

# Bible Study #2

9 22 15

# Review

Acts 1-19:12

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians

Galatians

# A Prayer to be recited before reading the Sacred Scriptures

- Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.
- Send forth Thy spirit and they shall be created.
- And thou shall renew the face of the earth
- *Let Us Pray*
- O God, Who didst instruct the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things and ever to rejoice in His consolation.
- Through Christ our Lord

# Power Houses of Prayer

- **Mary Mother of the Church Monastery**
- 2505 Stonehedge Drive
- Alexandria, VA 22306-2451
- Prayer Answering Machine **703 768 4918**
- **St. Dominic's Monastery**
- 2636 Monastery Road
- Linden, VA 22642
- Prayer Answering Machine **540 635 3259**
- Call with prayer requests, consider providing monetary support as they are mendicants depending entirely on the support of others for their existence

# Early Christian Time Line (Cont)

- 0-6 A.D. The Birth of Jesus the Christ
- 1-5 Saul (Paul) was born in Tarsus
- 30-33 A.D. Jesus Christ preached the gospel, was crucified, raised and ascended into Heaven
  - Jesus promised the Holy Spirit and commanded the Apostles to be His witness in ***Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria*** & to ***the ends of the earth*** (Acts 1:8)
  - The 11 Apostles witnessed the Ascension of Jesus into the Glory “Cloud” (Acts 1:9)
  - Peter spoke to a group of 120 brethren about the death of Judas who was buried in the Field of Blood (Acts 1:15-20)
  - Mathias was selected by casting lots to replace Judas (Acts 1:21-25)

# Early Christian Time Line (Cont)

- 33 A.D. The early church experienced Pentecost & the descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-47)
  - Tongues of fire
  - Message heard in multitude of languages
  - Peter chastised the Jews and called them to repentance and baptism
  - 3000 Jews from the world entered the Church of Jerusalem
- The Apostles understood that their task from Jesus was to spread the “Good News” (*Evangelium*)
  - *This became known as the “Kerygma” (Read - Acts 2:14-43)*

# Early Christian Time Line (Cont)

- Background of those hearing Peter's first presentation of the Kerygma as discussed in Acts 2:9-11

