

NEW TESTAMENT BIBLICAL LITERACY

ACTS – PART SEVEN

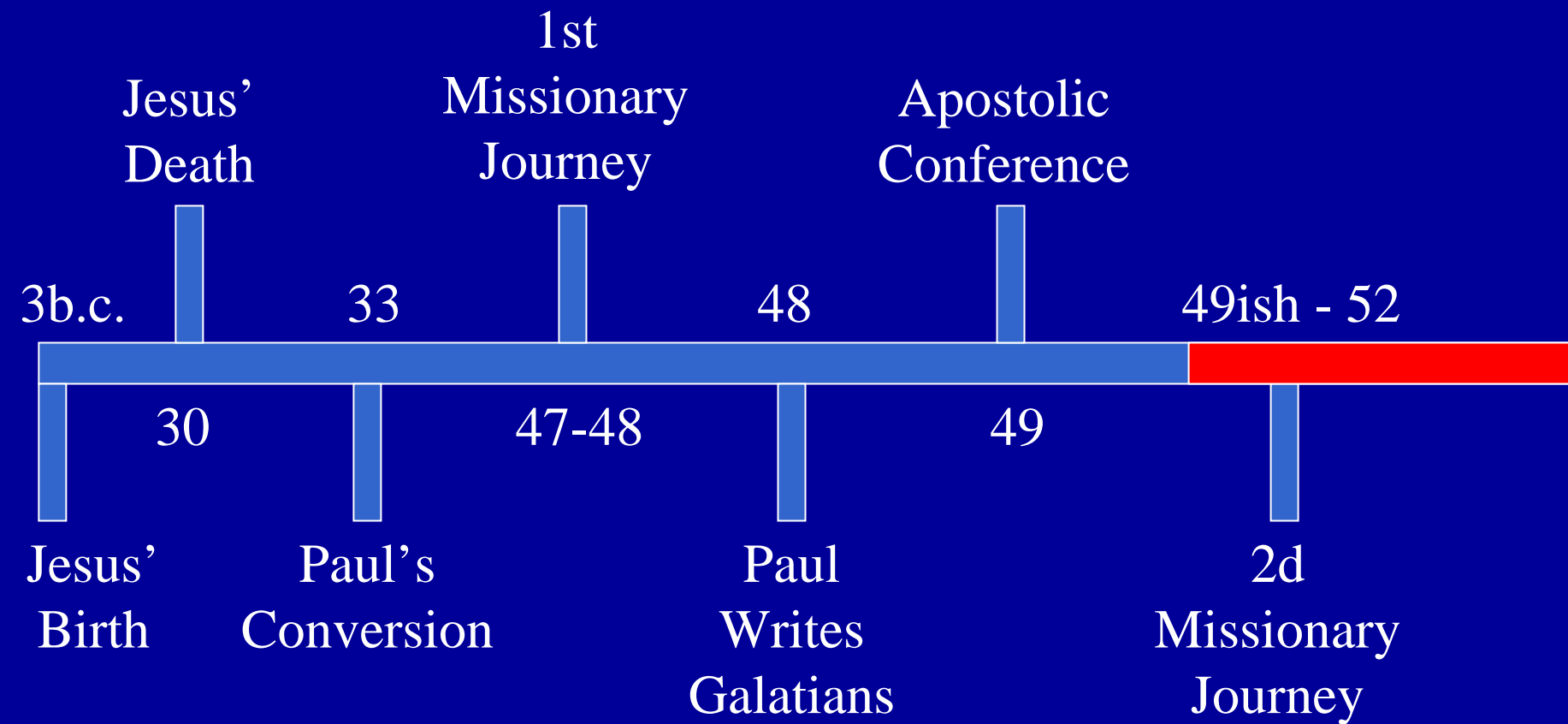
Lesson 33

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Background

- Flow of Luke / Acts
- Uniqueness of Missionary Journey
- Recap Second Journey
 - Companions: Timothy, Silas, ~Luke



Paul's Second Missionary Journey

Black Sea



Introduction
About the Map
Overview
Acts 15-16
Acts 17
Acts 18
Conclusion

Athens

- History
 - Athena
 - Democracy
 - Theater
 - Philosophy
 - Roman Conquest 146 b.c.

