

# FIERY DARTS OF THE WICKED (ENEMIES WITHOUT)

PAUL'S ENEMIES AND ALLIES – CLASS 4



# WHO WERE THE NON-CHRISTIAN ENEMIES OF PAUL?



- BAR-JESUS
- DEMETRIUS
- ALEXANDER
- JEWISH RULERS

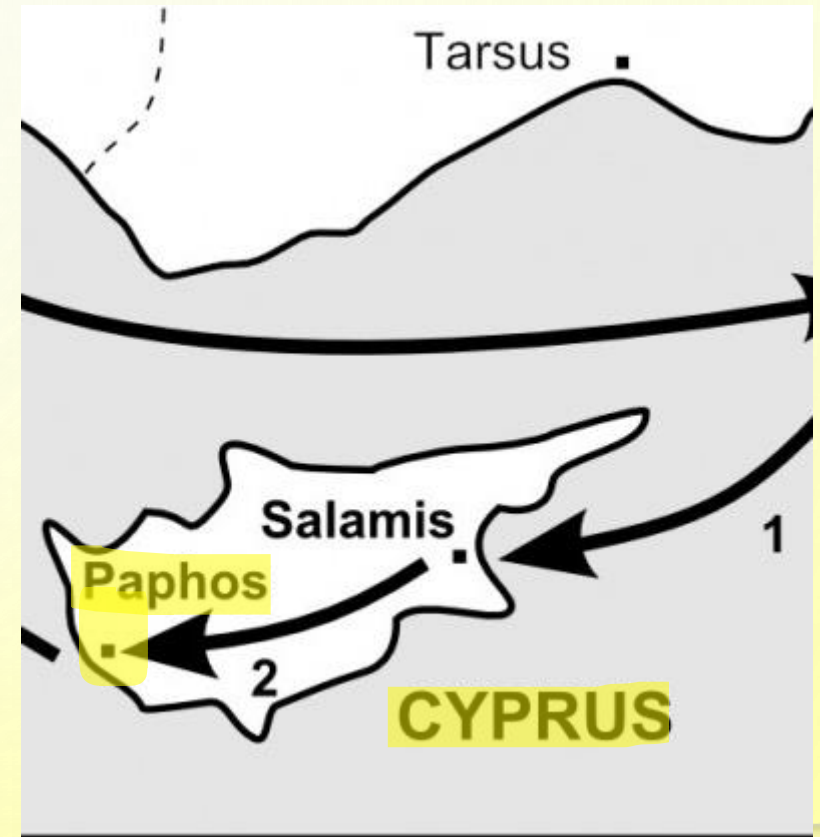


# ELYMAS THE SORCERER

ACTS 13:6 AND WHEN THEY HAD GONE THROUGH THE ISLE UNTO PAPHOS, THEY FOUND A CERTAIN SORCERER, A FALSE PROPHET, A JEW, WHOSE NAME WAS BARJESUS:

7 WHICH WAS WITH THE DEPUTY OF THE COUNTRY, SERGIUS PAULUS, A PRUDENT MAN; WHO CALLED FOR BARNABAS AND SAUL, AND DESIRED TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD.

8 BUT ELYMAS THE SORCERER (FOR SO IS HIS NAME BY INTERPRETATION) **WITHSTOOD THEM, SEEKING TO TURN AWAY THE DEPUTY FROM THE FAITH.**





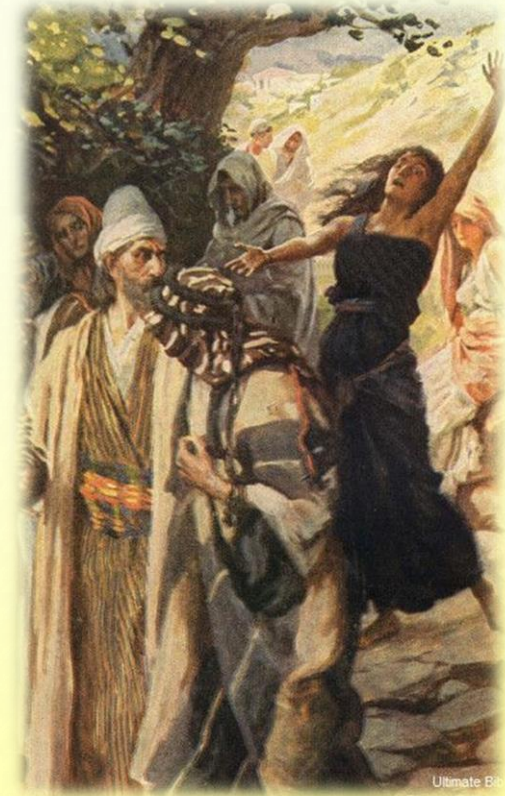
# PAGAN ENEMIES.... IN PHILIPPI: ACTS 16

