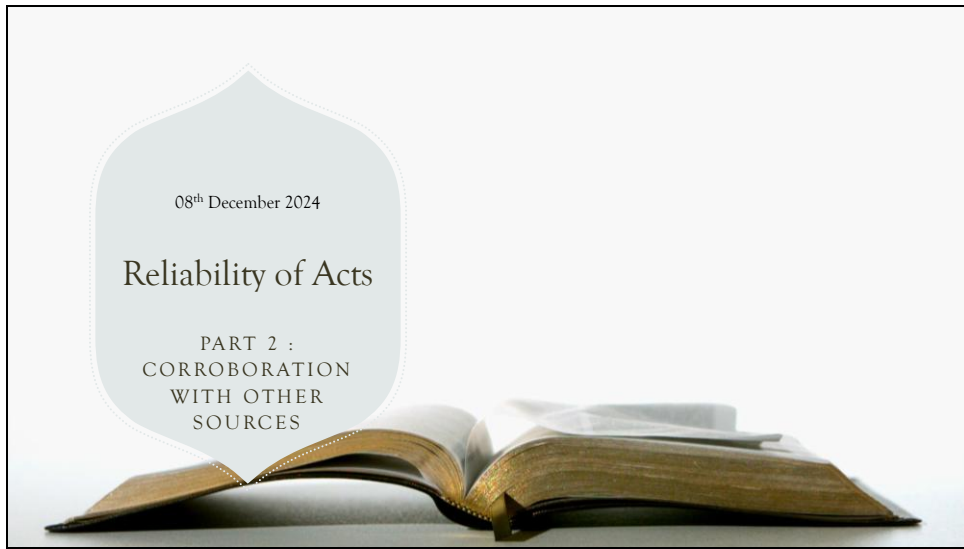
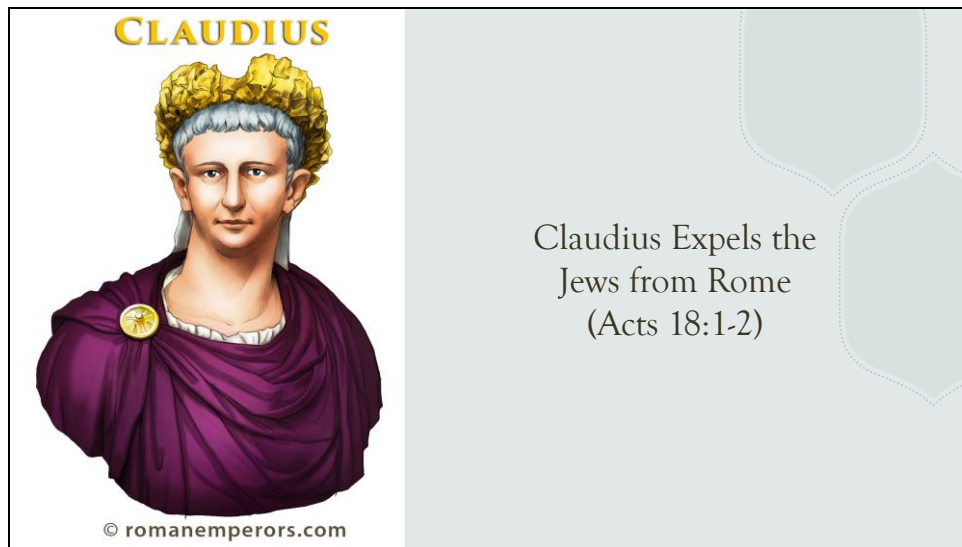


