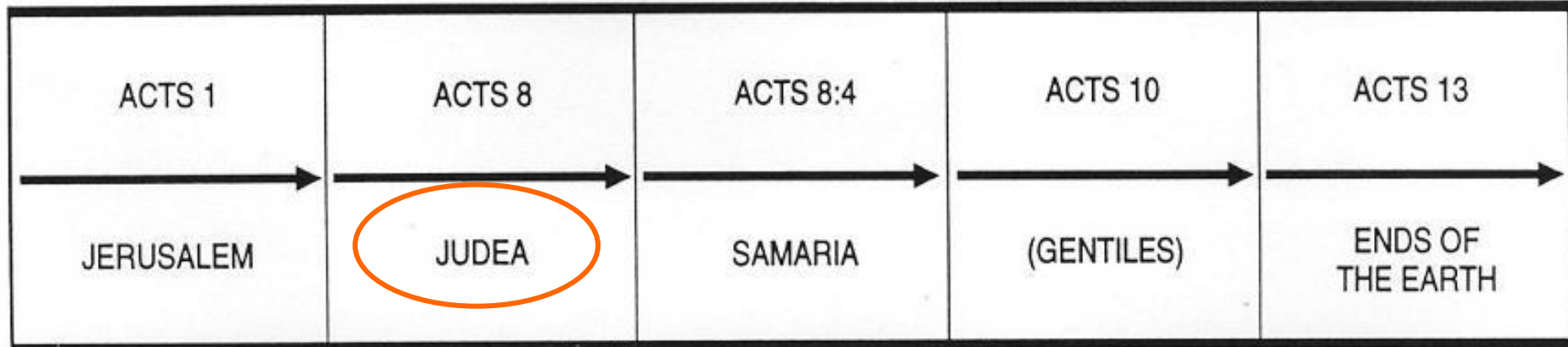


The Glory of the Lord: Unleashing the Gospel Part 2

**Friday, August 5, 2011
Winema Week of Missions**

Stephen E. Burris
www.missionresearchcenter.org

Acts 2:9 . . . Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia ...**all heard the word in their own languages.**



Ch 8-12 Judea and Samaria

- **Ch 8: Gospel Outbreak in Samaria**
 - **Philip in Samaria**
 - **Philip encounters the Ethiopian official**

The Glory of the Lord



He labored diligently in Upper Asia, and suffered martyrdom at Heliopolis, in Phrygia (Turkey). He was scourged, thrown into prison, and afterwards crucified, A.D. 54.

Ch 9: Saul's Conversion and Calling

▪ Saul in Damascus/ Arabia

▶ **Regal Assignment**

▶ “This man is **my chosen instrument** to carry my name **before** the Gentiles and **their kings** and before the people of Israel.”

▶ **Or Costly Calling?**

▶ “*I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.*” **Acts 9:15,16**

Conversion of Peter

▶ **Ch 10 The Conversion of Cornelius or the Conversion of Peter?**

▶ Peter's Vision **Acts 10:9-23**

▶ “He and all his family were **devout and God-fearing**; he gave generously to those in need and **prayed to God regularly.**” **Acts 10:2**

▶ *“The voice spoke to him a second time, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.’”* **Acts 10:15**

Conversion of Peter (#2)

- Peter at Cornelius' house *Acts 10:24-48*
- Peter's Paradigm Shift: *"Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right." Acts 10:34,35*
- *"The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles." Acts 10:45*

The Apostle Peter's Resume

- **Original Apostle for three years**
- **First leader of Jerusalem First Church**
- **Teaching Pastor Jerusalem First Church**
- **Ministry accompanied by signs & wonders**
- **Senior Pastor of first mega-church in Jerusalem for over 10+ years**
- ? So why does HE have to repent of his cultural captivity to Jewish Christianity?**

Ch 11 Peter Criticized for His Actions

- ▶ *“So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him and said, **“You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.”**”* Acts 11:2,3

Slow to Catch On

- ▶ *“When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, **“So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life.”**”*

