

ACTS chaps 11 & 12

"ADVERSITY CAN BUILD STRENGTH"

MAP OF PALESTINE

1. Dispersion of Jewish saints from Jerusalem because of persecution ^{by Jews} (because of Stephen)
2. These saints proclaimed Gospel in Phoenicia, Cyprus, Antioch etc. some only to Jews, some also to gentiles (view of Peter's vision)

3. Geography etc.

a. Cyprus

Cu (Cyprus) copper mines (Greek Kupros)

rich agriculture (wine grapes, honey, fruit, flax)

Senatorial Province (ruled by governor appointed by the senate)
3rd largest Is in med 140 mi x 60 mi

Mt Olympus 6,406 ft, highest point

extensive forests now gone (goats) Cypriots Cypress trees

NICOSIA - capital

Rainfall ~ 15 in / yr. 50% falls betw Dec + Feb.

Temp: 50° over Jan - 80° July over

⚡ Jewish revolt 116-117 AD Jewish revolt (also in Egypt + Cyprus) massacred 240,000 persons - Hadrian (Emperor) expelled all Jews.

b. Antioch

name of many ancient cities

most famous on left bank of Orontes, 20 mi from sea

trade route { fertile plain separate Lebanon range from spurs of the Taurus

Tradition of asylum lax morals

earthquakes 1st record 148 BC.

~100,000 christians by 400 AD

called ANTAKYA today (Turkey)

at time of ACTS

Antioch in PISIDIA - Greek speaking city - rapidly being romanized - had many Jews.

THEATRE, ARENA, RACETRACK

Christ race BEN HUR here

PARKS (Garden of Daphne), Temples, porticos, theatres, palaestras, most famous (wrestling schools)

Events

Barnabas - from Cyprus - invited saints in "exile" branches sought Paul to help.

Paul & Barnabas preached for 1 yr at Antioch
Term CHRISTIAN first used at ANTIOCH

See B of M Alma 46:15 - term used first here

AGABUS (prophet) learned of drought coming to Jerusalem. sent Paul & Barnabas with relief (Acts 11:28)

Persecution

Herod the king persecuted Christians
James (bro. of John, killed by sword)
Peter imprisoned

to gain Jewish favor

Peter's Release by Angel (before Herod was to deliver Peter to council)
Acts 12:4-11

Peter at home of Mary ← Mother of John Mark Damsel Rhoda
(Acts 12:12-17)

Later Events

1. Jailkeepers put to death
2. Herod slain by angel
3. Herod eaten by worms before dying
4. Persecution did not thwart church growth but aided it
5. Peter & Barnabas returning to Antioch from Jerusalem brought John Mark with them thought to be Mark who wrote 2nd gospel

DISCUSS ADVERSITY / PERSECUTION

Pioneers -

Testimony of Adversity in life -

Key scripture Acts 12:24 " BUT THE WORD OF GOD GREW & MULTIPLIED "