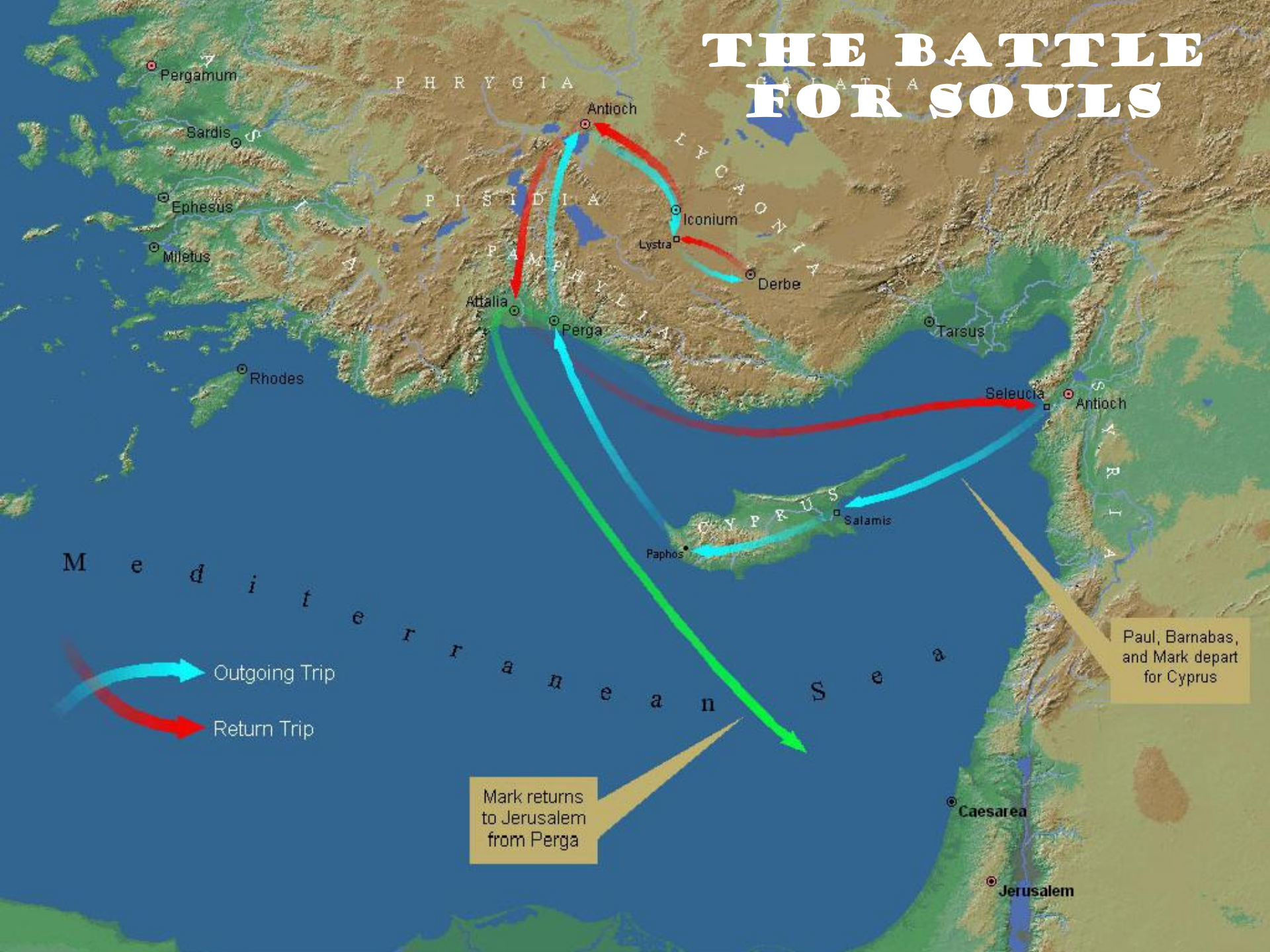




CHURCH UNLEASHED

A SERIES THROUGH THE BOOK OF **ACTS**

THE BATTLE FOR SOULS



M e d i t e r r a n e a n S e a

Outgoing Trip

Return Trip

Mark returns to Jerusalem from Perga

Paul, Barnabas, and Mark depart for Cyprus

Pergamum

Sardis

Ephesus

Miletus

Rhodes

P H R Y G I A

G A L A T I A

P I S I D I A

L Y C A O N I A

P A M P H I L I A

Attalia

Perga

Antioch

Lystra

Derbe

Tarsus

Seleucia

Antioch

C Y P R U S

Salamis

Paphos

S Y R I A

Caesarea

Jerusalem

THE BATTLE FOR SOULS

- 1) Luke is establishing the validity of direct witness to the Gentiles.
- 2) Luke is establishing the credibility of Paul as an apostle.
- 3) Luke is establishing the spiritual battle that Paul will encounter.