Slide 1



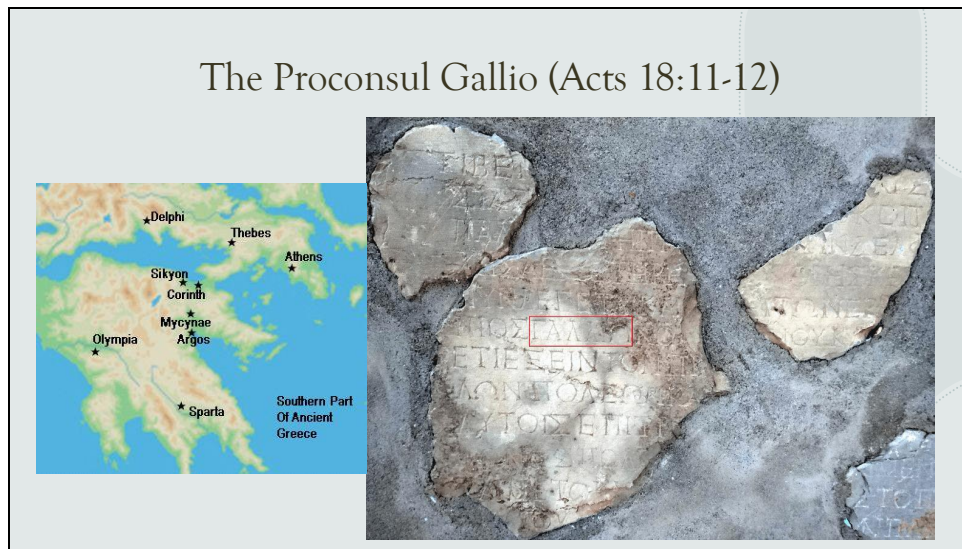
## Slide 2



Claudius Expels the  
Jews from Rome  
(Acts 18:1-2)

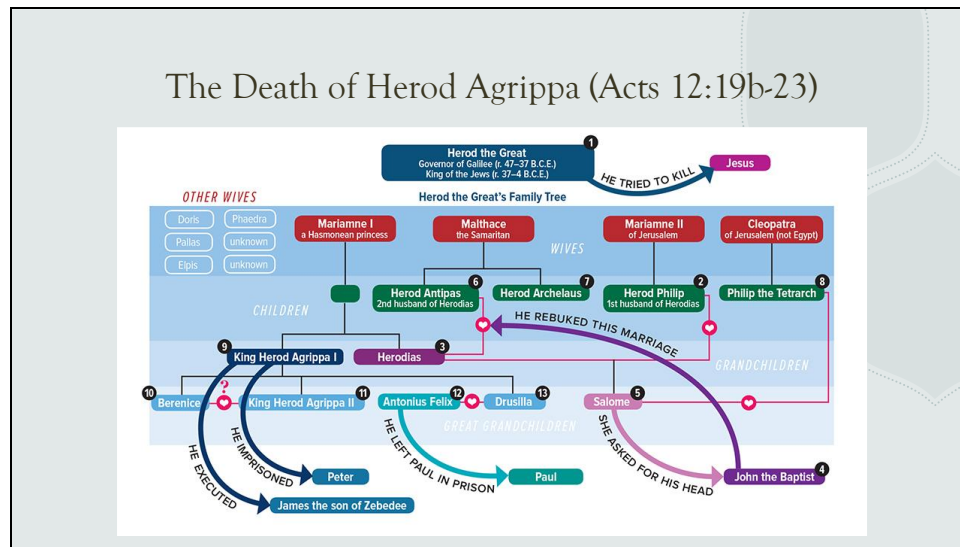
- Priscilla and Aquila (a Jew) meet Paul in Corinth. They have recently left Italy because of a decree from Claudius (c. AD 41 - AD 54).
- Suetonius (c. AD 69 - 122+). The Lives of the Twelve Caesars. Divus Claudius 25.
  - "[Claudius] banished from Rome all the Jews, who were continually making disturbances at the instigation of one Chrestus".
  - Not only does independently verify the event, but it gives us a reason for it that fits well with the narrative of Acts ("Chrestus" is usually interpreted to be "Christ").
- Paulus Orosius (c. AD 375/385 - c. AD 420). History Against the Pagans.
  - "Josephus [c. AD 37-100] reports, 'In his ninth year the Jews were expelled by Claudius from the city.' But Suetonius, who speaks as follows, influences me more: 'Claudius expelled from Rome the Jews constantly rioting at the instigation of Christ [Christo, or rather xpo].' As far as whether he had commanded that the Jews rioting against Christ [Christum] be restrained and checked or also had wanted the Christians, as persons of a cognate religion, to be expelled, it is not at all to be discerned"
  - The quote preserved from Josephus puts a more clear date of c. AD 49 on the event (though some people might dispute this).

