**The Acts of the Apostles**

**Acts Chapter 1**

THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH (1:1-2:47)  
Introduction

1The first account I made, O Theophilus, concerning all that Jesus began both to do and to teach 2until the day he was taken up, after he, through the holy spirit, had given commandments to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3After his suffering he also showed himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over *a period of* 40 days and speaking of the things concerning the Kingdom of God. 4And being assembled together with them, he commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, *he said*, “you heard about from me, 5because John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with holy spirit not many days from now.”

6Now when they had come together, they asked him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time you are going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7And he said to them, “It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has set within his own authority. 8But you will receive power when the holy spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the uttermost part of the earth.”

The Ascension

9And when he had said these things, while they were watching, he was taken up and a cloud received him out of their sight. 10And while they were looking into heaven as he was going, Look! Two men stood by them in white apparel, 11who said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him going into heaven.”

Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas

12Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem (a Sabbath day’s journey *away*). 13And when they had entered *Jerusalem*, they went up into the room upstairs, where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas *the son* of James. 14These all with one accord continued steadfastly in prayer, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

15And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the brothers and said (and there was a large number of names, about 120 *people* together at that one place), 16“Men, brothers, it was necessary that the Scripture be fulfilled that the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who took Jesus, 17because he had been counted as one of us and received a portion in this ministry. 18(Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his iniquity, and falling down prone, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. 19And this became known to all those who were living in Jerusalem, so that in their language that field was called Akeldama, that is, the field of blood.) 20For it is written in the scroll of Psalms, Let his dwelling place become desolate and let no one live in it,[[1]](#footnote-14986) and, Let another take his place of leadership.[[2]](#footnote-11249) 21Therefore, of the men who have accompanied us the entire time that the Lord Jesus went in and went out among us, 22beginning from the baptism of John to the day that he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.” 23And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, (who was also called Justus), and Matthias. 24And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen 25to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” 26And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

**Acts Chapter 2**

Pentecost: Start of the Church

1And when the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2And suddenly a sound came from heaven like a strong rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3And there appeared to them tongues as if of fire, which spreading out, came to rest upon each one of them. 4And they were all filled with holy spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

5Now there were Jews staying in Jerusalem, *deeply* religious men from every nation under heaven. 6And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speaking in his own language. 7And they were all amazed and marveled, saying, “Look! Aren’t all of these people who are speaking Galileans? 8And how is it that we are hearing *them speaking*, each of us, in our own language in which we were born?” 9Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and those who live in Mesopotamia, in Judea and Cappadocia, in Pontus and the province of Asia, 10in Phrygia and Pamphylia, in Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene, and visitors from Rome (both Jews and proselytes), 11Cretans and Arabians, we hear them speaking in our tongues the mighty works of God.

12And they were all amazed, and were perplexed, saying one to another, “What does this mean?” 13But others mocking said, “They are filled with sweet new wine.”

Peter Addresses the Crowd

14But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice and spoke to them, *saying*, “Fellow Jews, and all you who are residing in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and pay close attention to my words. 15For these are not drunk, as you suppose, seeing it is *but* the third hour of the day.[[3]](#footnote-29761) 16But this is that which has been spoken through the prophet Joel:

17And it will be in the last days, says God, I will pour out a portion of my spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy, and your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. 18And even on my male servants and on my female servants I will pour out a portion of my spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. 19And I will show wonders in the heavens above, and signs on the earth beneath: blood, and fire, and a cloud of smoke. 20The sun will be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious Day of the Lord comes. 21And it will be that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.[[4]](#footnote-16122)

22“You men of Israel, listen to these words! Jesus of Nazareth, a man pointed out to you by God by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did through him in the midst of you, just as you yourselves know, 23this man, delivered up by the decreed plan and foreknowledge of God, you, by lawless hands, crucified and killed. 24*But* God raised him up, having freed him from the agony of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. 25For David says concerning him, I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I would not be moved. 26Therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced, moreover my flesh also will rest in hope 27because you will not abandon my soul to the grave, nor will you allow your Devout One to see corruption. 28You made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.[[5]](#footnote-16293)

29“Men, brothers, I can speak to you with confidence about the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30Since he was a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body he would seat *one* of his descendants on his throne,[[6]](#footnote-20670) 31he, foreseeing *this*, spoke of the resurrection of the Christ,[[7]](#footnote-21336) that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his flesh see corruption.[[8]](#footnote-23228) 32God has raised this Jesus; we all are witnesses of this. 33Then, being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promised holy spirit, he has poured out this that you see and hear. 34For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand, 35until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.’[[9]](#footnote-24952)

36“Therefore, let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made him—this Jesus whom you crucified—both Lord and Christ.”