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Caesarea

Jerusalem

THE BATTLE FOR SOULS

I. When we share the gospel, we engage the enemy of souls in spiritual combat.

Acts 16:16 (NIV) ¹⁶ Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.

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THE BATTLE FOR SOULS

I. When we share the gospel, we engage the enemy of souls in spiritual combat.

Acts 19:13-15 (NIV) ¹³ Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out."

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THE BATTLE FOR SOULS

I. When we share the gospel, we engage the enemy of souls in spiritual combat.

¹⁴ Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.

¹⁵ [One day] the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?"

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THE BATTLE FOR SOULS

I. When we share the gospel, we engage the enemy of souls in spiritual combat.

Acts 5:3 (NIV) Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"

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THE BATTLE FOR SOULS

I. When we share the gospel, we engage the enemy of souls in spiritual combat.

Acts 26:18 (NIV) to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

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THE BATTLE FOR SOULS

I. When we share the gospel, we engage the enemy of souls in spiritual combat.

Acts 13:8 (NIV) But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith.

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THE BATTLE FOR SOULS

I. When we share the gospel, we engage the enemy of souls in spiritual combat.

A. The devil holds people in spiritual blindness.

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NIV) The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

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THE BATTLE FOR SOULS

I. When we share the gospel, we engage the enemy of souls in spiritual combat.

A. The devil holds people in spiritual blindness.

2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 (NIV) ¹⁰ and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹ For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie ¹² and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

THE BATTLE FOR SOULS

I. When we share the gospel, we engage the enemy of souls in spiritual combat.

B. The devil uses deceit, fraud, and opposition to righteousness to carry out his evil designs.

Acts 13:10 (NIV) "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord?"

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THE BATTLE FOR SOULS

I. When we share the gospel, we engage the enemy of souls in spiritual combat.

B. The devil uses deceit, fraud, and opposition to righteousness to carry out his evil designs.

Romans 1:28-31 (NIV) ²⁸ Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers,

THE BATTLE FOR SOULS

I. When we share the gospel, we engage the enemy of souls in spiritual combat.

B. The devil uses deceit, fraud, and opposition to righteousness to carry out his evil designs.

God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents;

³¹ they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

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THE BATTLE FOR SOULS

I. When we share the gospel, we engage the enemy of souls in spiritual combat.

C. The devil uses selfish motivation to keep people in spiritual deception.

Matthew 13:22 (NIV) The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.

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THE BATTLE FOR SOULS

II. We must be prepared to do spiritual battle.

A. To do spiritual battle, be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 13:9 (NIV) Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said,

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THE BATTLE FOR SOULS

II. We must be prepared to do spiritual battle.

A. To do spiritual battle, be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 7:4-5 (NIV) ⁴ How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?

⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

THE BATTLE FOR SOULS

II. We must be prepared to do spiritual battle.

A. To do spiritual battle, be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 6:10-12 (NIV) ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

THE BATTLE FOR SOULS

II. We must be prepared to do spiritual battle.

B. To do spiritual battle, confront false prophets or spiritual error when you sense the Spirit's prompting.

***1 Thessalonians 5:14 (NIV)* And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.**

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THE BATTLE FOR SOULS

II. We must be prepared to do spiritual battle.

B. To do spiritual battle, confront false prophets or spiritual error when you sense the Spirit's prompting.

“feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.”