Acts 11:18

Mission to the Jewish Diaspora

► *“Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews.”*

Acts 11:19

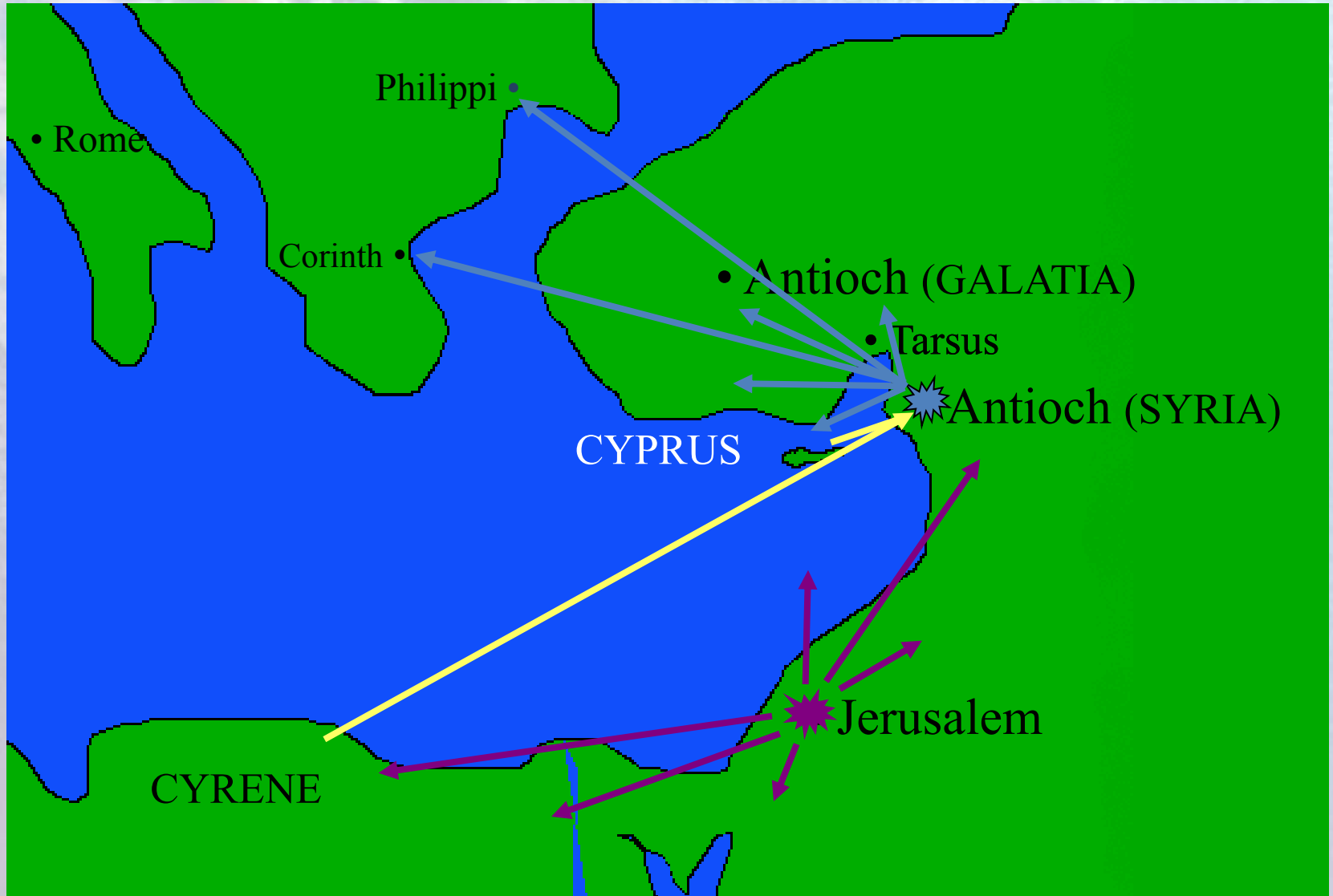


The First Cross Cultural Mission?

