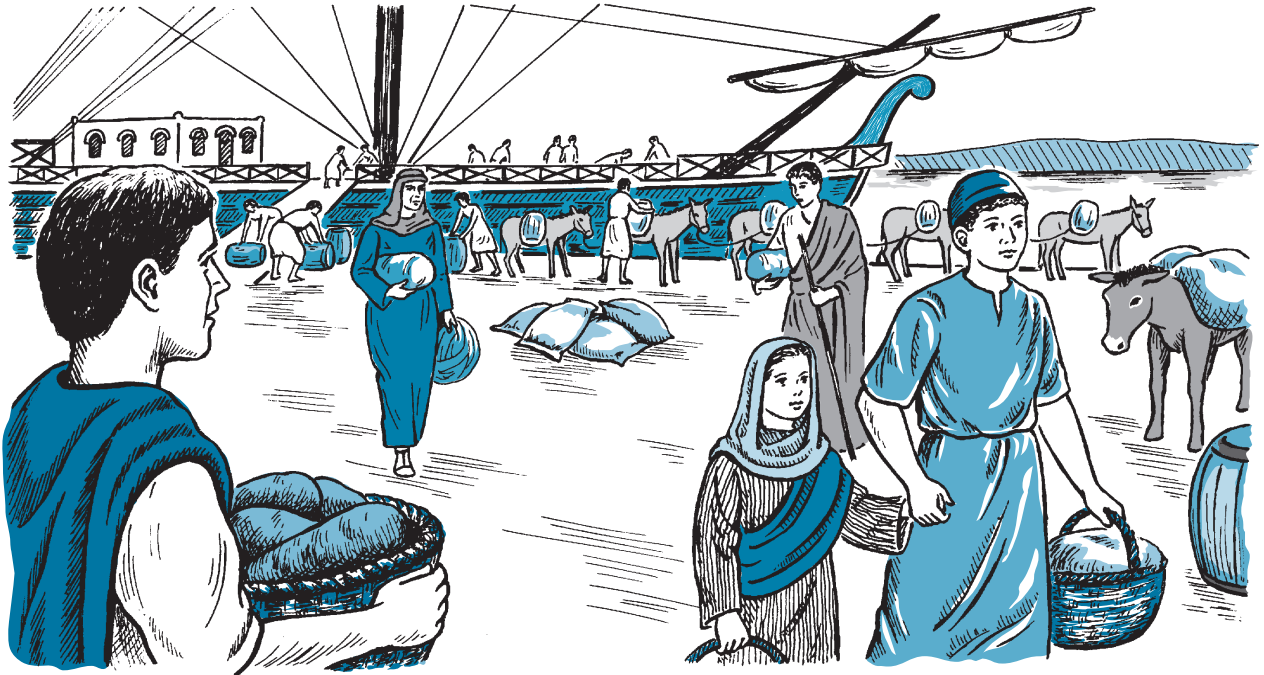


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*“And many of the Corinthians hearing believed [on Jesus],
and were baptized” (Acts 18:8b).*



The Two Communities at Corinth

A large ship moved through the Gulf of Corinth. There was no wind. The sails hung limp. The afternoon was hot.

Along the sides of the ship, three rows of oars moved in perfect time. Inside the ship, slaves sat chained to rows of benches. Sweat ran down their backs as they pulled at the oars together.

Together! Pull! Lift! Together! Pull! Lift! It was an endless job.

The master of the ship was in a hurry. Crack! His whip came down on the back of a slave who could not keep up. The master had no pity for tired or lazy slaves.

The ship was nearing land. A rough-looking slave tossed a rope from the shore. The rope was tied to the ship. A line of

slaves on the shore tugged together on the rope. Slowly the ship floated into the port two miles east of Corinth.

The ship had sailed from Rome to Greece. The trip had taken two weeks. The tired passengers hurried to the city of Corinth for a good meal and rest. But a tall boy and a small girl stayed behind. They were Jews from Rome. Find Rome on the map on page 164.