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THE BATTLE FOR SOULS

II. We must be prepared to do spiritual battle.

C. To do spiritual battle, reach out to those who show an interest in the things of God.

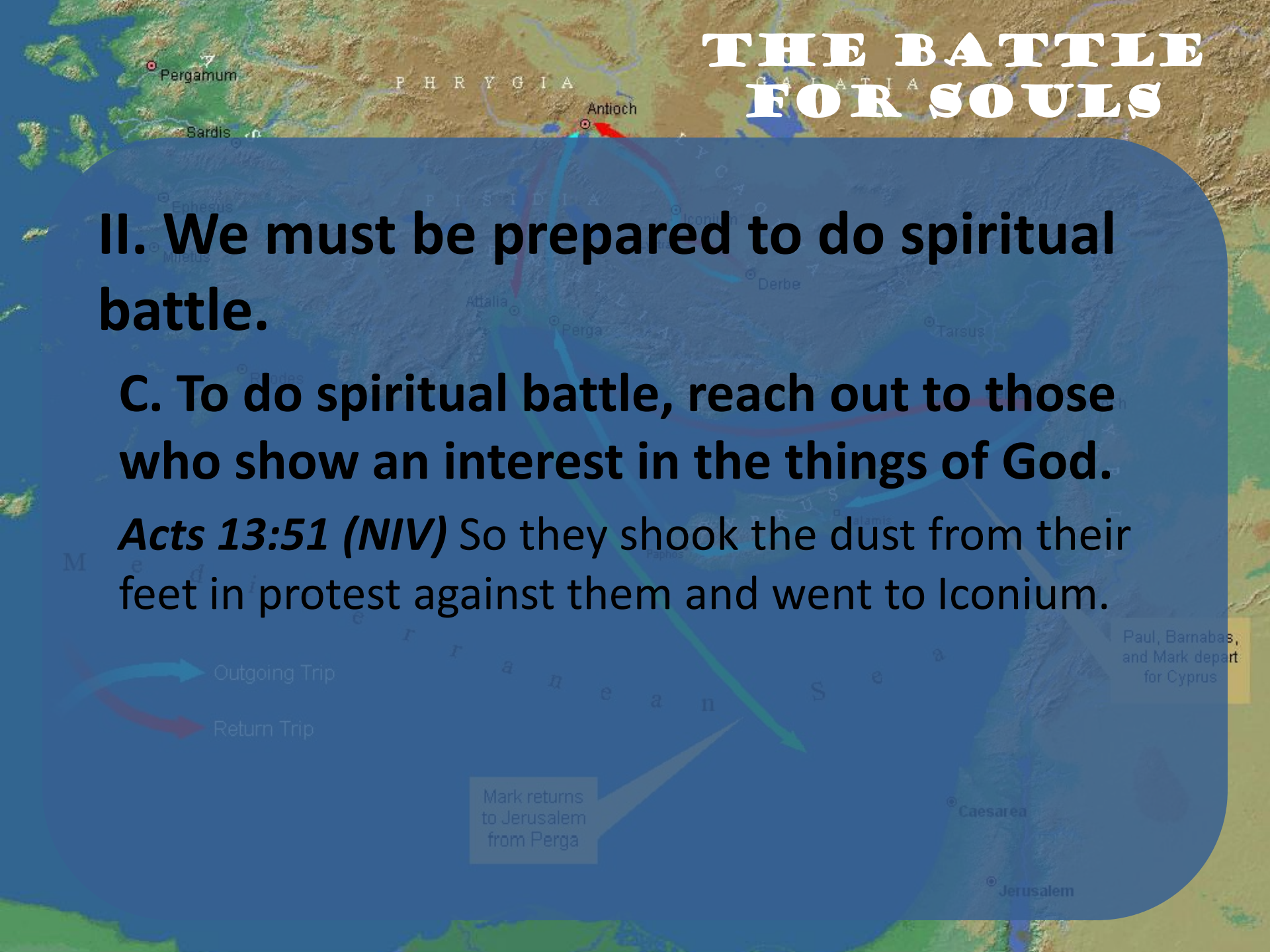
Acts 13:51 (NIV) So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium.

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THE BATTLE FOR SOULS

II. We must be prepared to do spiritual battle.

C. To do spiritual battle, reach out to those who show an interest in the things of God.

***Mark 6:11 (NIV)* And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them."**

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THE BATTLE FOR SOULS

II. We must be prepared to do spiritual battle.

C. To do spiritual battle, reach out to those who show an interest in the things of God.

Matthew 7:6 (NIV) "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces."