- ▶ *“Some of them, however, **men from Cyprus and Cyrene**, went to **Antioch** and began to **speak to Greeks also**, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. The Lord’s hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.”*

Acts 11:20-21

What's New in Antioch?



Antioch in Syria

- Huge cosmopolitan city of 500,000 Syrians, Greeks, Romans etc.
- Jewish ghetto only 25,000
 - Messianic faith for 10 years before the appearance of Gentile churches
 - abstained from eating pork
 - kept the Passover
 - married only Jews
 - circumcised all males
 - did not eat with Gentiles or enter their homes

The Apostles Send Barnabas

- *“News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent **Barnabas** to Antioch.”*
- *“When he arrived and saw **the evidence of the grace of God**, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.”*

Acts 11:22, 23

Barnabas Brings Paul to Antioch

• *“Then Barnabas went to **Tarsus** to look for **Saul**, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch.”*

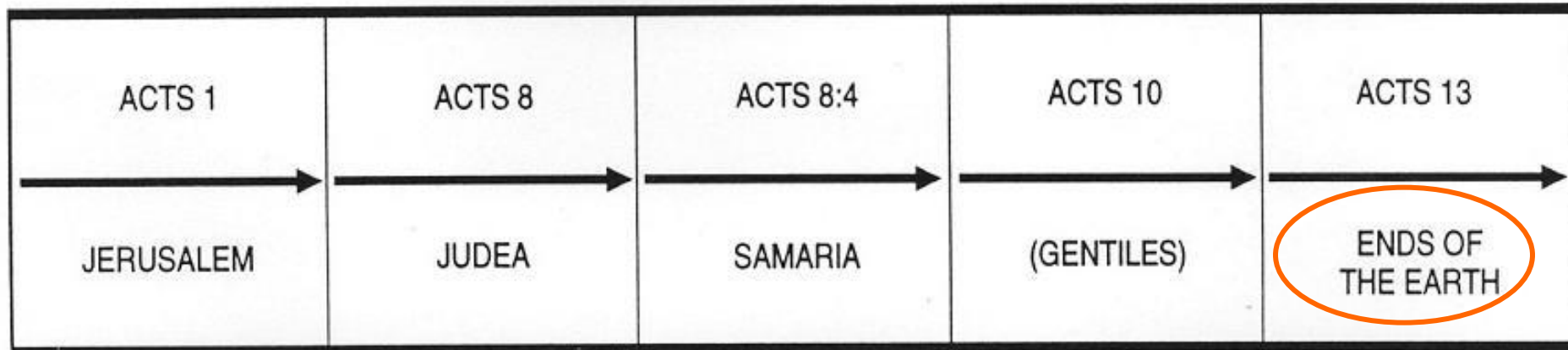
• *“So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called **Christians** first at **Antioch**.”*

Acts 11:25,26

8-12 Judea and Samaria

- Philip & Peter
- Power!
- Equality—Jew and Gentile
- Divine appointments
- Church is bi-cultural
- Individuals
- Gospel spreads into North Africa...

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul **for the work** to which I have called them.” Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. –Acts 13:2-3



Ch 13-28 To The Uttermost Parts

- ▶ **Paul's Three Missionary Journeys:**
- ▶ Missionary Journey 1 (**MJ1**) Acts 13-14
- ▶ Missionary Journey 2 (**MJ2**) Acts 15:40-18:22
- ▶ Missionary Journey 3 (**MJ3**) Acts 18:23-21:16