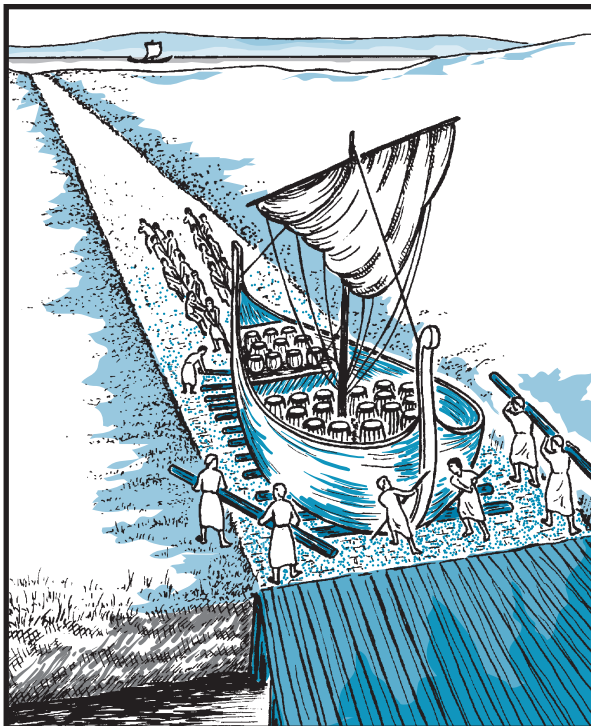
The girl looked up to her brother and asked, “Cletos [klē tēs], why did we have to come to Corinth?”

“Sophia [sō fē’ ə], I have told you often,” Cletos replied. “The ruler of Rome does not like the Jewish people,” he said. “He ordered all of the Jews to leave Rome.

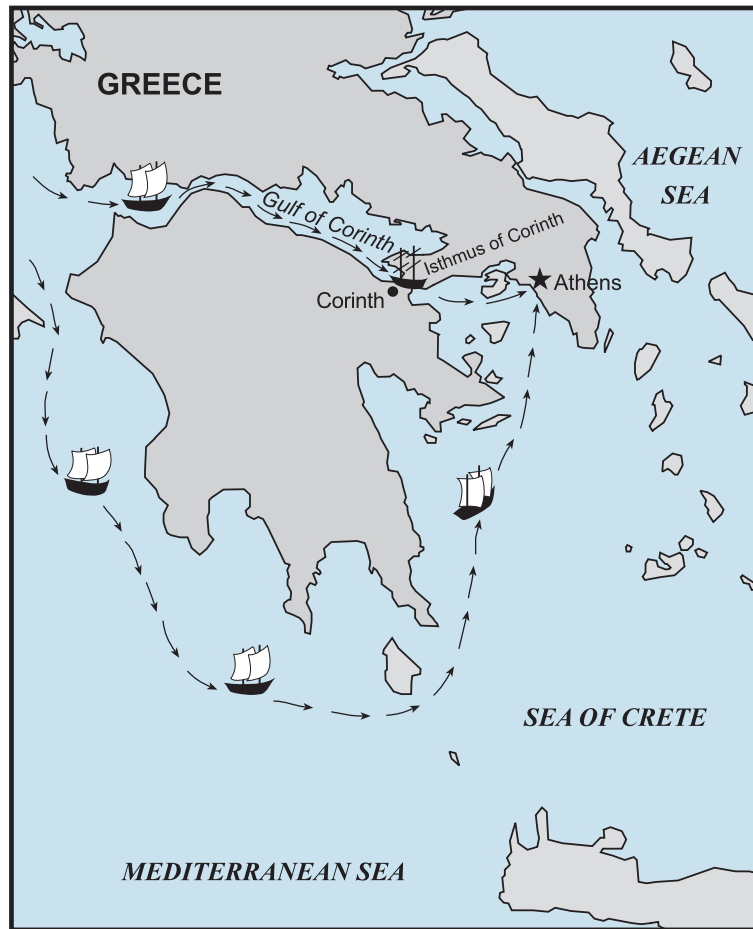
“Mother and Father sent us here to Corinth where we will be safe. They will come later after selling Father’s pottery shop. Until then, we will find a home with other Jews here at Corinth.”

