

The Apostle Paul, Servant of Christ

WELCOME

Lorin Cranford

SESSION 81:

Release and Resumption of Ministry

What the study is about tonight:

8.1.5 Release from imprisonment and resumption of ministry

8.1.4.2 Snapshot glimpses into ministry (PART Three)



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Unit II: Paul the Missionary Chapter 8: Release and Resumption 8.1.5 Release from imprisonment 8.1.5.2 Snapshot glimpses into ministry

The Apostle Paul, *Servant of Christ*

An Overview Survey of the Contributions of this Christian Leader



by

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- **Session Eighty-one**
 - Taken from chapter eight of the book
 - Emphasis on ministry after Rome
- **Learning Goals:**
 - 1. Learning about doing missions from the scripture text
 - 2. Understanding how this information has been interpreted



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8.1.5 Ministry after Rome

8.1.5.1 Challenges to understanding

8.1.5.2 Snapshot glimpses

PASTORAL LETTERS: (Part 1)

1 Tim. 1:3-4

1 Tim. 3:14-15; 4:13

Titus 1:5

Titus 3:12-13

CHURCH FATHERS: (Part 2)

1 Clement 5

Letter to the Ephesians, Ignatius

Muratorian Canon

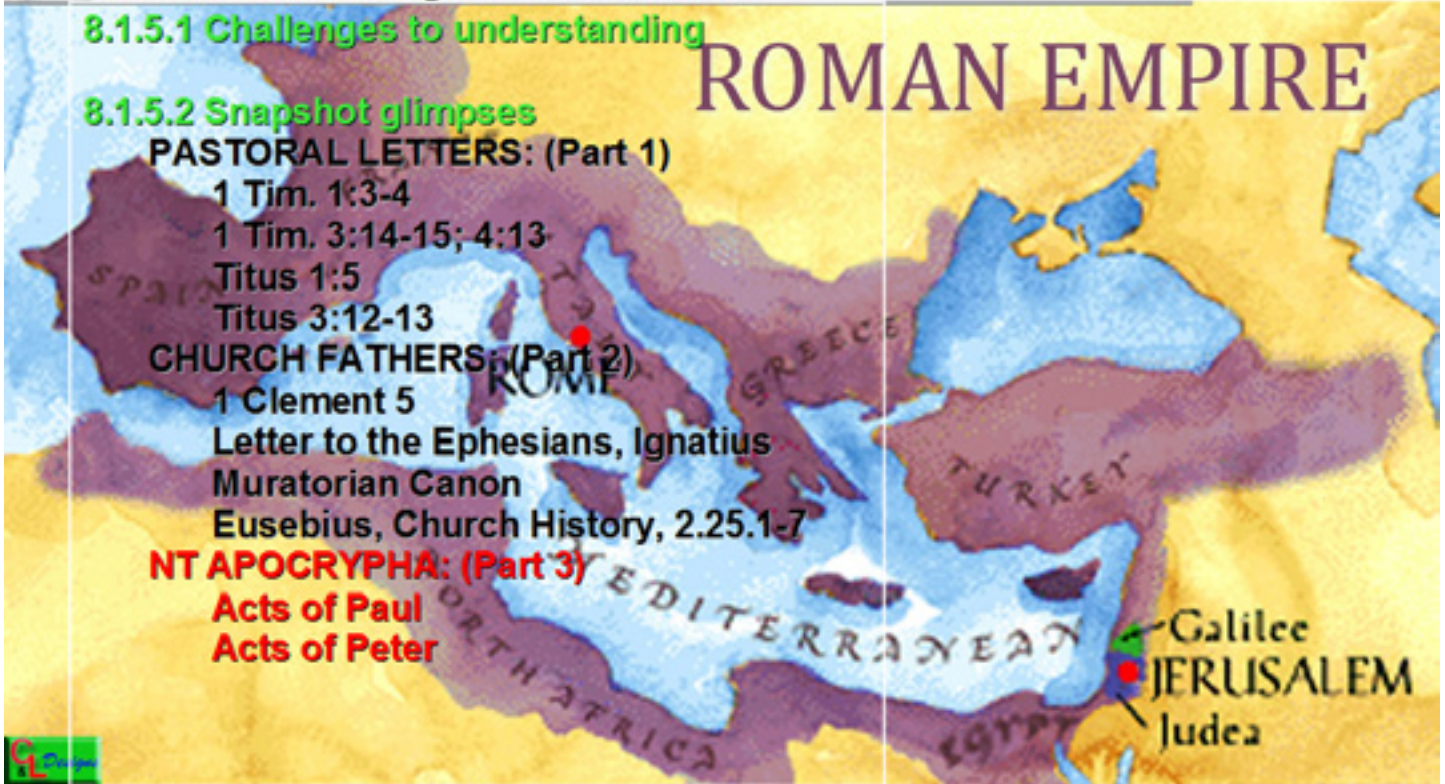
Eusebius, Church History, 2.25.1-7

NT APOCRYPHA: (Part 3)

Acts of Paul

Acts of Peter

ROMAN EMPIRE

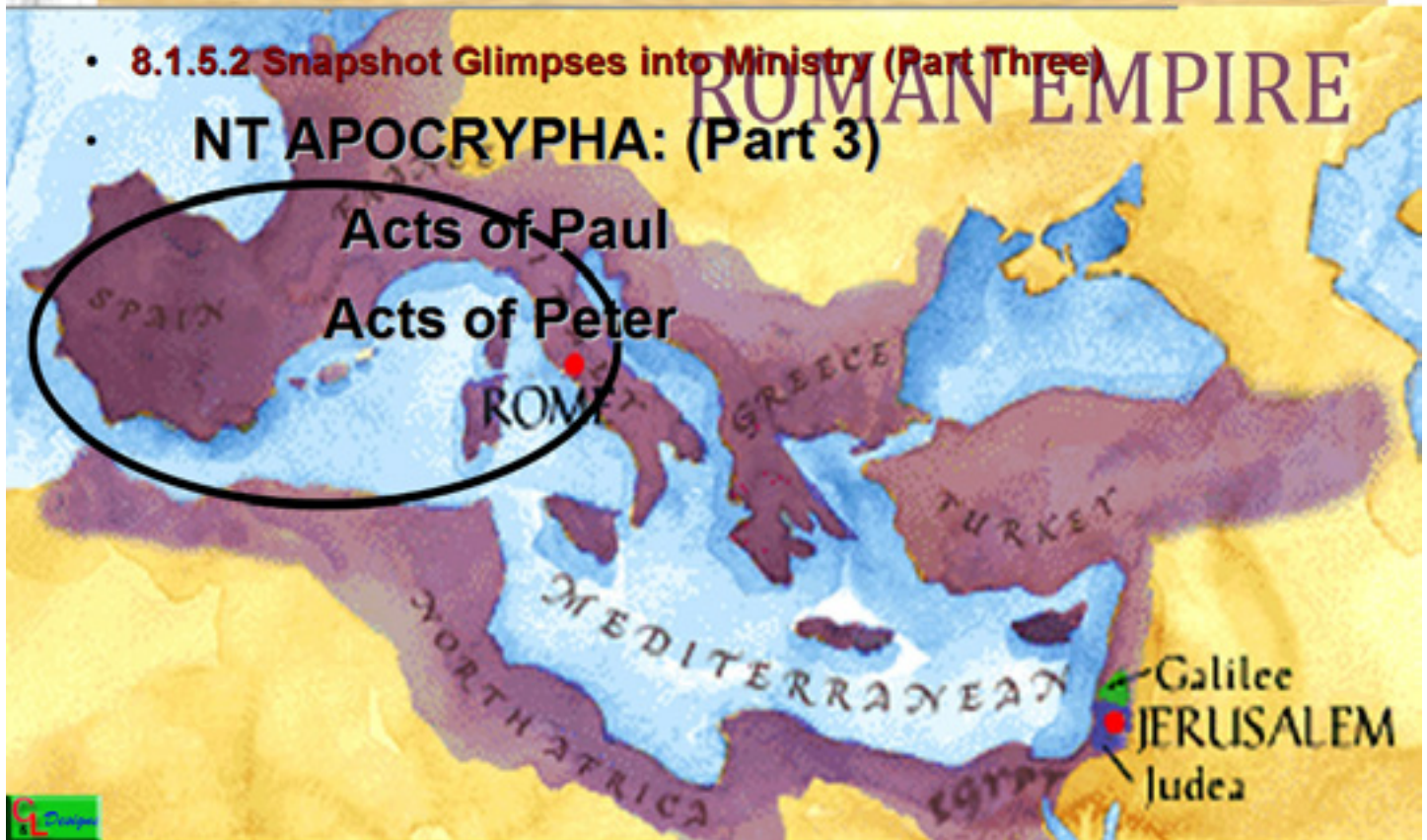


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- 8.1.5.2 Snapshot Glimpses into Ministry (Part Three)

