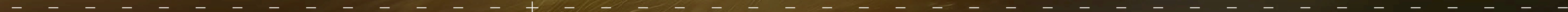


# Acts.





CHRIST MOVES US FROM  
REBELLION TO **GOSPEL PURPOSE.**

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.<sup>20</sup> **At once** he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.<sup>21</sup> All those who heard him were astonished and asked, “Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?”<sup>22</sup> Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

**ACTS 9:19b-22 NIV**



OUR CALLING TO GOSPEL  
PURPOSE BEGINS IMMEDIATELY.

After many days had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him,<sup>24</sup> but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him.<sup>25</sup> But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.

**ACTS 9:23-25 NIV**

The background of the image is a close-up of a horse's mane, which is dark brown and black. A bright, golden light source from the upper right corner creates a strong glow and lens flare effect across the mane, highlighting its texture and creating a sense of movement and energy. The overall color palette is dominated by warm, golden-brown and black tones.

OUR CALLING TO GOSPEL  
PURPOSE WILL HAVE A COST.

When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple.

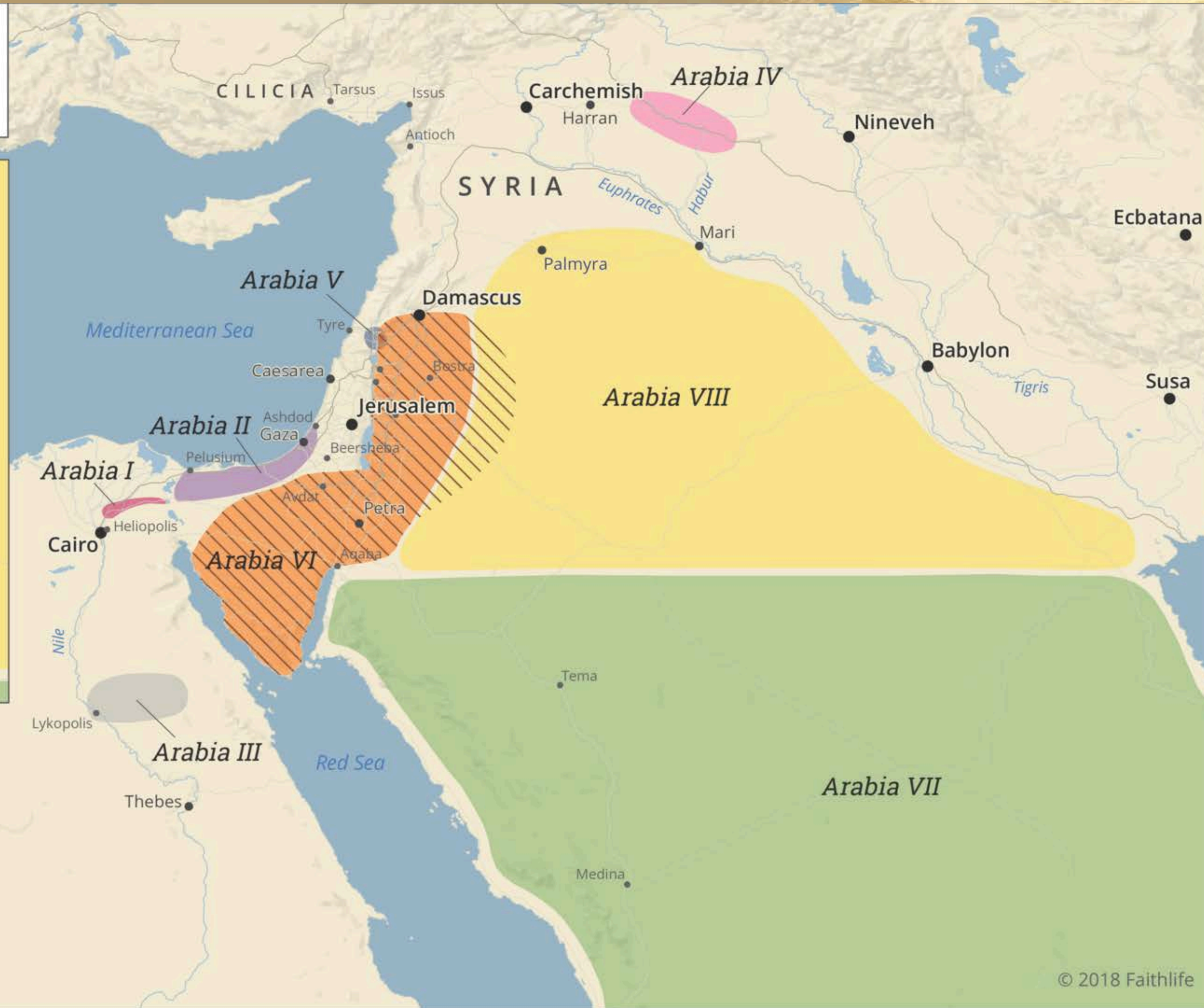
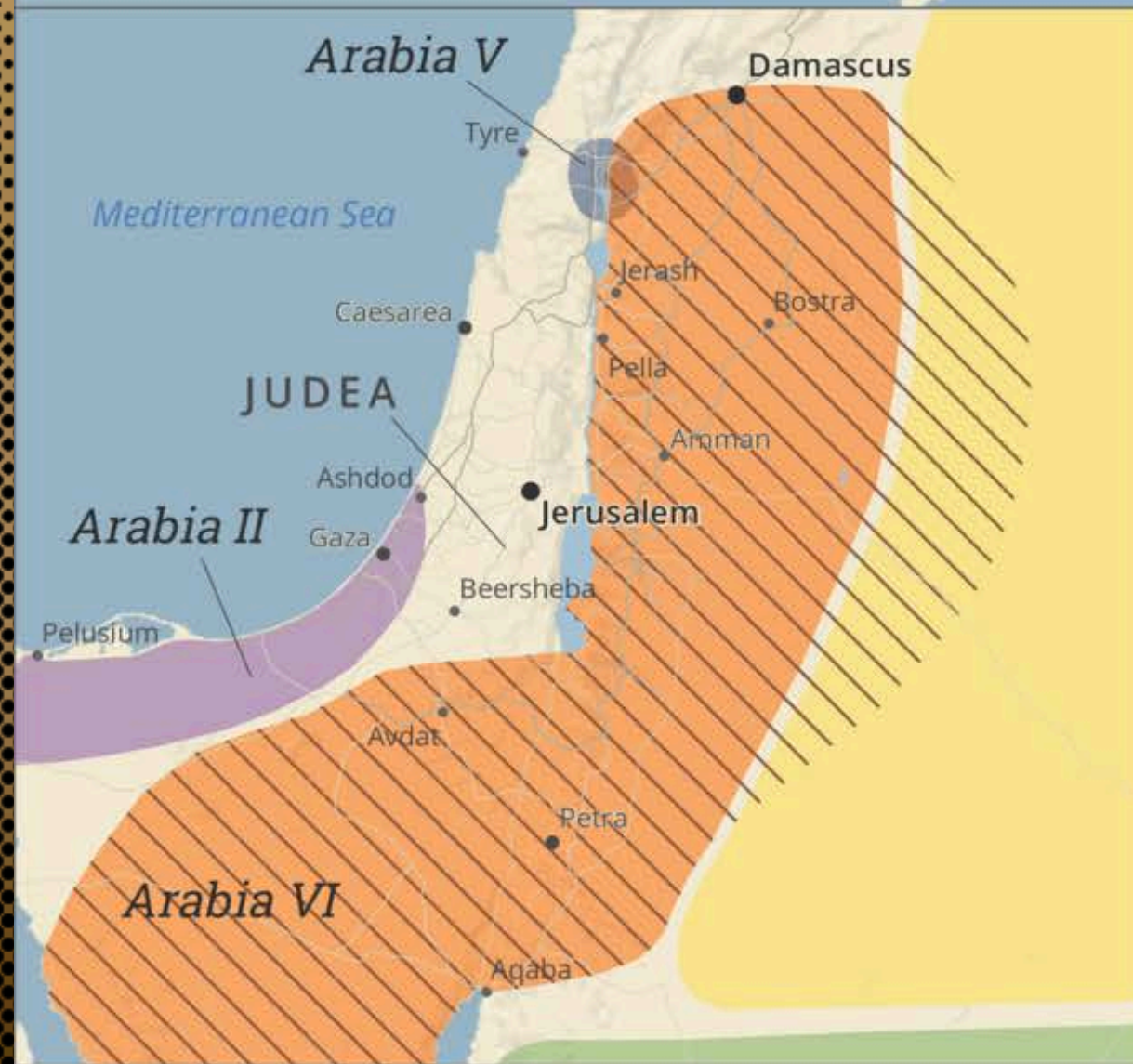
**ACTS 9:26 NIV**

I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus. <sup>18</sup> Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days.

