

## Thessalonians - Introduction

Paul	Silvanus
<p>Phil 3:4-6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- circumcised on the 8th day - as law prescribes</li> <li>- Of the nation of Israel - true Jew</li> <li>- Tribe of Benjamin - favored tribe - remained faithful to the Davidic line</li> <li>- Hebrew of Hebrews - Hebrew parents, raised in traditions, language, culture</li> <li>- Pharisee - strictly legalistic - complex system to achieve righteousness</li> <li>- Zealousness - fought for their religion - love/hate relationship - love the law - hate everything that comes against it</li> <li>- Blameless - no one could accuse him of breaking the law - inside his heart was exceedingly wicked</li> </ul> <p>What Happened?</p> <p>Acts 7 - 8:1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Saul was one who oversaw the stoning of Stephen</li> <li>- He was in hearty agreement with the persecution</li> <li>- A great persecution with Saul at the center (8:2-3)</li> <li>- Acts 9 - God gets ahold of his heart and changes him</li> <li>- Acts 13 - Paul and Barnabas go on the 1st missionary journey (13-14)</li> <li>- Jerusalem Council (15)</li> <li>- Acts 15:36-18:22 - 2nd missionary journey - Paul and Silas</li> </ul>	<p>Silvanus (II Cor 1:19, I The 1:1; II Thes 1:1; I Peter 5:12)</p> <p>Silvanus (Latin) Silas (Greek)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- was one of the leading men in the church (Acts 15:22)</li> <li>- Selected to take the letter to the churches (15:32)</li> <li>- Prophet (15:32)</li> <li>- Went on 2nd missionary journey with Paul (15:40)</li> <li>- Philippi (16:11-40) - Paul and Silas are imprisoned</li> <li>- They were released and they headed for Thessalonica</li> </ul>

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Timothy	Thessalonica
<p>Acts 16:1-2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- met Paul and Silas in Derbe/Lystra</li> <li>- Son of Jewish Christian mother and father - Greek</li> <li>- Well spoken of by the brethren</li> <li>- Paul wanted him to go - circumcised him because of the Jews (I Cor 9:19-23)</li> <li>- II Tim 1:5 (1-14); 3:14-15 - raised in the Scriptures</li> <li>- I Tim 4:12 - he was young but he was an example</li> <li>- I Cor 4:17 - beloved and faithful son in the Lord</li> <li>- I Tim 1:18-19; 4:14; II Tim 4:1-5 - Paul passes on the baton to Timothy to continue to preach the word of God</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- capital of the Roman province of Macedon</li> <li>- On major trade route - sea port</li> <li>- Thriving city - protected by fortresses</li> <li>- Founded in 316 BC by Cassander - a general to Alexander the Great</li> <li>- Pompey the Great used this as his base during his fight against Julius Caesar</li> <li>- Large Jewish population</li> <li>- Continued through the Byzantine Empire - continues to be an important city today - Thessaloniki</li> </ul> <p>Act 17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Synagogue</li> <li>- Large number of God-fearing Greeks</li> <li>- Number of leading women in the city</li> <li>- Jealous Jews who drove Paul out of the city - and then they followed him to Athens</li> </ul>