## Slide 3



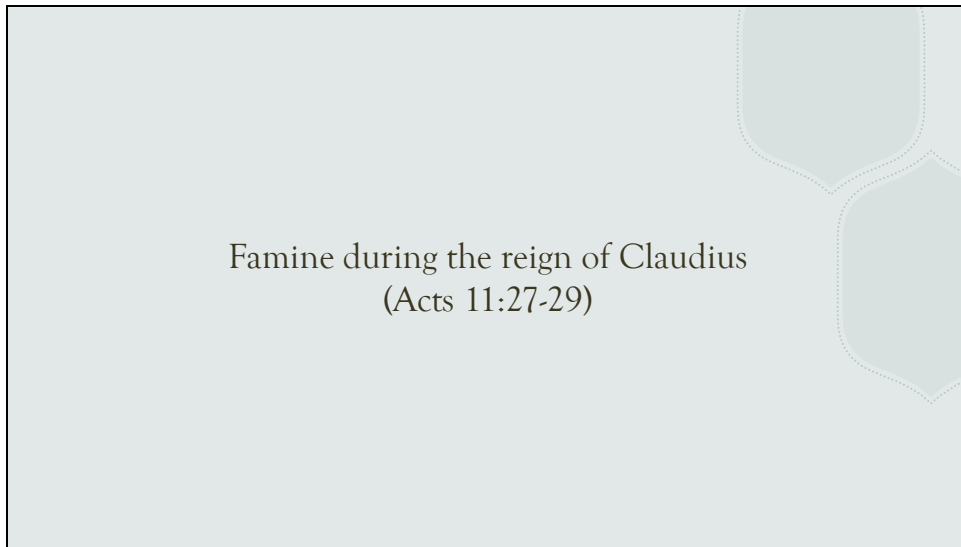
- After Paul has stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, the Jews bring him to the proconsul Gallio.
- We know a lot about Gallio from Roman historians.
- The Delphi/Gallio Inscription is a letter written by emperor Claudius in AD 52. It was found at the temple of Apollos in Delphi, Greece, which was part of the province of Achaia, the same province as Corinth.
  - "Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus, invested with tribunician power for the 12th time, acclaimed Imperator for the 26th time, Father of the Fatherland... For a long time have I been not only well-disposed towards the city of Delphi, but also solicitous for its prosperity, and I have always guarded the cult of the Pythian Apollo. But now since it is said to be destitute of citizens, as L. Junius Gallio, my friend and proconsul, recently reported to me, and being desirous that Delphi should retain intact its former rank, I order you to invite well-born people also from other cities to Delphi as new inhabitants....
  - This with other references means that Gallio's role as proconsol can be dated to c. AD 51-52 which makes this the most accurately dateable point in the life of Paul.

## Slide 4



- Herod Agrippa I (c. 11 BC - c. AD 44), not to be confused with Herod Agrippa II who also appears in Acts, dies a painful death after being declared a God by the people.
- Josephus (c. AD 37-100). Antiquities of the Jews 19:8:2
  - "Now when Agrippa had reigned three years over all Judea, he came to the city Cesarea... and there he exhibited shows in honor of Caesar... On the second day of which shows he put on a garment made wholly of silver, and of a contexture truly wonderful, and came into the theater early in the morning; at which time the silver of his garment being illuminated by the fresh reflection of the sun's rays upon it, shone out after a surprising manner, and was so resplendent as to spread a horror over those that looked intently upon him; and presently his flatterers cried out, one from one place, and another from another, (though not for his good,) that he was a god... Upon this the king did neither rebuke them, nor reject their impious flattery. But as he presently afterward looked up, he saw an owl sitting on a certain rope over his head, and immediately understood that this bird was the messenger of ill tidings, as it had once been the messenger of good tidings to him; and fell into the deepest sorrow. A severe pain also arose in his belly, and began in a most violent manner... Accordingly he was carried into the palace, and the rumour went abroad every where, that he would certainly die in a little time... And when he had been quite worn out by the pain in his belly for five days, he departed this life, being in the fifty-fourth year of his age, and in the seventh year of his reign; for he reigned four years under Caius Caesar... and he reigned, besides those, three years under the reign of Claudius Caesar; in which time he reigned over the forementioned countries, and also had Judea added to them, as well as Samaria and Cesarea..."
  - This dates the death of Herod Agrippa I 44 CE.