Athens - Philosophy

- Socrates (469ish - 399 b.c.)
 - A Rambling Philosopher
 - Objective Truth, Beauty, Justice - Known Innately
 - Education Teaches Morality (Rediscovering)
 - Morality Brings Happiness
 - Influential Over Youth

Athens - Philosophy

- Socrates Put to Death
- Prize Student - Plato (c. 427 - 347 b.c.)
 - Many Extant Works
 - Absolute Form Of Good
 - Permanence of Soul
 - Theory of Forms
 - Popular in Early Christianity

Athens -Philosophy

- Plato's Prize Pupil ---
- Aristotle (c. 384 - 322 b.c.)
- School of Study - Lyceum (T.T.U.!!)
- Scientific Observation Not Platonic Forms

Athens - Philosophy

- Plato's Prize Student -- Not Epicurus!
- Epicurus (341 - 271 b.c.)

Epicurus

- Core Problem : Fear of Death
 - Reason for Materialism
 - Reason for Power Grabs
 - Reason for Vanity
 - Reason For Distractive Lifestyle

Stoics

- Competitive Philosophy
- Senses - Yes, but With Reason!
- Ultimate Force -World's Spirit
- Predetermined Choices
- Reason the Ultimate Goal

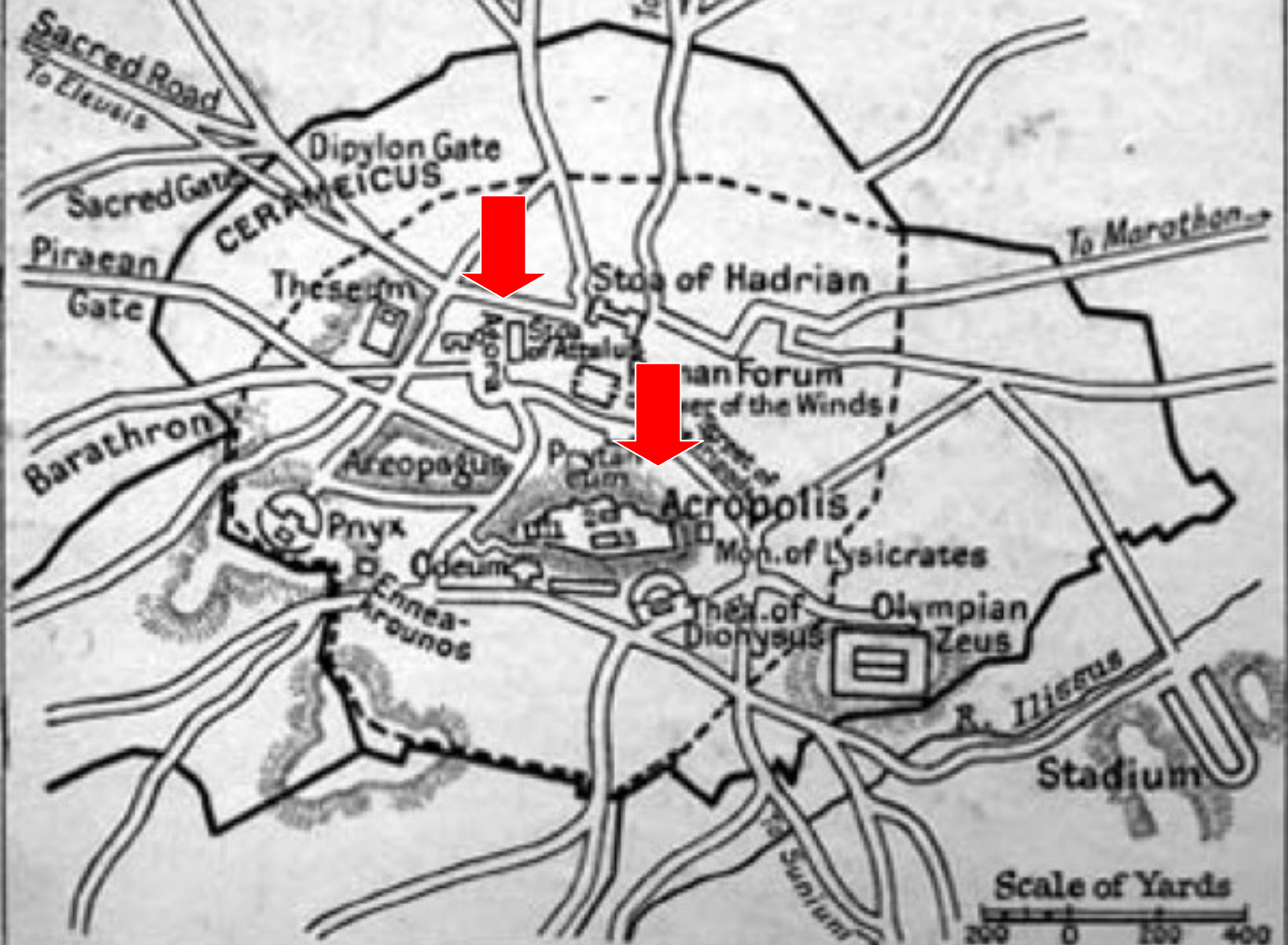
Epicurus

- Core Problem : Fear of Death
- How Answer?
 - Use Your Senses!
 - Sight, Hear, Taste, Smell, Feel - Reliable!
- Senses Teach:
 - Gods Not Involved in World
 - No Afterlife
 - Pleasure the Ultimate Goal (“Hedonism”)

Paul Into Athens

- Alone
- Synagogues
- Agora

PLAN OF ATHENS





Acts 17

“While Paul was waiting for them in Athens ... he reasoned in the synagogue ... as well as in the agora (marketplace) day by day with those who happened to be there.”

Acts 17

“A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to dispute with him. Some of them asked, “What is this babbler trying to say?”

Acts 17

“They took him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, ‘May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears and we want to know what they mean!’”

PLAN OF ATHENS

The map illustrates the ancient city of Athens with its major thoroughfares and landmarks. Key features include:

