



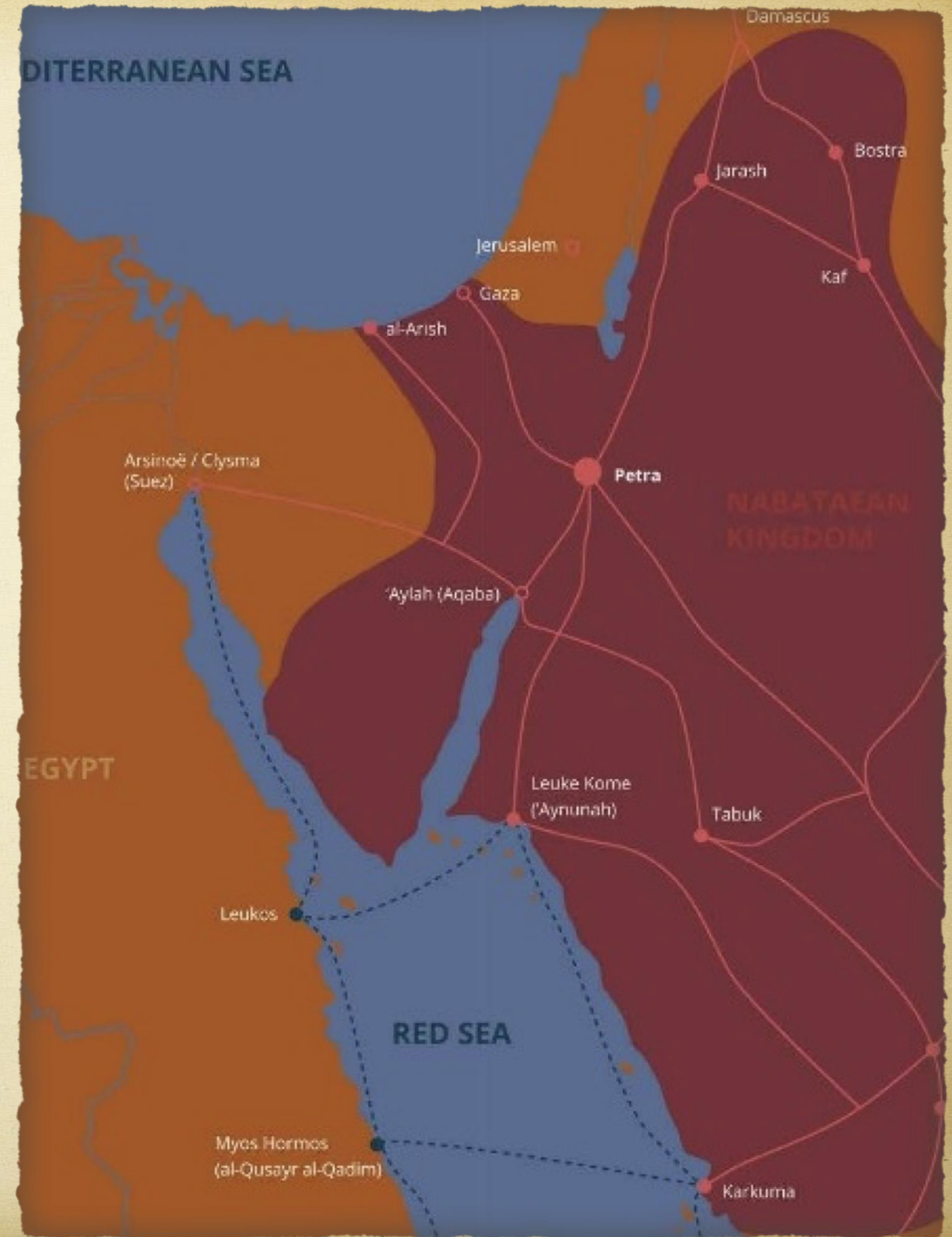
# The Jerusalem Council

Galatians 2:1-10



# A quick recap

- Gal 1:17 ...nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus. 18 Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and stayed with him fifteen days.







The order of Paul's First Missionary Journey with Barnabas around AD46-48, to Cyprus and Asia Minor, and on to the Council at Jerusalem



# The revelation

- Who does Paul say chose him to go to Jerusalem?
- Paul's revelation should be given credence here.
- And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue. (Acts 15:2 NASB)



# Paul and Peter were equal, but with different purposes

- Was Peter greater than the other apostles?
- God worked miracles through Peter and Paul (Acts 3:6-7, Acts 15:12)
- Both men received revelations (Peter - Acts 11:5-18, Paul - Acts 18:9-10, Galatians 2:2)



- This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question. (Acts 15:2 NIV)
- When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question. (Acts 15:2 KJV)



## 3 Meetings described between Acts 15 and Galatians 2

- Acts 15:4 - "received by the church and the apostles" also "Pharisees who had believed stood up" -- **not a private meeting**
- Galatians 2:2 "submitted to them the gospel which I preached, but in private to those who were of reputation"



- Acts 15:6 "The apostles and elders came together to look into this matter."
- Acts 15:12a "All the people kept silent..."
- Acts 15:22a "Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them to send to Antioch..."



# Titus was not compelled

- Does it sound like the Judaizers were in Jerusalem?
- Acts 15:5
- Titus was an open challenge to the Judaizers
- They did not yield



# Those of high reputation

- Did the Judaizers look up to Peter, James and John?
- *pote esan* - what they once were
- God shows no partiality
- "Those who were of reputation contributed nothing to me"



# But on the contrary...

- The apostles in Jerusalem endorsed Paul's gospel as that of Christ - exactly the same as theirs
- Acts 15:12-21
- "Seeing that I had been entrusted" - not a new idea, but a realization of the truth, new insight.



# Circumcised vs Uncircumcised

- Does this indicate a difference in the contents of the gospel for the Gentiles for the contents for the Jews?
- Galatians 1:6-9
- Different audiences & nationalities may be targeted for one's "sphere of labor".



# Grace

- Did the Jerusalem apostles side with the Judaizers?
- Not only NO, but they gave formal recognition of Paul's Gentile mission and message - the "right hand of fellowship"
- The Jerusalem apostles RECOGNIZED, "the (apostolic) grace" that Paul had been given, having seen it in one another.
- God had set these different "spheres of ministry" apart.



# Agreement

- The apostles all agreed. The Jerusalem apostles would focus on the Jews, while Paul and Barnabas focused on the Gentiles.
- The apostles agreed that circumcision was unnecessary, as were all Jewish customs. (Acts 15:19-29)
- The Judaizers were in violation of the Jerusalem agreement, Not Paul.



# No addendum

- Was Paul not helping the poor?
- Acts 11:29-30
- Paul was eager to "remember the poor" (1 Cor. 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8:1-9,15; Romans 15:25-28)



# Next week

➤ Galatians 2:11-21