



Paul confronts Peter

Galatians 2:11-21

Last week... the lost slide

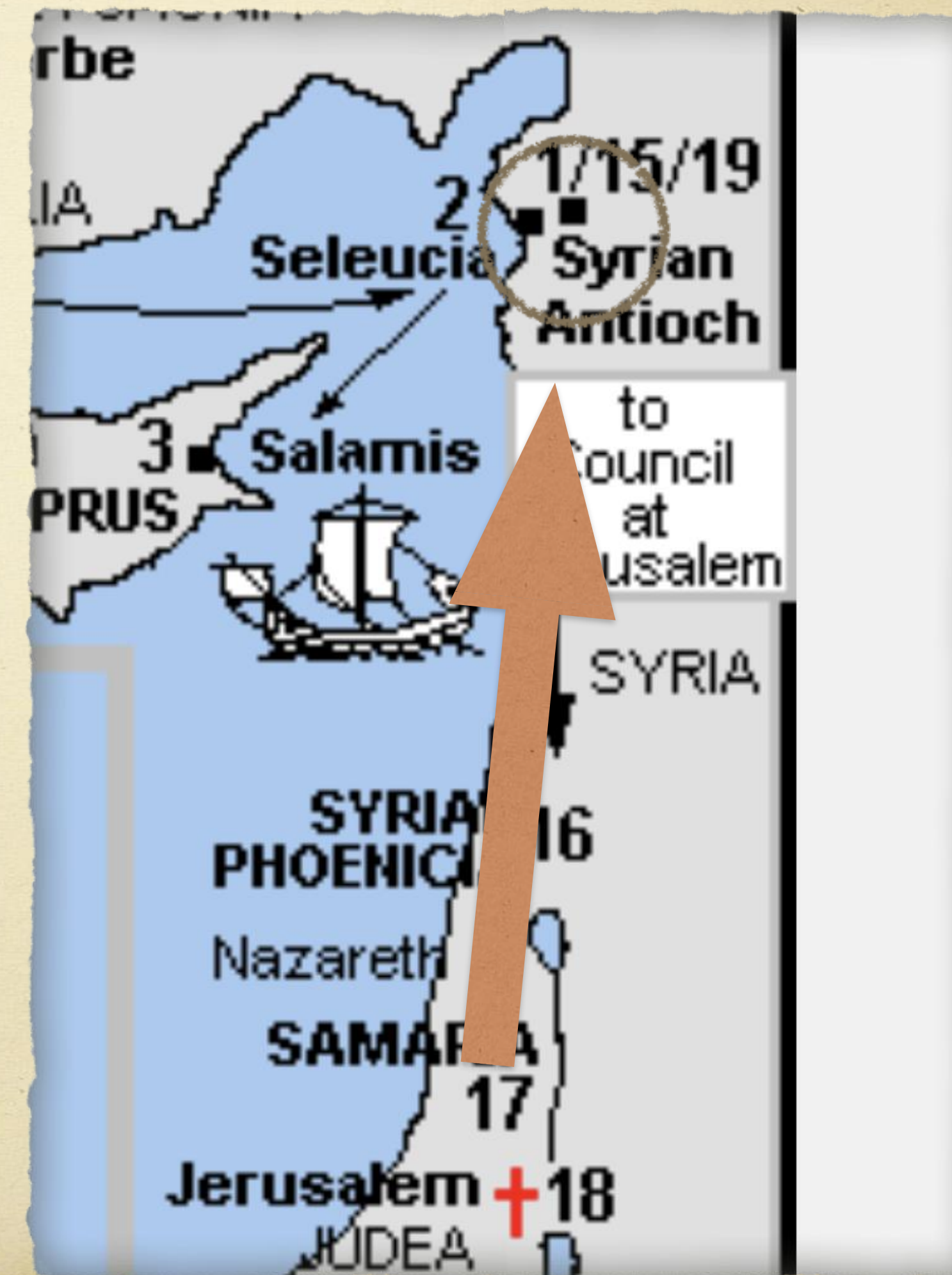
- It was because of a revelation that I went up; and I submitted to them the gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but I did so in private to those who were of reputation, *for fear that I might be running, or had run, in vain.*
- "For fear" in Greek is '*me pos*' which is literally translated "lest somehow" or "lest by any means"
- Fear of what?

One more time...

- How does Paul describes the “Pharisee sect”?
- False Brethren
- Luke describes them as a sect of Pharisees who HAD believed.

Which Antioch?

- Antioch in Syria. Acts 15:30-41
- "Down to Syria" - everything was 'down' from Jerusalem. It was on a fortified hill.



In what manner did Paul oppose Cephas?

- To his face - Paul's rebuke was public (also see vs 14 - 'in the presence of all')
- Unlike Paul's meeting with 'those of reputation' which was private, this was a very public event - in front of the entire church.
- The Galatians needed to see that Paul was not beholding to anyone - not even Peter, the first apostle to bring the gospel to the Gentiles.

Why did Paul oppose Peter?

- Peter stood condemned. But condemned before who?
- Before GOD!
- Peter's conduct was GLARINGLY wrong. So much so the Paul had to oppose him in front of the entire church.
- 1 Timothy 5:17-21, Titus 2:11-15, Gal 6:1

What had Peter done wrong?

- Peter acted as a Christian should, treating all men equal... even Gentiles. (Acts 11:1-18)
- Until 'the coming of certain men from James' at which point Paul began to separate himself from the Gentiles.
- Peter was acting as a hypocrite!

Peter's sin

- When they came... Peter acted hypocritically.
- "He began to withdraw and hold himself *aloof*."
- *aloof* - aphorizo - Greek - to mark off by boundaries from -- to set apart
- Peter was acting just as the Judaizers did!

Why did Peter do it?

- Did he fear the men from James?
- Who is the party of the circumcision?
- The Pharisees? The Judaizing zealots?

How destructive was Peter's influence?

- The Jews followed Peter's influence
- Even Barnabas followed Peter!
- Paul had to 'nip it in the bud' to stop the destructive influence that spread the wrong message.

Paul's reprimand

- This reprimand was private -- right? After all, you wouldn't want to embarrass an apostle of Christ...
- Matthew 18:15
- Was this how Paul handled the situation?
- **WRONG!** This was a sharp rebuke! But a rebuke using the Word of God 'in the spirit of gentleness' as Paul directs the Galatians in 6:1

Paul's reprimand

- Why live like a Jew?
- Man is not justified by law, but by faith.
- Are we sinners for following Christ?
- Are we to 'put on the old man' and 'do away with the new'?
- If law is required, all Jesus did was for naught.

What's the Take-home?

- We don't live under any law except that which Jesus established for us — Faith, Hope, Love.
- Faith - The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen
- Hope - In the promises that God has given if we run the race to win
- Love - Agape - putting the needs of others ahead of ourselves

Next week

➤ Galatians 3:1-14