

## FOOTSTEPS | SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

### ATHENS/CORINTH:

**ACROPOLIS:** The Acropolis is a historic citadel located in Athens, Greece, renowned for its ancient architectural wonders, including the Parthenon and other temples dedicated to the Greek gods. It stands as a symbol of classical Greek civilization and continues to be a significant cultural and archaeological site visited by millions worldwide.

**AREOPAGUE/MARS HILL:** The Areopagus, also known as Mars Hill, was a prominent rocky outcrop in Athens, Greece, where the city's council met and philosophical discussions took place. In biblical times, it served as a forum for intellectual exchange, including the Apostle Paul's address to the Athenians about the unknown God, as described in Acts 17:22-34.

**AGORA:** The Agora in Athens was the bustling marketplace and civic center of ancient Greece, where merchants traded goods, citizens engaged in political discussions, and philosophers debated ideas. It served as the heart of Athenian life, where social, commercial, and political activities intertwined, offering a vibrant backdrop to daily life in the city.

### BIBLE VERSES THAT INVOLVE ATHENS:

1. Acts 17:15-34: This passage narrates Paul's visit to Athens, his preaching in the Areopagus, and his engagement with the Athenian philosophers and intellectuals.
2. Acts 17:16: Paul's distress over the city being full of idols.
3. Acts 17:17: Paul's reasoning in the synagogue with Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace (agora) with those who happened to be there.
4. Acts 17:18: Paul's debates with Epicurean and Stoic philosophers in Athens.
5. Acts 17:22-31: Paul's speech to the Athenians at the Areopagus, addressing their religious practices and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.
6. Acts 17:34: Mention of some Athenians becoming followers of Paul, including Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, and a woman named Damaris.

These verses provide insights into Paul's interactions with the city of Athens, including his preaching, reasoning with philosophers, and proclamation of the gospel in the cultural and intellectual center of ancient Greece.

**CORINTH:** Corinth, situated in southern Greece, was a bustling commercial hub known for its strategic location between mainland Greece and the Peloponnese. In biblical times, it was also renowned for its diverse population and thriving trade, making it a vibrant center of commerce and culture. The Apostle Paul visited Corinth during his missionary journeys, establishing a Christian community there and writing two epistles to the Corinthians, addressing various spiritual and ethical matters within the fledgling church.

### **BIBLE VERSES THAT INVOLVE CORINTH, GREECE:**

1. Acts 18:1-17: This passage details Paul's initial arrival in Corinth, his work as a tentmaker with Aquila and Priscilla, his preaching in the synagogue, and his encounter with the proconsul Gallio.
2. 1 Corinthians 1:1-9: In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul addresses them as recipients of God's grace, expressing gratitude for their spiritual gifts and the faithfulness of God among them.
3. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5: Paul recounts his approach to preaching in Corinth, emphasizing reliance on the Spirit's power rather than human wisdom.
4. 1 Corinthians 9:1-27: Paul defends his apostleship and ministry in Corinth, highlighting his rights as an apostle and his willingness to forego them for the sake of the gospel.
5. 2 Corinthians 1:1-24: In the opening of his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul expresses his affection for them, recounts his recent experiences, and addresses accusations against his integrity.
6. 2 Corinthians 2:12-17: Paul reflects on his ministry in Corinth, expressing gratitude for God's leading and the fragrance of Christ spread through him.
7. 2 Corinthians 12:11-21: Paul defends his apostolic authority and ministry in Corinth, addressing concerns about his previous visit and his upcoming visit to them.

These verses provide insight into Paul's interactions with the city of Corinth, including his preaching, ministry, and personal relationships with the Corinthians.

### **CRUISE LOCATIONS:**

**EPHESUS:** Ephesus, a bustling ancient city located in modern-day Turkey, was renowned for its grandeur, thriving economy, and devotion to the goddess Artemis. The Apostle Paul visited Ephesus during his missionary journeys, establishing a vibrant Christian

community and encountering both fervent opposition and remarkable conversions amidst the city's diverse population.