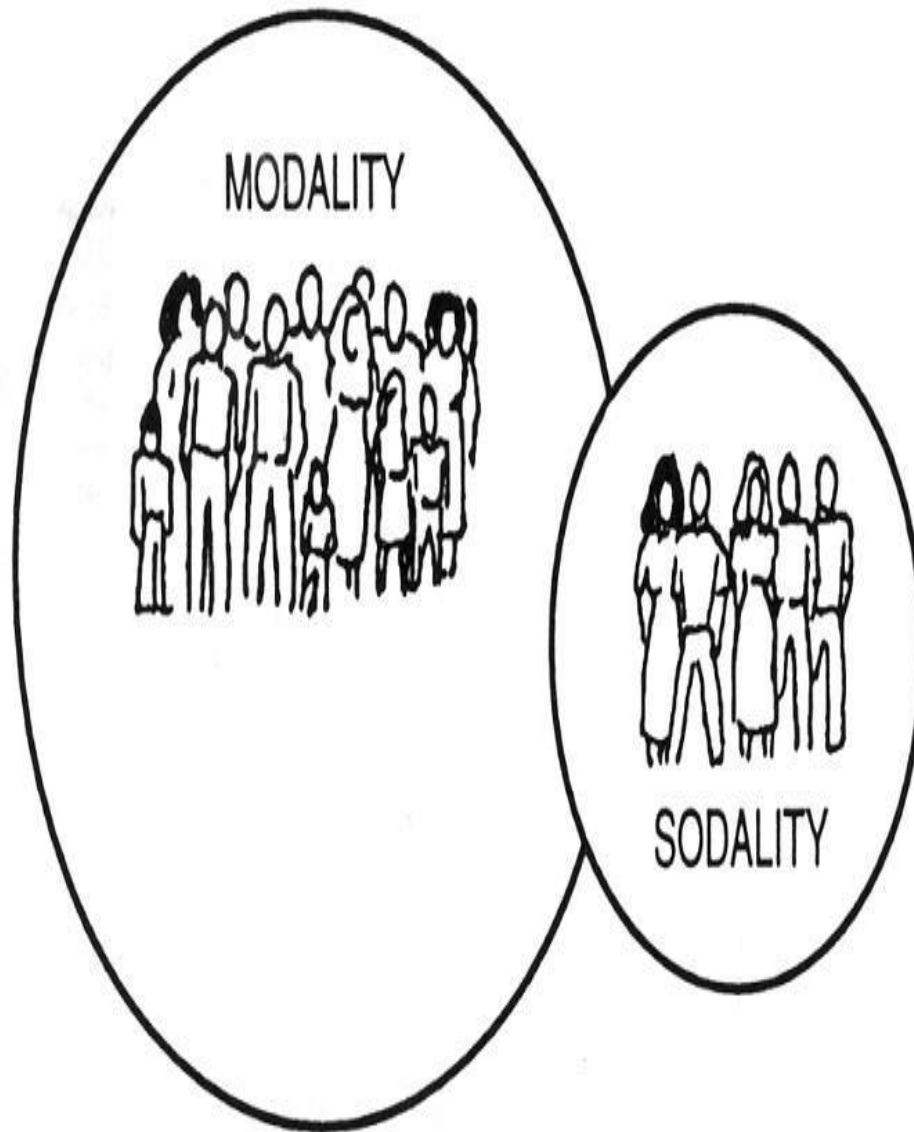
MJ1: The Double Structure of the Church

- **Local Congregations:** first decision--
Nurture-Oriented / “Modality”
(model to reproduce)
- **Missionary Bands:** second decision—
Task-Oriented / “Sodality”
(soldiers for the cause)
- ✓ Apostolic entities advance the church
- ✓ Local churches conserve the advance
- ✓ Sodalities are not “Para-church,”
they are fully church

Ralph D. Winter article *“Two Structures of God’s Redemptive Mission”*

MODALITY EXAMPLES:

- The synagogue
- The local church
- Denominations



SODALITY EXAMPLES:

- Missionary teams
- Monasteries
- Mission agencies

How the 2 Structures Function

Local church
Modality



Church in
mission
Sodality



Let's examine this a little further...

How does confusion re: modalic structures and roles affect the missions thinking of most North American church members?

= the priority of the local church

How do the majority of church members engage in *globalocal* missions?

= partner with a sending agency...

