

Ephesians 1: 3-14

Life as a Slave

- Slavery widespread in Roman empire
- Owned by master – no rights of own
- Not free



Letter to the Ephesians

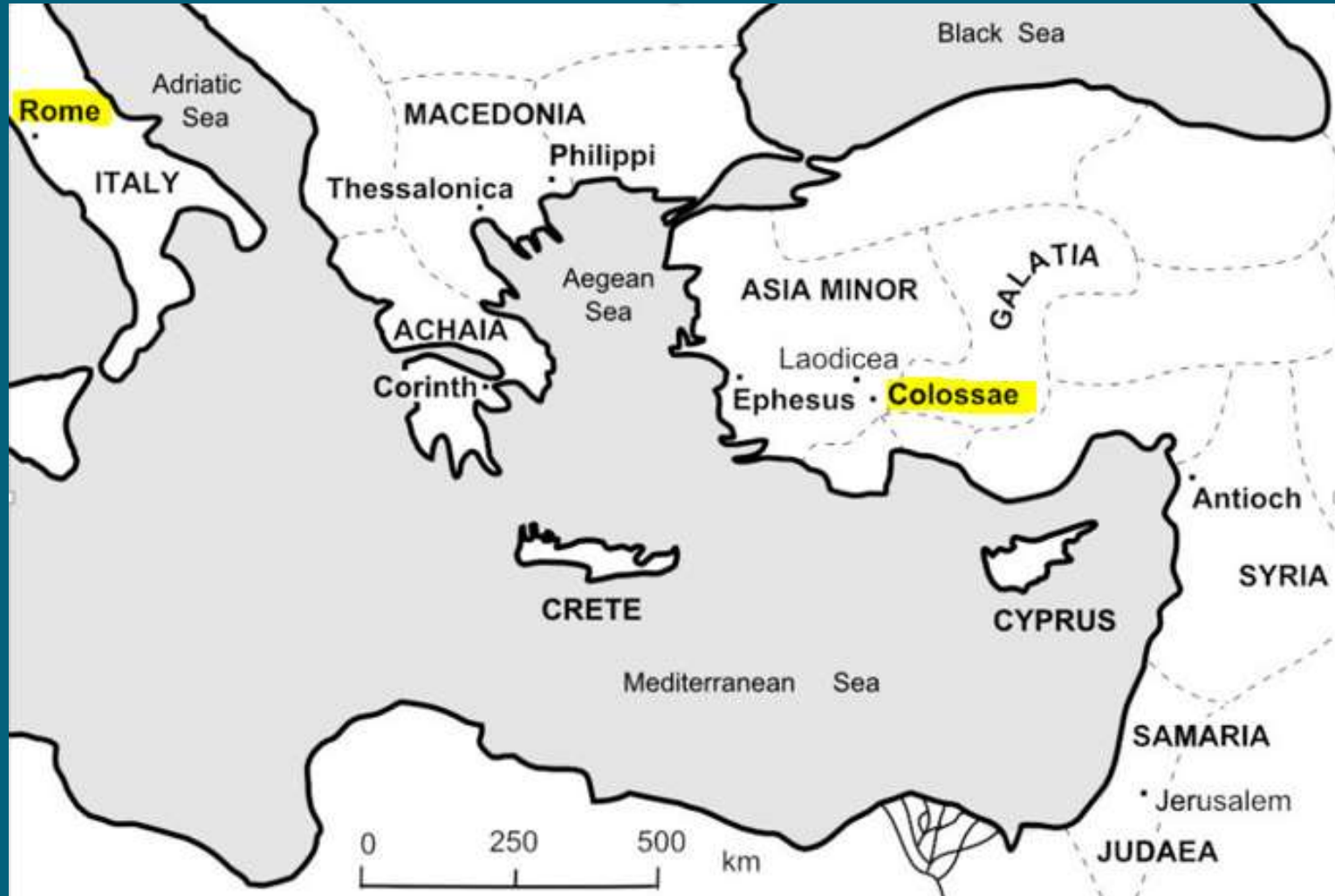
- Written by Paul
- From house arrest in Rome
- AD 61-62

Onesimus

- Became a Christian through Paul
- Slave who had run away from his master, Philemon
- From Colossae in Asia Minor (Turkey)