37Now when they heard *this,* they were pricked in their heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men, brothers, what should we do?” 38And Peter *said* to them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the holy spirit. 39For the promise is to you, and to your children, and to all who are far off, *even* to as many as the Lord our God will call.” 40And with many other words he testified, and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.”

The Fellowship of the Believers

41Then those who received his word were baptized, and in that day there were added *to their number* about 3,000 souls. 42And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ teaching, and in fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer. 43And fear came on every soul, and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. 44And all *those* who believed were together, and had all things *in* common, 45and they began selling their property and possessions, and were dividing them among all, as anyone had need. 46And day after day, continuing with one accord in the Temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were receiving their food with great joy and sincerity of heart, 47praising God, and having favor with all the people. And day after day the Lord was adding to them those who were being saved.

**Acts Chapter 3**

THE EARLY CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (3:1-7:60)  
Healing of a Lame Man

1Now Peter and John were going up into the Temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth *hour*.[[10]](#footnote-24673) 2And a certain man who was lame from his mother’s womb was being carried, whom they placed daily at the gate of the Temple that is called the Beautiful *Gate* so he could ask for charitable gifts from those who went into the Temple. 3When he saw Peter and John about to go into the Temple, he asked to receive a gift. 4And Peter, fastening his eyes on him, with John, said, “Look at us.” 5And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. 6But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ[[11]](#footnote-19500) of Nazareth, stand up and walk.” 7And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and his ankle bones received strength. 8And leaping up, he stood and began to walk. And he entered with them into the Temple, walking and leaping and praising God. 9And all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10and they recognized him, that it was he who sat for charitable gifts at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Peter Addresses the Crowd

11And as he held Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon’s, greatly wondering. 12And when Peter saw it, he answered the people, “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this man? Or why do you fasten your eyes on us, as if by our own power or godliness we had made him walk? 13The God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his Servant Jesus, whom you handed over and denied before the face of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. 14But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15and *instead* you killed the one who leads the way into life, whom God raised from among the dead, of which we are witnesses. 16And by trust in his name, his *very* name has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the trust that is through his *name* has given him this perfect health, as you all can see. 17And now, brothers, I know that in ignorance you did it, as did also your rulers. 18But the things that God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he has fulfilled in this way. 19Repent therefore, and return *to God* so that your sins are wiped clean, so that seasons of refreshing come from the presence of the Lord, 20and so that he sends the Christ who has been appointed for you, *that is,* Jesus. 21Heaven must receive him until the time of the restoration of all things—God has spoken about this by the mouth of his holy prophets who have been from ancient times. 22Indeed, Moses said, The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. You must listen to him in everything that he says to you. 23And it will be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet[[12]](#footnote-25190) will be utterly destroyed from among the People.[[13]](#footnote-16767) 24Yes, and all the prophets from Samuel and those who followed after, as many as have spoken, they also told of these days. 25You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, and in your seed all the families of the earth will be blessed.[[14]](#footnote-30171) 26To you first, God, having raised up his Servant, sent him to bless you by turning every one of you away from your wicked ways.”

**Acts Chapter 4**

Taken Before the Sanhedrin

1And as they spoke to the people, the priests and the commander of the Temple and the Sadducees came up to them, 2being greatly upset because they were teaching the people and proclaiming the resurrection from among the dead in *connection with* Jesus. 3And they laid hands on them and put them in prison until the next day, for it was already evening. 4But many of those who heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to be about 5,000.

5And it came to pass on the next day that their rulers and elders and experts in the law were gathered together in Jerusalem, 6and Annas the high priest *was there*, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high priest’s family. 7And when they had placed them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power, or in what name, have you done this?” 8Then Peter, filled with the holy spirit, said to them, “rulers of the People, and elders, 9if we this day are examined concerning a good deed done to a disabled man, by what means he was made whole, 10be it known to you all and to all the people of Israel that in the name of Jesus Christ[[15]](#footnote-29635) of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from among the dead, *even* by him does this man stand here before you whole. 11He is the stone that was rejected by you builders, which has become the cornerstone.[[16]](#footnote-30642) 12And in no one else is there salvation, for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among people by which we must be saved.”

13Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and perceived that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized that they had been with Jesus. 14And seeing the man who was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. 15But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the Sanhedrin, they conferred among themselves, 16saying, “What are we to do with these men? For the fact that a notable sign has been done by them is obvious to all who live in Jerusalem, and we are not able to deny it. 17But in order that it does not spread any further among the People,[[17]](#footnote-14440) let’s threaten them not to speak anymore to anyone in this name.” 18And they called them and commanded them not to speak at all, nor teach, in the name of Jesus. 19But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you judge, 20for we are unable to stop speaking about the things that we saw and heard.” 21And they, when they had further threatened them, released them, finding no way to punish them because of the people, because everyone glorified God for what had happened, 22for the man on whom this miracle of healing had been done was more than 40 years old.

Prayer for Boldness

23And when they were released, they came to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. 24And when they heard it, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, “O Master, you who made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them, 25who, by the mouth of our father David, your servant, said through holy spirit, Why do the Gentiles rage, and the peoples imagine worthless things? 26The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers gathered together against the Lord and against his Christ.[[18]](#footnote-14925) 27For truly in this city, there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, 28to do whatever your hand and your counsel decided beforehand would happen. 29And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness, 30while you stretch out your hand to heal and do signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” 31And when they had implored *God*, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the holy spirit and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Sharing Among Believers

32And the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and not one *of them* was saying that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. 33And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on them all. 34For there was not a needy person among them, for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them and brought the price of the things that were sold 35and laid them at the apostles’ feet, and distribution was made to each one, according as anyone had need. 36And Joseph, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas (which translated means, “Son of Encouragement”), a Levite, a man of Cyprus by race, 37having a field, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.

**Acts Chapter 5**

Ananias and Sapphira

1But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, 2and kept back *part* of the price (his wife also having known *about it*), and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles’ feet. 3But Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that the Adversary[[19]](#footnote-14166) has filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back *part* of the price of the land? 4While it remained *unsold*, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your authority? How is it that you have contrived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to man, but to God.” 5Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed out *his last breath*. And great fear came on all who heard about it. 6And the young men got up and wrapped him up, and they carried him out and buried him.

7Now it was about an interval of three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8But Peter responded to her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for so much.” And she said, “Yes, for so much.” 9But Peter *said* to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.” 10She fell down immediately at his feet, and breathed out *her last breath*, and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her by her husband. 11And great fear came on the whole church and on all who heard these things.

12But by the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people, and they were all with one accord in Solomon’s porch. 13But of the rest, no one dared join himself to them, nevertheless, the people magnified them.

Miracles Done – Disciples Added

14Now more believers were being added to the Lord, multitudes of them, both men and women, 15so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on mats and beds, so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might overshadow some of them. 16And the multitudes from the cities around Jerusalem also came together, bringing people who were sick and those who were afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.

Apostles Arrested, Beaten, Released

17But the high priest got up, and all those who were with him (the local sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy, 18and laid hands on the apostles and put them in the public jail. 19But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, 20“Go, and stand and speak to the people in the Temple the whole message of this *new* life.” 21And when they heard *this*, they went into the Temple about daybreak, and taught.

But when the high priest arrived, and those who were with him, they called together the Sanhedrin and the whole body of elders of the sons of Israel, and sent to the prison house to have them brought. 22But the *Temple* police that went *there* did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, 23saying, “We found the prison securely locked, and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened *them*, we found no one inside.”

24Now when the commander of the Temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were very perplexed concerning them *and* what might become of this. 25Then someone came and told them, “Look! The men whom you put in the prison are in the Temple, standing and teaching the people.” 26Then the *Temple* commander went with the *Temple* police and brought them, *but* without violence, for they were afraid of the people, lest they should be stoned.

27And when they had brought them, they made them stand before the Sanhedrin. And the high priest asked them, 28saying, “Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? But Look! You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” 29But Peter and the apostles answered and said, “We must obey God rather than man. 30The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you slew by hanging him on a tree. 31He is the one whom God exalted to his right hand *as* Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. 32And we are witnesses of these things, and so is the holy spirit that God has given to those who obey him.”