- NT APOCRYPHA: (Part 3)



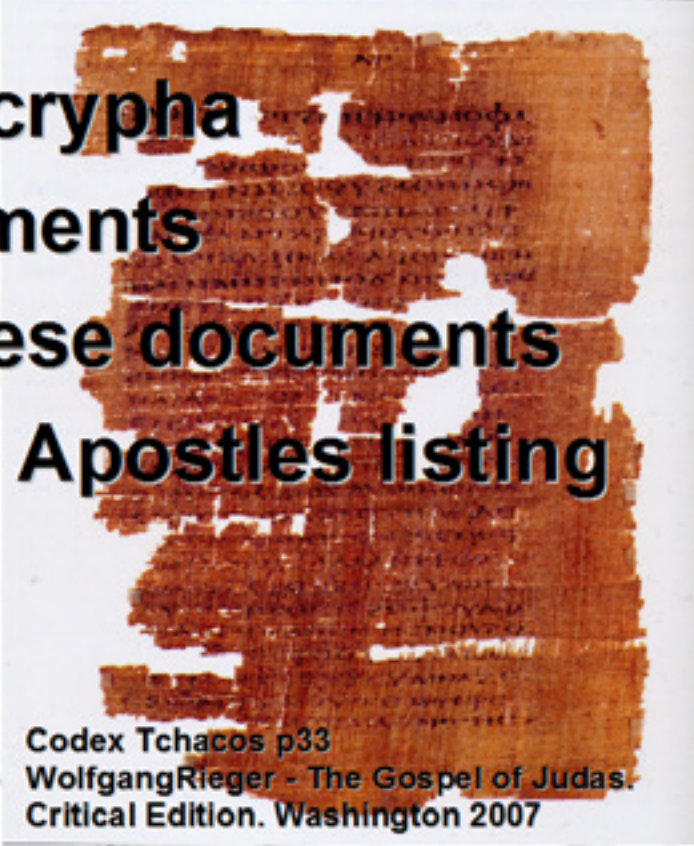
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8.1.5 Ministry after Rome

8.1.5.2 NT Apocrypha

- Types of Documents
- Surfacing of these documents
- The Acts of the Apostles listing



Codex Tchacos p33
Wolfgang Rieger - The Gospel of Judas.
Critical Edition. Washington 2007

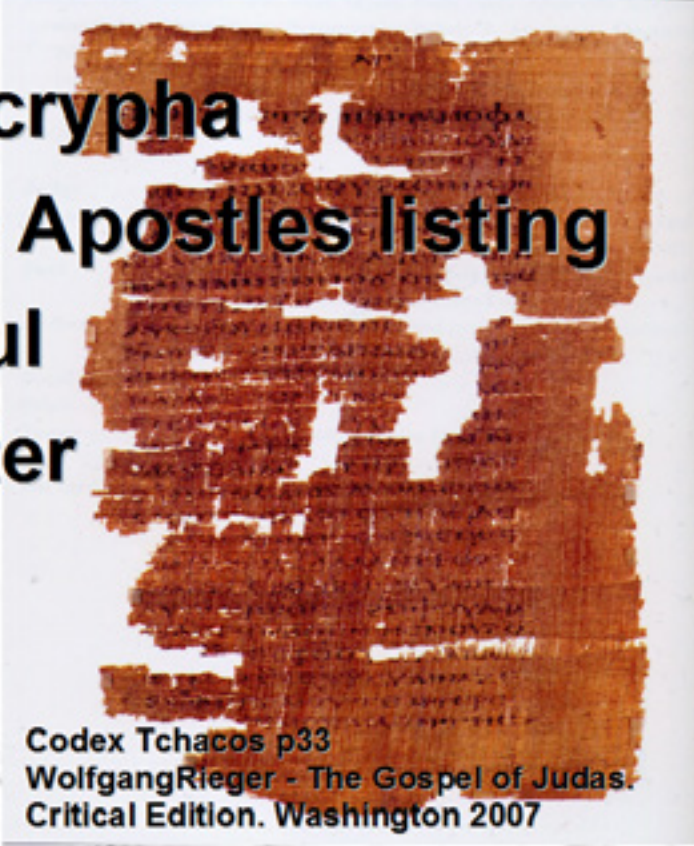
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8.1.5 Ministry after Rome