The Journey Back



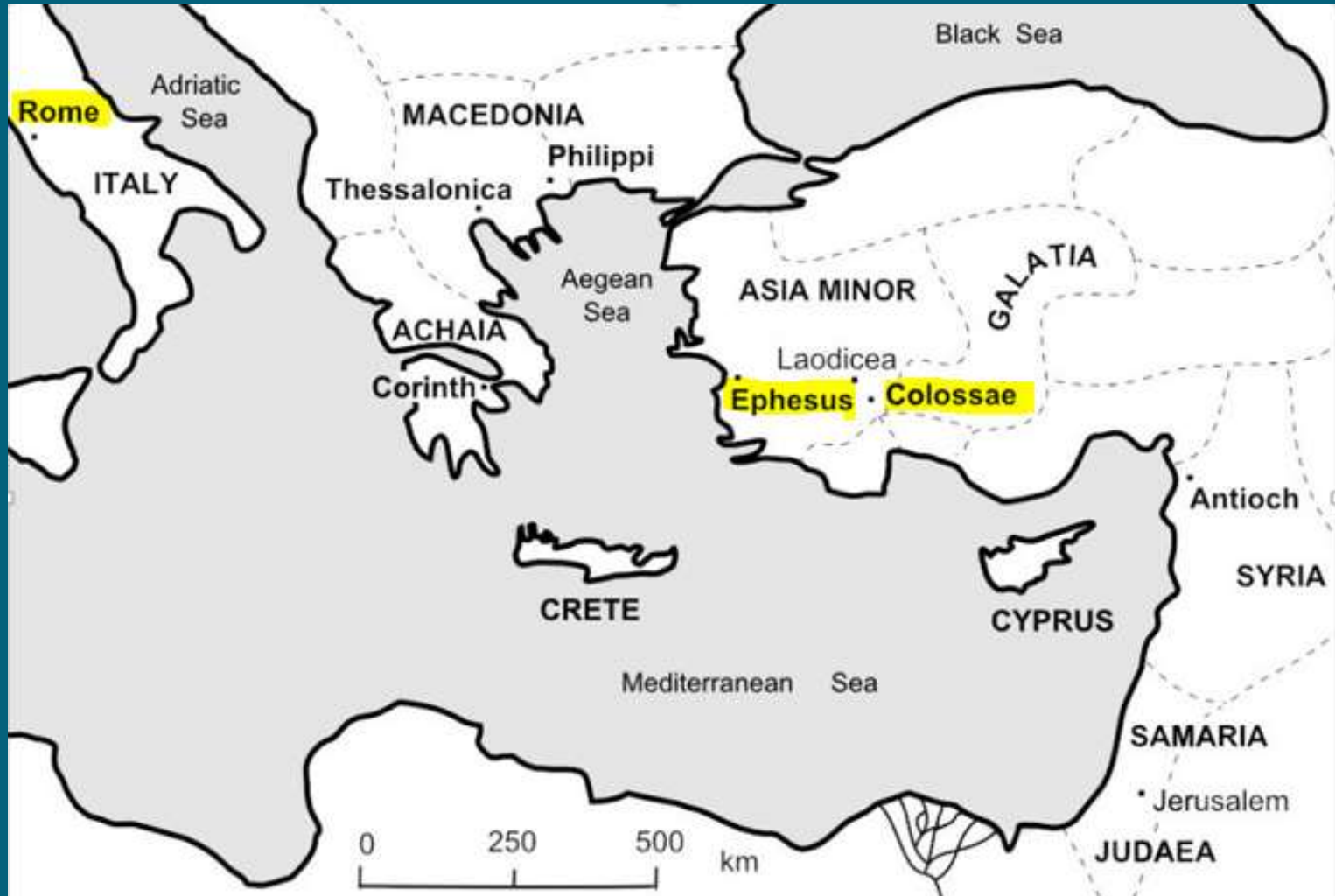
Paul's appeal

Slave owner, Philemon, was a friend of Paul and a Christian.

Paul writes and asks

Philemon to forgive and accept Onesimus as a brother.

Letter to the Christians in Ephesus



Letter to the Christians in Ephesus

- Carried with the letter to Philemon
- Probably a general letter to churches in Asia Minor on the way from Ephesus to Colossae

Ephesians 1

- Every spiritual blessing v3- every blessing from the Holy Spirit
- Not primarily material blessings
- Fruits of the Spirit – love, joy, peace

Ephesians 1

‘In him we have redemption
through his blood, the
forgiveness of sins’ v7

Redemption

- Freedom on payment of a price
- Process of freeing a slave by paying a sum to the owner



Slaves to Sin

We know what we would like to be but find ourselves continually falling short:

‘For what I do is not the good I want to do, no the evil I do not want to do – this I keep doing.’

Romans 7:19

Jesus

Died on the cross



Redemption

- We are slaves to sin
- Jesus' death paid the price so we could be free
- We can choose to be free: to have our sins forgiven and follow God

Lavish Love



Lavish Love

- God loved us so much he sent his Son to die for us
- He invites us to follow him