33But they, when they heard this, were cut to the heart, and were intending to put them to death. 34But a Pharisee named Gamaliel stood up in the Sanhedrin, a doctor of the law held in honor by all the People,[[20]](#footnote-21350) and he commanded to put the men outside a little while. 35And he said to them, “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you are about to do with these men. 36For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, *and* a number of men, about 400, joined him. He was killed, and all, as many as were persuaded by him, were dispersed and came to nothing. 37After him, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census and drew away *some* people after him. He also perished, and all, as many as were persuaded by him, were scattered. 38And now I say to you, refrain from these men, and let them alone. For if this counsel or this work is of man, it will be overthrown, 39but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. Perhaps you may even find yourselves fighting against God.” 40So they were persuaded by him, and having called in the apostles, they flogged them and commanded them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41Therefore, they departed from the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the Name.[[21]](#footnote-26763) 42And every day, in the Temple and at home, they did not cease to teach and to proclaim the good news that Jesus is the Christ.[[22]](#footnote-26651)

**Acts Chapter 6**

Seven Chosen to Serve

1Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, it came about that the Hellenistic *Jews* grumbled against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution *of food*. 2And the Twelve called the multitude of the disciples to them, and said, “It is not appropriate that we should neglect the word of God to serve tables. 3Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the spirit and wisdom, whom we can appoint over this necessary task. 4But we will continue steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the word.” 5And the statement pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of trust and of holy spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. 6They had them stand before the apostles, and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. 7And the word of God increased, and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great number of the priests were obedient to the faith.[[23]](#footnote-23624)

Stephen Accused of Blasphemy

8And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the People. 9But some of those who were of the synagogue called *the synagogue* of the Libertines, and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those of Cilicia and *the province of* Asia, rose up and *began* disputing with Stephen. 10And they could not withstand the wisdom and the spirit by which he spoke. 11Then they secretly persuaded men, who said, “We have heard him speak defaming accusations against Moses, and *against* God.” 12And they stirred up the People, and the elders, and the experts in the law, and came up to him and seized him, and brought him to the Sanhedrin, 13and set up false witnesses who said, “This man does not cease to speak words against this Holy Place, and the law, 14for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this Place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us.” 15And all who sat in the Sanhedrin, fastening their eyes on him, saw his face like the face of an angel.

**Acts Chapter 7**

Stephen’s Speech to the Sanhedrin

1And the high priest said, “Are these things so?” 2And he said, “Men, brothers, and fathers, listen! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia before he lived in Haran, 3and said to him, Get out of your land, and away from your relatives, and come into the land that I will show you.[[24]](#footnote-16389) 4Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And when his father was dead, *God* removed him from there *and brought him* into this land in which you now live, 5but he gave him no inheritance in it, no, not so much *land* as to *even* set his foot on. But he promised that he would give it to him as a possession, and to his seed after him,[[25]](#footnote-10590) even though he had no child. 6And God spoke this way: that his seed should be foreigners in a strange land (and that they would enslave them and mistreat them) 400 years. 7‘And I will judge the nation in which they will serve as slaves,’ said God, ‘and after that they will come out, and serve me in this place.’[[26]](#footnote-18894) 8And he gave him the covenant of circumcision. And so *Abraham* fathered Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day, and Isaac *fathered* Jacob, and Jacob *fathered* the 12 patriarchs.

9“And the patriarchs, moved with jealousy against Joseph, sold him into Egypt. And *yet* God was with him, 10and rescued him out of all his afflictions and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house. 11Now there came a famine over all Egypt and Canaan, causing great hardship, and our fathers could find no food. 12But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent our fathers *there* a first time. 13And on the second *trip*, Joseph made himself known to his brothers again, and Joseph’s race was revealed to Pharaoh. 14And Joseph sent, and called to him Jacob his father, and all his relatives, 75 souls. 15And Jacob went down into Egypt, and he died, he and our fathers, 16and they were carried over to Shechem, and laid in the tomb that Abraham bought for a price in silver from the sons of Hamor in Shechem. 17But as the time of the promise that God had sworn to Abraham drew near, the People[[27]](#footnote-30262) grew and multiplied in Egypt, 18until there arose another king over Egypt who did not know Joseph. 19He dealt craftily with our race, and mistreated our fathers, making them abandon their babies so they would die. 20Moses was born at that time, and *he* was beautiful before God, and he was nourished three months in his father’s house. 21And after he had been exposed, Pharaoh’s daughter took him up and brought him up as her own son. 22And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and works.

23“But when he was fully 40 years old, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the sons of Israel. 24And seeing one *of them* suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him who was oppressed, smiting the Egyptian. 25He assumed that his brothers understood that God was giving them deliverance by his hand, but they did not understand.

