



ACTS

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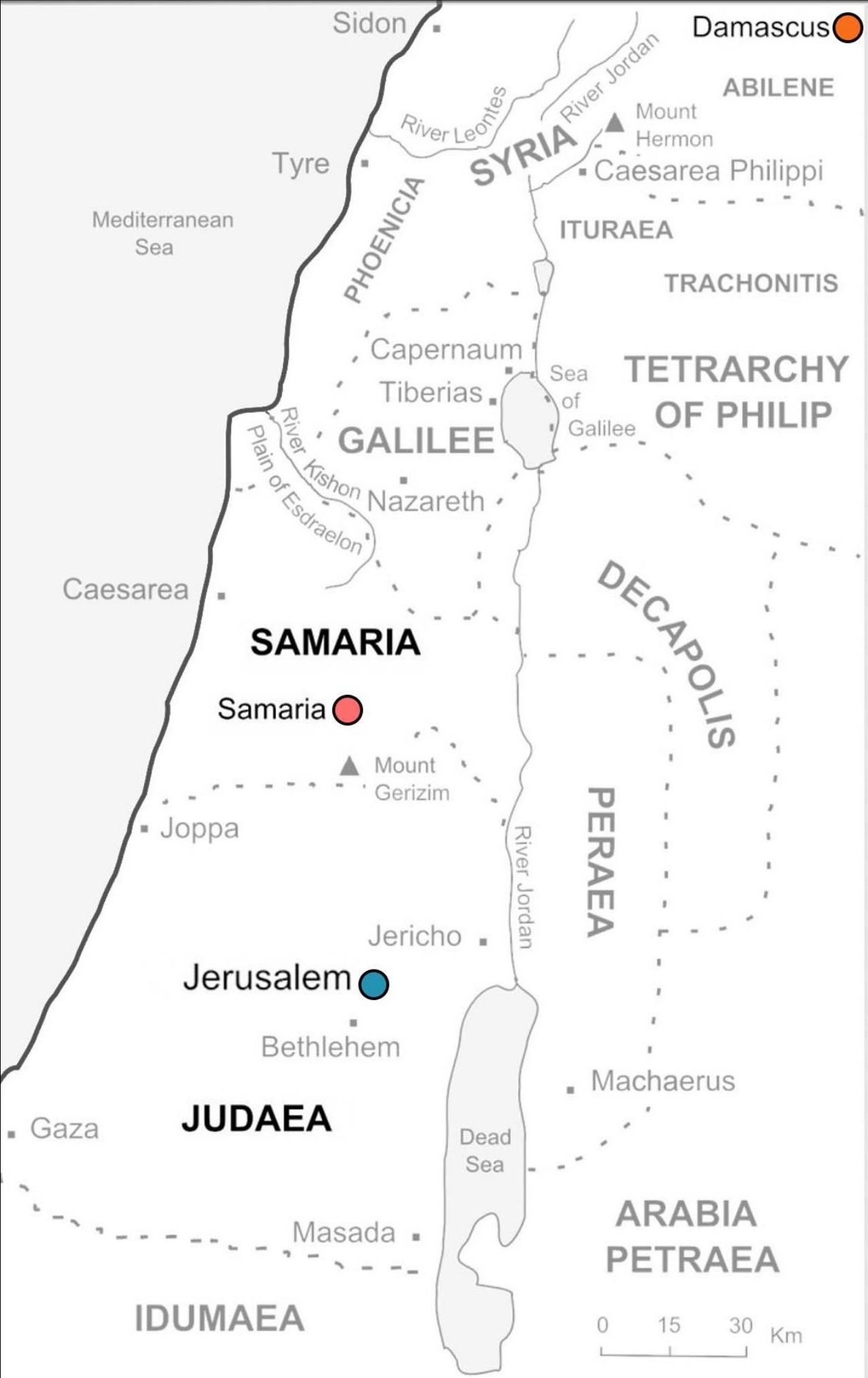
TO THE ENDS  
OF THE EARTH

