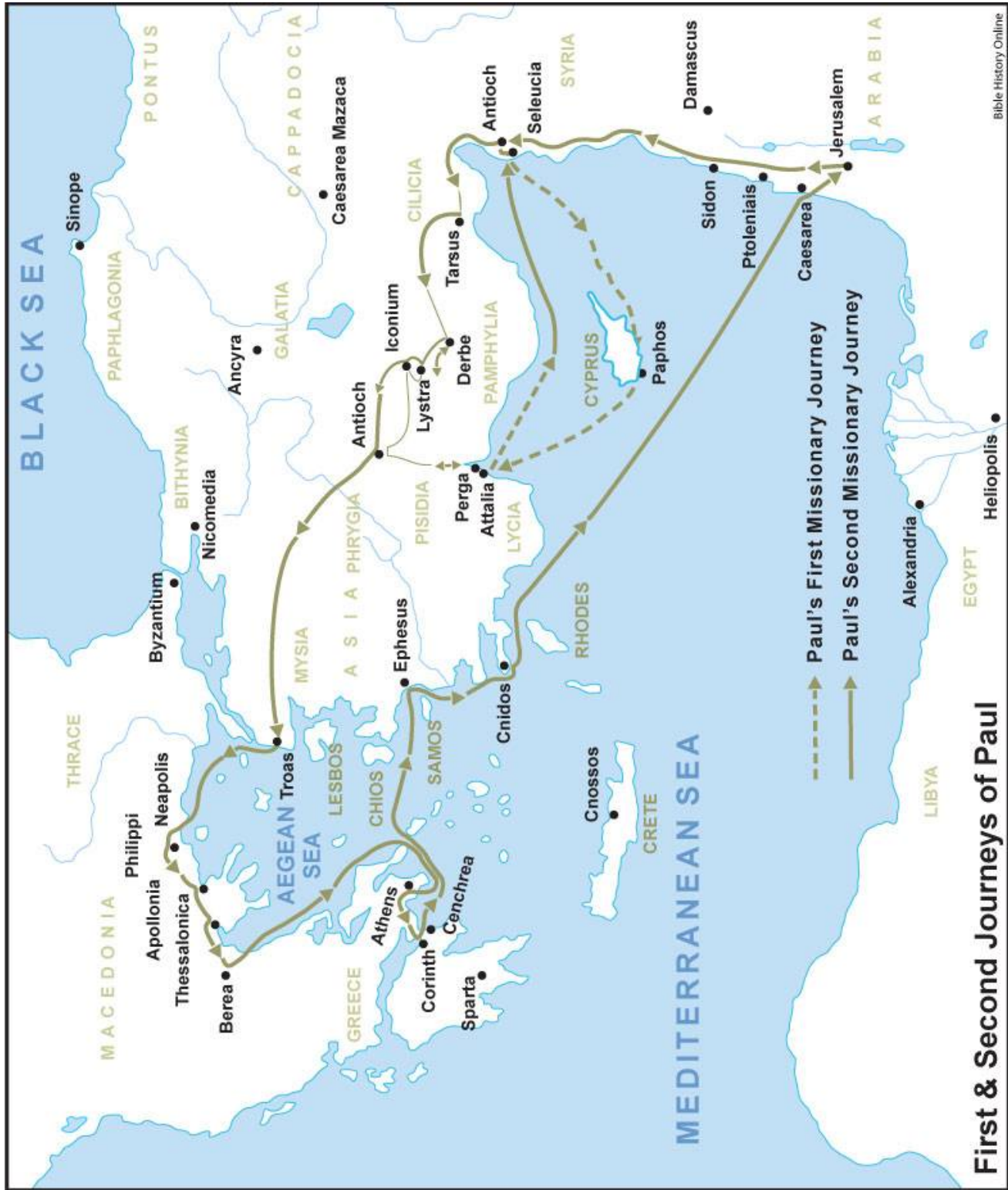


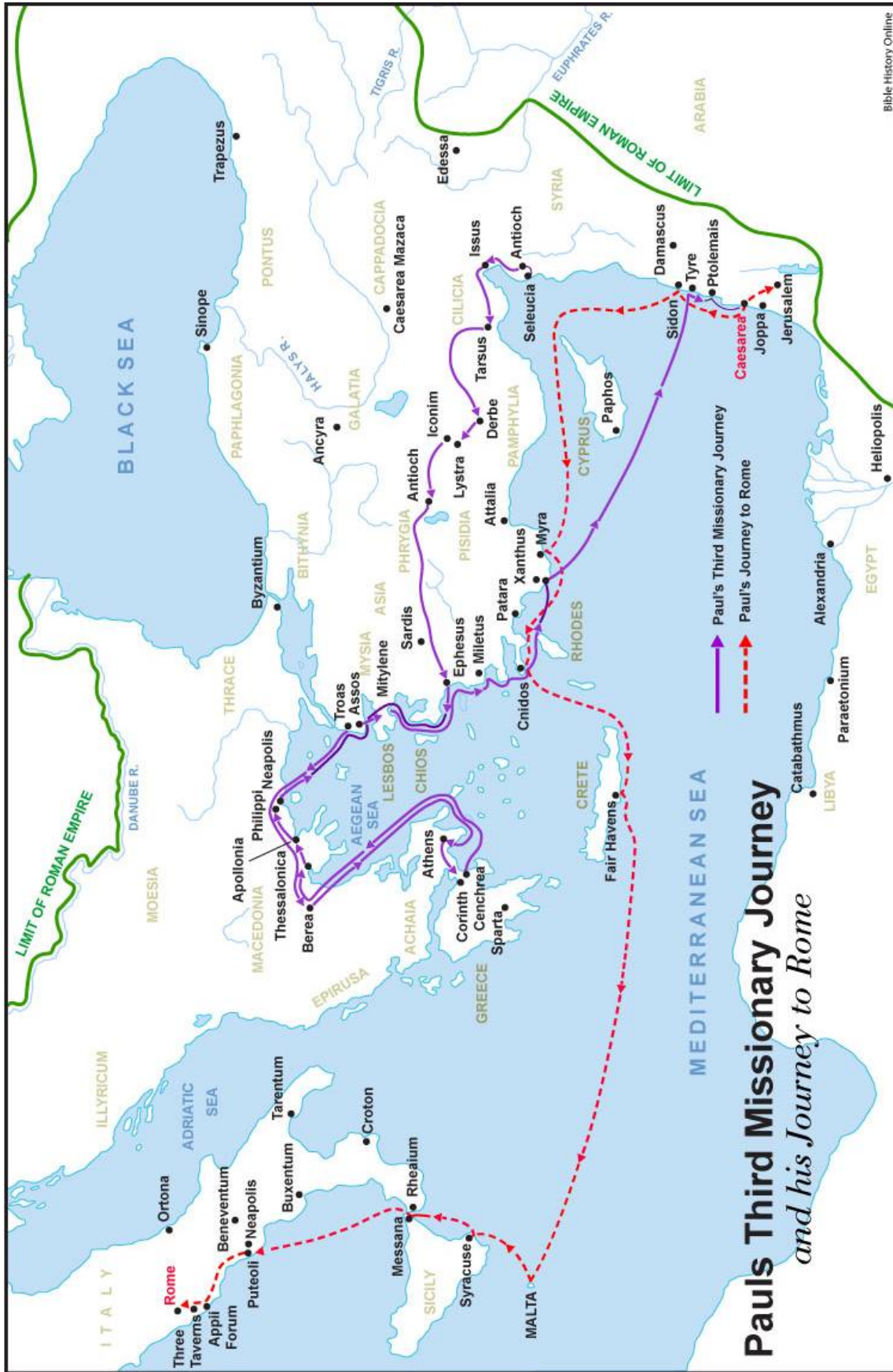
Chronology of the Apostle Paul

Approx. Date	Reference	Description	Epistle (approx date)	Emperor
32 AD	Acts 7:58; 8:1	Present at Stephen's stoning		
33-34 AD	Acts 8:1-3 Phil 3:6	Persecutor of the church		
34 AD	Acts 9:1-19	Paul converted		Tiberius (14-37)
34-37 AD	Acts 9:20-22 Gal. 1:15-17	Preached in Damascus & Arabia (receives gospel by revelation)		Caligula (37-41)
37 AD (NIV 35; Bruce 38)	Acts 9:26-29 Acts 9:30 Acts 11:19-26	Paul introduced to Jerusalem church by Barnabas Returns to Tarsus in Celicia Barnabas brings Paul to Antioch in Syria (disciples first called Christians)		
46 AD (NIV 43; Bruce 46)	Acts 11:27-29	Barnabas & Paul take famine relief to Jerusalem		Claudius (41-54) Famine in Rome (42)
46-48 AD	Acts 13 & 14	First Journey	Galatians (48 after journey)	
49 AD	Acts 15:1-35	Jerusalem council		Claudius expels Jews from Rome (49)
49-52 AD	Acts 15:36-18:22	Second Journey	1 & 2 Thess (50)	Rise of the Zealots (50)
53-57 AD	Acts 18:23- 21:16	Third Journey	1 Cor (55) 2 Cor (56) Romans (57)	Nero (54-68)
57-59 AD	Acts 21:17- 26:32	Roman arrest in Jerusalem & Caesarea		
59 AD	Acts 27:1-28:16	Journey to Rome		
60-62 AD	Acts 28:17-31	1st Roman imprisonment	Colossians Philemon Ephesians Philippians (early 60s)	
63 AD		Released from prison	1 Tim. (63) Titus (63)	
65-67 AD		2nd Roman imprisonment & execution (66?)	2 Tim (64)	Fire at Rome (64)

Map: Paul's First & Second Journeys



Map: Paul's 3rd Journey



Bible History Online

Ephesians 1:1-2