#### **BIBLE VERSES THAT INVOLVE EPHEBUS:**

1. Acts 18:18-21: Paul briefly stops in Ephesus on his way back to Jerusalem, but does not stay long.
2. Acts 19:1-41: This passage details Paul's extended ministry in Ephesus, including his encounters with believers who had not received the Holy Spirit, the riot stirred up by Demetrius the silversmith, and the uproar in the theater.
3. 1 Corinthians 15:32: In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul mentions facing fierce opposition in Ephesus, stating, "If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus with no more than human hopes, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, 'Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.'"
4. 1 Corinthians 16:8-9: Paul writes about his plan to remain in Ephesus until Pentecost due to the wide door for effective work that has opened to him.
5. 1 Timothy 1:3: In his letter to Timothy, Paul mentions that he urged him to stay in Ephesus to command certain people not to teach false doctrines.

These verses provide insights into Paul's interactions with the city of Ephesus, including his ministry, challenges faced, and strategic planning for spreading the gospel.

**PATMOS:** Patmos, a small Greek island in the Aegean Sea, is renowned for its rugged landscapes and historical significance as the place where the Apostle John received the visions recorded in the Book of Revelation.

The primary historical record indicating that John the Apostle was banished to Patmos comes from the biblical text itself, specifically Revelation 1:9, where John writes, "I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus."

Outside of biblical sources, there are early Christian writings that support the tradition of John's exile to Patmos. For example, Irenaeus, an early Christian theologian and writer from the late 2nd century, in his work "Against Heresies" (Book 5, Chapter 30, Section 3), mentions John's exile to Patmos during the reign of Emperor Domitian:

"John, the disciple of the Lord, who also had leaned upon His breast, did himself publish a Gospel during his residence at Ephesus in Asia."

While Irenaeus doesn't explicitly state the reason for John's exile, it is often understood in conjunction with the biblical account in Revelation that it was due to his preaching of the gospel and testimony about Jesus.

Additionally, there are later church traditions and writings that affirm John's exile to Patmos, but these sources are typically dated much later and may contain legendary or embellished elements. Nevertheless, the early and consistent tradition within the Christian community supports the historical reliability of John's exile to Patmos.

**CRETE:** Crete, the largest Greek island in the Mediterranean, is known for its rich history, diverse landscapes, and ancient civilizations. The Apostle Paul visited Crete during his missionary journeys, as mentioned in the New Testament book of Titus, where he appointed Titus to oversee the churches there and provide guidance for their growth in faith and conduct.

#### **BIBLE VERSES THAT INVOLVE CRETE, GREECE:**

1. Titus 1:5: "The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you."
2. Titus 1:10-16: In this passage, Paul warns Titus about the presence of rebellious and deceptive individuals in the Cretan churches, emphasizing the importance of sound doctrine and godly living.
3. Titus 3:12: "As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there."

While these verses do not directly depict Paul's physical presence on the island of Crete, they provide insights into his oversight and pastoral care for the churches there through his delegate, Titus.

#### **ROME:**

Rome, the capital of the Roman Empire, held immense political, cultural, and religious significance during the time of the Apostle Paul. As the center of power and influence, Rome served as a strategic destination for Paul's missionary endeavors, where he aimed to spread the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles. Additionally, Paul wrote one of his longest and most influential epistles, the Letter to the Romans, addressing theological concepts and practical instructions for Christian living, further highlighting the city's significance in the early Christian movement.

#### **BIBLE VERSES THAT INVOLVE ROME:**

1. Acts 28:16: "When we got to Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with a soldier to guard him."

2. Acts 28:17: "Three days later he called together the local Jewish leaders. When they had assembled, Paul said to them: 'My brothers, although I have done nothing against our people or against the customs of our ancestors, I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans.'"

3. Acts 28:23: "They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. He witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about the kingdom of God, and from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets he tried to persuade them about Jesus."

4. Acts 28:30-31: "For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!"

5. Romans 1:7-15: In his letter to the Romans, Paul expresses his desire to visit Rome, his eagerness to preach the gospel there, and his intention to impart spiritual gifts to strengthen the believers.

6. Romans 1:16-17: Paul declares the power of the gospel for salvation to everyone who believes, emphasizing its role in revealing God's righteousness and faithfulness.

7. Romans 15:22-24: Paul discusses his plans to visit Rome, expressing his longing to see the Roman believers and his desire to impart a spiritual blessing to them.

These verses provide insights into Paul's visit to Rome, his intentions toward the city, and the crucial role it played in his ministry of communicating the Gospel of Jesus Christ.