CROSSING THE ISTHMUS

Near the port, Cletos and Sophia saw busy slaves hard at work. They were moving a small ship from the water onto the land.



Sailors saved a lot of time by dragging their ships across the tramway near Corinth. The tramway also saved ships from the long, dangerous trip around Greece. See map on page 141.



Slaves laid wooden rollers in front of the ship at the edge of the water. Then a large group of slaves tugged and strained at ropes tied to the ship. Inch by inch, the ship came up onto the rollers.

Cletos pointed to a stone track that looked like a narrow road across the isthmus.

He said, “The slaves will pull the ship to the other side of the isthmus on that stone **tramway**.”

The children watched the ship begin the slow trip over the tramway. The wooden rollers creaked and clattered over the stones. Slaves kept carrying rollers from behind the ship to the front again.

“Why do the men take ships across the land?” asked Sophia.

Cletos said, “The men on this ship want to sail east. They could have gone around the southern part of Greece. But that

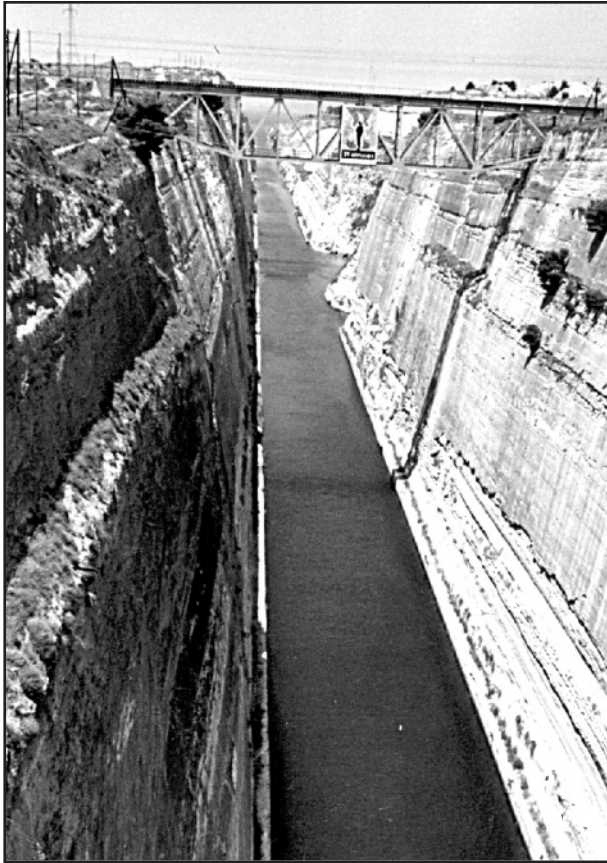


Photo: David Wagler

Since workers dug this canal across the isthmus of Corinth, ships no longer need to be dragged across the land on a tramway. Now ships can take the shortcut by water.

long trip takes many days. And besides, storms and rocks along the coast make the trip very dangerous.

“The isthmus is only four miles wide here. The tramway across it saves sailors much time and danger.”

Cletos went on. “The tramway also helps the city of Corinth,” he said. “Money or **toll** must be paid for each ship that crosses here. The money is paid to men in the city.”

“Look what is happening to our ship from Rome!” cried Sophia.

Slaves were unloading barrels of olive oil onto donkeys.

Cletos explained, “Our ship was too large to be pulled across the isthmus. The donkeys will carry the **cargo** across. At the other side, slaves will load the barrels of oil onto another ship.

“The Romans tried once to dig a large **canal** through the isthmus to let ships sail to the other side,” said Cletos. “But the job was too big. The workers gave it up.”

Many years later, men finished the canal started by the Romans. Today ships get from one side of the isthmus to the other by water. They no longer need the tramway and the hard work to cross the land.

SHOW YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. Why did the Jews have to leave Rome?
2. The Greeks moved ships and cargoes across the isthmus:
 - a. to sell them at Corinth.
 - b. to keep sailors from making a long, dangerous trip.
 - c. because Corinth needed a way to make money.
3. Today ships use a _____ instead of a _____ to get to the other side of the isthmus.