26“And the day following he appeared to them as they fought, and was reconciling them to peace, saying, ‘Men, you are brothers. Why do you wrong one another?’ 27But the one who did his neighbor wrong pushed him away, saying, Who made you a ruler and a judge over us? 28Do you want to kill me, as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?[[28]](#footnote-11072) 29And Moses fled at this saying, and became a foreigner in the land of Midian, where he fathered two sons. 30And when 40 years were fulfilled, an angel appeared to him in the desert of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. 31And when Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight. And as he drew near to look more closely, a voice of the Lord came, 32I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob.[[29]](#footnote-22018) And Moses trembled, and did not dare to look. 33And the Lord said to him, ‘Loosen the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. 34I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their groaning, and I have come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send you into Egypt.’[[30]](#footnote-17857)

35“This Moses whom they refused, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge,’ him God sent *to be* both a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel that appeared to him in the bush. 36This man led them out, having done wonders and signs in Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the desert 40 years. 37This is that Moses, who said to the sons of Israel, A prophet like me God will raise up to you from among your brothers.[[31]](#footnote-15183) 38This is he who was with the assembly in the desert with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, who received living words to give to us, 39to whom our fathers would not be obedient, but rejected him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt, 40saying to Aaron, ‘Make us gods to go before us; as for this Moses, who led us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’[[32]](#footnote-13572) 41And they made a calf in those days, and brought a sacrifice to the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their hands. 42But God turned, and gave them up to serve the army of heaven, as it is written in the scroll of the prophets, Did you offer to me slain animals and sacrifices 40 years in the desert, O house of Israel? 43And you took along the tent of Moloch, and the star of the god Rephan, the images that you made to worship them. So I will carry you away beyond Babylon.[[33]](#footnote-20947)

44“Our fathers had the Tent of Testimony in the desert, *made* just as the One who spoke to Moses directed him to make it according to the pattern that he had seen. 45And having received it in their turn, our fathers brought it in with Joshua when they entered into the possession of the nations that God thrust out before the face of our fathers. It was that way until the days of David, 46who found favor in the sight of God and asked to find a habitation for the God of Jacob. 47But Solomon built him a house.

48“But the Most High does not live in *houses* made with hands, as says the prophet, 49Heaven is my throne, and the earth the footstool of my feet. What manner of house will you build me, says the Lord. Or what is the place of my rest? 50Didn’t my hand make all these things?[[34]](#footnote-14041)

51“You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. 52Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become, 53you who received the law as it was delivered by angels, and did not keep it.”

The Stoning of Stephen

54Now when they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they *began* gnashing their teeth at him. 55But he, being full of holy spirit, looked up steadfastly into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, 56and said, “Look! I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” 57But they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears and with one accord rushed upon him. 58And they threw him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their outer clothing at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59And as they were stoning Stephen, he was calling on *the Lord* and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 60And he knelt down, and cried with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

**Acts Chapter 8**

1And Saul was fully approving of his death.

THE EARLY CHURCH IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA (8:1-9:31)  
Church Persecuted and Scattered

And on that day there arose a great persecution against the church that was in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the region of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2And *deeply* religious men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. 3But Saul laid waste the church; entering into every house and dragging off men and women, he committed them to prison.

Philip in Samaria

4Therefore, those who had been scattered went around proclaiming the good news of the word. 5And Philip went down to a city of Samaria, and proclaimed to them the Christ.[[35]](#footnote-18998) 6And the crowds, with one accord, were paying attention to the things that were spoken by Philip when they heard and saw the signs that he did. 7For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, were coming out of many people who had them, and many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed. 8And there was much joy in that city.

Simon the Sorcerer

9But there was a certain man, Simon by name, who before that time used sorcery in the city, and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that *he* himself was someone great, 10to whom they all paid attention, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is that power of God that is called Great.” 11And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his sorceries. 12But when they believed Philip, *who was* proclaiming the good news about the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13And Simon also himself believed, and being baptized, he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles being done, he was amazed.

14Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, 15who, when they had come down, prayed for them to receive holy spirit *into manifestation*, 16for as yet it had not rushed onto any of them, they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17Then they laid their hands on them, and they received holy spirit *into manifestation*.

18Now when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the spirit was given, he offered them money, 19saying, “Give me also this power, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands, receives holy spirit *into manifestation*.” 20But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you assumed the gift of God could be purchased with money. 21You have no part or share in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. 22Therefore, repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that the intent of your heart is forgiven you. 23For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of unrighteousness.” 24And Simon answered and said, “Implore the Lord for me, that none of the things that you have spoken about happen to me.”

25Therefore, when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they started back to Jerusalem, proclaiming the good news in many villages of the Samaritans.

