

Passing the Torch

A Journey through Church History

Passing the Torch: A Journey through Church History

2 Tim. 2:1-2: You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

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- I. Setting the Stage: The Apostolic Witness (Review)
 - A. Events
 2. May, A.D. 30: Pentecost
 3. A.D. 44: Death of Herod Agrippa I:
 - a. Preceded by death of James the Elder
 - b. Preceded by Peter's imprisonment & release
 4. A.D. 50: Jerusalem Council
 5. A.D. 51-58: Paul's missionary journeys:
 - a. A.D. 56-58: Writing of the epistles to the Galatians, Corinthians & Romans
 6. A.D. 58-60: Paul's imprisonment in Caesarea (after being arrested in Jerusalem) during the procuratorship of Felix and Festus
 7. A.D. 61-63: Paul's imprisonment in Rome:
 - a. Writing of epistles to Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians & Philemon during this time. Paul released (?) in A.D. 63

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I. Setting the Stage: The Apostolic Witness (Review)

A. Events

8. A.D. 60-70: Writing of the synoptic gospels & Acts; writing of the Revelation (?)
9. A.D. 64: Persecution under Nero
10. A.D. 64: Epistle to the Hebrews written from Italy
11. A.D. 64-67:
 - a. 1st epistle of Peter, epistle of Jude, 2nd epistle of Peter (?)
 - b. 1st epistle to Timothy, epistle to Titus, 2nd epistle to Timothy (?)
 - c. A.D. 65-67: Peter & Paul's martyrdom in Rome (?)
12. A.D. 70: Destruction of Jerusalem under general Titus (Vespasian becomes emperor in A.D. 69)
13. A.D. 80-90: John writes his gospel and epistles (?)
14. A.D. 91: Domitian becomes emperor, persecution in A.D. 95
14. A.D. 98-100: Death of John (Trajan becomes emperor in A.D. 98)

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I. Setting the Stage: The Apostolic Witness

B. Reflections

1. Two strains emerge:

a. Deeds & leadership of apostles & disciples

b. Growth of the body of apostolic writing

1b. We are privileged to view the canon as a whole.

2b. Assimilation of the canon by the early church took place over time.

i. 1 John 2:27; 1 Thess. 4:9-10

iii. 2 Thess. 2:14; 3:14; Rom. 1:8-15

2. Connection of the concept of unfolding of truth in early church & in lives of believers in every age

3. The church does not exist in a vacuum. God's truth transcends circumstances, but it must be lived in the midst of them.

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I. Setting the Stage: The Apostolic Witness

B. Reflections

C. Questions

1. How should we view our own faith and Christian growth in light of the fact that: 1) our knowledge and understanding are incomplete and grow gradually, 2) no part of the “whole counsel of God” is unimportant or superfluous to our growth?

2. How should we reckon with the age in which we live while understanding that God’s revealed truth is not merely a guidebook for navigating the problems and difficulties of our age?

II. Seeds Sown: Places the Gospel Was Planted and Took Root

A. A strong nucleus in Jerusalem

1. Acts 2:41; 46-47; 4:1-4; 5:14-16; 6:1, 7

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- II. Seeds Sown: Places the Gospel Was Planted and Took Root
 - A. A strong nucleus in Jerusalem
 - 1. Acts 2:41, 46-47; 4:1-4; 5:14-16; 6:1, 7
 - B. The spread throughout Israel
 - 1. Following Stephen's martyrdom
 - 2. Acts 8:4-6, 12, 14, 25; 9:31-43; 10:1-48
 - C. The spread from Israel
 - 1. Pentecost believers from other regions
 - a. Acts 2:5-11
 - 2. The Ethiopian eunuch
 - a. Acts 8:26-39
 - 3. Believers in Damascus
 - a. Acts 9:1-2, 10-14, 19b-22
 - 4. Phoenicia, Cyprus, Antioch
 - a. Acts 11:19-21, 22-26

