

~PHILIPPI (374)

(Phi-lip'pi)

.. History

.. Paul's Visit

- At the time of the apostle Paul's second missionary tour, this city was the principal or, first city of the district of Macedonia, though apparently not its capital.
- It was located in the eastern part of the district, at the North end of the Aegean Sea, not far from the district of Thrace. Paul, coming by boat from Troas, landed at **Philippis** seaport town, Neapolis, and traveled about 15 kilometers (9.5 miles)
- Northwest along the *Via Egnatia*, or **Egnatian Way**, the great commercial and military road from Asia to Rome, which ran through a mountain pass some 500 meters (1,600 feet) above sea level and down into the **Philippian** Plain.
- Therefore we put out to sea from Troas and came with a straight run to Samothrace, but on the following day to Neapolis. (**Acts of Apostles 16:11**)
- And from there to **Philippi**, a colony, which is the principal city of the district of Macedonia. We continued in this city, spending some days. (**Acts of Apostles 16:12**)
- The city was situated on a hill rising out of the plain, near the river Gangites. On the South was an extensive marsh. **Philippi's** acropolis was on a large rock formation in the Northeast part of the city. Excavations of the ruins indicate that the Egnatian Way ran through the middle of the city and that alongside it there was a fair-sized forum.
- Amphipolis, to which Paul traveled after leaving **Philippi**, was apparently the capital of the district, it lay about 50 kilometers (30 miles) Southwest of **Philippi**.
- From Amphipolis, Paul went South approximately 50 kilometers (30 miles) to Apollonia and from there to Thessalonica some 60 kilometers (37 miles) West, where he stayed for about three weeks before heading Southwest through Beroea to take a boat for Athens.

· History

- **Philippi** was originally called **Crenides**, or **Krenides**. **Philip II** of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great, took the city from the Thracians about the middle of the **Fourth Century B.C.E.** and named it after himself.
- There were rich gold mines in the area, and gold coins were issued in **Philips** name. About **168 B.C.E.** the Roman consul Lucius Aemilius Paulus defeated Perseus, the last of the Macedonian kings, and took **Philippi** and the surrounding territory.
- In **146 B.C.E.** all Macedonia was formed into a single Roman province. The battle in which Octavian and Mark Antony defeated the armies of Brutus and Gaius Cassius Longinus, assassins of Julius Caesar, took place on the **Plain of Philippi** in **42 B.C.E.** Afterward, as a memorial of his great victory, Augustus made **Philippi** a Roman colony.
- And from there to **Philippi**, a colony, which is the principal city of the district of Macedonia. We continued in this city, spending some days. (**Acts of Apostles 16:12**)
- Some years later, when Octavian was made Caesar Augustus by the Roman senate, he called the town *Colonia Augusta Julia Philippensis*.
- Its designation as a Roman colony granted the city freedom from taxes along with other privileges, possibly including a secondary form of Roman citizenship for its inhabitants.
- The citizens therefore had a stronger attachment to and sentiment toward Rome than would otherwise have been the case.
- This may explain why the masters of the girl from whom the apostle Paul exorcised a demon of divination stressed the point before the magistrates by saying, in their accusation against Paul and Silas; We are **Romans**.
- And it happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a certain servant girl with a spirit, a demon of divination, met us. She used to furnish her masters with much gain by practicing the art of prediction. (**Acts of Apostles 16:16**)
- This girl kept following Paul and us and crying out with the

words; These men are slaves of the Most High God, who are publishing to you the way of salvation. (**Acts of Apostles 16:17**)

- This she kept doing for many days. Finally Paul got tired of it and turned and said to the spirit; I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And it came out that very hour. (**Acts of Apostles 16:18**)
- Well, when her masters saw that their hope of gain had left, they laid hold of Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the rulers. (**Acts of Apostles 16:19**)
- And, leading them up to the civil magistrates, they said; These men are disturbing our city very much, they being Jews. (**Acts of Apostles 16:20**)
- And they are publishing customs that it is not lawful for us to take up or practice, seeing we are Romans. (**Acts of Apostles 16:21**)
- And the crowd rose up together against them, and the civil magistrates, after tearing the outer garments off them, gave the command to beat them with rods. (**Acts of Apostles 16:22**)
- After they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them securely. (**Acts of Apostles 16:23**)
- Because he got such an order, he threw them into the inner prison and made their feet fast in the stocks. (**Acts of Apostles 16:24**)
- It also would be very understandable to the **Philippian** Christians when Paul later wrote exhorting them to be behaving as citizens worthy of the Good News of the Christ, and reminding them that our citizenship exists in the heavens, for worldly, Roman citizenship would be highly prized in **Philippi**, even something about which to boast.
- Only behave in a manner worthy of the Good News about the Christ, in order, that, whether I come and see you or be absent, I may hear about the things which concern you, that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one soul striving side by side for the faith of the Good News. (**Philippians 1:27**)