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Paul, Barnabas, depart for Cyprus

THE BATTLE FOR SOULS

II. We must be prepared to do spiritual battle.

C. To do spiritual battle, reach out to those who show an interest in the things of God.

It is futile to try to teach holy concepts to people who don't want to listen and will only tear apart what we say. We should not stop giving God's Word to unbelievers, but we should be wise and discerning in our witnessing, so that we will not be wasting our time.—Life Application Bible Notes

THE BATTLE FOR SOULS

II. We must be prepared to do spiritual battle.

D. To do spiritual battle, present the teaching of God's Word on the gospel clearly.

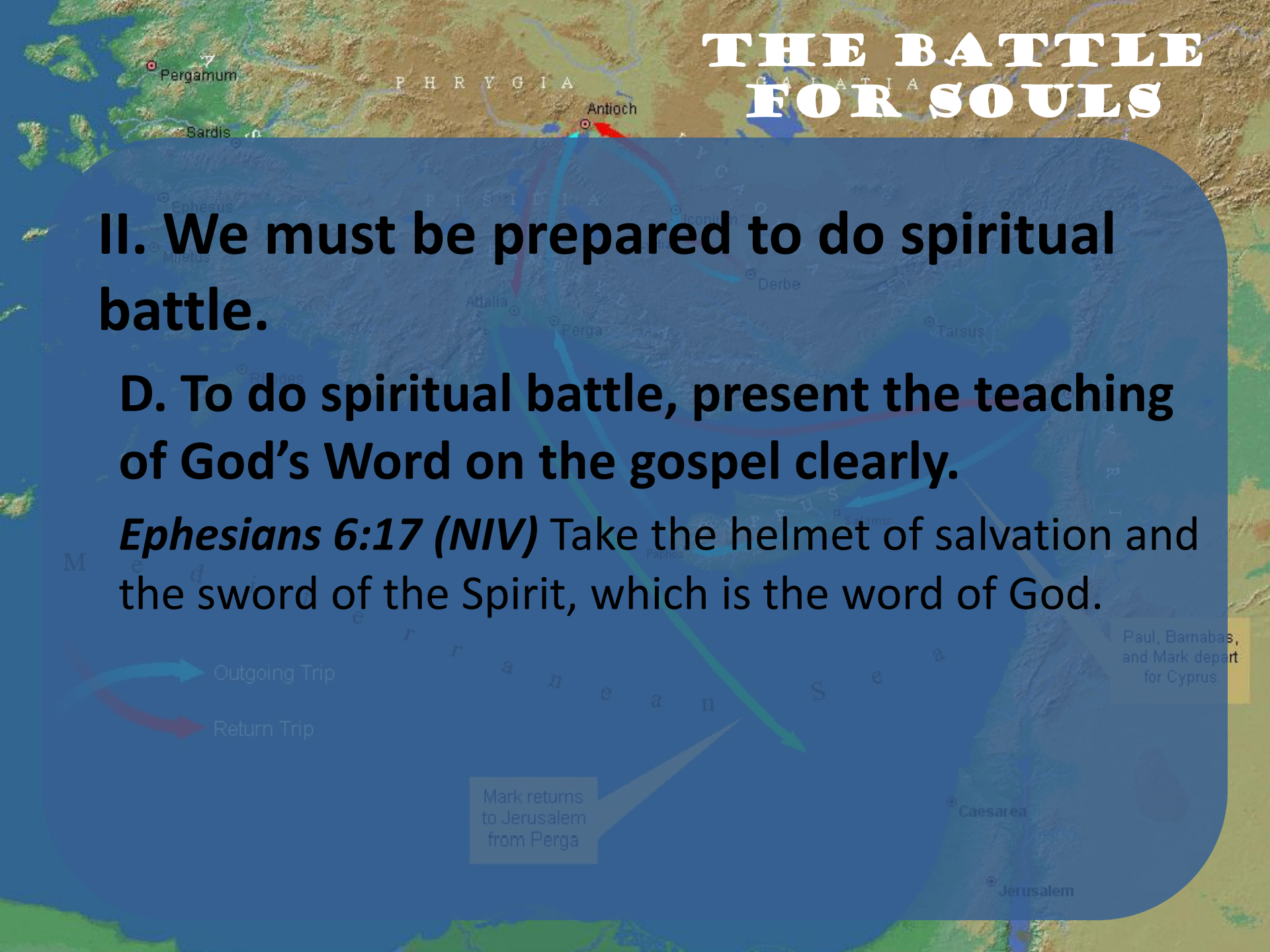
Ephesians 6:17 (NIV) Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

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II. We must be prepared to do spiritual battle.

D. To do spiritual battle, present the teaching of God's Word on the gospel clearly.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (NIV) ¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." ²⁰ Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the

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philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but

THE BATTLE FOR SOULS

II. We must be prepared to do spiritual battle.

D. To do spiritual battle, present the teaching of God's Word on the gospel clearly.

we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.



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