The first lesson in your study of Ephesians will be explore the historical context of the book, which basically answers the questions: Who? What? Where? When? and Why? You will also outline the book to get a good handle on how the book flows and its main themes. This lesson is designed to study the big picture, so you can accurately understand the parts or particulars of each section.

Optional: Read the Preface, Chapter 1 and Chapter 3 in *How to Read the Bible For All It's Worth*, by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart.

Place of Writing

1. What do the following verses indicate were the conditions Paul was living under when he wrote this letter? Ephesians 3:1; 4:1; 6:19-20.
2. Read Acts 28:16,30 to make the likely assumption of where Paul was located when he experienced the above conditions. Also add any insight to the nature of his living conditions.
3. Using the chart of the "Chronology of Paul" determine the a) date of writing; b) Other epistles written at the same time.
4. **Destination:** To whom is this epistle directed according to Ephesians 1:1?
5. **Geography of Ephesus** Find the city of Ephesus on a map of the 1st Century Mediterranean world. (For maps, see www.WednesdayintheWord.com/ephesians-resources/). Write a brief description of where Ephesus was located in the first century.

6. **History of Ephesus:** Do a little research on the history of Ephesus. What kind of city was Ephesus? How many people lived in Ephesus when the gospel was being spread throughout the Mediterranean world? What were the political, religious, social and economic influences that characterized Ephesus in the first century A.D.?
