



STONEBRIDGE
CHURCH

GALATIANS

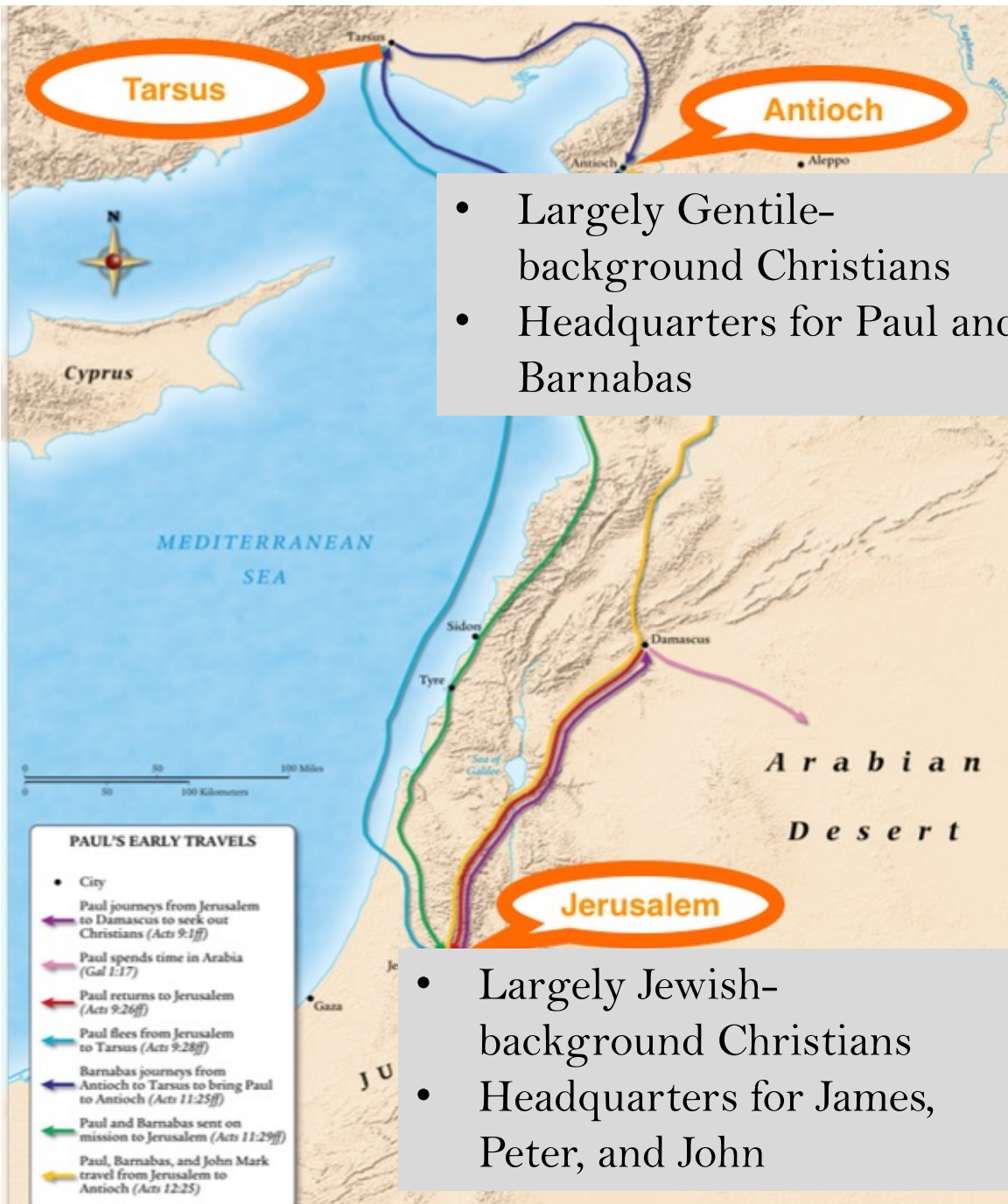
Paul defends himself against attacks on:

- **His calling as an apostle** —sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father (1.1)
- **The message he preached** - the gospel I preached is not of human origin... I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ (1.11-12)
- **Leaders of Jerusalem church affirmed:**
- **Paul's message** — As for those who were held in high esteem...they added nothing to my message (2.6.)
- **Paul's calling** - they recognized that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised (2.7)



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RECAP



- Largely Gentile-background Christians
- Headquarters for Paul and Barnabas

- Largely Jewish-background Christians
- Headquarters for James, Peter, and John

GALATIANS 2:11-14



Why Did Peter Withdraw?

- *Not* because he believed Gentiles were unclean
 - Acts 10.15: Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.
 - Acts 11.17: So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?
- Possibly??
 - Struggled with courage his entire life
 - Concerned he would lose hearing with Jews
- Paul calls it **hypocrisy** – mask-wearing; whatever the reason, he was in the wrong



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Walking Straight When Intimidated

- **Be aware of circumstances in which you are tempted to put on a mask**
 - When around people who knew us before Jesus
 - When around people we are trying to impress/'need' something from
- **Pray beforehand** – the Holy Spirit won't choose for you, but will strengthen you in your choosing
- **Be faithful** –
 - Courage isn't absence of fear, but willingness to be faithful in spite of fear
 - Focus on long term fruit vs short term pain



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