

The history and geography of the first century A.D. is a very large subject. In many areas of it our knowledge is extremely limited, but regarding other sections we have a great amount of knowledge. Comparatively little of this extensive material is involved in the background of the events recorded in the Bible.

#### B. General Corroboration.

The account of Paul's journeys takes for granted a situation in which a very large area of Europe and of Asia is under one political control, so that travel is comparatively unrestricted. A few languages are widely spoken so that communication presents little difficulty. Law and order are quite well maintained. There are groups of Jews in many places, and synagogues are often found. The Roman power is supreme and Roman authority is everywhere recognized. This general situation is amply proven from ancient writings and is substantiated to some extent by archeological materials.

#### C. Special Corroboration.

Archeology has provided striking special corroboration of a number of points in the account of Paul's journeys. At this time the governmental situation was exceedingly complex. The Roman conquest had been in various stages, extending over a long period of time. As a result the conquered areas, though all under the actual control of the emperor, had quite a variation in terminology of officers and precise details of administration. Some of these details are well-known to us from historical records, others hardly at all. Many passages in the Acts describe Paul's encounter with the political authorities in different cities. It is impressive to note the accuracy with which Luke threads his way through the different governmental districts and the correctness with which he gives the titles, and occasionally the names of the various officials. One