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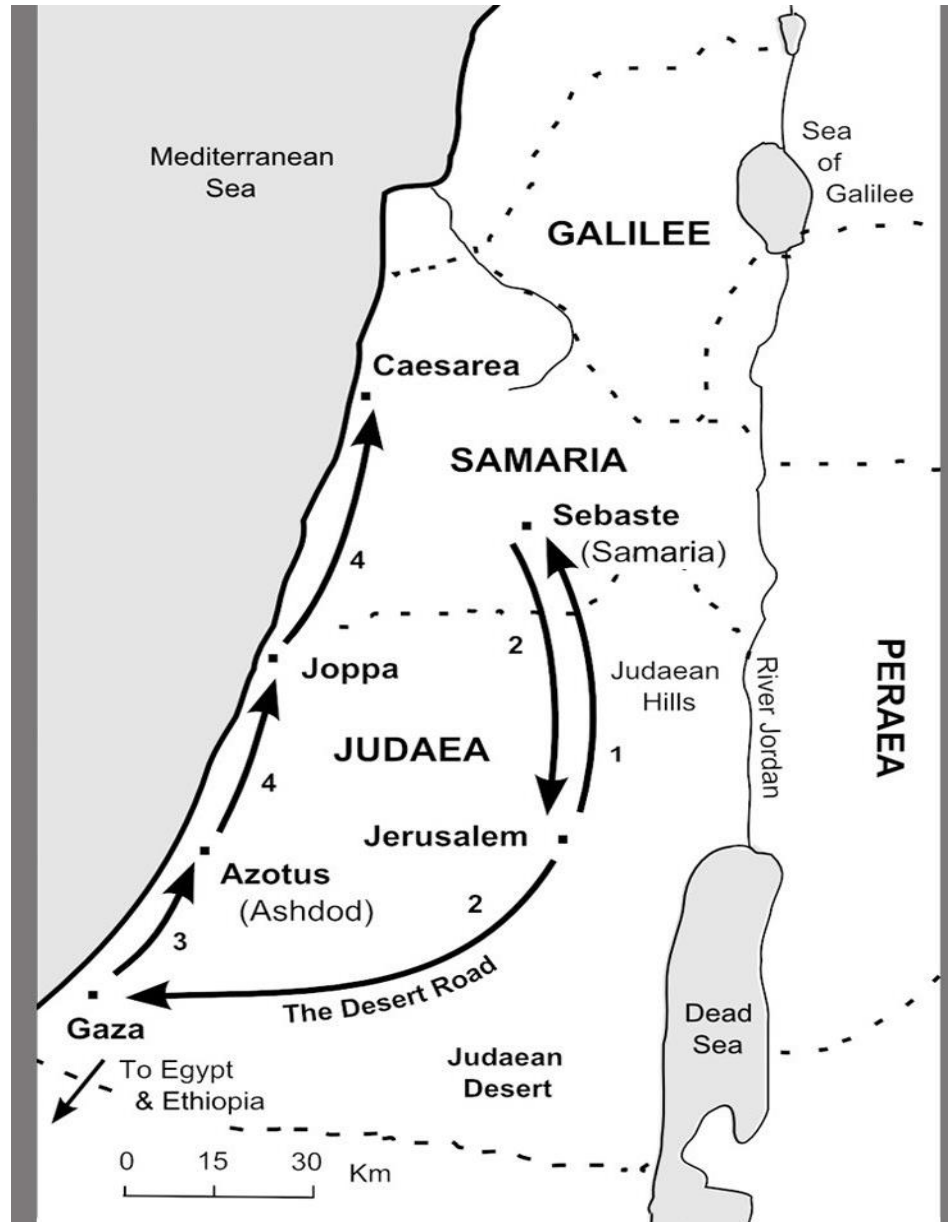
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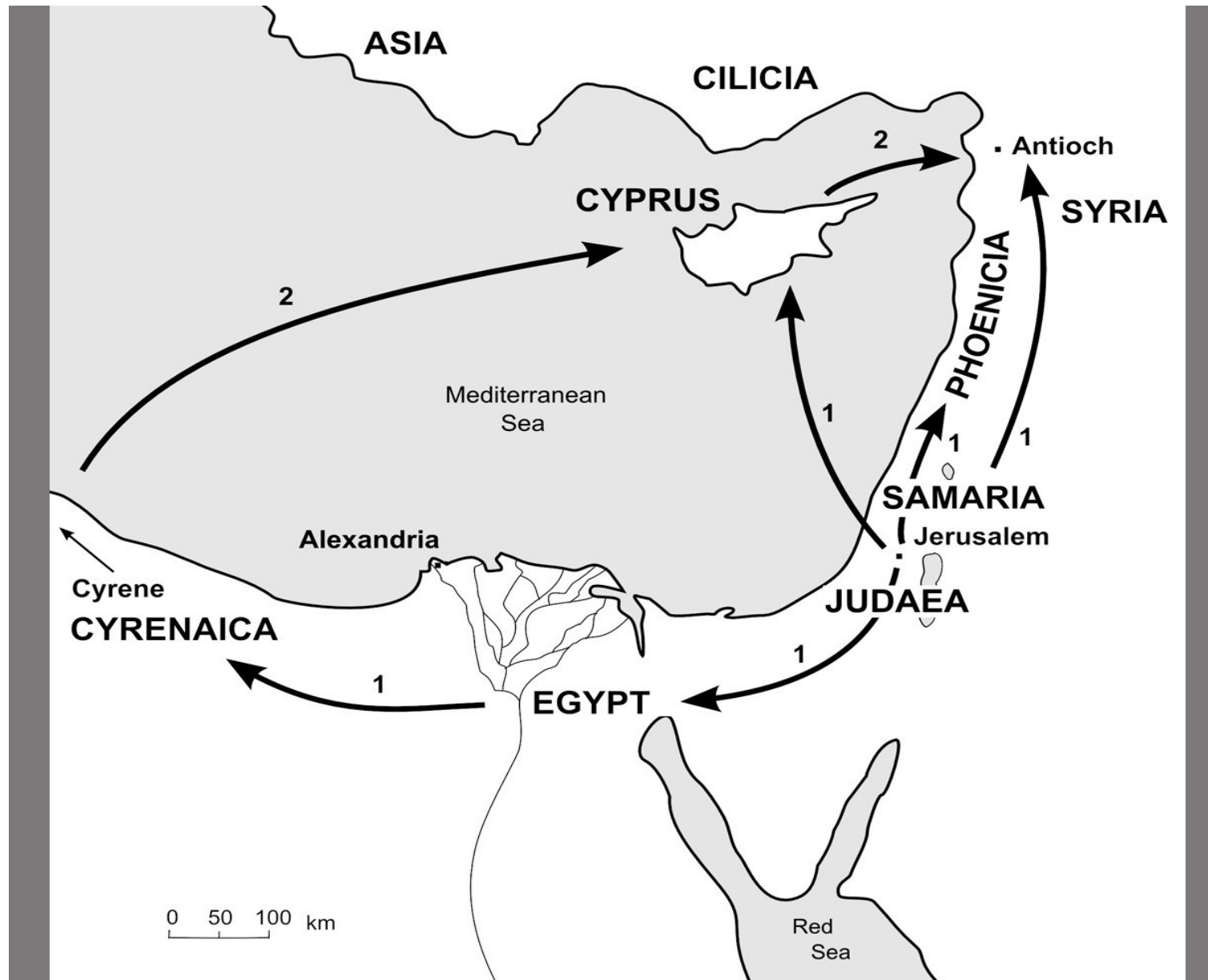
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