

The Church In Antioch

Acts 11:19-29

Jews

Acts 2:5 "And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven."

ROMAN EMPIRE IN THE DAYS OF CHRIST

PALESTINE IN THE DAYS OF CHRIST

Scale of Miles
0 10 20 30 40

Acts 1:8 The Jews on the Day of Pentecost Acts 2

Samaritans

- Acts 8:5 Philip preached in **Samaria**.
- People listened to him
 - Many were baptized.

Acts 8:12

Ethiopian


- Acts 8:26-29 The Spirit told Philip to go to the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza
 - Preached to the Ethiopian.

Ethiopian returned home, south of Egypt. Acts 8

Red Sea empties into The Indian Ocean 1500 miles south of Egypt

Acts 8:40

- Spirit caught Philip away and he was found at **Azotus**
- Philip moved north along the coastal plain preaching until he came to **Caesarea**
 - Stayed and worked a number of years there




The map shows the coastal plain of Judea and Samaria. A red line indicates Philip's path starting from Azotus (marked with a red dot) and moving north along the coast to Caesarea (marked with a red dot). Other cities shown include Joppa, Gaza, and various inland locations like Antipatris, Lydda, and Jerusalem.

Cornelius: Gentiles Receive the Word

Acts 10

- 3 men asked Peter to come preach to a Gentile named **Cornelius**
- Spirit told Peter to go
- Peter took 6 Jewish men with him as witnesses
- Holy Spirit fell on the Gentiles



The map shows the coastal plain of Judea and Samaria. A red dot marks the location of Caesarea on the coast. Other cities shown include Joppa, Gaza, and various inland locations like Antipatris, Lydda, and Jerusalem.

Antioch: Gentiles Receive the Word

Acts 11:18-21

- The gospel is for all! cf. Acts 2:21
- Gradually others who had been scattered began preaching to Gentiles also
 - One of the first congregations made up of both Jews and Gentiles was in the city of **Antioch of Syria**



The map shows the region of Syria and Cilicia. A red dot marks the location of Antioch. Other cities shown include Tyre, Caesarea, and Jerusalem. The map also labels Cilicia, Syria, and Judea.

Acts 11:19-20 "They therefore that were scattered abroad upon the tribulation that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phoenicia, and Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the word to none save only the Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus."

Antioch: Gentiles Receive the Word

- **Antioch** had been the capital of Syria before it became a Roman province
 - Third largest city in the Roman empire behind Rome and Alexandria
 - Population of about 500,000
 - Congregation became very strong
 - Influential in spreading the gospel



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Antioch: Gentiles Receive the Word

- They "believed and turned unto the Lord" Acts 11:21; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; see Acts 3:19; 2:38
- Jerusalem church sent Barnabas to assist. Acts 11:22
- The church grows as a result of his exhortation. Acts 11:23-24
- Barnabas secures Paul to aid at Antioch. Acts 11:25-26
- Continued working together for a year. Acts 11:26

- The grace of God was seen in their lives. Acts 11:23; cf. Titus 2:11-12
- They were to "cleave" unto the Lord. Verse 23
- They were faithful in assembling. Verse 26
- All were involved. Verse 29


Character Of The Church In Antioch

Evangelistic.

- They had good preachers. Acts 11:24; 15:35
- Their members were evangelistic.
- They reached out into other territory. Acts 13:1-5 Later had 5 – 6 preachers.


➤ No “Educational Directors,” “Youth Ministers,” etc.

Character Of The Church In Antioch




Acts 13:2-3; 14:26-28 Paul's first tour and return to Antioch.

Character Of The Church In Antioch



Acts 15:35-36; 18:22-23 Second tour and return to Antioch.

Character Of The Church In Antioch



Acts 18:22-23 Sent out on a third tour.

Character Of The Church In Antioch

A Benevolent Church.

- Sent relief to Jerusalem according to ability. First church to send relief to those of another locality. Acts 11:27-30
- Recognized the local church as the medium through which to work. “Sending to the elders” Acts 11:30; 15:1-2; cf. 1 Peter 5:2

Character Of The Church In Antioch

Recognized the authority of God.

Acts 15:1-2; 30-35

- A growing church. “Much people added to the Lord.” Acts 11:24
- They were interested in the study of God’s word. Acts 11:26
 - This accounted for their strength and growth.

Conclusion:

- Where could a better example of a church fulfilling her obligations both at home and abroad be found than at Antioch?