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. Study Acts 18:1-3. Answer these questions.
 - a. A man named _____ and his wife named _____ had come to _____ from _____.
 - b. Italy is the country where you can find the city of _____. Use the map on page 164.
 - c. This man and his wife made _____ for a living.
 - d. _____ was the leader who sent all the Jews from Rome.
 2. On the map on page 136, find the two ports that were on the east and west sides of the isthmus. Look up the two names in your glossary and learn to say them.
-

HOW CORINTH GREW

The two seaports near Corinth helped the city to grow. Ships could bring materials the people at Corinth needed.

Corinth did not have many natural resources. Ships brought wood, tin, copper, and other natural resources.

Workers in the city used these natural resources to make goods that people needed. Natural resources used this way are called **raw materials**.

Tin and copper are raw materials. They are soft metals. Workers at Corinth melted these two soft metals together to make a harder metal called **bronze**.

Making goods from raw materials is called **manufacturing** (man yə fak' chər ing). Workers at Corinth manufactured hot pieces of bronze into knives, hoes, and other tools.

The manufacturing took lots of work. A worker spent a lot of time hammering a hot piece of bronze into the shape of an ax

THE WAY A MANUFACTURING BUSINESS GROWS



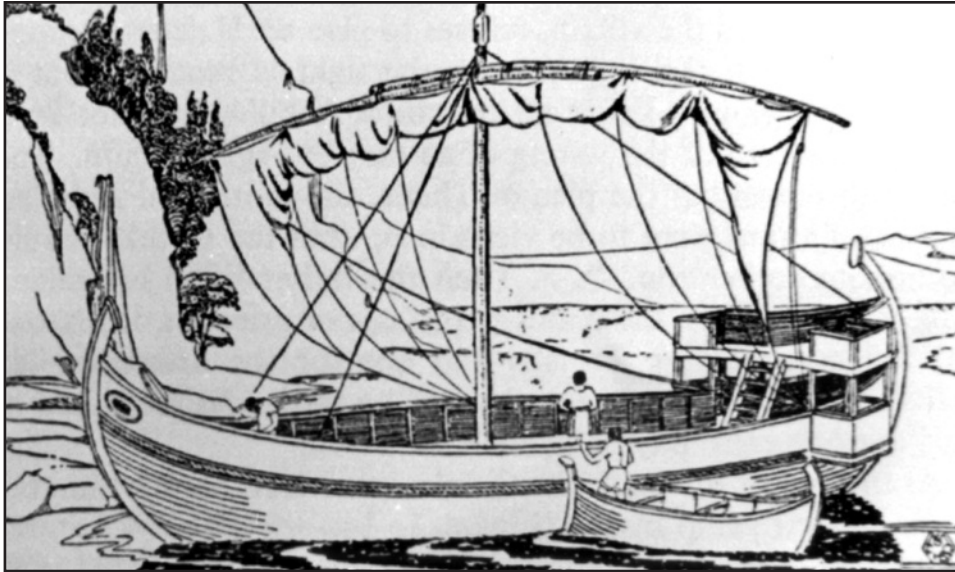


Photo: Library of Congress

Greek merchant ships sailed all over the world to trade manufactured goods for raw materials.

or shovel. He got paid for the time he spent manufacturing each piece.

You can see that manufacturing costs money. The cost of manufacturing makes each piece worth more than the raw materials used to make it. The extra money a manufacturer makes on each piece is called **profit**.

A profit can be used to buy extra raw materials. With extra raw materials, workers can manufacture extra goods. Extra goods bring profits to buy more and more raw materials. You can see how a manufacturing business grows larger and larger.

Workers at Corinth also manufactured ships from wood. Traders loaded the ships with goods from Corinth. They sailed the ships to faraway lands to trade.

“They that go down to the sea in ships . . . do business in great waters.”

Psalms 107:23

The goods traders took from Corinth are called **exports**. The men traded the exports for raw materials the workers at Corinth needed. The materials the traders brought back are called **imports**.

Now you know how the people of Corinth made a living. They traded manufactured exports for the imports they needed.