Parthians

Medes

Elamites

Mesopotamia

Judea

Cappadocia

Pontus

Asia

Phrygia

Pamphylia

Egypt

Libya

Rome

Cretans

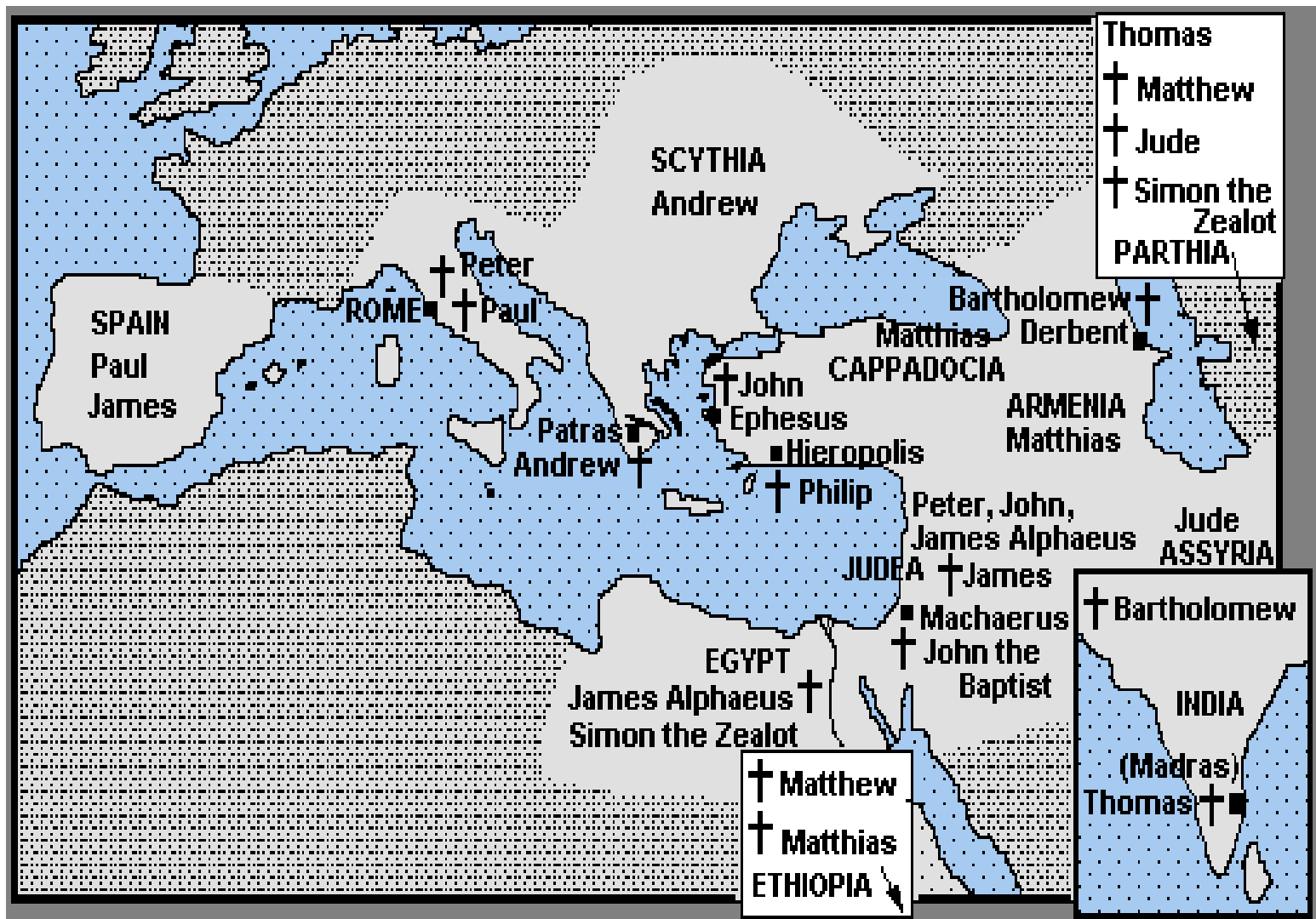
Arabians





# The Explosion of Christianity

- THE HOLY SPIRIT
  - 12 Apostles
    - 120 Jews/ Proselytes (Acts 1:15)
    - 3000 Jews/ Proselytes (Acts 2:41)
    - 5000 Jews/Proselytes (Acts 4:4)
    - 2.18 Billion Christians by 2010



# Summary of the Kerygma

- The promises of God made in the OT have now been fulfilled with the coming of Jesus, the Messiah
- Jesus was anointed by God at his baptism as Messiah
- Jesus began his ministry in Galilee after his baptism
- He conducted a beneficent ministry, doing good and performing mighty works by the power of God
- The Messiah was crucified according to the purpose of God
- He was raised from the dead and appeared to his disciples
- Jesus was exalted by God and given the name “Lord”
- He gave the Holy Spirit to form the new community of God
- He will come again for judgment and the restoration of all things
- All who hear the message should repent and be baptized

# Early Christian Time Line (Cont)

- Peter and John (Acts 3:1 - 5:11)
  - Healed the man lame from birth
  - Preached within Solomon's Portico
  - Were arrested by the Sanhedrin and thrown into prison
  - 5000 who heard the word joined the Church
  - The next day they defended their actions before the Sanhedrin who released them with a warning not to speak or preach in "the name of Jesus"
  - They reported this to the Church of Jerusalem who then decided to entrust everything and live in a communal setting (Acts 2:46; 4:32-5:11)
    - Barnabas gave the community a piece of land
    - Ananias and Sapphira withheld part of their sale and after lying to the Apostles and the elders were struck dead

