gentiles. Paul had escaped Jerusalem to come to Cilicia. Tarsus is 100 miles away from Antioch. Barnabas went “to look for” Saul. The word is *anazeteo* which means to look for something with difficulty and effort because you do not know where it is at. Used when looking for criminals or escaped slaves.

11:25-26 – Barnabas goes to Tarsus to find Paul and bring him to help the believers in Antioch. They spend a full year in Antioch (44 AD)

11:26 – “Christians” means “followers of Christ” as Herodians were the adherents to the policies and power of Herod. Here *christos*, or Messiah, is an allegiance to the Jewish Messiah Jesus of Nazareth. This name Christian would distinguish Jews who followed the Messiah Jesus, from those who did not. The term “Christian” is used in the NT in Acts 11:26; 26:28 and 1 Peter 4:1.

11:27- More Jews from Jerusalem come to check on Antioch including prophet Agabus

11:27 – Prophets named are Agabus (11:28; 21:10) and Judas and Silas (15:32)

11:28-30 – A famine is predicted, Christian Jews are already struggling financially in Jerusalem, Antioch collects money and send Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem with the donation to help the Jewish believers

11:28 – unique in the church is prophecy being used for prediction

Ancient testimonies about this famine during the reign of Claudius include -

1) Roman historian Suetonius says: “Once, after a series of droughts had caused a scarcity of grain, a mob stopped Claudius in the Forum and pelted him so hard with curses and stale crusts that he had difficulty in regaining the Palace by a side-door; as a result he took all possible steps to import grain, even during the winter months – insuring merchants against the loss of their ships in stormy weather.”

2) Josephus tells how Queen Helena of Adiabene (a small kingdom in northern Mesopotamia) came to help the Jews in Jerusalem in 44AD since she had just converted to Judaism. She is buried in what is called the Tombs of the Kings in Jerusalem <http://www.bibleplaces.com/tombofkings.htm>

Acts 12:1-25 – the record of events that occur in Jerusalem while Paul and Barnabas are there (verse 12:25 – “When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark.”)

Herod Agrippa I grew up in Rome with future emperor Claudius. Ruled Israel from 41-44 AD