- Roads:** Sacred Road (To Eleusis), Cardo (To Thebes), Decree (To Decelia), and the road to Marathon.
- Gates:** Dipylon Gate, Sacred Gate, Piraeen Gate, and the Barathron.
- Central Area:** Stoa of Hadrian, Roman Forum, Tower of the Winds, and the Acropolis.
- Temples and Monuments:** Temple of Olympian Zeus, Mon. of Lysicrates, and the Temple of Dionysus.
- Other Landmarks:** Pnyx, Odeum, and the Enneakrounos.
- Scale:** A scale of yards from 0 to 400 is shown at the bottom right.

Three red arrows are superimposed on the map, pointing to the Stoa of Hadrian, the Acropolis, and the Temple of Olympian Zeus.

A horizontal number line with arrows at both ends. It is marked with the numbers -200, 0, 100, and 400. A point is plotted at the 100 mark.



The Hook:

- Religious ... But About the Unknown God...

Epicureans

- Gods Detached / Man Detached
- Believe Your Senses
- Live For Pleasure
- Death Dissolves Life and Atoms

Stoics

- Align With Reason (logos) of Universe
- Pursue With Disinterest
- Use Senses and Reason

Athens

- God Not Detached - Creator / Sustainer
- Senses And Reason With Revelation
- Purpose To Find God
- Afterlife Judgment With One Resurrected

Poets

- Epimenides (600 bc)

“In thee we live and are moved, and have our being”

- Aratus (315-240 bc)

“In every way we have all to do with Zeus, for we are truly his offspring.”

- Paul

“For in him we live and move and have our being”

“As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring’”
(17:28)

Athens

- A number of believers including Damaris of the Areopagus

Travel Details



On to Corinth where Timothy and Silas rejoin

Corinth

- 18 months
- Datable because
 - Aquila & Priscilla
 - Gallio Proconsul of Achaia
- Letters to Thessalonians
- Great Success

Travel Details



Ephesus Briefly then Home

Points For Home

- Life Has Purpose
- Find God
- Embrace God
- Hope in God