



# LYDIA

A WOMAN OF ACTS

## Acts 16:11-15

So putting out to sea from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis; and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a Roman colony; and we were staying in this city for some days. And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women assembled.

A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

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| <u>We</u>                               | <u>Philippi</u>   | <u>Sabbath</u>  | <u>Lydia</u>   |
|---|---|---|--|
| Travelers<br>Included Paul<br>Who else? | Macedonian<br>Leading city<br>Roman colony<br>Compare<br>Thyatira | riverside prayer<br>group<br>women only?<br>Synagogue?<br>Church/Christians | Native of Thyatira<br>not of Philippi<br>Seller of purple fabric,<br>business woman<br>Worshiper of God<br>listening,<br>responds, baptized<br>judged faithful<br>Has household<br>welcoming<br>hospitable |





**THE SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY OF PAUL**  
 ACTS 15:36-18:32

- City
- ▲ Mountain peak
- Via Egnatia
- ) Pass
- Route of Paul and Silas

Jerusalem Conference, A.D. 46, [Acts 15:1-30; Gal 2:1-21]

# WE – WHO CAME TO SEE LYDIA?

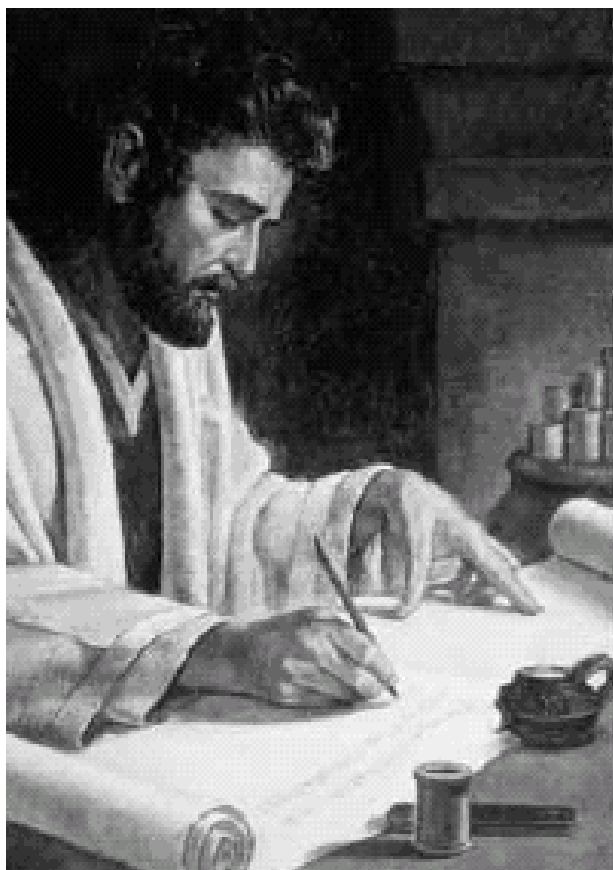
- ◉ Paul – known Jewish scholar and activist, now Christian convert and chosen apostle, able to do miracles and pass on spiritual gifts to others, very experienced in preaching to Jews and Gentiles
- ◉ Silas - much respected Christian leader from a very large congregation in Jerusalem, with the spiritual gift of prophecy
- ◉ Timothy – young man of mixed heritage and culture (half Jew, half Greek) who was a fairly recent disciple, yet mature enough for Paul to want him to go and dedicated enough to undergo an adult circumcision and still travel.

# ARE WE REALLY DONE WITH “WE”?

## Acts 16:6-10

“They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; <sup>7</sup> and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; <sup>8</sup> and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us. <sup>10</sup> When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

# LUKE



*“Many have tried to report on the things that happened among us. They have written the same things that we learned from others, the people who saw those things from the beginning and served God by telling people his message. Since I myself have studied everything carefully from the beginning, most excellent Theophilus, it seemed good for me to write it out for you. I arranged it in order to help you know what you have been taught is true.”*

*Luke 1:1-4*





**THE SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY OF PAUL**  
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- City
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0 100 200 300 Miles  
 0 100 200 300 Kilometers