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

26But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Get up and go south on the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert *road*). 27And he got up and went. And Look! *There was* a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was over all her treasure, who had come to Jerusalem to worship. 28And he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near, and join this chariot.” 30And Philip ran to him, and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31And he said, “How am I able to, unless someone will guide me?” And he entreated Philip to come up and sit with him.

32Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he does not open his mouth. 33In his humiliation, *righteous* judgment was denied him. Who can describe his descendants? For his life is taken from the earth.[[36]](#footnote-21269)

34And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, “I implore you, of whom does the prophet say this? About himself, or about some other *person*?” 35And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture, he told him the good news about Jesus. 36And as they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look! Water! What hinders me from being baptized?” 37[[And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God,”]] 38And he commanded the chariot to stand still, and they both went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 39And when they stepped up[[37]](#footnote-17421) out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, and the eunuch saw him no more, but went on his way rejoicing. 40But Philip was found at Azotus, and as he was passing through *the region* he was proclaiming the good news in all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

**Acts Chapter 9**

Saul Meets the Lord Jesus

1Now Saul, still breathing out threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2and asked him for letters to the synagogues of Damascus, that if he found anyone belonging to the Way,[[38]](#footnote-22947) whether men or women, he could bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3Now while he was going along, it came to pass that when he drew near to Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven shined around him, 4and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” 5And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he *said*, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. 6But get up and enter into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” 7And the men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the *sound of the* voice, but seeing no one. 8And Saul got up from the ground, but when his eyes were opened, he saw nothing, so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9And for three days he was without sight, and did not eat or drink.

Ananias Heals Saul

10Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias, and in a vision the Lord said to him, “Ananias.” And he said, “See, I *am here*, Lord.” 11And the Lord *said* to him, “Get up and go to the street that is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one named Saul, a man of Tarsus, for look, he is praying, 12and he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and laying his hands on him so that he would receive his sight.” 13But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your holy ones at Jerusalem, 14and he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name here.” 15But the Lord said to him, “Go, for this man is a chosen vessel to me, to carry my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the sons of Israel, 16for I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”

17And Ananias departed and went into the house, and laying his hands on him said, “Brother Saul, the Lord has sent me—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you came—so that you can receive your sight and be filled with holy spirit.” 18And immediately *something* like scales fell from his eyes, and he received his sight. And he got up and was baptized, 19and he took food and was strengthened.

Saul Boldly Preaches Christ

And for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus. 20And immediately in the synagogues he proclaimed Jesus, that he is the Son of God. 21And all who heard him were amazed, and said, “Is this not the one who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name? And has he not come here for this reason: to bring them bound to the chief priests?” 22But Saul grew more powerful, and was confounding the Jews who lived in Damascus, proving that this *Jesus* is the Christ.[[39]](#footnote-10405)

23And when many days had gone by, the Jews plotted together to kill him, 24but their plot became known to Saul. And they also watched the gates day and night so that they could kill him, 25but his disciples took him by night and let him down through *an opening in* the wall, lowering him in a basket.

26And when he had come to Jerusalem, he was trying to join the disciples, and they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. 27But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. 28And he was with them going in and going out at Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. 29And he was talking and disputing with the Hellenistic *Jews*, but they were attempting to put him to death. 30And when the brothers knew it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus.

31So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace, and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the encouragement of the holy spirit, it continued to grow in number.

THE EARLY CHURCH IN ANTIOCH (9:32-12:25)  
Peter Heals Aeneas and Tabitha

32And it came to pass as Peter went throughout all *that area*, he also came down to the holy ones who lived at Lydda. 33And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been laid on his bed for eight years, *because* he was paralyzed. 34And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and make your bed.” And immediately he got up. 35And all who lived at Lydda and in Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

36Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is called Dorcas). She was abounding in good works and acts of charity that she did continuously. 37And it came to pass in those days that she became sick, and died. And when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. 38And since Lydda was close to Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, entreating him, “Do not delay to come to us.” 39And Peter got up and went with them. And when he had come, they brought him into the upper room, and all the widows stood by him crying, and showing the tunics[[40]](#footnote-24256) and outer clothing that Dorcas made while she was with them. 40But Peter sent them all out, and knelt down and prayed, and turning to the body, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. 41And he gave her his hand, and raised her up, and calling the holy ones and widows, he presented her alive. 42And this became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. 43And it came to pass, that he remained many days in Joppa with one Simon, a tanner.