7. **Paul's relationship with the Ephesians:** Paul spent more time with the Ephesians than any other group during his three missionary journeys. Use the record of Paul's visits to Ephesus found in the Book of Acts to explore Paul's relationship with the Ephesians. Second Journey (A.D. 49-52), Acts 18:18-21 (about A.D. 52):

Third Journey (A.D. 53-57), Acts 18-25-28 (about A.D. 52 or 53)

Note: the events here are prior to Paul's second visit.

Acts 19:1-20:1 (about A.D. 53-55 or 56)

Acts 20:17-36 (about A.D. 57)

8. **Principal Personalities:** Tychicus is the only personal reference in the letter. His name means "fortunate". Who was Tychicus? Where was Tychicus from? What relationship did he have with Paul and the Ephesians? Acts 20:1-6 (about A.D. 55 or 56)
9. Besides Tychicus, who else accompanied Paul on this leg of his third missionary journey? Ephesians 6:21-22; Colossians 4:7-9 (between A.D. 60-62)

10. How does Paul describe Tychicus? What responsibility did Paul give Tychicus? Titus 3:12; cf. 1:5 (between A.D. 62-65)

11. Where was Tychicus sent? 2 Timothy 4:19-23 (about A.D. 65 or 67)

Note: Paul's second letter to Timothy was the last known letter penned by the apostle Paul. He wrote this letter from prison in Rome (see 2 Timothy 1:8; 2:8-10) and was about to be executed (see 2 Timothy 4:6-8). His son in the faith, Timothy, was the recipient of the letter who was leading the church in Ephesus (see 2 Timothy 1:18; 4:12; cf. Acts 18:18-19).