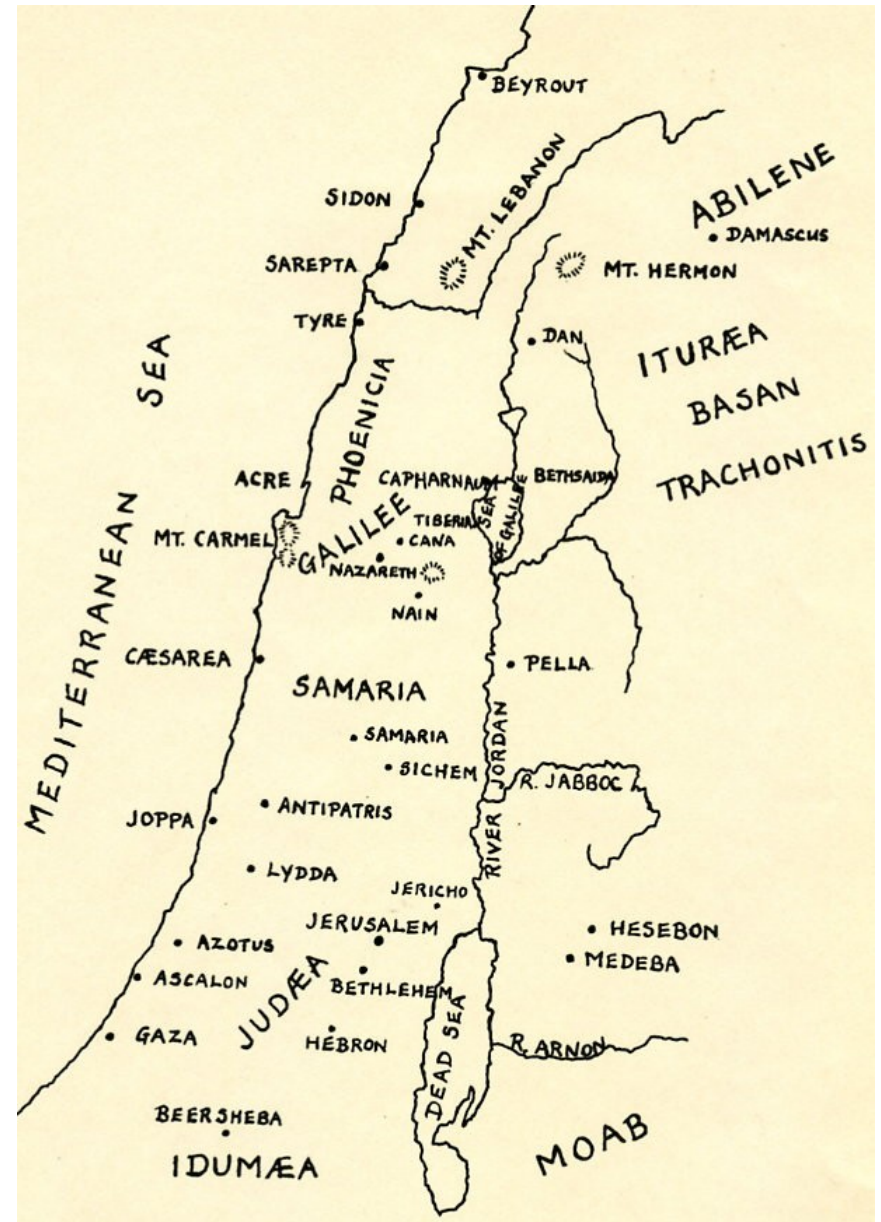


Nihil obstat: Arturus Phelps, Censor Deputatus
Imprmatu ✠ JOANNES HENKICUS, Archiepiscopus Episcopus Portus Magni.
Wintoniae 17a Aprilis, 1959



MAP OF PALESTINE

Our Lady's Catechists

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Part 2

Number 1

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

NINTH CHAPTER

Verses 1-9

READ *Verses 1-2* of Saul's attempt to carry further afield his persecution of the infant Church, known as "the way". The date was probably 37 A.D.

READ *Verses 3-9*. These tell us of his setting out for Damascus, a very ancient and famous town in Syria, about 140 miles N.E. of Jerusalem (see map). We read of the vision which changed his whole life, so that he became the great St. Paul, whose name is never separated from that of St. Peter in the prayers of the Church.

NOTES.

(a) "I am Jesus, whom Saul persecutes."

These words make it clear that all who persecute the Church, for whatever reason, are actually attacking Jesus. He is the Head, and all the baptised are members of His Mystical Body.

(b) Saul asked at once what he was to do.

