

to Cæsarea where he had a grand palace, and here, while the multitudes are persuading him of his superhuman glory, he is smitten with a loathsome disease, and terminates his career in a miserable death.

Paul and Barnabas having returned to Antioch were sent forth to preach the word.—They proceeded to Celicia, a port on the Mediterranean Sea, from thence they sailed to Cyprus, an island noted for the licentiousness of its inhabitants. They proceeded through it from its eastern to its western extremity, preaching the word in Jewish synagogues.—Here it was that Sergius Paulus was converted to the faith of the gospel, and from this time we find the apostle assuming the name of Paul out of deference, as some have thought, to Sergius Paulus. From Cyprus the two apostles sailed into lesser Asia, and there in Antioch of Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe, they preached the gospel, from whence they returned to Antioch in Syria, and gave an account to the brethren of the success of their mission. While the apostles are resting for a season in Antioch, a circumstance occurred which led to important results there and elsewhere. Some persons having come down from Judea, busied themselves in urging upon the Gentile converts, that unless they observed circumcision and the other laws of Moses, they could not be saved. Much discussion having arisen on this matter, it was resolved that Paul and Barnabas should go up to Jerusalem to submit the question to the apostles and elders. On their arrival a meeting was convened, to whom they made known what God had wrought by them, and they stated the point in dispute, that a sect of the Pharisees had come to Antioch teaching that it was needful that the Gentiles should obey the laws of Moses. Peter and James having declared their opinions condemnatory of this doctrine, the brethren decreed that no such yoke should be laid on them, that they should abstain from meats offered to idols, from fornication, from things strangled, and from blood. In terms of this decree, letters were written and sent by Barnabas and Paul, accompanied by Judas and Silas, to the Gentile believers, the reception of which afforded great satisfaction. It was shortly after this that a dispute arose between Paul and Barnabas, which had the effect of causing a separation between them. It had no effect, however, in diminishing their ardor in the work. Paul and Silas accompanied latterly with Timothy, came as far as Troas, one of the most western cities of Asia, preaching the gospel. In obe-

dience to a vision which Paul had, they passed over into Europe. In Philippi, continuing some time, Lydia and her household were converted to the faith of the gospel. Here Paul having cast out a spirit of divination from a certain young woman, her owners raised an insurrection against the brethren, when they were ignominiously beaten with rods, and cast into prison. In this place so unfavorable to the work in which they were engaged, they were the means of converting a jailor, and this introduced him and his household into the privileges of the christian church. Being set free from prison, the brethren proceeded to Thessalonica. Here according to his usual practice Paul preached in a Jewish synagogue, and at length was enabled to plant a church. From thence he passed into Berea, and being forced by the violence of the Jews to withdraw from the city, he proceeded by land to Athens.—While awaiting the arrival of his companions, Silas and Timothy, and witnessing the much idolatry of the Athenians, his spirit is roused to bear a public testimony to the truth. And here it was that the apostle standing in the midst of Mars Hill, declared to the philosophers and people of Athens, the being and attributes of the unknown God, and urged his command to a general repentance by the consideration of Christ's coming to judgment.—But though Paul's discourse on this occasion appears peculiarly animated and appropriate, there were only a few who received his word. From Athens, Paul proceeded to Corinth.—Here he works as a tent-maker, and being joined by Silas and Timothy, he is the more emboldened to preach the gospel. It would appear, however, that Paul was much dejected in this place by a sense of his own weakness, as well as by reason of the opposition of the Jews, and the Lord Jesus appeared to him by night in a vision, encouraging him in the work, and assuring him that he had much people in Corinth. Strengthened by this intimation, Paul continued his labors for a year and a half, and at length by the blessing of God, was successful in planting a church "filled with all knowledge and utterance." Besides preaching, the apostle is supposed (A. D. 54) in the city of Corinth to have written his Epistles to the churches in Thessalonica and Galatia. Leaving Corinth, Paul embarked with Priscilla and Aquila for Ephesus, and leaving them there, with a promise to return, he sailed to Syria. After observing the feast at Jerusalem and saluting the church, he returned to Antioch. Having performed a third journey through the