8.1.5.2 NT Apocrypha

- The Acts of the Apostles listing
The Acts of Paul
The Acts of Peter



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8.1.5 Ministry after Rome

8.1.5.2 Snapshot glimpses, NT Apocrypha (Part Three):

The Acts of Paul

The existing fragments seek to describe spectacular miracles done by Paul in various places of ministry, but these were intended to 'fill in' more details of Paul's activities in the narrative by Luke in the *Acts of the Apostles*, rather than describe activities during a resumption of ministry before his martyrdom.

But the highly fictitious account of his martyrdom provides a fanciful account of Paul 'putting one' over on Nero at his beheading. Because of its fragmentary – and somewhat detached – nature, we do not have any account of activities leading up to his beheading at the hands of Nero. This we will consider in detail below under the martyrdom of Paul section.



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8.1.5 Ministry after Rome

8.1.5.2 Snapshot glimpses, NT Apocrypha (Part Three):

The Acts of Peter: The Vercelli Acts, part 1a

THE VERCELLI ACTS.

I. At the time when Paul was sojourning in Rome and confirming many in the faith, it came also to pass that one by name Candida, the wife of Quartus that was over the prisons, heard Paul and paid heed to his words and believed. And when she had instructed her husband also and he believed, Quartus suffered Paul to go whither he would away from the city: to whom Paul said: If it be the will of God, he will reveal it unto me. And after Paul had fasted three days and asked of the Lord that which should be profitable for him, he saw a vision, even the Lord saying unto him: Arise, Paul, and become a physician in thy body (i.e. by going thither in person) to them that are in Spain.



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8.1.5 Ministry after Rome

8.1.5.2 Snapshot glimpses, NT Apocrypha (Part Three):

The Acts of Peter: The Vercelli Acts, part 1b

THE VERCELLI ACTS.

He therefore, having related to the brethren what God had commanded, nothing doubting, prepared himself to set forth from the city. But when Paul was about to depart, there was great weeping throughout all the brotherhood, because they thought that they should see Paul no more, so that they even rent their clothes. For they had in mind also how that Paul had oftentimes contended with the doctors of the Jews and confuted them, saying: Christ, upon whom your fathers laid hands, abolished their sabbaths and fasts and holy-days and circumcision, and the doctrines of men and the rest of the traditions he did abolish. But the brethren lamented (and adjured) Paul by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, that he should not be absent above a year, saying: We know thy love for thy brethren; forget not us when thou art come thither, neither begin to forsake us, as little children without a mother. And when they besought him long with tears, there came a sound from heaven, and a great voice saying: Paul the servant of God is chosen to minister all the days of his life: by the hands of Nero the ungodly and wicked man shall he be perfected before your eyes. And a very great fear fell upon the brethren because of the voice which came from heaven: and they were confirmed yet more in the faith.



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8.1.5 Ministry after Rome

8.1.5.2 Snapshot glimpses, NT Apocrypha (Part Three):

The Acts of Peter: The Vercelli Acts, part 2a

THE VERCELLI ACTS.

II. Now they brought unto Paul bread and water for the sacrifice, that he might make prayer and distribute it to every one. Among whom it befell that a woman named Rufina desired, she also, to receive the Eucharist at the hands of Paul: to whom Paul, filled with the spirit of God, said as she drew near: Rufina, thou comest not worthily unto the altar of God, arising from beside one that is not thine husband but an adulterer, and assayest to receive the Eucharist of God. For behold Satan shall trouble thine heart and cast thee down in the sight of all them that believe in the Lord, that they which see and believe may know that they have believed in the living God, the searcher of hearts. But if thou repent of thine act, he is faithful that is able to blot out thy sin and set thee free from this sin: but if thou repent not, while thou art yet in the body, devouring fire and outer darkness shall receive thee for ever. And immediately Rufina fell down, being stricken with palsy (?) from her head unto the nails of her feet, and she had no power to speak (given her) for her tongue was bound. And when both they that believed (in the faith) and the neophytes saw it, they beat their breasts, remembering their old sins, and mourned and said: We know not if God will forgive the former sins which we have committed.