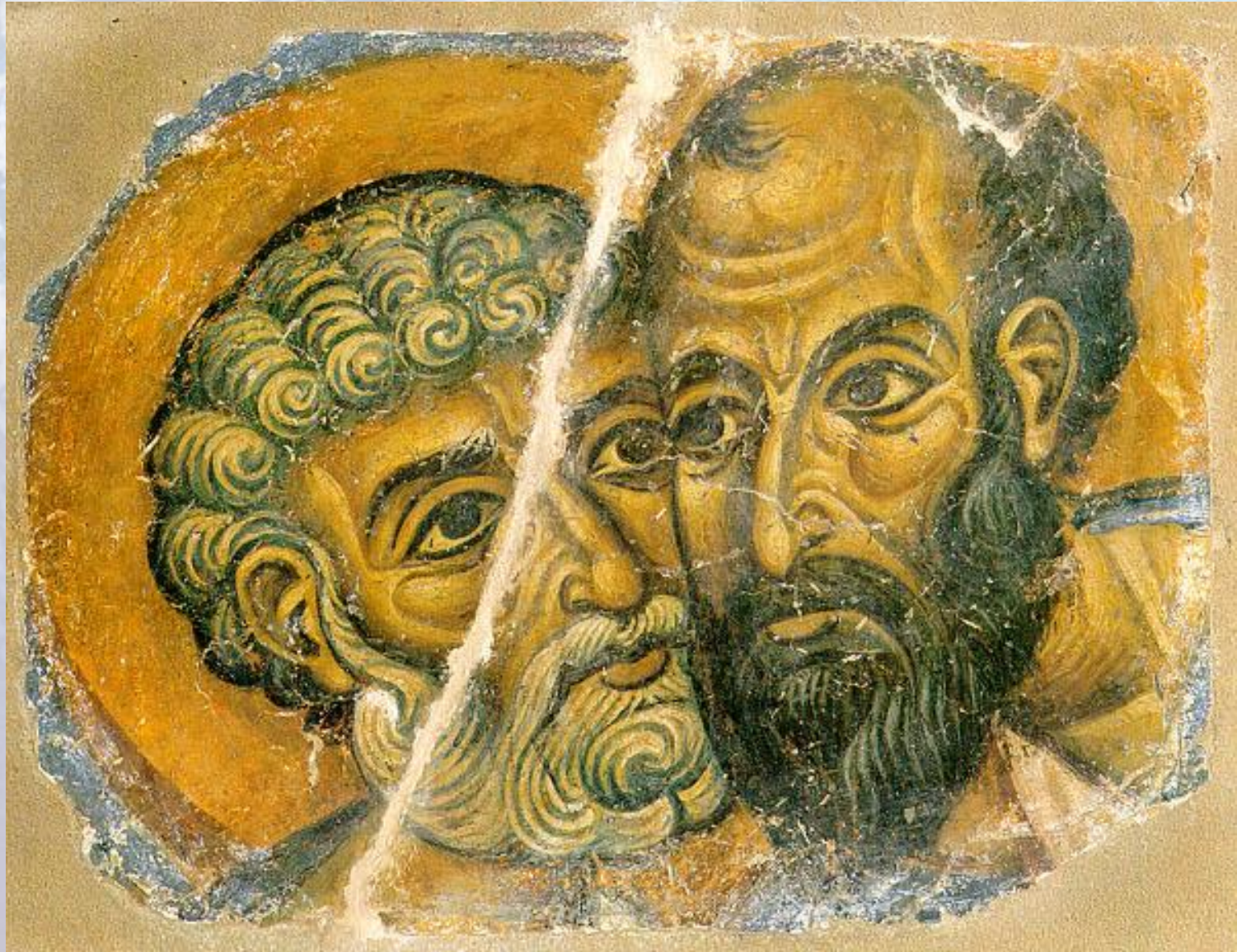
Ch 13-14 The Pauline Cycle



Praise Report

- *“On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had **opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.**”* Acts 14:27

Paul and Peter



Showdown in Antioch

• *“When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong.”*

Galatians 2:11

• *“I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”*

Galatians 2:21

What were the Issues?

