

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND FOR PHILIPPIANS- TIMELINE

The City of Philippi

Location: This city was located in a plain east of Mount Pangaeus between the Strymon and Nestos Rivers. It was near the banks of a deep rapid stream, the Gangites about ten miles from the sea. To the S.E. Ran the Via Egnatia over a very rocky ridge to the port of Neapolis.... In ancient times the city derived its importance from the fertile plain, its strategic location on the Via Egnatia and the gold mines in the mountains to the north.

History of the city: Originally this city was founded by the people of the island of Thasos who came to work the gold mines. The city then was known as Krenides which meant “springs”

356 BC (approximately) Philip 2 of Macedon (Alexander the Great's Father) conquered the city and rebuilt it. He then named it after himself. Philip was especially interested in the gold mines and collected as much as 1,000 talents a year for revenue.

215 BC Peace Treaty between Macedonia and Rome

200 BC Macedonia invaded by Rome

168 BC Macedonia's last fight for independence from Rome

148 BC Macedonia is declared a Roman Province, Proconsul established in Thessalonica.

44 BC After Julius Caesar's assassination there was a time of unrest. Philippi was requested to provide Roman legions of both opposing parties various goods, resulting in their impoverishment.

42 BC The city dramatically emerged from obscurity when the Caesarians, Octavian and Antony defeated the Republicans Cassius and Brutus, on the plains of Philippi. The city was immediately colonized with Roman veterans and made a Roman city – Colonia Augusta Julia Philippensis.

31 BC At the battle of Actium, West of Greece, Octavian defeated his brother Antony, allied with Cleopatra. Under the rule of Octavian (later called Augustus) trading with the West developed rapidly in Philippi. All the land that had belonged to Romans were returned to the Philippians. To be made a Roman Colony was the highest privilege a provincial municipality could have. Some of the Privileges were:

- The Citizens of Philippi were considered Roman Citizens and enjoyed the same status as any Italian territory.
- The citizens were exempt from land tax and poll tax
- The citizens were protected by Roman Law

45-49 AD In the Days of Paul

Archaeology tells us there was an Agora (market place), a theater seating 50,000 people, and an Acropolis. There were several temples in Philippi and the main one was for Artemis, the goddess of hunting.

Church in Philippi: Luke records the Church's beginning in Acts 16:9-40. First converts: Lydia and her household (Acts 16:14-15), Jailer and his household (Acts 16:31-33)

(most of the information found in Encyclopedia of Early Christianity, Zondervan's Encyclopedia, Dictionary of Paul and his letters, and previous handouts) Anna T. Cleghorn 11/97