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Paul’s Second Missionary Journey 15:36 to 18:22

49-52 AD

The edict of Claudius expelling Jews from Rome

Paul wrote First and Second Thessalonians (about the end times) in 50 AD from Corinth

(to see link click [Cc](#) - Many Respond to the Good News in Corinth: the blessing of converts).

Paul saw **himself** above all as **Messiah’s apostle to the Gentiles (Romans 1:5, 15:18; Galatians 2:8)**. This calling is very much confirmed by the account of **his** missionary activity in **Acts**. **His** witness to **the Gentiles** was first revealed at **his** conversion (**9:15**), and was exemplified by **his** joining **Barnabas** in evangelizing **the Gentiles** from **Antioch (to see link click [Bn](#) - Barnabas and Sha’ul Sent Out from Syrian Antioch)**. On **his First Missionary Journey** this special calling was confirmed for **him** in the conversion of the Roman proconsul, **Sergius Paulus**, on Cyprus (**13:12**), in the mass response of **the Gentiles** in **Pisidian Antioch (13:48)**, and in the formation of a group of disciples at **Lystra (14:20)**. At **Jerusalem, Paul’s** witness to **the Gentiles** was confirmed by **the apostles** and **elders of the mother church**, and the way was cleared for **his** further ministry. **Paul** was then ready for a major outreach to **the Gentiles**.³⁴⁹

The most notable feature of **Paul’s Second Missionary Journey** is that the good seed of the gospel was, for the first time, planted in European soil. Of course, there was in those days no line of demarcation between “Asia” and “Europe,” and the missionaries sailed across the northern part of the Aegean Sea were conscious of traveling only from one province to another, not from one continent to another, since both shores of the Aegean belonged to the Roman Empire. In spite of that, the invasion of Europe was not in the mind of **Paul**, but it was evidently in the mind of **the Spirit of God**.³⁵⁰ With the benefit of hindsight, knowing that Europe became the first Christian continent and was, until a century ago, the main base for missionary outreach to the rest of the world, we can see what an epoch-making development this was. It was from Europe that, in due time, the gospel fanned out

to the great continent of Africa, Asia, North America, Latin America, and therefore reached the ends of the earth.

What **Paul** and **his** companions were conscious of doing was to establish new churches in the three Roman provinces during the **Second Missionary Journey**, which they had not penetrated during the **First Missionary Journey**. In the **First they** had concentrated exclusively on Cyprus and Galatia. But in the **Second they** reached **Macedonia** and **Achaia**, establishing churches at **Thessalonica** the capital of **Macedonia**, and at **Corinth** the capital of **Achaia**. Not only that, **they** just touched the province of **Asia** by visiting **Ephesus**, promising to return during **their** next journey.³⁵¹

Taking the gospel **to the end of the earth (1:8)** is particularly applicable for the first part of **their** mission, where **Paul** was extensively involved in travel from **Syrian Antioch** to **Troas** (see **Bx - Paul’s Vision of the Man of Macedonia**). The pace slowed down thereafter with more extensive stays and establishment of churches in **Philippi** (see **By - Lydia’s Conversion in Philippi**), **Thessalonica** and **Berea** (see **Ca - Synagogue Responses Vary to Paul’s Visit**). After a seemingly brief visit to **Athens** with his notable address from the Areopagus (**Cb - An Unknown God in Athens**), **Paul** concluded this period of ministry in **Corinth**, staying there at least eighteen months (see **Cc - Many Respond to the Good News in Corinth**) before returning to **Syrian Antioch**.³⁵² Here, once again, we see a mix of successes and opposition.