It is a lesson to us to be eager to know God's Will and to be ready to do it. We know God's Will for ourselves through the Commandments, and through our own circumstances. If at times we are in doubt, we should pray for guidance and should ask the advice of a priest, or some other good and trustworthy person

There is, in the Missal, a beautiful prayer which you might like to

learn by heart:

“Grant us, we beseech thee, O Lord, a persevering obedience to your will; that in our day, the people who serve thee may increase both in merit and in number.”

(c) Notice that the answer Saul received was: “Go into the city, and there thou shall be told what your work is.”

This impresses on us the fact that Jesus means the Church to be our teacher in everything that relates to God. Though Saul was to become a very great apostle and teacher of divine truth, he had to begin, like everybody else, with instruction and baptism.

QUESTIONS

1. What was the reason for Saul's journey to Damascus?

2. What happened when he came within sight of the city?

3. Whom did he see?

4. What was said to him?

5. What was Saul's answer?

6. What was he told to do?

7. Are we bound to obey the Church? ('Penny' Catechism 228)

Our Lady's Catechists

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Part 2

Number 2

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

NINTH CHAPTER

Verses 10 - 30

11. Who befriended him?

12. Why was he sent back to his native city?

CATECHISM

Does God know and see all things? (CCC 338-339) ('Penny Catechism' - No. 22)

This is a fact that should make us feel happy and safe, for God watches over us with love, as a good mother is watchful over a little child. He loves us always and unchangingly.

READ Verses 10 - 22 :

These verses tell us of another vision, which led to Saul's baptism.

Notice the curious answer of Ananias to God, who knows all things! Notice also his straightforward acceptance of Saul as a brother. You will read more about this event in Chapter 22.

READ Verses 23 - 30

We read about Saul's preaching, of the persecution he suffered in his turn, and of his going to Jerusalem. When it became necessary for him to return to Tarsus he was escorted to Caesarea by some of the brethren. This was usually done when a Christian travelled, so that he might be introduced to his new hosts, as a precaution against "false brethren." There have, unhappily, always been a few ready who would betray Jesus. We should pray for such people, and ask for the grace not to be tempted in that way.

QUESTIONS

1. What was Ananias told to do?

2. What was his response? (Use your own words).

3. For what purpose did Jesus say He had chosen Saul?

4- What happened when Ananias went to Saul?

5. Why was it necessary for Saul to be baptised?

6. What activity did Saul undertake?

7. Why were people surprised?

8. What did the unbelieving Jews do?

9. How did Saul escape?

10. Why was he not received by the Christians in Jerusalem?

**THE ACTS
OF THE APOSTLES**

Part 2

Number 3

**ACTS OF THE APOSTLES
NINTH CHAPTER
*Verses 31-43***

READ: the remaining verses of Chapter 9.

Notice how the scene now switches back to the activities of St. Peter.

We see that the command of Jesus has been obeyed. See Acts 1: 8.

“The saints” was the name given to all believers at that time. We are all called to be saints, and Jesus has given us, through the Church, all that we need to become holy.

St. Peter was carrying out one of the duties of a bishop - namely, visiting all the faithful for whom he was responsible.

Joppa, now called Jaffa, is a town on the coast about 35 miles northwest of Jerusalem, and Lydda, now Lud, is about 10 miles inland from Joppa.

10. What happened in both Lydda and Joppa as a result of these miracles?

How is the Church holy? (CCC820-822) (‘Penny Catechism 96)

11. Are we all called to be saints?

12. How can we become holy?

14- Does that mean we must be very serious all the time?

QUESTIONS

1. In which provinces was the Church firmly established?

2. What was the purpose of St. Peter's journey?

3. By whose power did St. Peter cure the paralysed man?

4. Give a short account of Jesus' cure of a man suffering from the same disease. (St. Luke. Ch. 5.)

5. For what was Tabitha noted?

6. Why was Peter sent for when she died?

7. What did he do when shown her dead body?

8. What happened after he had prayed?

9. Whose power brought Tabitha back to life?

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Part 2

Number 4

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

TENTH CHAPTER

Verses 1 - 23

READ Verses 1-8. This chapter records the beginning of the admission of non -Jews to the Church. It was an event of very great importance.

Notice that once again a Roman centurion was chosen to receive a special favour from God. Notice also that he was to learn, not directly from God, but from St. Peter, what he was to do.

Caesarea, then a busy and important seaport, was on the coast about 30 miles north of Joppa. The messengers, travelling on foot, would have travelled about fifteen miles by nightfall, and starting early on the second day, would arrive at Joppa about noon.

