

*Acts 17:1-15

Men Who Have Upset the World

Paul at Thessalonica

Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ²And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ." ⁴And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women. ⁵But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and attacking the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people.

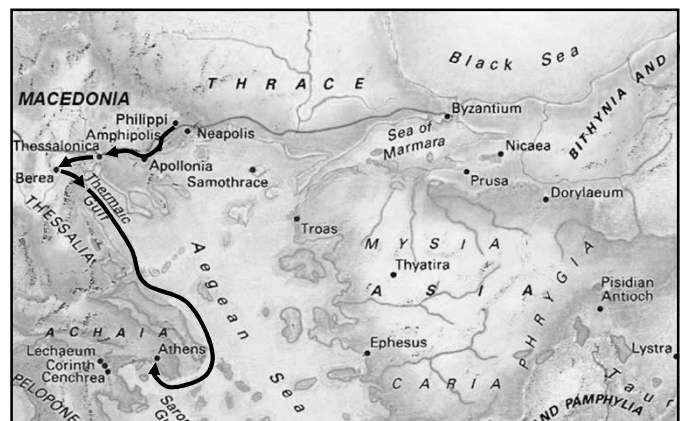
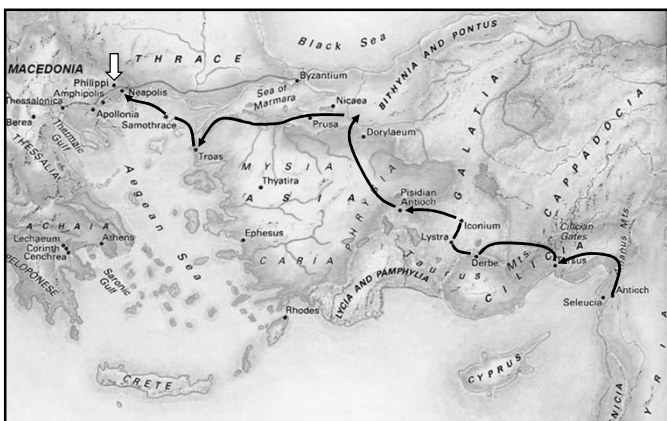
⁶When they did not find them, they *began* dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have upset the world have come here also; ⁷and Jason has welcomed them, and they all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." ⁸They stirred up the crowd and the city authorities who heard these things. ⁹And when they had received a pledge from Jason and the others, they released them.

Paul at Berea

¹⁰The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.

¹¹Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily *to see* whether these things were so. ¹²Therefore many of them believed, along with a number of prominent Greek women and men. ¹³But when the Jews of Thessalonica found out that the word of God had been proclaimed by Paul in Berea also, they came there as well, agitating and stirring up the crowds. ¹⁴Then immediately the brethren sent Paul out to go as far as the sea; and Silas and Timothy remained there. ¹⁵Now those who escorted Paul brought him as far as Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they left.

(Acts 17:1-15)

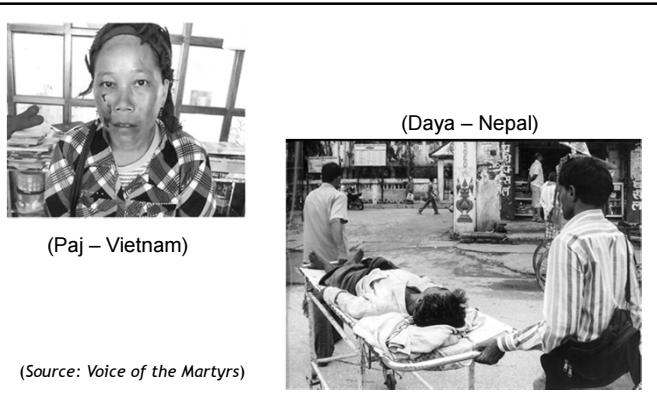


Mission in Macedonia

- Paul's Evangelistic Method
 - he appealed to the authority of the Scriptures to present the truth about Jesus
 - he "reasoned", "explained" and "gave evidence" in order to persuade them

Mission in Macedonia

1. The gospel provokes jealousy and hostility
 - people respond with hostility when the gospel threatens what they deem valuable



Mission in Macedonia

1. The gospel provokes jealousy and hostility
 - people respond with hostility when the gospel threatens what they deem valuable
 - expect false accusations, misjudged motives and misunderstood claims

Mission in Macedonia

2. The gospel provokes honest examination
 - the truth-claims of the gospel do provoke a careful searching
 - the truth-claims of the gospel invite a careful examination