**Acts Chapter 10**

Cornelius the Centurion’s Vision

1Now *there was* a certain man in Caesarea, Cornelius by name, a centurion of what is called the Italian cohort, 2a godly man, and one who was a God-fearer, along with all his house, who did many acts of charity for the People,[[41]](#footnote-21639) and implored God continually. 3About the ninth hour of the day[[42]](#footnote-11162) he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God coming in to him and saying to him, “Cornelius.” 4And he, fastening his eyes on him, and being afraid, said, “What is it, Lord?” And he said to him, “Your prayers and your acts of charity have come up as a memorial before God. 5And now send men to Joppa, and send for one Simon, who is also called Peter; 6he is staying with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside.” 7And when the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his household servants, and a godly soldier of those who faithfully attended him, 8and when he had related all *these things* to them, he sent them to Joppa.

Peter’s Vision

9Now on the next day about the sixth hour,[[43]](#footnote-24980) as they were on their journey and drew near to the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray. 10And he became hungry and wanted to eat, but while they were preparing *the meal*, a state of suspended consciousness fell on him, 11and he saw the heavens opened and an object descending; something like a large linen cloth *that was* being let down to the earth by *its* four corners. 12In it were all the four-footed beasts and reptiles of the earth, and birds of heaven. 13And a voice came to him, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.” 14But Peter said, “Surely not, Lord, for I have never eaten anything that is common and unclean.” 15And a voice *came* to him again the second time, “What God has cleansed, do not consider unclean!” 16And this was done three times, and immediately the object was taken up into heaven.

Peter Teaches Gentiles Good News

17Now while Peter was greatly perplexed in himself as to what the vision that he had seen could mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having found Simon’s house by asking *directions*, stood at the gate 18and called and asked if Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there. 19While Peter was thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Look! Three men are looking for you. 20So get up, and get down *from the roof* and go with them without hesitation, because I have sent them.” 21So Peter went down to the men, and said, “Look! I am the one whom you are seeking. What is the reason for your coming?” 22And they said, “Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous *and* God-fearing man *who is* well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was instructed by a holy angel to send for you *to come* to his house, and to hear words from you.” 23So he called them in and received them as guests. And on the next day he got up and went off with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him.

24And on the next day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, having called together his relatives and his close friends. 25Now it came to pass that when Peter entered, Cornelius met him, fell at *his* feet, and bowed down before *him*. 26But Peter raised him up, saying, “Stand up. I myself also am a man.” 27And as he talked with him, he went in and found many assembled together, 28and he said to them, “You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a man who is a Jew to associate with or visit a foreigner, and *yet* God showed me that I should not call any person common or unclean. 29That is why when I was sent for I came without arguing. So I ask, why have you sent for me?”

30And Cornelius said, “Four days ago, about this hour, I was praying in my house at the ninth hour,[[44]](#footnote-14644) and look! A man stood before me in bright clothing 31and said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your acts of charity have been remembered in the sight of God. 32Therefore send *men* to Joppa, and call for Simon, who is called Peter. He is staying in the house of Simon a tanner, by the sea.’ 33Therefore I sent to you immediately, and you did well in that you have come. So now we are all here present in the presence of God to hear all the things that you have been commanded by the Lord.”

34And Peter opened his mouth and said, “Truly now I realize that God does not show favoritism, 35but in every nation anyone who fears him and is doing what is right is acceptable to him. 36You know the word that he sent to the sons of Israel, proclaiming the good news of peace through Jesus Christ,[[45]](#footnote-22543) who is Lord of all! 37You yourselves know what has happened throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee. After the baptism that John preached— 38Jesus, the one from Nazareth—how God anointed him with holy spirit and with power, and he went around doing good and healing all those who were being oppressed by the Devil,[[46]](#footnote-15373) for God was with him.

39“And we are witnesses of all *the* things that he did, both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom also they killed, having hung him on a tree. 40*But* God raised him up the third day, and granted that he should be seen, 41not by all the People, but by witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, *even* to us who ate and drank with him after he rose from among the dead. 42And he commanded us to proclaim to the people and to solemnly testify that he is the one who has been appointed by God to be the Judge of the living and the dead. 43All the prophets testify about him, that through his name everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins.”

Gentiles Receive Gift of Holy Spirit

44While Peter was still speaking these words, the holy spirit rushed onto all those who were listening to the word. 45And the believers from among the Circumcised were amazed, all those who came with Peter, because on the Gentiles also the gift of the holy spirit was poured out. 46For they heard them speaking in tongues and exalting God. Then answered Peter, 47“*Surely* no one is able to refuse water *and insist* that these should not be baptized, *these* who have received the holy spirit just as we have?” 48And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain a few days.