READ Verses 9 - 23. You will remember, from the account of the healing of the paralytic, that Eastern houses have flat roof-tops which are used as open-air rooms, especially in the cool evenings.

St. Peter's vision was a great lesson, not only to him but to all "the saints." Up to that time the Jews were bound by strict laws in regard to animals used for food, and were forbidden to go into the houses of Gentiles. God was showing, by the vision and by what followed, that Jesus' redeeming life had freed them from these laws.

10. What made its meaning clear?

11. Why did Peter not set out at once?

12. Why did some of the brethren from Joppa go with him?

QUESTIONS

1. Why was an angel sent to Cornelius?

2. What was the centurion told to do?

3. How many men did he send?

4. When did they arrive at Joppa?

5. Why had Peter gone up to the house-top?

6. What did he see?

7. What words did he hear?

8. What was his answer?

9. Why do you think the vision was shown three times?

CATECHISM

4. Is baptism necessary for salvation?
(CCC 1257) ('Penny' Catechism 261)

10. How are you to know what God has revealed?
(CCC 888-890)(Catechism 11)

11. What does the word 'testimony' mean?

12. Who gave the Catholic Church divine authority to teach?
(CCC 888) ('Penny' Catechism 12)

Our Lady's Catechists

THE ACTS
OF THE APOSTLES

Part 2

Number 5

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

TENTH CHAPTER
Verses 24 - 48

READ verses 24-33 about the arrival of St. Peter at Caesarea, and of the explanations given on both sides.

READ Verses 34 - 48

St. Peter's instruction follows, on the lines of those you have already read in Chapters 2 and 3. The message of salvation through Jesus Christ is unchanging.

We read how the Holy Spirit was given to Cornelius and his household even before baptism.

"His household" means not only his family, but all those dependent upon him, either as free servants or as slaves.

Be careful to read the footnote on page 28.

QUESTIONS

1. Why did Cornelius kneel to St. Peter?

2. What was the reason for St. Peter's answer?

3. Why do we kneel if we enter the presence of a Bishop?

5. What was this event intended to impress on the Apostle's mind?

6. How many times did St. Peter use the word witness (or witnesses) in his speech?

7. Why was this word of such importance?

8. Is it still of the same importance?

9. Why did the gift of the Holy Spirit astonish the Jewish Christians?

Our Lady's Catechists

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Part 2

Number 6

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

ELEVENTH CHAPTER

Verses 1 - 30

READ verses 1-18. These tell us of St. Peter's return to Jerusalem, and of his own account of what had happened in Caesarea.

You will notice the beginnings of a question about circumcision and other Jewish practices. This was to need urgent attention as the Gospel spread. You will remember that, as we read in St. Luke's Gospel, (chapter 5) Jesus spoke of new patches on old cloaks, of new wine in old wine-skins. His meaning was that the new life given by Him to the whole human race was not to be confined within the limits of the old Law of Moses, otherwise there would be many difficulties. He also pointed out (verse 39) that it would not be easy at first for the Jewish Christians to give up their old ways.

At the end of St. Mark's Gospel we read Jesus' command to the Apostles: "Go into the whole world and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that does not believe shall be condemned." So we see that it is Faith and Baptism that start us in the Christian life.

READ *Verses 19-26* of the further spread of the Church outside Palestine.

By Phoenicia is meant either the chief seaport in Crete or the sea-coast north of Palestine (now Lebanon). Cyprus everybody knows about nowadays; Antioch was a busy seaport in Syria.

Barnabas was sent to Antioch, and went on to Tarsus to find Saul, who returned to help him and his apostolic work. Notice that ANTIOCH claims the happy distinction of being the first place where the members of the Church were called CHRISTIANS.

READ Verses 27 – 30 A prophecy of famine throughout the Roman Empire, and a collection for the relief of the brethren in Judea.

Fill in the missing words.

All the first Christians were _____ and it was hard for them to realise that _____ who became _____ were not _____ to undertake Jewish obligations as well. When _____ spoke of the _____ of keeping new _____ in old skins, He meant that the Christian life must not be _____ by being bound within the _____ limits of Jewish _____

practice	Jesus	narrow	hampered
wine	pagans	Jews	new
Christians	impossibility	bound	

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Part 2

Number 7

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES TWELFTH CHAPTER

This short chapter is one of the most interesting and exciting in the Acts.

It tells us very shortly of the fulfilment of Jesus' promise to Saints James and John : "My chalice, indeed, you shall drink."

We keep the feast of this first Apostle - Martyr on 25th July. He is the Patron Saint of Spain.

"The time of unleavened bread" was the Passover. Recall that this was the time of Jesus' Passion. Notice too, the difference in St. Peter's attitude when he himself was a prisoner.

