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THE APOSTLE PAUL – LESSON 17

THE MACEDONIAN CALL

After leaving Antioch of Pisidia, Paul, Silas, and Timothy travelled throughout the Roman provinces of Phrygia and Galatia in Asia Minor (present-day Turkey) but were forbidden by the Holy Ghost to preach any further in Asia.

They travelled to the east coast of Asia to Mysia and the port city of Troas on the coast of the Aegean Sea which juts out of the north side of the Mediterranean Sea.

While they were at Troas, Paul received a vision of a man of Macedonia asking him to come over across that sea to help them. Macedonia was in Europe just above Greece. The two countries were so closely associated that they were almost like one country. Alexander the Great was the great conqueror from Greece 400 years earlier, but Alexander's father was Philip of Macedon (Macedonia).

The missionary party promptly set sail for the Roman province of Macedonia from Troas. They stopped midway at the Island of Samothracia, then landed in Macedonia at the port city of Neapolis. They then proceeded to the port city of Philippi. Luke had joined them at some undetermined part of the journey and was present with them at Philippi for the ministry in Macedonia.

Luke would join Paul for short periods from time to time. This qualified him to write the Book of The Acts of the Apostles as an eyewitness. Four passages say "we," indicating his physical presence (Acts 16:10-17; 20:5-15; 21:1-18; and 17:1-28.) Other times it was "they" when he was not with them.

Tomorrow we will see what powerful churches they established in their venture into Europe.