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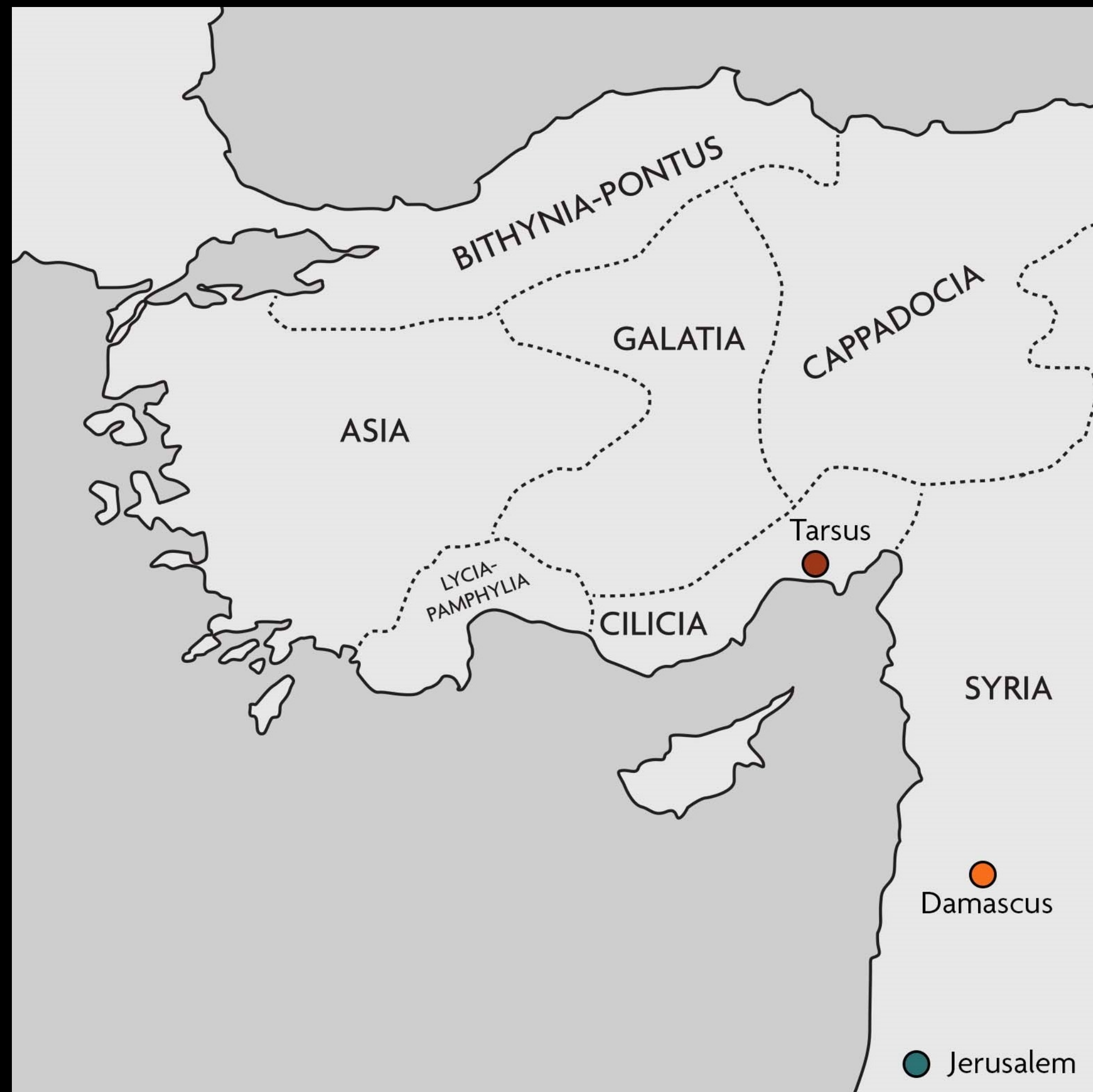
<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

Acts 9:1-2 (NIV)



<sup>11b</sup> I was so obsessed with persecuting them that I even hunted them down in foreign cities.

Acts 26:11b (NIV)



# How Paul as a Pharisee Sees the World

## 1. Who are we?

We are Israel. We are God's chosen people with a mission to be a blessing to the world.

# How Paul as a Pharisee Sees the World

2. Why did we lose our land and kingdom?

Because our ancestors rebelled against God and did not keep God's teaching (Torah). And God has not forgiven his people.

# How Paul as a Pharisee Sees the World

3. How do we know that God has not forgiven his people?

Because the Jewish people are still spread out all over the world.



# How Paul as a Pharisee Sees the World

4. How do we become reconciled to God?

The Jewish people worldwide and those in the homeland need to start to obey the Torah and do it right.

# How Paul as a Pharisee Sees the World

## 5. Why is Jesus a problem?

Jesus goes against some rules such as food laws and Sabbath-keeping. That makes him a false prophet.



# How Paul as a Pharisee Sees the World

6. But Jesus is dead. Why are the followers of Jesus a problem?

They are teaching this crazy idea that Jesus resurrected and he ascended into heaven.

# How Paul as a Pharisee Sees the World

7. Why not “live and let live” and let God handle it?

Because the Hebrew Bible teaches that God responds favorably to individuals who are zealous for his kingdom.



<sup>10</sup> The LORD said to Moses, <sup>11</sup> “Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, the priest, has turned my anger away from the Israelites. Since he was as zealous for my honor among them as I am, I did not put an end to them in my zeal.

Numbers 25:10-11 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" <sup>5</sup> "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. <sup>6</sup> "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Acts 9:3-6 (NIV)



<sup>7</sup> The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. <sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

Acts 9:7-9 (NIV)

# What Paul Learns from His Experience

1. He hears Jesus      Jesus has resurrected.  
The new Kingdom of God on  
earth has arrived.

# What Paul Learns from His Experience

1. He hears Jesus

Jesus has resurrected.  
The new Kingdom of God  
has arrived.

2. Jesus speaks  
from heaven

Jesus is in heaven.  
He is both human and God.

We bear witness by telling our stories



<sup>3</sup> “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today.

Acts 22:3 (NIV)

We bear witness by telling our stories  
Tell stories that connect with people

<sup>6</sup> "About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. <sup>7</sup> I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?' <sup>8</sup> "'Who are you, Lord?' I asked. "'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,' he replied. <sup>9</sup> My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.

Acts 22:6-9 (NIV)

We bear witness by telling our stories  
Tell stories that connect with people  
Tell your experiences of Jesus