16-18 ... A CERTAIN DAMSEL POSSESSED WITH A SPIRIT OF DIVINATION MET US, WHICH BROUGHT HER MASTERS MUCH GAIN BY SOOTHSAYING...

19 AND WHEN HER **MASTERS** SAW THAT THE HOPE OF THEIR GAINS WAS GONE, THEY CAUGHT PAUL AND SILAS, AND DREW THEM INTO THE MARKETPLACE UNTO THE RULERS,

20-21 AND BROUGHT THEM TO THE **MAGISTRATES**, SAYING, THESE MEN, BEING JEWS, DO EXCEEDINGLY TROUBLE OUR CITY, AND TEACH CUSTOMS, WHICH ARE NOT LAWFUL FOR US TO RECEIVE, NEITHER TO OBSERVE, BEING ROMANS.

22 AND THE MULTITUDE ROSE UP TOGETHER AGAINST THEM: AND THE **MAGISTRATES** RENT OFF THEIR CLOTHES, AND COMMANDED TO BEAT THEM.



# PAGAN ENEMIES.... IN PHILIPPI: ACTS 16

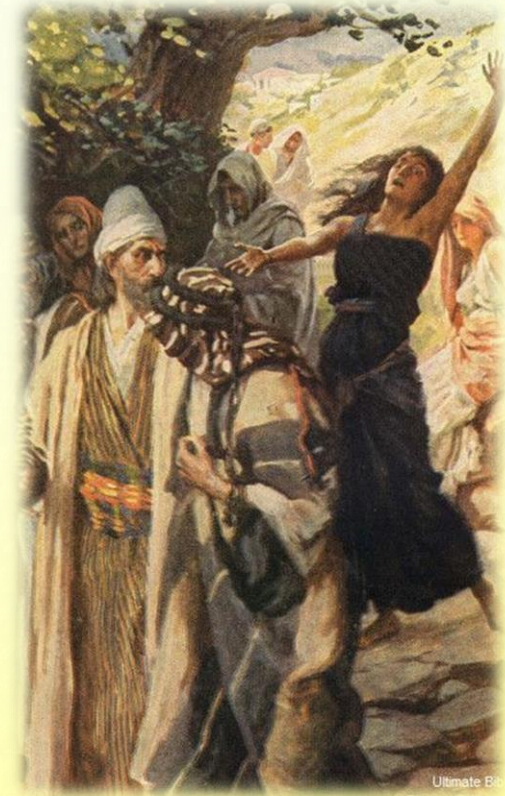
- PAUL MOTIVATED BY COMPASSION FOR THE DAMSEL
- HE DOES NOT DEFEND HIMSELF AGAINST THE CHARGES

25 AND AT MIDNIGHT PAUL AND SILAS PRAYED, AND SANG PRAISES UNTO GOD: AND THE PRISONERS HEARD THEM.

33 AND HE TOOK THEM THE SAME HOUR OF THE NIGHT, AND WASHED THEIR **STRIPES**; AND WAS BAPTIZED, HE AND ALL HIS, STRAIGHTWAY.

- PURPOSELY WAITED TO USE CITIZENSHIP TO PROTECT THE ECCLESIA

40 AND THEY WENT OUT OF THE PRISON, AND ENTERED INTO THE HOUSE OF LYDIA: AND WHEN THEY HAD SEEN THE BRETHREN, THEY COMFORTED THEM, AND DEPARTED.