## Slide 5



- Acts records a prophesy that there would a famine throughout "all the world", and the author states that this happened in the days of emperor Claudius (AD 41-54).
  - The phrase "all the world" (lit. "inhabited earth") suggests an interpretation like "throughout the Roman empire" But v.29 says that support was sent (from the church in Antioch to the church in Jerusalem?). This suggests that the interpretation "the whole land [of Judea/Palestine/etc.]" is more immediately in view.
- Josephus (c. AD 37-100). Antiquities of the Jews.
  - 20:2:5 "Now [Queen Helena's] coming was of very great advantage to the people of Jerusalem; for whereas a famine did oppress them at that time, and many people died for want of what was necessary to procure food withal, queen Helena sent some of her servants to Alexandria with money to buy a great quantity of corn, and others of them to Cyprus, to bring a cargo of dried figs ..."
  - Queen Helena of Adiabene converted to Judaism c. AD 30 and died c. AD 50-56.
  - 20:5:2 "Then came Tiberius Alexander as successor to Fadus ... Under these procurators that great famine happened in Judea, in which queen Helena brought corn in Egypt at a great writings, distributed it to those that were in want."
  - Fadus was governor of Judea AD 44-46. Tiberius Alexander took over AD 46-48. Josephus then confirms that a famine took place and dates it to AD 46.
  - Josephus places the famine after the death of Herod Agrippa I (c. AD 44), while Acts seems to place it before. While one or the other may be wrong, we can also say that the chronology in Acts is not so strict as in Josephus. See phrases like "in these days" (Acts 11:27), "about that time" (Acts 12:1). The timing is still about right.
- Suetonius (c. AD 69 - 122+), Lives of the twelve Caesars. Claudius 18:2
  - "Once, after a series of droughts had caused a scarcity of grain, a mob stopped Claudius in the Forum and pelted him with curses and state crusts that he had difficulty in

regaining the Palace by a side-door; as a result he took all possible steps to import grain, even during the winter months."

- This quote is describing grain shortage in the city of Rome.
- Tacitus (c. AD 56-120). Annals.
  - 11:4 "A vision that came to [a roman knight] at night was the reason charges were filed against the man. In this dream, he claimed to have seen Claudius crowned with a wreath made of wheat, the ears of which were folded downward. And from this vision, he predicted lean harvests to come."
  - 12:43 "Scanty crops too, and consequent famine were regarded as a token of calamity. Nor were there merely whispered complaints; while Claudius was administering justice, the populace crowded round him with a boisterous clamour and drove him to a corner of the forum, where they violently pressed on him till he broke through the furious mob with a body of soldiers"
    - Tacitus is also describing famine in Rome.
- The Anglo-saxon Chronicle (c. AD 7th-12th century) and Bede, Ecclesiastical History of the English People (c. AD 673-735) describe a famine as taking place in Syria in the 4th year of the reign of Claudius (AD44/45). But these are later writings, and we don't know what their source was.
- In summary, there were potentially several famines in various parts of the empire during the reign of Claudius. The famine in Judea may have been AD46.

## Slide 6

Paul on Trial in Jerusalem. Ananias, Felix and Festus  
(Acts 23:1-2, 23-24; 24:27)

Name	Reign	Length of rule	Category
Coponius	6-9	3	Roman Prefect
Marcus Ambivulus	9-12	3	Roman Prefect
Annius Rufus	12-15	3	Roman Prefect
Valerius Gratus	15-26 (?)	11	Roman Prefect
Pontius Pilate	26-36 (?)	10	Roman Prefect
Marcellus	36-37	1	Roman Prefect
Marullus	37-41	4	Roman Prefect
Agrippa I (autonomous king)	41-44	3	King of Judaea
Cuspius Fadus	44-46	2	Roman Procurator
Tiberius Julius Alexander	46-48	2	Roman Procurator
Ventidius Cumanus	48-52	4	Roman Procurator
Marcus Antonius Felix	52-60	8	Roman Procurator
Porcius Festus	60-62	2	Roman Procurator
Luceius Albinus	62-64	2	Roman Procurator
Gessius Florus	64-66	2	Roman Procurator
Marcus Antonius Julianus	66-70 (dates uncertain)	4	Roman Procurator

- Paul's presence in the temple at Jerusalem causes public disorder which leads to him being on trial. Ananias is the high priest. Paul is sent to Felix the governor. After two years in prison, Porcius Fester takes over
- Jos. Ant. 20:5:2 "But now Herod King of Chalcis [AD 41-48], removed Joseph, the son of Camydus, from the High Priesthood; and made Ananias, the son of Nebedus, his successor. And now it was... in the eighth year of the reign of Claudius Cesar."
  - Josephus dates the beginning of Ananias time to c. AD 48. The date he was removed is implied from other references to be c. AD 59
- Jos. Ant. 20:7:1-2 "So Claudius [AD 41-54] sent Felix, the brother of Pallans, to take care of the affairs of Judea... he saw this Drusilla; and fell in love with her"
- Jos. Ant. 20:8:9 "Now when Porcius Festus was sent as successor to Felix by Nero [AD 54-68]"
  - Josephus does not give a specific date for Felix or Festus, but from his account the transition is worked out to be c. AD 59
- The author of Acts not only correctly names three governing officials, but correctly places their roles chronologically