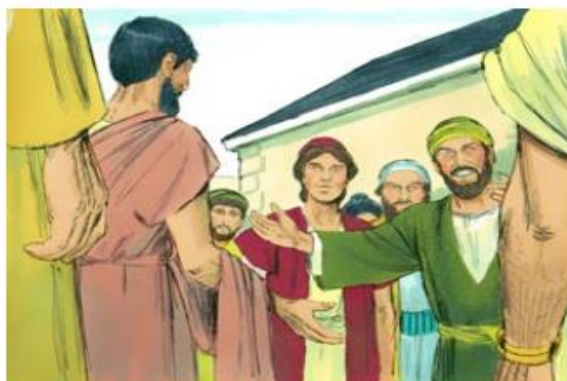


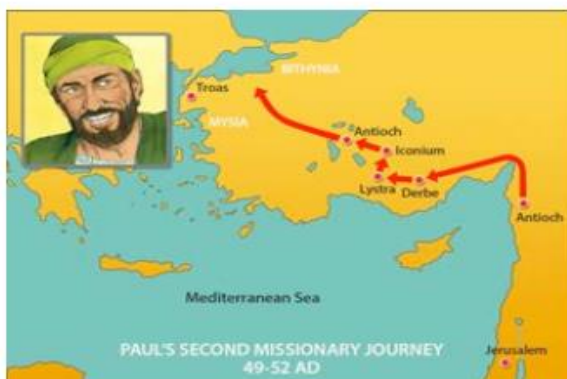
At Lystra, they met a young Christian called Timothy. His mother was a Jewish believer, but his father was a Greek. The local Christians thought very highly of him and Paul invited Timothy to join them on their journey.



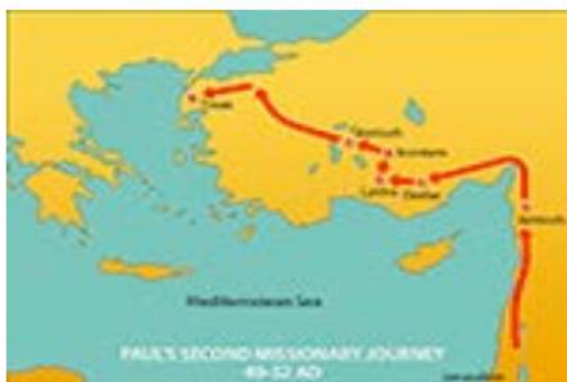
Paul, Silas and Timothy went from town to town, instructing the believers to follow the decisions made by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. The churches were strengthened in their faith and grew larger every day.



Next Paul and Silas travelled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia. They considered going south into Asia but the Holy Spirit prevented them. So they headed north for the province of Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to go there.



So instead, they went on through Mysia to the seaport of Troas.



That night Paul had a vision. A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us!'



When Paul shared this with Silas and Timothy they concluded that God was calling them to Macedonia in Greece to preach the Good News there. They packed up at once.



They boarded a boat at Troas and sailed straight across to the island of Samothrace, and the next day landed at Neapolis.



From there they reached Philippi, a major city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony.



On the Sabbath they went outside the city to a riverbank, where they thought people would be meeting for prayer. They sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there.



One of them was Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth, who worshipped God. As she listened to Paul share the good news about Jesus, the Lord opened her heart, and she became a Christian.



She was baptized along with other members of her household. She invited Paul, Silas and Timothy to stay as guests at her home while they were in Philippi.



Paul, Silas and Timothy were staying in Philippi as guests of Lydia. One day as they were going to the place of prayer, they were followed by a slave girl who was possessed by a demon. This demon gave her powers as a fortune-teller and she earned a lot of money for her masters.



She chased after Paul and the others shouting, 'These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved.'



This went on day after day until Paul got so exasperated that he turned and said to the demon within her, 'I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' Instantly it left her.



Now that the slave girl has lost her power to tell fortunes, her masters' hopes of making money were dashed. So, they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace. 'The whole city is in an uproar because of these Jews!' they shouted to the city officials. 'They are teaching customs that are illegal for us Romans to practise.'



A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them to be stripped and beaten with wooden rods. After a severe beating, Paul and Silas were thrown into prison.



The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape. So, he put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks. Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening.



Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off!



The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself. But Paul shouted to him, 'Stop! Don't kill yourself! We are all here!' The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and asked, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'



They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household.' Then they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household.



The jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptised. He gave them a meal in his house and his entire household rejoiced because they all believed in God.



The next morning the city officials told the jailer, 'Let those men go!' When they learned that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens they came to the jail to apologise to them for their treatment. Paul and Silas left the prison and returned to the home of Lydia. They met with the believers and encouraged them before leaving the city.



These illustrations are the copyright of Good Pictures and licensed to FreeBibleImages for free download under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International license.

www.freebibleimages.org