The house to which St. Peter went was probably that in which the Last Supper had taken place, and where the faithful had assembled while awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Notice that though all had been praying fervently, they found it hard to believe that their prayers had been answered.

St. Peter probably went to Antioch. We used to keep the feast of his Chair or Bishopric there on 22nd January, and that of his release from chains on 1st August.

10. Why did St. Peter immediately depart?

11. Where did he probably go?

12. Why did Herod suffer a dreadful death?

13. Who returned to Antioch with Barnabas and Saul?

QUESTIONS

1. Whom did Herod kill?

2. Why was St. Peter not executed at once?

3. How was he guarded meantime?

4. What were the faithful doing?

5. What did St. Peter at first think when he was set free?

6. When did he realise the truth?

7. To which house did he go?

8. Why didn't Rhoda open the door?

9. What showed that the faithful had not expected a miracle

Our Lady's Catechists

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Part 2

Number 8

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

THIRTEENTH CHAPTER

Verses 1 - 12

READ Verses 1 - 12. We now come to the beginning of the immense missionary work of St. Paul, whose Greek name is used from this time.

Jesus had already shown him, as we read in Chapter 9 v. 16, that he was to undergo great sufferings in preaching the Gospel. Apart from any other troubles, his journeys themselves were long and exhausting, though at that time the Roman Empire was powerful, and roads and sea transport were well maintained. If you have a Missal or a New Testament, and wish to read what St. Paul wrote about his hardships, find the lesson for Sexagesima Sunday, or the Second Epistle to the Corinthians, Chapter 2 verses 22 - 33.

Paul and Barnabas were specially consecrated for this work, as we read in verse 3.

As was always their custom, they first preached to the Jews in the Synagogues.

We must not imagine that the Apostles remained only a short time in each place. It was necessary to provide for the new Christians all that was necessary for their supernatural life.

Keep the map in order to follow the various journeys.

Fill in the missing words.

The Holy Spirit chose _____ and _____, who were at _____, to go on a journey to preach the _____

They went by ship to _____ and preached in the _____ at Salamis.

When they had travelled through the island they came to _____

There was a _____ named Elymas, who tried to prevent the Roman _____ from hearing about the _____,

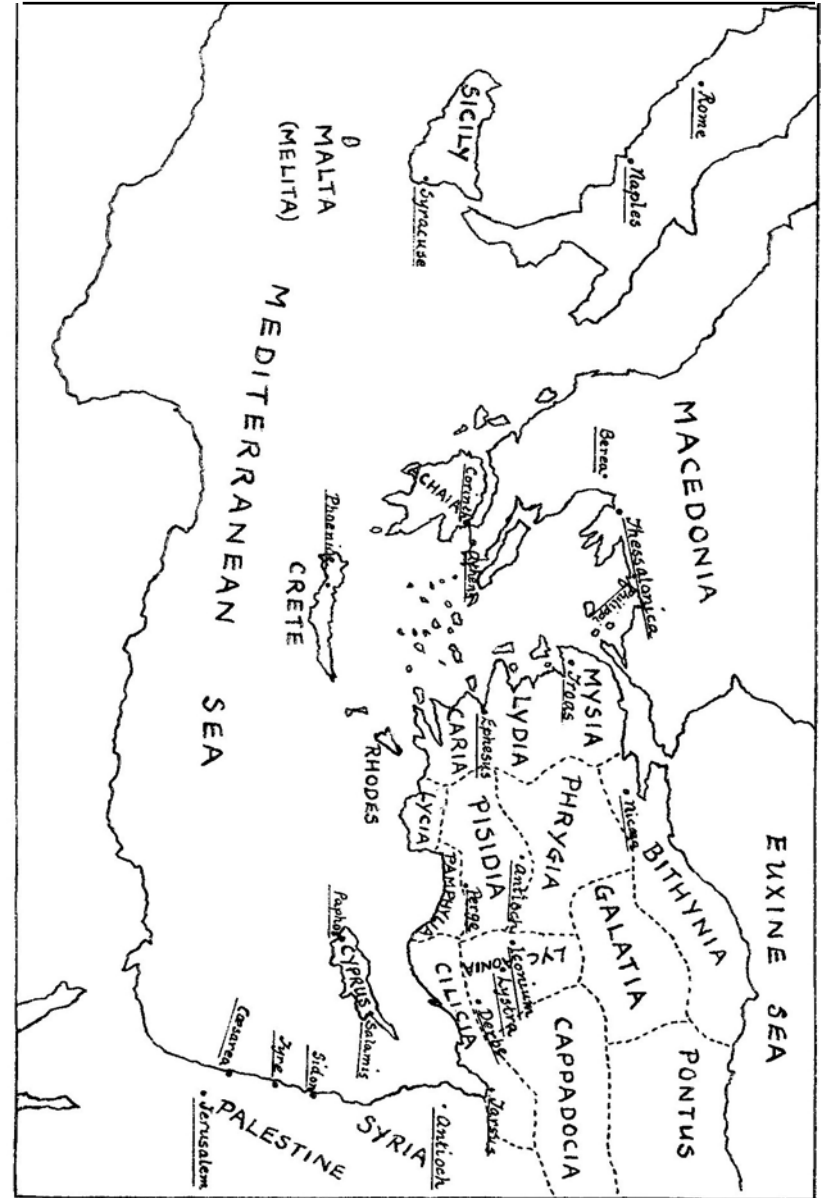
because it would put an end to his _____ power. As a punishment, he was made _____ by God at the word of _____

