

The Jerusalem Council

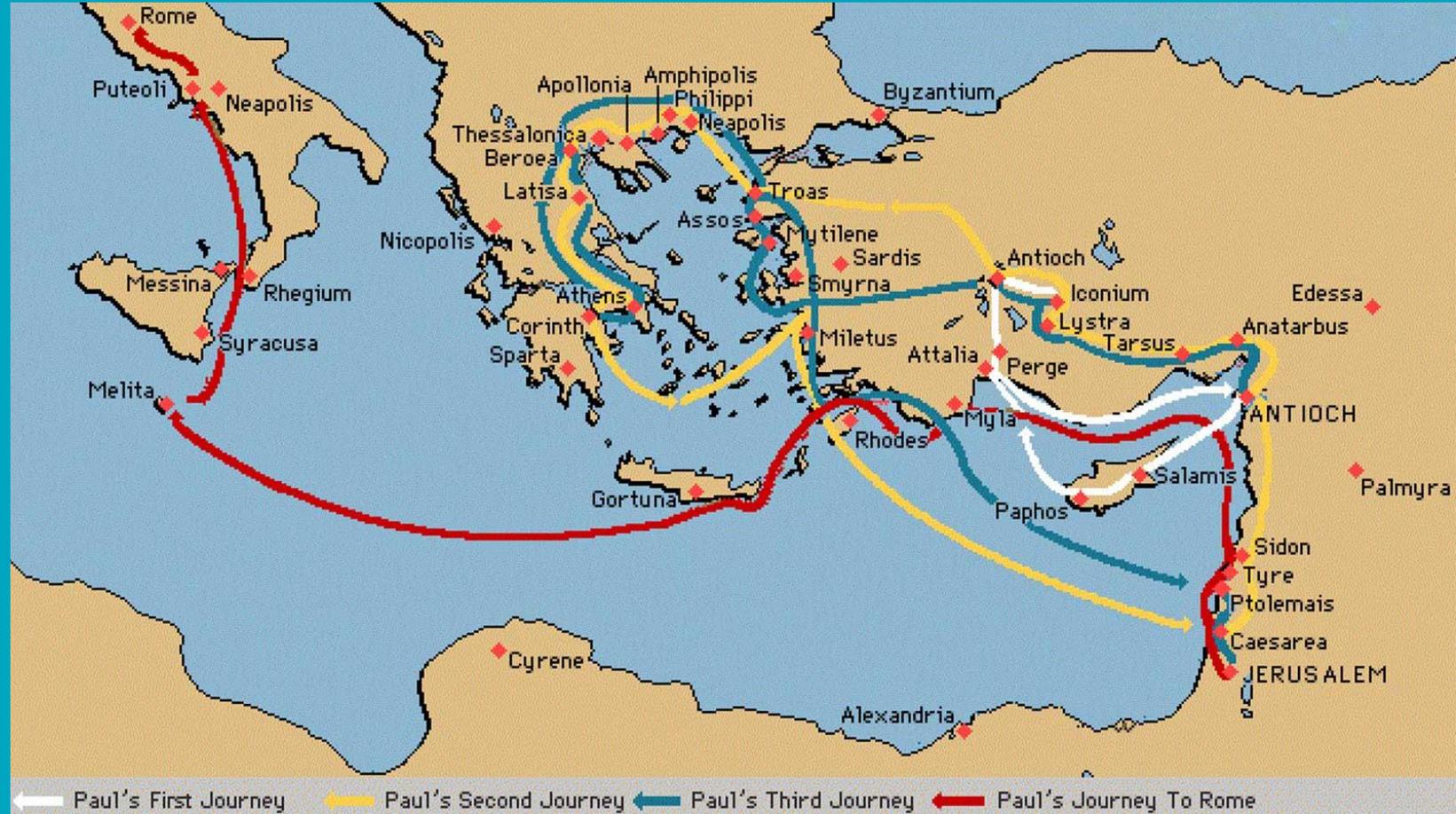
Acts 15: 1-35

The heated debate

Inclusive international mission

- The power of testimony
- The moving of the Holy Spirit
- Prophecy from scripture

(Isaiah 54: 1-6)



⁸ God knows people’s hearts, and he confirmed that he accepts Gentiles by giving them the **Holy Spirit**, just as he did to us.

⁹ He made no distinction between us and them, for he cleansed their hearts through faith.

¹⁰ So why are you now challenging God by burdening the Gentile believers with a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors were able to bear?

¹¹ We believe that we are all saved the same way, by the undeserved grace of the Lord Jesus.”

¹² Everyone listened quietly as Barnabas and Paul told about the **miraculous signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles**.

¹³ When they had finished, James stood and said, “Brothers, listen to me.

¹⁴ Peter has told you about the time God first visited the Gentiles to take from them a people for himself.

¹⁵ And **this conversion of Gentiles is exactly what the prophets predicted**. As it is written:

¹⁶ ‘Afterward I will return and restore the fallen house of David. I will rebuild its ruins and restore it,

¹⁷ so that the rest of humanity might seek the Lord, including the Gentiles—all those I have called to be mine. The Lord has spoken—

¹⁸ he who made these things known so long ago.’

Acts 15: 8-18

Decision making

Individuals and church

- **James, the pastoral leader of the Jerusalem church (not one of the 12)**
- **The Jerusalem council**
- **Apostles and elders**
- **The church community**

The process

Individuals and church

- **Debate**
- **Discuss**
- **Pray**
- **Reflect**
- **Empower**
- **Send**

The first steps of building International Church

**Culture is what you have to do to
get on around here**

Patrick Lencioni

Values for our journey

Shaping our culture in River like that of the early church

- Non-religious
- Missional
- Inclusive
- Charismatic