# PHILIPPI







Philippi view south from acropolis

# THE VIA IGNATIAN WAY







Appian Way with ancient paving stones









Philippi Via Egnatia next to forum from east



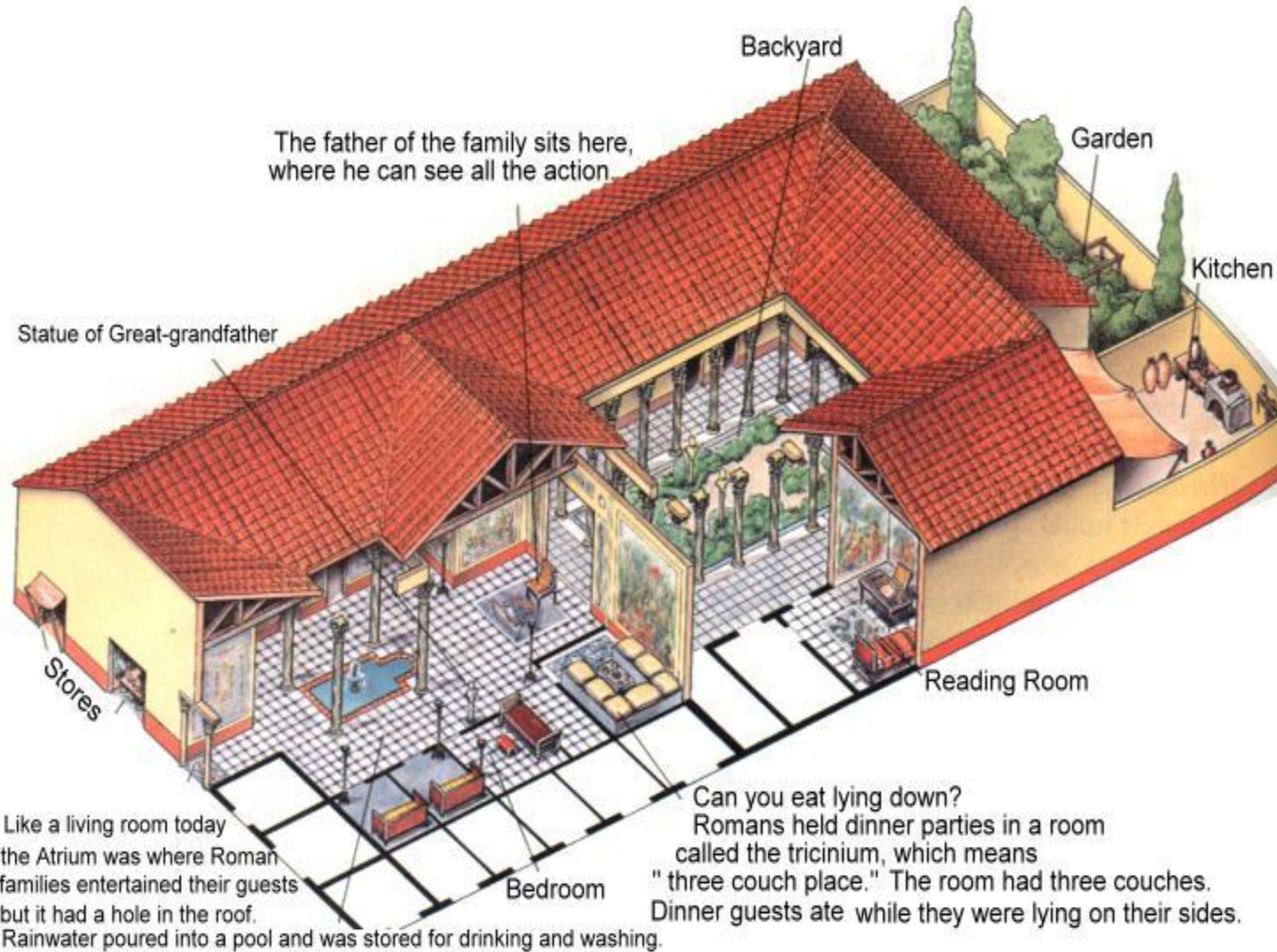


Philippi forum from north





Philippi forum from west





Walking down a Roman street could be messy. Apartment dwellers emptied all kinds of garbage out of their windows!

By 100 A.D. Rome had over 45,000 blocks of apartment buildings! It was dangerous living in these tall, narrow buildings. Most were so poorly made that they often collapsed. Walls cracked or roofs fell in. Fire was a constant danger.



At nine days old babies received this charm called a "bulla", which was worn around the neck to chase away evil spirits.



Roman children liked to play with dolls. This wooden doll's arms and legs move!

Only the very rich had private water supplies or indoor plumbing. Most Romans collected water from public fountains.