# Early Christian Time Line (Cont)

- The Apostles returned to preaching in Solomon's Portico (Acts 5:12-16)
- The high priest and Sadducees were filled with jealousy and arrested them again (Acts 5:17-19)
- That night they were freed from prison by an angel and returned to preach in the Temple (Acts 5:19-21)
- They were again brought before the high priest and the Sanhedrin who wanted to kill them (Acts 5:21-32)
- A most respected Pharisee named *Gamaliel* convinced the Council to spare them as possibly being from God (Acts 5:33-42)

# Early Christian Time Line (Cont)

- A division arose within the early Church between the treatment of Hellenist and Hebrew widows (Acts 6:1-6)
  - The Apostles selected 7 deacons to assist in ministering to the widows allowing them to focus on preaching the Gospel
- Deacon Stephen was: (Acts 6:8 - 8:1)
  - One of the seven, filled with zeal and preached to the Jews
  - Charged with blasphemy and taken before the Council for a trial
  - Stoned and martyred in front of Saul of *Tarsus*

# Early Christian Time Line (Cont)

- The Jews began a great persecution of the Church in Jerusalem scattering the believers (except for the Apostles) throughout **Judea** and **Samaria** (Acts 8:1-3)
- Deacon Philip (Acts 8:4-40):
  - Took the Gospel to **Samaria** causing Peter and John to visit and lay hands on the believers in order for them to receive the Holy Spirit
  - Converted and Baptized an Ethiopian minister on the Road to **Gaza**
  - Continued to **Caesarea** preaching the gospel

# Early Christian Time Line (Cont)

- Peter and John healed a man lame from birth within the Temple and preached to the people from Solomon's Portico
  - This resulted in 5000 men joining the Church
  - Peter and John were taken into custody overnight, then taken before the Sanhedrin and later released with only a verbal reprimand
- Church of ***Jerusalem*** decided to live in a “communal” setting
  - Barnabas gave the community a parcel of land
  - *Ananias* and *Sapphira* withheld part of their profits, lied to the community and were died suddenly



# Early Christian Time Line (Cont)

- 33-37 A.D. Saul's persecution of the Church and his conversion (Acts 8:2-9:30) Saul:
  - Began persecuting the early Church in Jerusalem and was given a letter from the Sanhedrin to persecute the believers in **Damascus**
  - Was struck down and blinded on the Road to **Damascus**
  - Regained his sight by the laying on of the hands of *Ananias*
  - Was baptized
  - Had to flee after the Jews plotted against him
  - Spent 3 years on a sojourn and meditation in **Arabia**
  - Returned to **Damascus** where the Jews plotted to kill him
  - Fled by night to **Jerusalem**
  - Was supported by Barnabas before the Church of Jerusalem
  - Was moved to **Caesarea** and then on to **Tarsus** (Acts 9:1-30)

# Early Christian Time Line (Cont)

- The Church throughout **Judea, Galilee & Samaria** was at peace (Acts 9:31)
- Peter (Acts 9:32 - 11:18)
  - Traveled to **Lydda** where he healed a man paralyzed for eight years by calling on the name of Jesus Christ
  - Moved on to **Joppa** and raised a woman from the dead named *Tabitha*
  - Stayed at the house of *Simon* the tanner in **Joppa**
    - Dreamed of a sheet containing animals descending from heaven and was instructed to kill and eat
    - Initially, he refused to eat as he had never eaten anything “unclean”
    - Was told not to declare what God had deemed “clean” to be “unclean”
    - Was visited by a delegation from the house of the Roman Centurion *Cornelius*

# Early Christian Time Line (Cont)

- Went with the delegation from *Cornelius*, along with 6 of his disciples, to **Caesarea**
- Converted and baptized *Cornelius* and his household
- Returned to **Jerusalem** where he was challenged by the “circumcision party”
  - His counter argument silenced his detractors