**GALATIANS 1:17-18 NIV**

# "Arabia" during the life of Paul

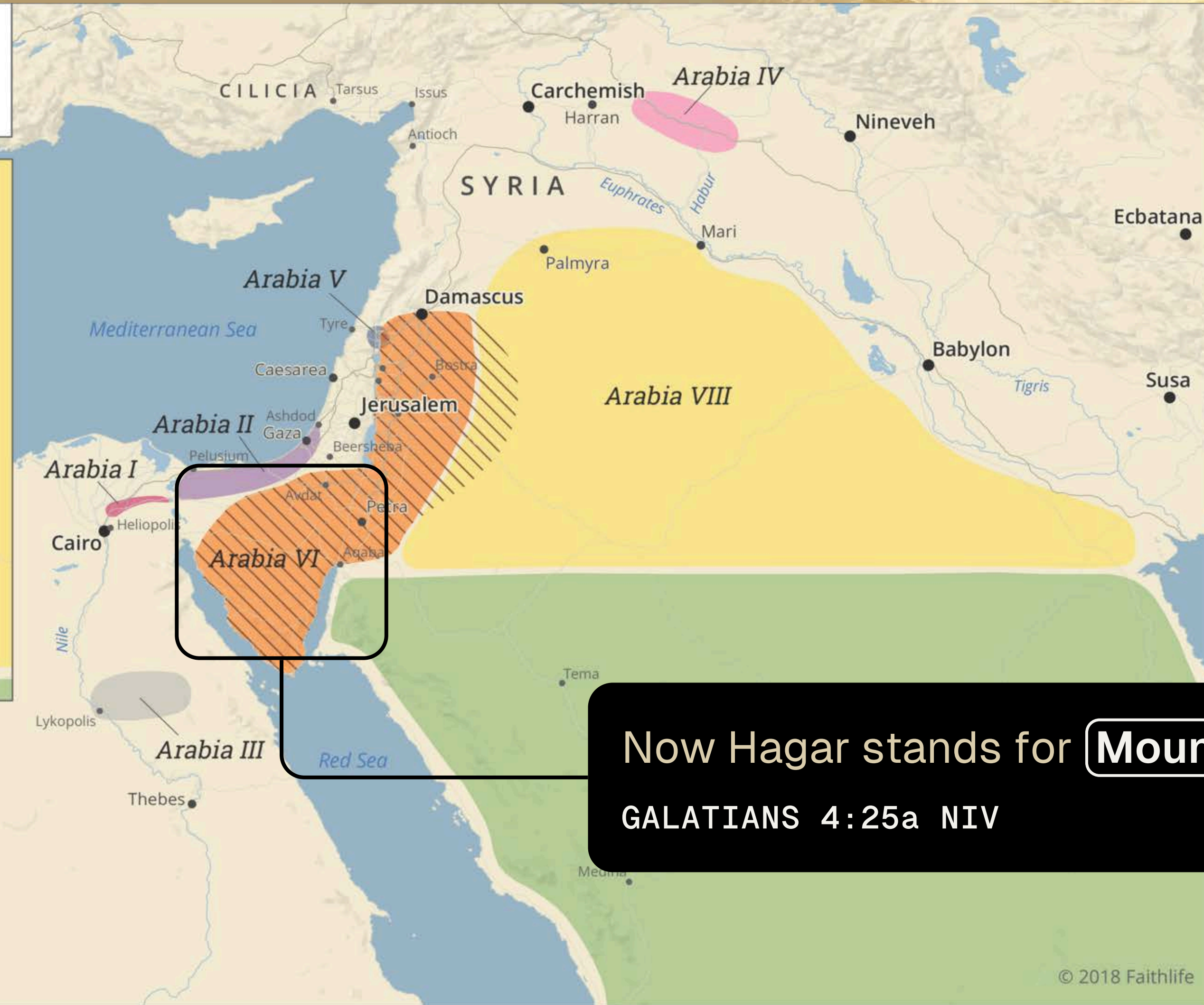
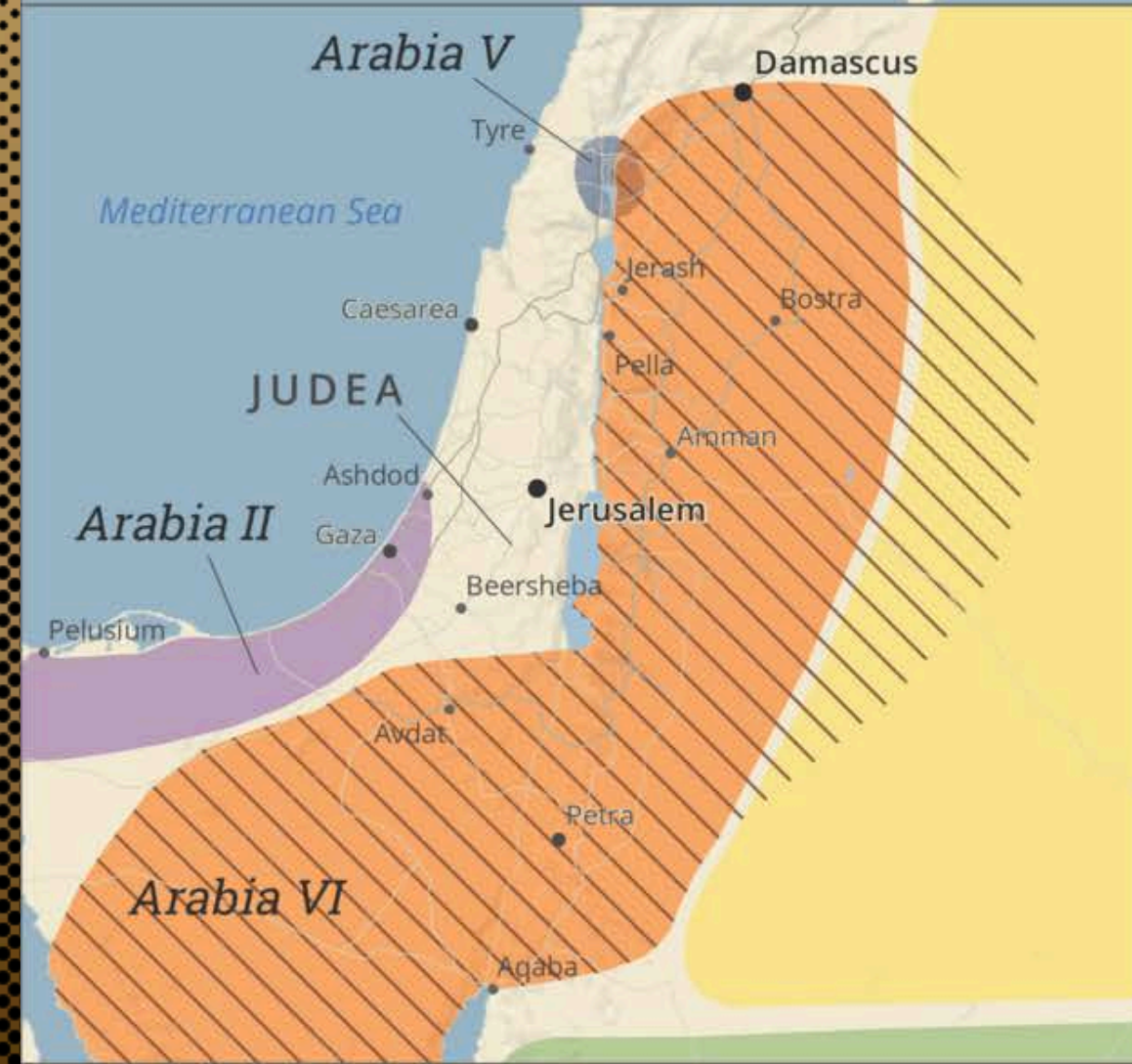
 Arabia IX