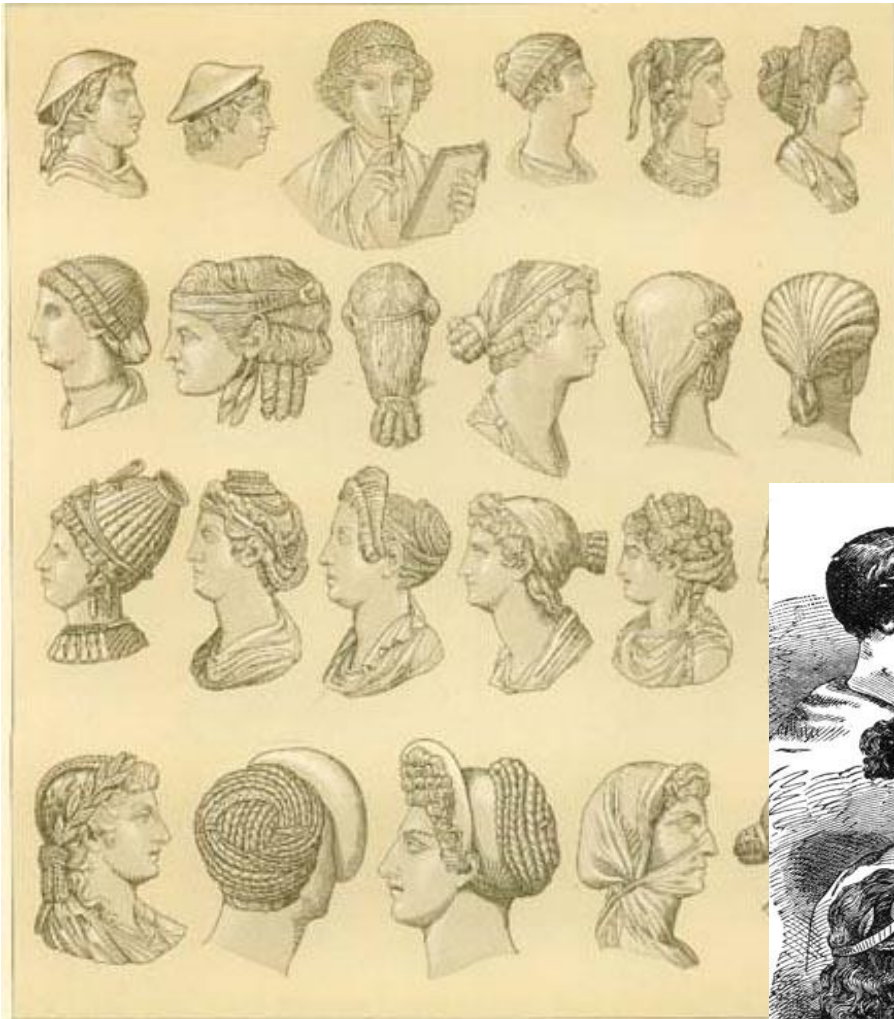


# ROMAN BATHHOUSE













# ISAIAH 3:18-24

<sup>18</sup>Then the Lord will take away everything they are proud of: the beautiful ankle bracelets, the necklaces that look like the sun and the moon, <sup>19</sup> the earrings, bracelets, and veils, <sup>20</sup> the scarves, the ankle chains, the cloth belts worn around their waists, the bottles of perfume, the charms, <sup>21</sup> the signet rings, and the nose rings, <sup>22</sup> the fine dresses, robes, veils, and purses, <sup>23</sup> the mirrors, linen dresses, turbans, and long shawls.

<sup>24</sup>Those women now have sweet-smelling perfume, but it will get moldy and stink. Now they wear belts, but then they will have only ropes to wear. Now they have their hair fixed in fancy ways, but then their heads will be shaved—they will have no hair. Now they have party dresses, but then they will have only mourning clothes. They have beauty marks on their faces now, but then they will have another mark. It will be a mark burned into their skin to show that they are slaves.

# LYDIA

## WOMAN OF ANCIENT ROME

- ◉ Middle aged?
- ◉ Alone - single, divorced, widowed?
- ◉ household with many people?
- ◉ a business catering to the wealthy?

### Women of her time and possible station

- bathed and perfumed at bathhouse
- dressed in fine clothes and shoes, adorned their hair, used makeup, jewelry
- had many servants to manage the grueling every day tasks of doing everything from scratch (cooking, sewing, cleaning, laundering, animal care)
- would probably have a small militia, guarding affluent properties

These are the usual. Lydia seemed to be unusual in 3 ways ...