# PAGAN ENEMIES... IN EPHESUS

ACTS 19:23-24 AND THE SAME TIME THERE AROSE NO SMALL STIR ABOUT THAT WAY. FOR A CERTAIN MAN NAMED DEMETRIUS, A SILVERSMITH, WHICH MADE SILVER SHRINES FOR DIANA, BROUGHT **NO SMALL GAIN** UNTO THE CRAFTSMEN;

25-27 WHOM HE CALLED TOGETHER WITH THE WORKMEN OF LIKE OCCUPATION, AND SAID, SIRS, YE KNOW THAT BY THIS CRAFT **WE HAVE OUR WEALTH**. MOREOVER YE SEE AND HEAR, THAT NOT ALONE AT EPHESUS, BUT ALMOST THROUGHOUT ALL ASIA, THIS PAUL HATH PERSUADED AND TURNED AWAY MUCH PEOPLE, SAYING THAT **THEY BE NO GODS, WHICH ARE MADE WITH HANDS**: SO THAT NOT ONLY THIS OUR CRAFT IS IN DANGER TO BE SET AT NOUGHT; BUT ALSO THAT THE TEMPLE OF THE GREAT GODDESS DIANA SHOULD BE DESPISED, AND HER MAGNIFICENCE SHOULD BE DESTROYED, WHOM ALL ASIA AND THE WORLD WORSHIPPETH.

28 AND WHEN THEY HEARD THESE SAYINGS, THEY WERE FULL OF WRATH, AND CRIED OUT, SAYING, GREAT IS DIANA OF THE EPHESIANS.





# PAUL'S ATTITUDE TO 'ENEMIES'

ROMANS 12:17 RECOMPENSE TO NO MAN EVIL FOR EVIL. PROVIDE THINGS HONEST IN THE SIGHT OF ALL MEN.

18 IF IT BE POSSIBLE, AS MUCH AS LIETH IN YOU, LIVE PEACEABLY WITH ALL MEN.

19 DEARLY BELOVED, AVENGE NOT YOURSELVES, BUT RATHER GIVE PLACE UNTO WRATH: FOR IT IS WRITTEN, VENGEANCE IS MINE; I WILL REPAY, SAITH THE LORD.

20 THEREFORE IF THINE ENEMY HUNGER, FEED HIM; IF HE THIRST, GIVE HIM DRINK: FOR IN SO DOING THOU SHALT HEAP COALS OF FIRE ON HIS HEAD.

21 BE NOT OVERCOME OF EVIL, BUT OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD.

ASIDE: 2TIMOTHY 4:14-15 **ALEXANDER THE COPPERSMITH** DID ME MUCH EVIL: THE LORD REWARD HIM ACCORDING TO HIS WORKS: OF WHOM BE THOU AWARE ALSO; FOR HE HATH GREATLY WITHSTOOD OUR WORDS.

NOTE: TIMOTHY IS IN EPHESUS (THE CITY OF DEMETRIUS THE SILVERSMITH!)

**IF** THE FOLLOWING PASSAGES ALL THE REFER TO THE SAME ALEXANDER, IT BUILDS QUITE A STORY!

- HIS FATHER CARRIED THE CROSS BEHIND JESUS! (MARK 15:21: “SIMON... THE FATHER OF **ALEXANDER** AND RUFUS...”)
- HIS BROTHER BECAME A BELIEVER (ROMANS 16:13: “SALUTE RUFUS CHOSEN IN THE LORD...”)
- HE HAS BEEN A BELIEVER IN EPHESUS (ACTS 19:33 – “THEY DREW **ALEXANDER** OUT OF THE MULTITUDE...”)
- HE WAS DISFELLOWSHIPED BECAUSE OF THE SHIPWRECK OF HIS FAITH AND THE POTENTIAL IMPACT ON OTHERS! (1TIMOTHY 1:19-20 “...WHICH SOME HAVING PUT AWAY CONCERNING FAITH HAVE MADE SHIPWRECK: OF WHOM IS HYMENAEUS AND **ALEXANDER**; WHOM I HAVE DELIVERED UNTO SATAN, THAT THEY MAY LEARN NOT TO BLASPHEME.)
- BUT HIS CAREER WAS MORE IMPORTANT AND HE LOVED MONEY MORE THAN GOD – AND ENDED UP OPPOSING THE WORK OF PAUL (2 TIM. 4:14-15 – SEE ABOVE)