# "Arabia" during the life of Paul

▨ Arabia IX

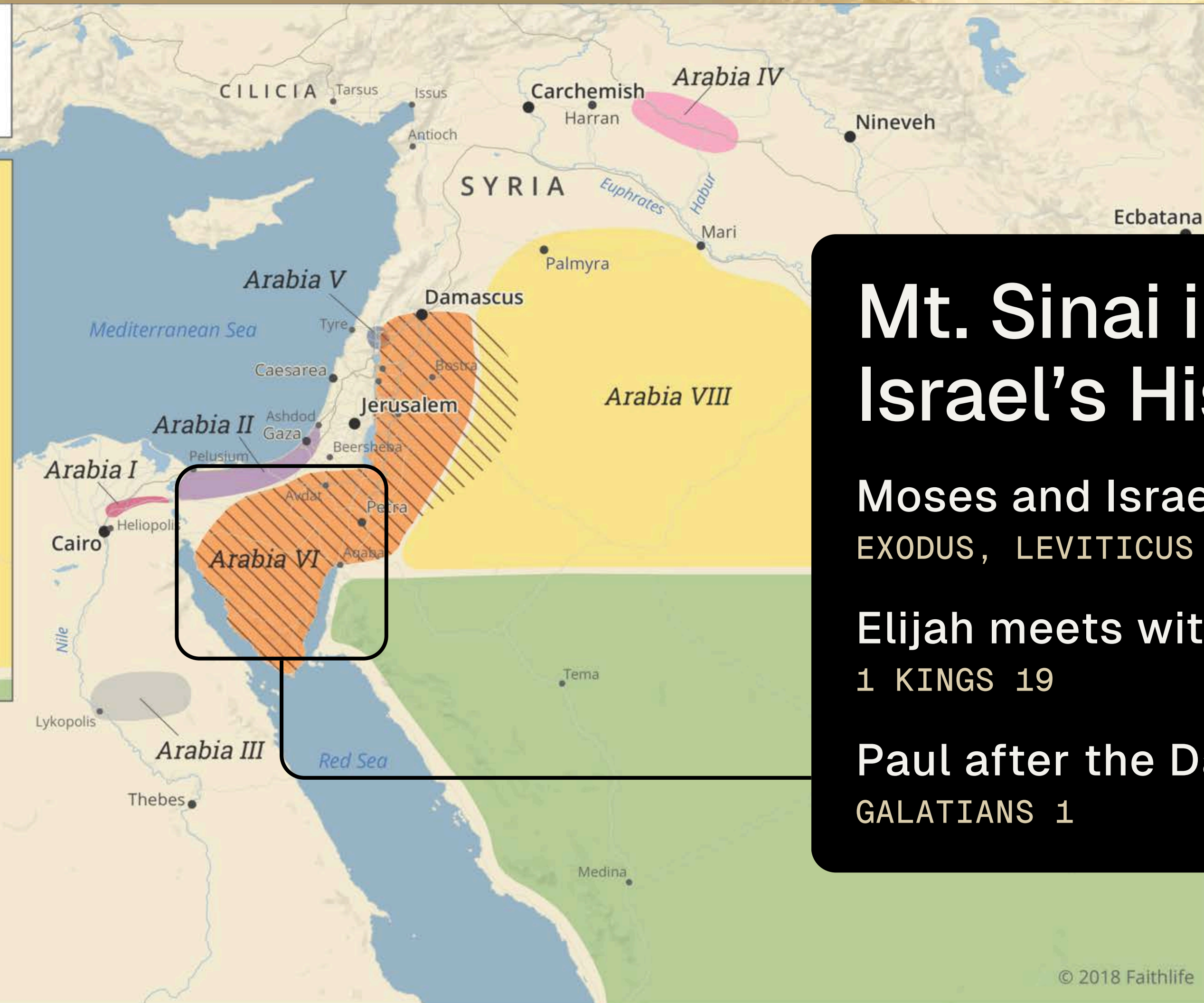
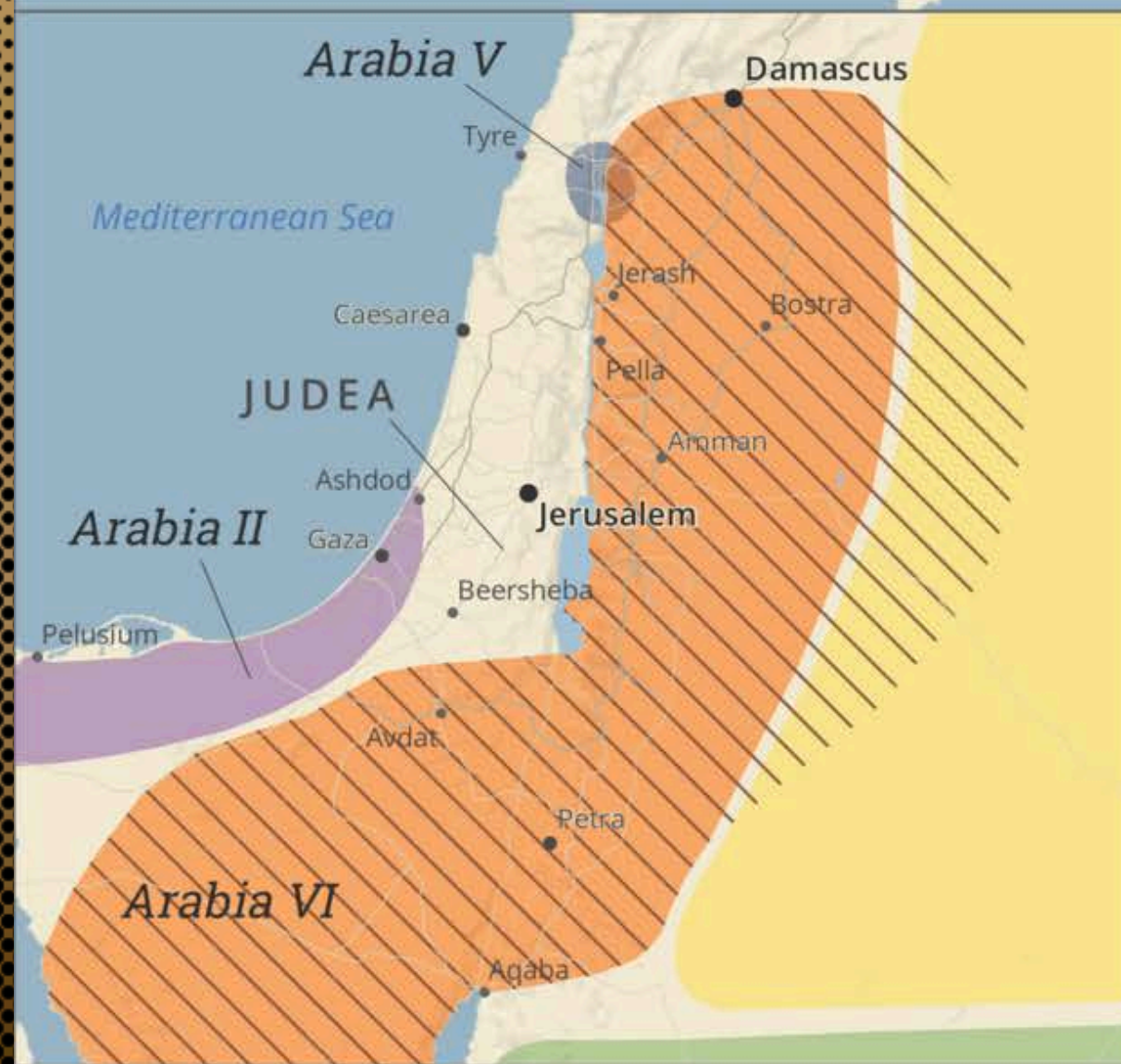