_____ The governor was _____ when he saw this _____

(It is a very great sin to resist divine truth, or to cause another to do so).

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| miracle | magician | Saul | converted |
| Antioch | Faith | Paul | Gospel |
| Barnabas | synagogue | governor | blind |
| Evil | Cyprus | Paphos | |

PLACES VISITED BY ST. PAUL



THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Part 2

Number 9

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

THIRTEENTH CHAPTER

Verses 13-41

READ these verses which tell us of the journey from Cyprus to the mainland, and of John Mark's departure. This, we learn later, displeased St. Paul.

The rulers of the synagogue to which they went on the first Sabbath were, no doubt, pleased to see strangers whom they could ask to speak to the congregation.

Read carefully St. Paul's sermon, and see how wonderfully and yet briefly he gives:

- (a) An outline of Jewish history;
- (b) An account of the preaching of St. John the Baptist, and of Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection;
- (c) The meaning of this as the fulfilment of God's promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Notice how, once again, it was the Jews of position and influence who refused to accept the Gospel, and were led by envy to hatred, and so to persecution. It was this "pattern" which followed St. Paul all through his missionary labours. It linked up with Jesus' experience. "He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him". Verses 48 and 52 tell us of the joy that faith brought to those who accepted it.

9. Why did they shake off the dust?

10. Why does the faith give joy and peace to our souls?

Faith of our fathers! we will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife;
And preach thee too, as love knows how,
By kindly words and virtuous life.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith,
We will be true to thee till death.

QUESTIONS

1. Which nation was specially chosen by God?

2. Who were the "fathers" of whom St. Paul spoke?

3. Which human family did Jesus choose to be born into?

4. When the Redeemer came, what did the chosen people do?

5. Who received St. Paul's preaching with joy?

6. Who rejected it?

7. What did Paul and Barnabas tell the unbelieving Jews?

8. What caused the two apostles to leave Pisidian Antioch?

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Part 2

Number 10

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

FOURTEENTH CHAPTER

Verses 1-27

READ Verses 1 - 6 This account of the work of the two Apostles in Iconium is a repetition of what had already happened in Antioch, and was to happen in other cities.

READ Verses 7 - 17 A miracle worked by St. Paul caused the pagans to take him and his companion to be gods, and they were with difficulty prevented from offering sacrifice. Notice St. Paul's emphasis on the LIVING GOD, in contrast to the lifeless images worshipped by the pagans.

READ Verses 18 – 27 Observe a resemblance between the treatment of St. Paul, and that given to Jesus on Palm Sunday and on Good Friday.

Consider the courage with which he returned to the cities where he had already preached and been persecuted. This courage was imitated by the English priests who, during the years of persecution, especially under Elizabeth I, went to the Continent for training and ordination. They knew that when they returned to England, the very fact of their priesthood meant torture and death if they were captured. But they came, for the sake of the souls who needed them, and offered their labours, their journeys, their dangers and their lives for the conversion of England. We should greatly honour the English martyrs, and pray to them for the conversion of this country.

The two Apostles, who were, of course, bishops, took care to ordain priests, so that the supernatural life of the Christians might be sustained.

QUESTIONS

1. Why were the Jews filled with special hatred for St. Paul?
2. Which miracle of St. Peter is recalled by that worked at Lystra?
3. What was the immediate effect of St. Paul's miracle?
4. How did the Apostles prevent the sacrifice?
5. What happened after St. Paul was stoned?
6. Name three things the Apostles said, and one thing they did when they re-visited the different cities?
7. Why was it important to ordain priests?
8. Copy from St. Luke's Gospel Chapter 6, verses 22 and 23.
9. Name, if you can, three English martyrs.