# JEWISH NON-BELIEVERS - DAMASCUS

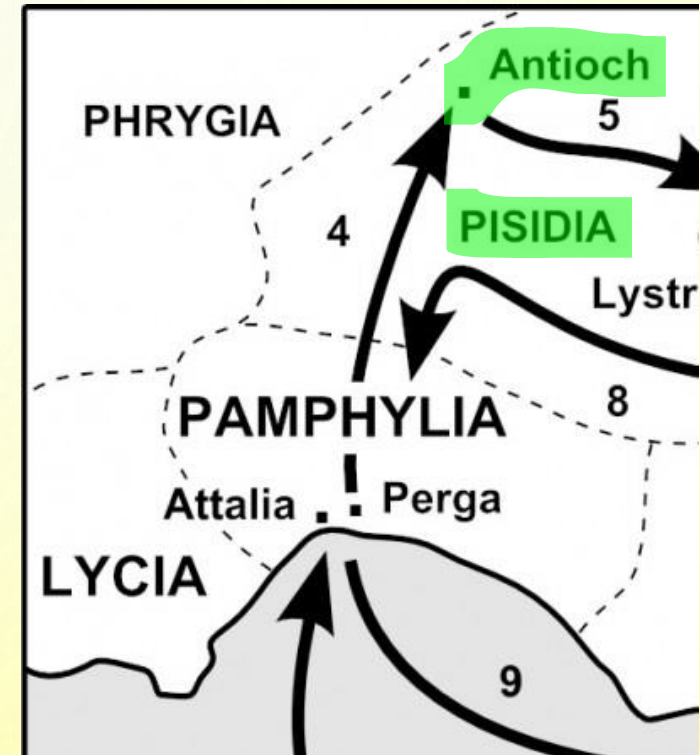
## EARLY DAYS – THE FIGHT IS ON: ACTS 9:18-23

- ...THEN WAS SAUL CERTAIN DAYS WITH THE DISCIPLES WHICH WERE AT **DAMASCUS**.
- BUT SAUL INCREASED THE MORE IN STRENGTH, AND CONFOUNDED THE JEWS WHICH DWELT AT DAMASCUS, PROVING THAT THIS IS VERY CHRIST.
- AND AFTER THAT MANY DAYS WERE FULFILLED, **THE JEWS** **TOOK COUNSEL TO KILL HIM:**

# JEWISH NON-BELIEVERS – ANTIOCH IN PISIDIA

THE BATTLE IS ENGAGED: ACTS 13:42-52 (ANTIOCH IN PISIDIA)