- \* in ancient times, as a woman she seemed to manage a home alone
- \* In ancient times, as a woman she seemed to manage a business
- \* in an idol worshipping city, she was a worshiper of God







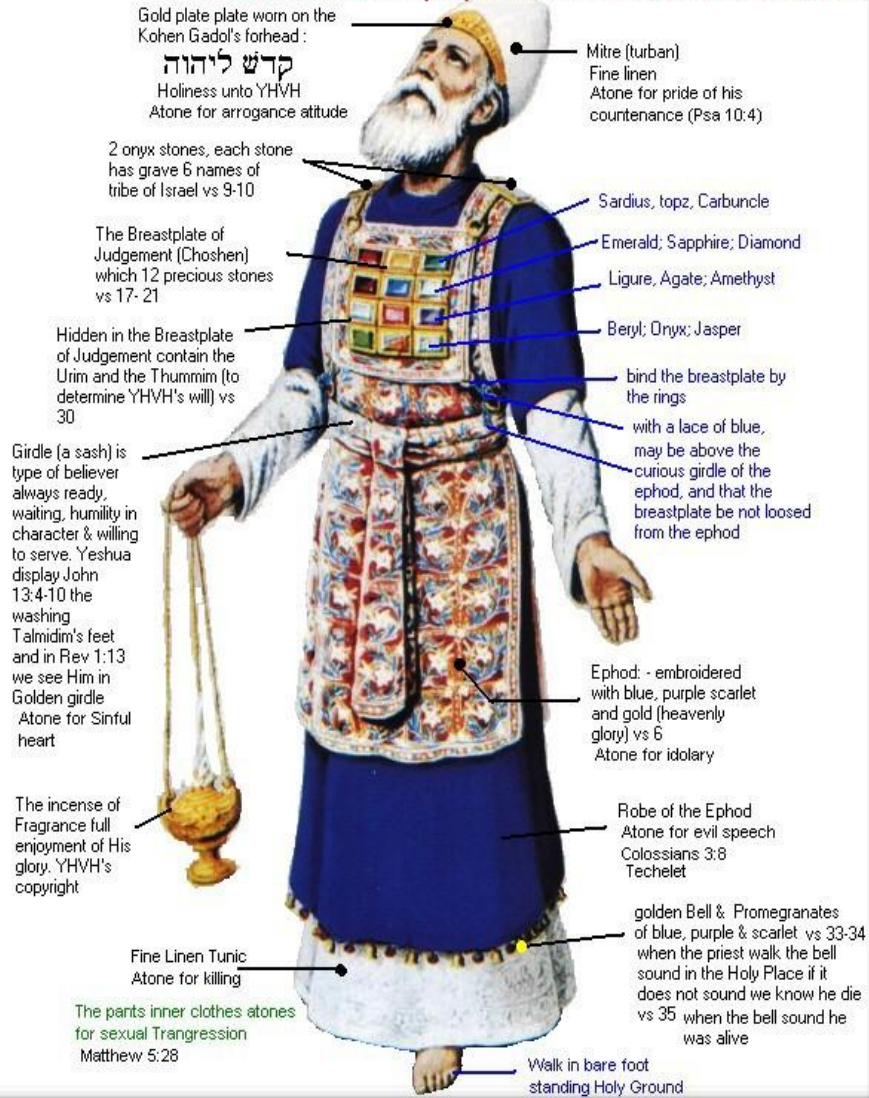
**TYRIAN  
PURPLE**

# PURPLE .. MUREX OR MADDER?





## The Golden Garments (8th) of the Kohen Gadol Shemot 28:4:42





HERE IS WHERE THEY FOUND HER ...



Krenides River, possible place of Lydia



THEY SEIZED, DRAGGED .. THE CROWD ATTACKED  
... THE SOLDIERS STRIPPED AND BEAT THEM ...  
SEVERELY FLOGGED ... THEIR FEET IN STOCKS



For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me. 1:29-30

You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs. Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account. But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. 4:15-18



# THE CHURCH AT PHILIPPI

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

## PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

Be anxious for nothing,  
but in everything by prayer  
and supplication with thanksgiving  
let your requests be made known to God  
And the peace of God,  
which surpasses all comprehension,  
will guard your hearts and your minds  
in Christ Jesus.



## PHILIPPIANS 4:11-13

*...for I have learned to be content  
in whatever circumstances I am.*

*I know how to get along with humble means,  
and I also know how to live in prosperity;  
in any and every circumstance I have learned  
the secret of being filled and going hungry,  
both of having abundance and suffering need.*

*I can do all things through Him  
who strengthens me.*

PHILIPPIANS 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always,

Again ...

I say, rejoice!



## PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9

Finally, brethren,  
whatever is true, whatever is honorable,  
whatever is right, whatever is pure,  
whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute,  
if there is any excellence, and if anything  
worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

The things you have learned and received and  
heard and seen in me, practice these things,  
and the God of peace will be with you.