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8.1.5 Ministry after Rome

8.1.5.2 Snapshot glimpses, NT Apocrypha (Part Three):

The Acts of Peter: The Vercelli Acts, part 2b

THE VERCELLI ACTS.

II. Then Paul called for silence and said: Men and brethren which now have begun to believe on Christ, if ye continue not in your former works of the tradition of your fathers, and keep yourselves from all guile and wrath and fierceness and adultery and defilement, and from pride and envy and contempt and enmity, Jesus the living God will forgive you that ye did in ignorance. Wherefore, ye servants of God, arm yourselves every one in your inner man with peace, patience, gentleness, faith, charity, knowledge, wisdom, love of the brethren, hospitality, mercy, abstinence, chastity, kindness, justice: then shall ye have for your guide everlastingly the first-begotten of all creation, and shall have strength in peace with our Lord. And when they had heard these things of Paul, they besought him to pray for them.



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8.1.5 Ministry after Rome

8.1.5.2 Snapshot glimpses, NT Apocrypha (Part Three):

The Acts of Peter: The Vercelli Acts, part 2c

THE VERCELLI ACTS.

II. And Paul lifted up his voice and said: O eternal God, God of the heavens, God of unspeakable majesty (divinity), who hast stablished all things by thy word, who hast bound upon all the world the chain of thy grace, Father of thine holy Son Jesus Christ, we together pray thee through thy Son Jesus Christ, strengthen the souls which were before unbelieving but now are faithful. Once I was a blasphemer, now I am blasphemed; once I was a persecutor, now do I suffer persecution of others; once I was the enemy of Christ, now I pray that I may be his friend: for I trust in his promise and in his mercy; I account myself faithful and that I have received forgiveness of my former sins. Wherefore I exhort you also, brethren, to believe in the Lord the Father Almighty, and to put all your trust in our Lord Jesus Christ his Son, believing in him, and no man shall be able to uproot you from his promise. Bow your knees therefore together and commend me unto the Lord, who am about to set forth unto another nation, that his grace may go before me and dispose my journey aright, that he may receive his vessels holy and believing, that they, giving thanks for my preaching of the word of the Lord, may be well grounded in the faith. But the brethren wept long and prayed unto the Lord with Paul, saying: Be thou, Lord Jesus Christ, with Paul and restore him unto us whole: for we know our weakness which is in us even to this day.



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8.1.5 Ministry after Rome

8.1.5.2 Snapshot glimpses, NT Apocrypha (Part Three):

The Acts of Peter: The Vercelli Acts, part 3a

THE VERCELLI ACTS.

III. And a great multitude of women were kneeling and praying and beseeching Paul; and they kissed his feet and accompanied him unto the harbour. But Dionysius and Balbus, of Asia, knights of Rome, and illustrious men, and a senator by name Demetrius abode by Paul on his right hand and said: Paul, I would desire to leave the city if I were not a magistrate, that I might not depart from thee. Also from Caesar's house Cleobius and Iphitus and Lysimachus and Aristaeus and two matrons Berenice and Philostrate, with Narcissus the presbyter [after they had] accompanied him to the harbour: but whereas a storm of the sea came on, he (Narcissus?) sent the brethren back to Rome, that if any would, he might come down and hear Paul until he set sail: and hearing that, the brethren went up unto the city. And when they told the brethren that had remained in the city, and the report was spread abroad, some on beasts, and some on foot, and others by way of the Tiber came down to the harbour, and were confirmed in the faith for three days, and on the fourth day until the fifth hour, praying together with Paul, and making the offering: and they put all that was needful on the ship and delivered him two young men, believers, to sail with him, and bade him farewell in the Lord and returned to Rome.



