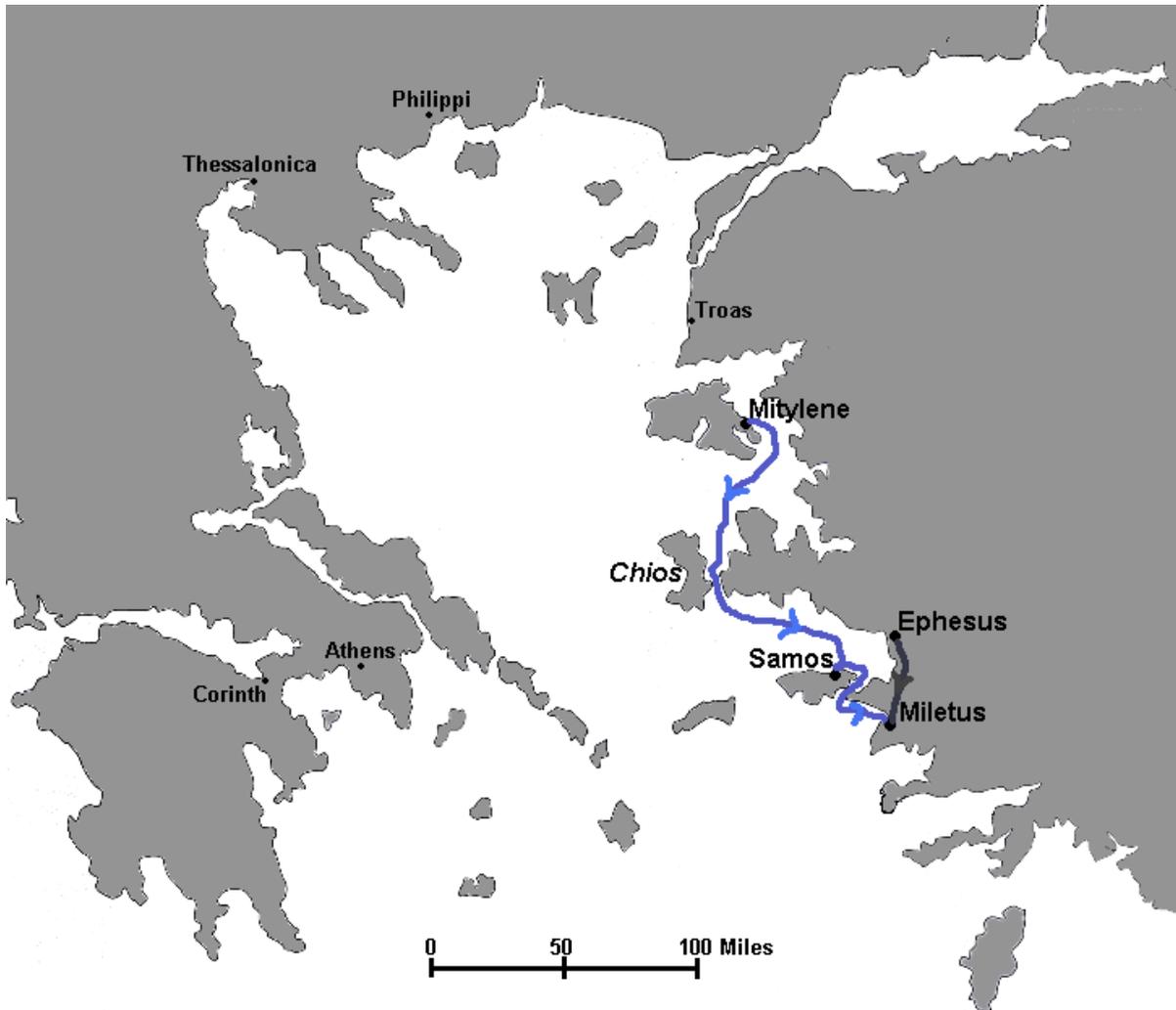


Jim's Notes
March 14, 2007
Acts 20:13-27

“And sailing from there (Mitylene) we came the following day opposite Chios; the next day we touched at Samos; and the day after that we came to Miletus. For Paul had

And decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church.”



Miletus was situated on the western coast of Caria near the Latmic Gulf at the mouth of the Meander river and the terminus of several of the great roads of Asia Minor. For a long period it was one of the most prosperous cities of the ancient world. After the sixth century B C, it passed successively under the domination of the Persians, Alexander, the Seleucids, and the Romans, and finally lost its splendor to such an extent as to become for the Greeks and Romans the symbol of vanished prosperity.

It seems that St. Paul returned to Miletus on one later occasion. In II Timothy 4:20 he mentions that he left his companion Trophimus there because he was ill. This occurred, sometime between AD 62 and 67, after his release from his first captivity in Rome and before his martyrdom. The ancient city of Miletus is now buried under the silt of the Meander, which has also filled up the Latmic Gulf. The site of this ancient port city is now about four and a half miles from the sea.

When the elders of the Church of Ephesus traveled south to Miletus to meet with St. Paul they had to take a 37 mile walk which ended in a two mile ferry ride across the Latmic Gulf.