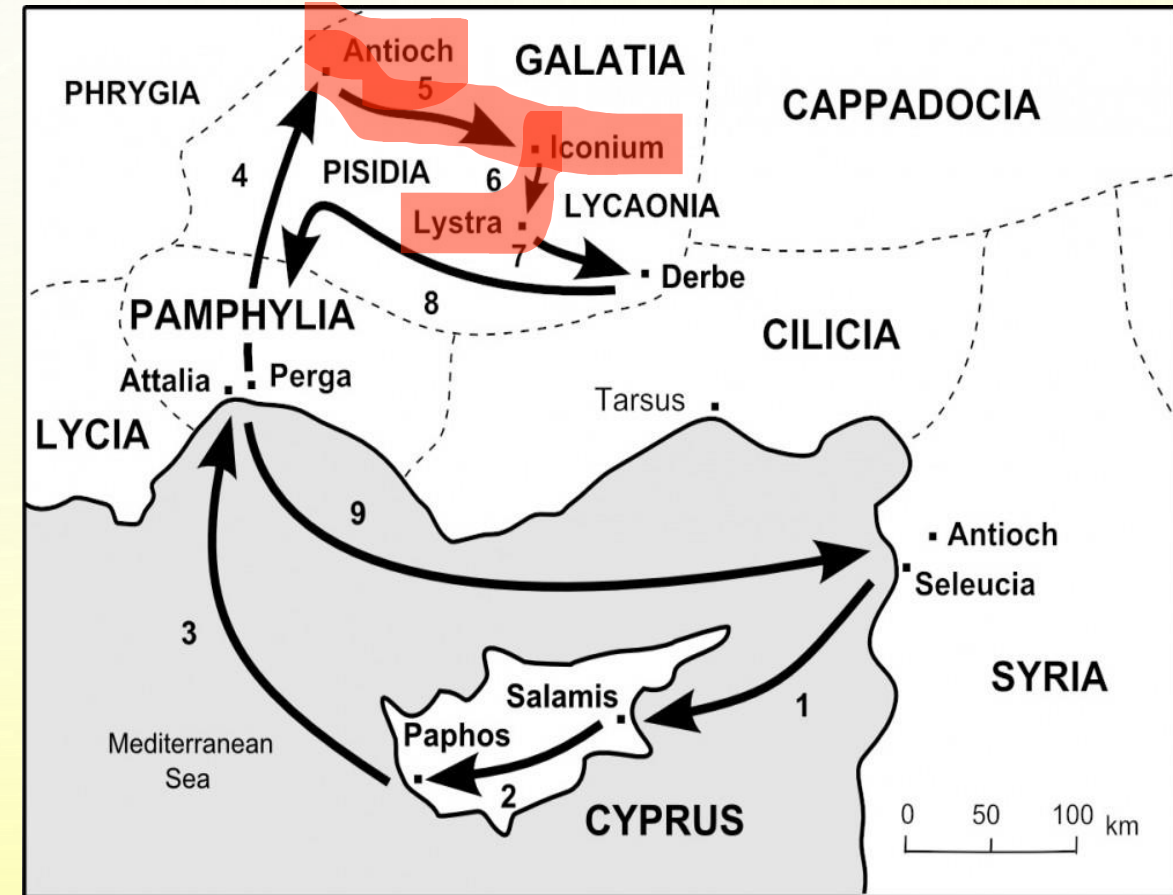
- AND WHEN THE JEWS WERE GONE OUT OF THE SYNAGOGUE, THE GENTILES BESOUGHT THAT THESE WORDS MIGHT BE PREACHED TO THEM THE NEXT SABBATH.
- BUT WHEN THE JEWS SAW THE MULTITUDES, **THEY WERE FILLED WITH ENVY**, AND SPAKE AGAINST THOSE THINGS WHICH WERE SPOKEN BY PAUL, CONTRADICTING AND BLASPHEMING.



# JEWISH NON-BELIEVERS – TRACKING PAUL!

## THE BATTLE IS RELENTLESS:

- ACTS 14:1-2 AND IT CAME TO PASS IN **ICONIUM**, THAT THEY WENT BOTH TOGETHER INTO THE SYNAGOGUE OF THE JEWS, AND SO SPAKE, THAT A GREAT MULTITUDE BOTH OF THE JEWS AND ALSO OF THE GREEKS BELIEVED. **BUT** THE **UNBELIEVING JEWS** STIRRED UP THE GENTILES, AND MADE THEIR MINDS EVIL AFFECTED AGAINST THE BRETHREN.
- ACTS 14:19 AND THERE CAME THITHER [TO **LYSTRA**] **CERTAIN JEWS** FROM **ANTIOCH** AND **ICONIUM**, WHO PERSUADED THE PEOPLE, AND, HAVING STONED PAUL, DREW HIM OUT OF THE CITY, SUPPOSING HE HAD BEEN DEAD.





# JEWISH NON-BELIEVERS (IN EUROPE TOO!)

## THE BATTLE IS RELENTLESS:

- ACTS 17:1-5 NOW WHEN THEY HAD PASSED THROUGH **AMPHIPOLIS** AND **APOLLONIA**, THEY CAME TO **THESSALONICA**, WHERE WAS A SYNAGOGUE OF THE JEWS: AND PAUL, AS HIS MANNER WAS, WENT IN UNTO THEM, AND THREE SABBATH DAYS REASONED WITH THEM OUT OF THE SCRIPTURES, OPENING AND ALLEGING, THAT CHRIST MUST NEEDS HAVE SUFFERED, AND RISEN AGAIN FROM THE DEAD; AND THAT THIS JESUS, WHOM I PREACH UNTO YOU, IS CHRIST. AND SOME OF THEM BELIEVED... **BUT THE JEWS WHICH BELIEVED NOT**, MOVED WITH ENVY, TOOK UNTO THEM CERTAIN LEWD FELLOWS OF THE BASER SORT, AND GATHERED A COMPANY, AND SET ALL THE CITY ON AN UPROAR, AND ASSAULTED THE HOUSE OF JASON, AND SOUGHT TO BRING THEM OUT TO THE PEOPLE.



