

## ~PHRYGIA (152) (Phryg'i-a)

- A country or region in central Asia Minor. The geographic boundaries of **Phrygia** fluctuated greatly over the years, so it is difficult to define the area encompassed unless one refers to a specific period.
- In the **First Century Phrygia** was an inland area in the Roman provinces of Galatia and Asia, covering the plateau country North of the Taurus Range, from the Halys River on the East to the upper valleys of the Hermus and Maeander rivers on the West. The apostle Paul traveled through portions of **Phrygia** on at least two of his trips.
- Moreover, they went through **Phrygia** and the country of Galatia, because they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in the district of Asia. (**Acts of Apostles 16:6**)
- And when he had passed some time there he departed and went from place to place through the country of Galatia and **Phrygia**, strengthening all the disciples. (**Acts of Apostles 18:23**)
- In the course of events, while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul went through the inland parts and came down to Ephesus, and found some disciples. (**Acts of Apostles 19:1**)
- It is commonly believed that the **Phrygians** spread South from Greece toward the close of the **Second Millennium B.C.E.** and gained control of much of central and western Asia Minor North of the Taurus Mountains, from the Halys River to the Aegean Sea.
- Archaeological evidence points to Gordium as their capital and King Midas as one of their prominent rulers.
- The western part of **Phrygia** came under the control of the Attalid kings of Pergamum. This kingdom became the Roman province of Asia, but the Southeast portion is often referred to as Asian **Phrygia**.

## See Also ASIA

- The king of Galatia ruled the more easterly section of **Phrygia**, and it eventually formed a part of the Roman province of Galatia. This

eastern section is sometimes termed Galatian **Phrygia**, it was North of Pisidia and Northwest of Lycaonia.

- Depending on the point of view of the writer and the time period involved, Antioch and Iconium might be called **Phrygian** cities, though often Antioch is connected with Pisidia, and Iconium with Lycaonia.
- They, however, went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia and, going into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, they took a seat. ([Acts of Apostles 13:14](#))

See Also **ANTIOCH 2**

See Also **ICONIUM**

- The population of **Phrygia** included many Jews, their presence having been encouraged by the Seleucid rulers in Syria. According to [Josephus, Antiochus III \[223-187 B.C.E.\]](#)
- Transported two thousand Jewish families with their effects from **Mesopotamia and Babylonia** to Lydia and Phrygia in order to stabilize conditions among the seditious people there. [[Jewish Antiquities, XII, 149, iii, 4](#)]
- And Jews evidently continued to be numerous in Asia Minor under the Romans. On Pentecost **33 C.E.** there were present in Jerusalem Jews from the district of Asia, and **Phrygia** and Pamphylia.
- Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and the inhabitants of Mesopotamia, and Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and the district of Asia. ([Acts of Apostles 2:9](#))
- And **Phrygia** and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya, which is toward Cyrene, and sojourners from Rome, both Jews and proselytes. ([Acts of Apostles 2:10](#))
- On his second missionary tour, Paul and his companions, coming Northwest through Cilicia and Lycaonia, went through **Phrygia** and the country of Galatia, because they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in the district of Asia.
- But he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the congregations. ([Acts of Apostles 15:41](#))
- So he arrived at Derbe and also at Lystra. And, look! A certain disciple was there by the name of Timothy, the son of a believing

- Jewish woman but of a Greek father. (**Acts of Apostles 16:1**)
- And he was well reported on by the brothers in Lystra and Iconium. (**Acts of Apostles 16:2**)
  - Paul expressed the desire for this man to go out with him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews that were in those places, for one and all knew that his father was a Greek. (**Acts of Apostles 16:3**)
  - Now as they traveled on through the cities they would deliver to those there for observance the decrees that had been decided upon by the apostles and older men who were in Jerusalem. (**Acts of Apostles 16:4**)
  - Therefore, indeed, the congregations continued to be made firm in the faith and to increase in number from day to day. (**Acts of Apostles 16:5**)
  - Moreover, they went through **Phrygia** and the country of Galatia, because they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in the district of Asia. (**Acts of Apostles 16:6**)
  - So they had entered the eastern part of old **Phrygia**, which by Paul's time was Galatian **Phrygia**, but instead of continuing West through the province of Asia, containing Asian **Phrygia**, they went North toward the province of Bithynia and then West to Troas.
  - Paul's third tour took him through Galatian **Phrygia** and Asian Phrygia. He left Antioch in Pisidia and went from place to place through the country of Galatia and **Phrygia**.
  - And when he had passed some time there he departed and went from place to place through the country of Galatia and **Phrygia**, strengthening all the disciples. (**Acts of Apostles 18:23**)
  - The account also says that he went through the inland parts and came down to Ephesus on the Aegean Coast.
  - In the course of events, while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul went through the inland parts and came down to Ephesus, and found some disciples. (**Acts of Apostles 19:1**)

- It seems that he did not travel the main road to Ephesus, passing down the Lycus River valley and by the **Phrygian** cities of Laodicea, Colossae, and Hierapolis.
- For I want you to realize how great a struggle I am having in behalf of you and of those at Laodicea and of all those who have not seen my face in the flesh. (**Colossians 2:1**)
- I indeed bear him witness that he puts himself to great effort in behalf of you and of those at Laodicea and of those at Hierapolis. (**Colossians 4:13**)
- But, instead, took a more direct route somewhat to the North.

**See Also COLOSSAE**