- As for us, our citizenship exists in the heavens, from which place also we are eagerly waiting for a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. **(Philippians 3:20)**

• Paul's Visit

- **Philippi** was privileged to be the first city in Europe to hear Paul preach the Good News, in about **50 C.E.**, during his second missionary tour. He went there in obedience to a night vision at Troas in Asia Minor, in which a Macedonian man entreated him; Step over into Macedonia and help us.
- So they passed Mysia by and came down to Troas. **(Acts of Apostles 16:8)**
- And during the night a vision appeared to Paul. A certain Macedonian man was standing and entreating him and saying, Step over into Macedonia and help us. **(Acts of Apostles 16:9)**
- Now as soon as he had seen the vision, we sought to go forth into Macedonia, drawing the conclusion that God had summoned us to declare the Good News to them. **(Acts of Apostles 16:10)**
- Paul and his companions, evidently including their chronicler Luke, stayed there for several days, and on the Sabbath they went forth outside the gate beside a river, where, Luke recounts, we were thinking there was a place of prayer.
- Some think that there was no synagogue in **Philippi**, because of the city's military character that the Jews there may have been forbidden to assemble inside the city for worship.
- In any case, Paul spoke to the women assembled there and found one, Lydia by name, a worshiper of God, who opened her heart wide to pay attention to the things being spoken by Paul.
- She and her household were baptized, and her appreciation and hospitality were so great that she just made Paul and his companions come to stay at her house.
- Therefore we put out to sea from Troas and came with a straight run to Samothrace, but on the following day to Neapolis. **(Acts of Apostles 16:11)**

- And from there to **Philippi**, a colony, which is the principal city of the district of Macedonia. We continued in this city, spending some days. (**Acts of Apostles 16:12**)
- And on the Sabbath day we went forth outside the gate beside a river, where we were thinking there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and began speaking to the women that had assembled. (**Acts of Apostles 16:13**)
- And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira and a worshiper of God, was listening, and Yehowah opened her heart wide to pay attention to the things being spoken by Paul. (**Acts of Apostles 16:14**)
- Now when she and her household got baptized, she said with entreaty; If you men have judged me to be faithful to Yehowah, enter into my house and stay. And she just made us come. (**Acts of Apostles 16:15**)
- But now, after answering the call to come into Macedonia, Paul was faced with persecution in this very first city, this time not from Jewish sources, as had been the case in Galatia.
- The magistrates of the city acted on false accusations made by the owners of a demonized girl. They had lost their income because she was no longer able to carry on the practice of prediction, from which they had made much gain.
- Paul and Silas were beaten with rods, they were thrown into prison, and their feet were made fast in stocks.
- And it happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a certain servant girl with a spirit, a demon of divination, met us. She used to furnish her masters with much gain by practicing the art of prediction. (**Acts of Apostles 16:16**)
- This girl kept following Paul and us and crying out with the words; These men are slaves of the Most High God, who are publishing to you the way of salvation. (**Acts of Apostles 16:17**)
- This she kept doing for many days. Finally Paul got tired of it and turned and said to the spirit; I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And it came out that very hour. (**Acts of Apostles 16:18**)

