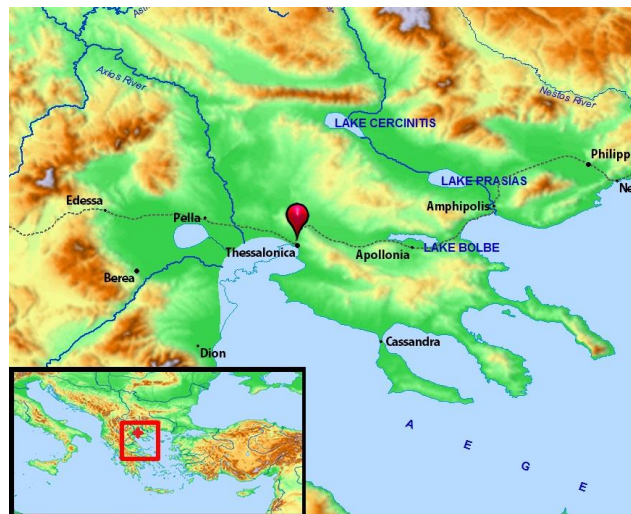


Acts 17:1-15

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and
 2 Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a
 3 synagogue of the Jews. ² And Paul went in, as was his
 4 custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them
 5 from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and proving that it was
 6 necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead,
 7 and saying, “This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the
 8 Christ.” ⁴ And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul
 9 and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not
 10 a few of the leading women. ⁵ But the Jews were jealous,
 11 and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a
 12 mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of
 13 Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. ⁶ And when
 14 they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of
 15 the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, “These
 16 men who have turned the world upside down have come
 17 here also, ⁷ and Jason has received them, and they are all
 18 acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is
 19 another king, Jesus.” ⁸ And the people and the city
 20 authorities were disturbed when they heard these things.
 21 ⁹ And when they had taken money as security from Jason
 22 and the rest, they let them go.

23 ¹⁰ The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by
 24 night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the
 25 Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ Now these Jews were more noble than
 26 those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all
 27 eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these
 28 things were so. ¹² Many of them therefore believed, with not
 29 a few Greek women of high standing as well as men. ¹³ But
 30 when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of
 31 God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there
 32 too, agitating and stirring up the crowds. ¹⁴ Then the
 33 brothers immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but
 34 Silas and Timothy remained there. ¹⁵ Those who conducted
 35 Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving a
 36 command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as
 37 possible, they departed.



<https://bibleatlas.org/region/thessalonica.jpg>

Observation (What does it say?):

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

- Circle information about the city of Thessalonica, its inhabitants, and Paul's visit there.

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- How would you describe the city? What would it have been like to live there in the first century? What are similarities and differences with our culture today?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- How might this information affect our study of Paul's letters to the Thessalonian church?

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation
(What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

Interpretation
(What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application
(What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)