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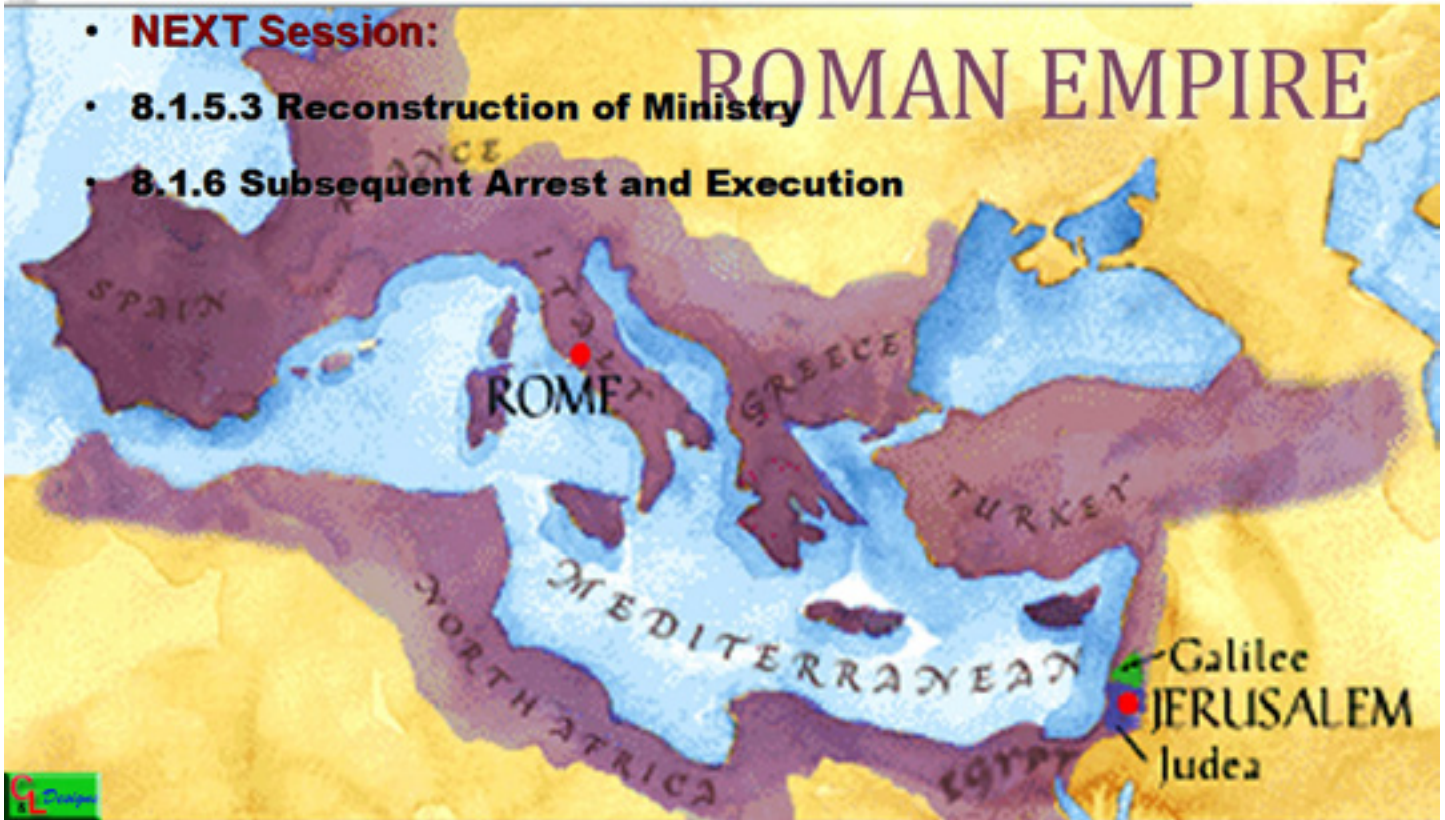
- **What can we learn from Paul's experience after Rome in the NT Apocrypha?**
 - ✓ 1. Extreme caution must be observed in assuming historical reliability.
 - ✓ 2. They clearly assume a release from the first Roman imprisonment and a resumption of ministry.
 - ✓ 3. They assume a ministry in Spain but don't describe it.
 - ✓ 4. The Vercelli Acts assume an almost worshiping attitude toward Paul by believers in Rome, which reflects standard Greco-Roman postures toward heroic figures.



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- **NEXT Session:**
- **8.1.5.3 Reconstruction of Ministry**
- **8.1.6 Subsequent Arrest and Execution**



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Thank You for Coming!
Gracias por venir esta noche!
Until Next Week!
Hasta la próxima semana!
Have a safe trip home!
Tener un viaje seguro a casa!



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