- The essence of the gospel
- *“Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.”*

Galatians 1:7

- Faith vs. observing the law
- *“know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.”*

Galatians 2:16

Act 15 Council

▶ **The Judaizers:**

▶ *“The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses.”*

Acts 15:5

▶ **Peter:**

▶ *“Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear?”* **Acts 15:10**

Act 15 Council-2

▶James:

▶*“It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.*

▶*Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.”*

Acts 15:19,20

What is Freedom in Christ

• *“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.”*

Galatians 5:1

• *“You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.”*

Galatians 5:13

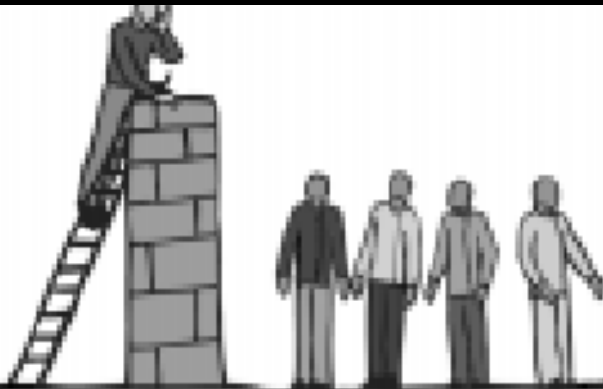
The Wall and the Canyon

The Wall of Communication

- Barrier of understanding
- Challenge faced by the missionary
- To communicate the gospel
- Miracle of revelation
- Seen on the “E-scale”

The Canyon of Conversion

- Barrier of acceptance
- Challenge faced by respondent people
- To follow Christ
- Miracle of repentance
- Seen on the “P-scale”



Acts Strategy: Cultural Barriers

- ▶ **Geography:** Acts 16:9 – “Come over to Macedonia”
- ▶ **Language:** Acts 14:11-14 - Lyconia (Hermes & Zeus?)
- ▶ **Ethnicity:** Acts 16:20-“Jewish customs unlawful to Romans”
- ▶ **Religion:** Acts 19:24-28 - Ephesian idol-makers
- ▶ **Social Class:** James 2:3 - Rich & Poor

**Communication &
Understanding**



**Conversion
& Acceptance**



Paul



“The fact is that we were the first to arrive in Corinth with the Good News about Christ... We have confidence that as your faith grows, you will think enough of us to give us the help we need to carry out our assignment- spreading the Good News in the regions far beyond you.”

