



Chapter 15 is a crucial point in the book of Acts. The early church holds its most important meeting (Jerusalem Council) to determine whether or not it would be a Jewish group or one that would allow Gentiles. Since Gentiles were becoming the growing majority, allowing them in, and not requiring them to follow Jewish law would mean that the church was no longer a sect of Judaism.

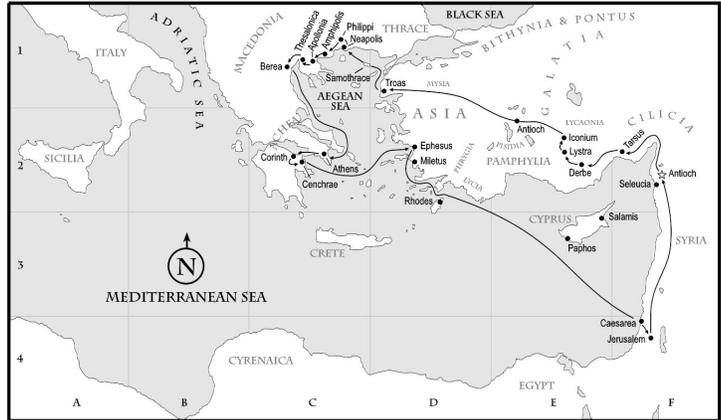
**Connection to Galatians:** Many scholars conclude that the visit mentioned in *Galatians 2:1-10* is that of *Acts 15:1-29*.

- Both accounts deal with the question of circumcision and the law, involving Paul and Barnabas and the leaders of the church in Jerusalem.
- Both come to agreement and adopt a common policy.

*<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.*  
Acts 16:25-26 NRSV



**Midnight Song** Tom White  
Bronze Sculpture



**Outline Continued**

**VI. THE SECOND AND THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEYS: EXPANSION TO GREECE AND CONSOLIDATION AMID OPPOSITION (15:36-21:16)**

**A. The second missionary journey (15:36 – 18:23)**

1. Paul and Barnabas split up (15:36-18:23)
2. Timothy joins Paul and Silas in Lystra (16:1-5)
3. The vision of the Macedonian man (16:6-10)
4. In Philippi (16:11-40)
5. In Thessalonica (17:1-9)
6. In Berea (17:10-15)
7. In Athens (17:16-34)
8. In Corinth (18:1-17)
9. Back to Antioch and through the region (18:18-23)

**B. The third missionary journey, ending in Jerusalem (18:24-21:16)**

1. Backdrop to Ephesus: Apollos (18:24-28)
2. In Ephesus (19:1-41)
3. From Macedonia and Greece back to Miletus (20:1-16)
4. The farewell speech to the Ephesian elders at Miletus (20:17-38)
5. Paul's journey to Jerusalem (21:1-16)