# JEWISH NON-BELIEVERS - RELENTLESS

## THE BATTLE RE-ENGAGED: ACTS 20-24

- ACTS 20:3 AND THERE ABODE THREE MONTHS. AND WHEN **THE JEWS LAID WAIT FOR HIM**, AS HE WAS ABOUT TO SAIL INTO SYRIA...
- ACTS 21:27 AND WHEN THE SEVEN DAYS WERE ALMOST ENDED, **THE JEWS WHICH WERE OF ASIA**, WHEN THEY SAW HIM IN THE TEMPLE, STIRRED UP ALL THE PEOPLE...
- ACTS 22:22 AND THEY GAVE HIM AUDIENCE UNTO THIS WORD, AND THEN LIFTED UP THEIR VOICES, AND SAID, AWAY WITH SUCH A FELLOW FROM THE EARTH: FOR IT IS NOT FIT THAT HE SHOULD LIVE.
- ACTS 23:10 AND WHEN THERE AROSE A GREAT DISSENSION, THE CHIEF CAPTAIN, FEARING LEST PAUL SHOULD HAVE BEEN PULLED IN PIECES OF THEM...
- ACTS 24:5 [TERTULLUS] FOR **WE HAVE FOUND THIS MAN A PESTILENT FELLOW**, AND A MOVER OF SEDITION AMONG ALL THE JEWS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, AND A RINGLEADER OF THE SECT OF THE NAZARENES...
- 27 AND FELIX, WILLING TO SHEW THE JEWS A PLEASURE, LEFT PAUL BOUND.

# PAUL'S ATTITUDE TO HIS JEWISH ENEMIES!

ROMANS 9:1-2 I SAY THE TRUTH IN CHRIST, I LIE NOT, MY CONSCIENCE ALSO BEARING ME WITNESS IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, THAT I HAVE GREAT HEAVINESS AND CONTINUAL SORROW IN MY HEART.

3 FOR I COULD WISH THAT MYSELF WERE ACCURSED FROM CHRIST FOR MY BRETHREN, MY KINSMEN ACCORDING TO THE FLESH:

4-5 WHO ARE ISRAELITES; TO WHOM PERTAINETH THE ADOPTION, AND THE GLORY, AND THE COVENANTS, AND THE GIVING OF THE LAW, AND THE SERVICE OF GOD, AND THE PROMISES; WHOSE ARE THE FATHERS, AND OF WHOM AS CONCERNING THE FLESH CHRIST CAME, WHO IS OVER ALL, GOD BLESSED FOR EVER. AMEN.





# PAUL'S ATTITUDE TO HIS JEWISH ENEMIES!

ROMANS 10:1 BRETHREN, MY HEART'S DESIRE AND PRAYER TO GOD FOR ISRAEL IS, THAT THEY MIGHT BE SAVED.

2 FOR I BEAR THEM RECORD THAT THEY HAVE A ZEAL OF GOD, BUT NOT ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE.

3 FOR THEY BEING IGNORANT OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND GOING ABOUT TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS, HAVE NOT SUBMITTED THEMSELVES UNTO THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD.



# LESSONS FROM PAUL & HIS ENEMIES!

- ✓ FOCUS ON THE MESSAGE
- ✓ DON'T RETURN EVIL FOR EVIL
- ✓ BUT WE AWARE AND WISE ABOUT THE WORKINGS OF THE ENEMY
  - ✓ LEST SATAN SHOULD GET AN ADVANTAGE OF US: FOR WE ARE NOT IGNORANT OF HIS DEVICES. 2CORINTHIANS 2:11
- ✓ DON'T BE POLITICAL (PROPAGANDA, POWER STRUGGLE, 'PLAYING THE GAME',...)

Ephesians 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