- Well, when her masters saw that their hope of gain had left, they laid hold of Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the rulers. (**Acts of Apostles 16:19**)
- And, leading them up to the civil magistrates, they said; These men are disturbing our city very much, they being Jews. (**Acts of Apostles 16:20**)
- And they are publishing customs that it is not lawful for us to take up or practice, seeing we are Romans. (**Acts of Apostles 16:21**)
- And the crowd rose up together against them, and the civil magistrates, after tearing the outer garments off them, gave the command to beat them with rods. (**Acts of Apostles 16:22**)
- After they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them securely. (**Acts of Apostles 16:23**)
- Because he got such an order, he threw them into the inner prison and made their feet fast in the stocks. (**Acts of Apostles 16:24**)
- In the middle of the night, however, as they, in the hearing of the other prisoners, were praying and praising God with song, a miracle occurred.
- An earthquake broke the prisoners bonds and threw the doors open. The jailer, knowing that he would face the death penalty for loss of the prisoners committed to him, was about to kill himself when Paul called out;
- But about the middle of the night Paul and Silas were praying and praising God with song, yes, the prisoners were hearing them. (**Acts of Apostles 16:25**)
- Suddenly a great earthquake occurred, so that the foundations of the jail were shaken. Moreover, all the doors were instantly opened, and the bonds of all were loosened. (**Acts of Apostles 16:26**)
- The jailer, being awakened out of sleep and seeing the prison

- doors were open, drew his sword and was about to do away with himself, imagining that the prisoners had escaped. (**Acts of Apostles 16:27**)
- But Paul called out with a loud voice, saying; Do not hurt yourself, for we are all here! (**Acts of Apostles 16:28**)
 - So he asked for lights and leaped in and, seized with trembling, he fell down before Paul and Silas. (**Acts of Apostles 16:29**)
 - And he brought them outside and said; Sirs, what must I do to get saved? (**Acts of Apostles 16:30**)
 - They said; Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will get saved, you and your household. (**Acts of Apostles 16:31**)
 - And they spoke the word of Yehowah to him together with all those in his house. (**Acts of Apostles 16:32**)
 - And he took them along in that hour of the night and bathed their stripes, and, one and all, he and his were baptized without delay. (**Acts of Apostles 16:33**)
 - And he brought them into his house and set a table before them, and he rejoiced greatly with all his household now that he had believed God. (**Acts of Apostles 16:34**)
 - The next morning, perhaps hearing of the miraculous occurrence, the city magistrates ordered the jailer to release Paul. But Paul was concerned with vindicating, defending, and legally establishing the Good News more than with immediate release.
 - He was not going to submit to any secret back-door release in order to save face for the magistrates. He called attention to his own Roman citizenship and the fact that they had **publicly** beaten him and Silas, uncondemned.
 - No, indeed! They must openly acknowledge that they, and not the Christians, had acted unlawfully. On hearing that Paul and Silas were Romans, the magistrates were struck with fear and, coming down personally, entreated them, brought them out, and requested that they leave the city.
 - When it became day, the civil magistrates dispatched the

constables to say; Release those men. ([Acts of Apostles 16:35](#))

- So the jailer reported their words to Paul; The civil magistrates have dispatched men that you two might be released. Now, therefore, come out and go your way in peace. ([Acts of Apostles 16:36](#))
- But Paul said to them; They flogged us publicly uncondemned, men who are Romans, and threw us into prison, and are they now throwing us out secretly? No, indeed! But let them come themselves and bring us out. ([Acts of Apostles 16:37](#))
- So the constables reported these sayings to the civil magistrates. These grew fearful when they heard that the men were Romans. ([Acts of Apostles 16:38](#))
- Consequently they came and entreated them and, after bringing them out, they requested them to depart from the city. ([Acts of Apostles 16:39](#))
- But they came out of the prison and went to the home of Lydia, and when they saw the brothers they encouraged them and departed. ([Acts of Apostles 16:40](#))
- Nevertheless, Paul had established a fine congregation in **Philippi**, one that was always dear to his heart. Their love for him was manifested by their anxious care and provision for him, even when he was elsewhere.
- Because, even in Thessalonica, you sent something to me both once and a second time for my need. ([Philippians 4:16](#))
- Paul visited **Philippi** again during his third missionary tour and, possibly, a third time, after his release from his first imprisonment in Rome.
- Now after the uproar had subsided, Paul sent for the disciples, and when he had encouraged them and bidden them farewell, he went forth to journey into Macedonia. ([Acts of Apostles 20:1](#))
- After going through those parts and encouraging the ones there with many a word, he came into Greece. ([Acts of Apostles 20:2](#))
- But we put out to sea from **Philippi** after the days of the

unfermented cakes, and we came to them in Troas within five days, and there we spent seven days. ([Acts of Apostles 20:6](#))

- For I know this will result in my salvation through your supplication and a supply of the spirit of Jesus Christ. ([Philippians 1:19](#))
- Indeed, I am confident in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly. ([Philippians 2:24](#))