Now Hagar stands for **Mount Sinai in Arabia...**  
GALATIANS 4:25a NIV

0 250 Mi  
0 250 Ki

## "Arabia" during the life of Paul

▨ Arabia IX



## Mt. Sinai in Israel's History

Moses and Israel meet with God  
EXODUS, LEVITICUS

Elijah meets with God  
1 KINGS 19

Paul after the Damascus Road  
GALATIANS 1

0 250 Mi  
0 250 Ki

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CULTIVATING OUR GOSPEL CALLING  
REQUIRES EXTENDED TIME WITH THE LORD.

When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple.

**ACTS 9:26 NIV**



THE **TRANSFORMATION** WITHIN US  
WILL OFTEN DEVELOP FASTER  
THAN OTHERS' PERCEPTION OF US.

But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. <sup>28</sup> So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. <sup>29</sup> He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they tried to kill him. <sup>30</sup> When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

**ACTS 9:27-30 NIV**

A close-up, artistic photograph of a horse's eye, showing the intricate details of the iris and surrounding skin. The image is bathed in a warm, golden light, creating a soft, ethereal glow. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

WE OFTEN NEED A BROTHER OR SISTER WHO  
SEES IN US WHAT OTHERS (OR WE) **CANNOT.**

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

**ACTS 9:31 NIV**





CHRIST MOVES US FROM  
REBELLION TO **GOSPEL PURPOSE.**



# 50BY50

**\$50 MILLION RAISED BY OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY (2034)  
TO PLANT AND RESOURCE NEW CONGREGATIONS**

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BEGIN WITH PRAYER  
LISTEN  
EAT  
SERVE  
STORY