

## **THE CHURCH IN ANTIOCH (ACTS 11:19-30)**

- Location:** In Syria, about 300 miles from Jerusalem. Refer to map.
- Significance:** One of the three major centers of Christian presence outside the land of Israel; the other two were Cyprus and Phoenicia. Antioch is the "launch pad" for all three of Paul's missionary journeys (found in Acts Chapters 13, 15, and 18)
- Its start:** Because of persecution, the church at Antioch began when Christians in Jerusalem fled there after Stephen's stoning. The first conversions were reported in Samaria in Acts 8 (see verse 14). When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that there were many who had responded to Philip's preaching, who did they send?
- Luke's intent:** Luke places this narrative immediately after Acts 10:1-11:18 (the story of the Gentile conversion through Peter) to show God's intent. As the first Gentiles became Christians, the first Gentile mission was being directed by God via the Antioch Church.
- Verification:** See Acts 11:23-24. The apostles took all measures, including sending delegates there, to ensure that the missionary development in Antioch was the work of God. Why do you think it was necessary that they do this? Which of the disciples enthusiastically confirmed that the work of God in Antioch was genuine? Furthermore, what did he do and what were the conditions that forced him be careful?
- New name:** For the first time, what were the disciples in Antioch called? (Refer to vs. 26)
- N.T. prophesy:** Refer to Verses 27 & 28. What thoughts do you have regarding the prophets from Jerusalem? What do we know about Agabus? As a result of his prophesy, what action was taken by the disciples? Who was the Roman emperor at that time and when was his reign?