

# *In the steps of Paul*

## *by Peter Walker*

### **Introduction**

Paul remains a controversial figure in the history of Christianity. No one, however, can doubt the way that this brilliant rabbi was transformed by his conviction that, contrary to his own earlier beliefs, Jesus was the true Messiah of Israel. It is this conviction that propelled him far away from Tarsus and Jerusalem into many far-flung places across the Mediterranean. In this book readers discover the places to which Paul travelled, on foot, by boat or on a mule, for this cause in which he so passionately believed. Peter Walker brings his expertise in teaching biblical studies and his extensive travel experience in leading tours around the Mediterranean to create a user-friendly, informative guide suitable for the traveller and non-traveller alike. Drawing mainly on Luke's account in Acts, as well as on Paul's own letters, he reconstructs Paul's wide-ranging travels, detailing some of the most important sites of the early church. We begin in Damascus, then follow Paul on his first and second 'missionary journeys', then trace his final visit to Jerusalem and Caesarea, and eventually arrive in Rome. The narrative is complemented by boxed text that places the story of Paul in a wider context. Each chapter focuses on a particular site and includes: an opening section telling Paul's story within that location; a list of key dates giving readers an overview of significant events associated with that place; and a final section exploring the location as a visitor might encounter it today. Readers are transported to the rugged 'Cilician Gates' of southern Turkey, the market places of Athens, Corinth and Ephesus, the bleak expanses of ancient Galatia, and the wintry, wind-swept shores of Malta. Beautifully illustrated with colour photographs, maps and street plans, *In the Steps of Saint Paul* offers a unique, indeed three-dimensional, portrait of an extraordinary man - his motives, his struggles, his mission and his world.

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