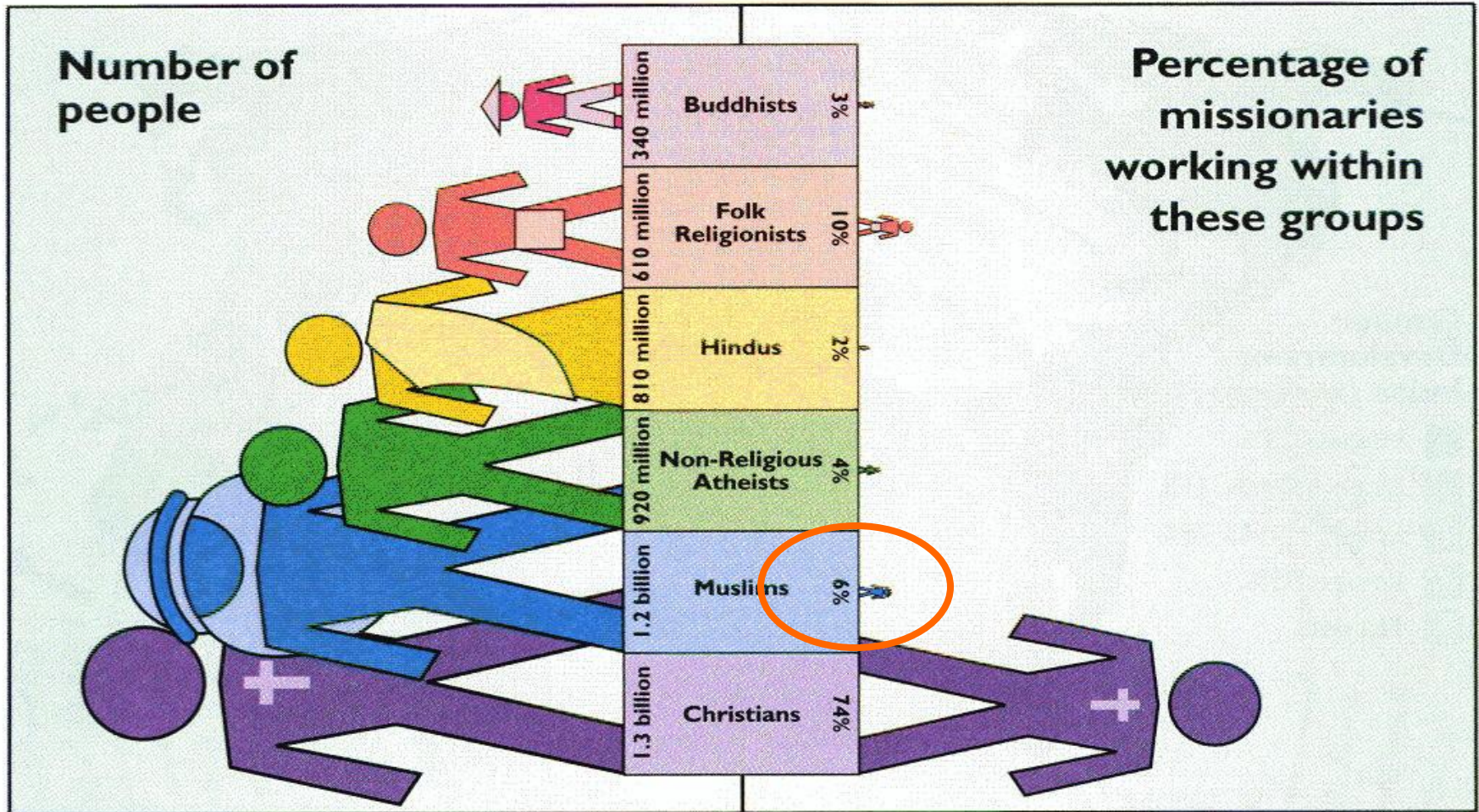
2 Corinthians 10:14-16

**Why should anyone hear the gospel
twice when there are those who have
yet to hear it once?**

-Oswald J. Smith



Allocating our resources for mission



Source: *The State of World Evangelization*, 2002

13-28 Antioch and Beyond

- Paul & Barnabas, et al.
- Ephesus
- Athens & Corinth
- Rome
- *“Bridges of God”*
- Church/Community Planting
- Church is multi-ethnic, inter-cultural
- Power³
- Spain—the Apostles spread out!



The Book of Acts is Still Being Written!

- ▶ The **Book of Acts** largely chronicles the transfer of the faith into the Greek and Latin cultures.
- ▶ The **Reformation** is largely the transferal into Germanic culture.

How Much is Jesus Worth?

▶ John 12:12-28

▶ *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”* John 12:24, NASB

- You must sow before you can reap!
- You have to die if you want to multiply!



Our passion is
to glorify God

A silhouette of a mosque minaret with a crescent moon on top, set against a sunset sky with a gradient from purple to orange. The minaret is on the left side of the frame. The text is on the right side.

By planting
churches
that lead to
movements

A high-angle, wide shot of a bustling outdoor market. The scene is filled with a dense crowd of people, many wearing traditional Middle Eastern headwear such as keffiyehs and headscarves. The crowd is diverse in age and attire, with some individuals in more formal clothing. In the background, there are various market stalls and displays, including what appears to be a book or magazine stand. A yellow car is partially visible in the bottom right corner. The overall atmosphere is one of a busy, active public space.

Among all
peoples

**In partnership with others
who share this vision**



The Final Scene: Revelation 4 - 7!

Missions is...

**THE STORY
OF HIS GLORY!**