**Acts Chapter 11**

Peter’s Report in Jerusalem

1Now the apostles and the brothers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. 2So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, those from among the Circumcised criticized him, 3saying, “You went into *the house of* uncircumcised men and ate with them.” 4But Peter began, and explained *the matter* to them in order, saying,

5“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a state of suspended consciousness I saw a vision: an object descending something like a large linen cloth, being let down from heaven by the four corners, and it came down to me, 6*and* when I had fixed my gaze *on it* and was observing it, I saw the four-footed animals of the earth and wild beasts and reptiles and birds of heaven. 7And I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.’ 8But I said, ‘Surely not, Lord, for nothing common or unclean has ever entered into my mouth.’ 9But a voice answered the second time out of heaven, ‘What God has cleansed, do not consider unclean!’ 10And this happened three times, and *then* everything was drawn up into heaven again. 11And Look! Immediately three men stood in front of the house in which we were *staying*, having been sent from Caesarea to me. 12And the Spirit told me to go with them without hesitation. And these six brothers also accompanied me, and we went into the man’s house, 13and he told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, ‘Send *men* to Joppa, and send for Simon, who is also called Peter, 14who will speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your house.’ 15Now as I began to speak, the holy spirit rushed onto them just as *it* also *did* on us at the beginning. 16Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how he used to say, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with holy spirit.’ 17So if God gave to them the same gift as *he* also *gave* to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ,[[47]](#footnote-12036) I, who was I, to be able to stand in God’s way?”

18And when they heard these things, they calmed down, and glorified God, saying, “Then God has granted the repentance to *everlasting* life to the Gentiles also.”

Antioch Church: Jews and Greeks

19Now those who were scattered because of the affliction that arose in *connection with* Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, and Cyprus, and Antioch *of Syria*, speaking the word to no one except to Jews only. 20But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch *and* began speaking to the Greeks also, proclaiming the good news about the Lord Jesus. 21And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number, having believed, turned to the Lord.

22And the report about them came to the ears of the church that was in Jerusalem. And they sent Barnabas to Antioch, 23who, when he came and saw the grace of God, was glad, and was exhorting them all to remain *faithful* to the Lord in the purposes of their hearts, 24for he was a good man, and full of holy spirit and trust. And many people were added to the Lord.

Saul and “Christians” in Antioch

25Then he went to Tarsus to diligently search for Saul, 26and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And so it came to pass that for a whole year they met with the church and taught a great number of people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

27Now in those days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28And one of them, named Agabus, stood up and clearly indicated through the spirit that there would be a great famine over the whole inhabited world, which came to pass during *the reign* of Claudius.

Barnabas and Saul Sent to Judea

29And the disciples, every one according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brothers and sisters who lived in Judea, 30and this they did, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

**Acts Chapter 12**

Herod Kills James, Arrests Peter

1Now about that time Herod *Agrippa* *I*, the king, laid his hands on some of the church to harm them. 2And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. 3And when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. And *those* were the days of Unleavened Bread. 4And when he had taken him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of four soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the People.[[48]](#footnote-26759) 5So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer to God for him was fervently being made by the church.

Peter Rescued by an Angel

6Now when Herod was about to bring him out, that same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and guards in front of the door were watching over the prison. 7And look! An angel of the Lord suddenly stood next to him, and a light shined in the cell, and he struck Peter on the side and woke him up, saying, “Get up quickly.” And his chains fell off his hands. 8And the angel said to him, “Dress yourself, and tie on your sandals.” And he did so. And he said to him, “Wrap *your outer garment* around you, and follow me.” 9And he went out, and followed, and he did not know that what was being done by the angel was true, but thought he saw a vision.

10And when they were past the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city, which opened to them on its own. And having gone out they went along one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. 11And when Peter came to himself, he said, “Now I truly know that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the People, the Jews.”

12And when he realized *this*, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, who is *also* called Mark, where many had gathered together and were praying. 13And when he knocked at the door of the gate, a servant girl came to answer, named Rhoda. 14And when she recognized Peter’s voice, because of her joy she did not open the gate, but ran in, and said that Peter stood at the gate. 15But they said to her, “You are raving mad.” Nevertheless she kept insisting that it was so. But they kept saying, “It is his angel.”

16But Peter continued knocking, and when they opened *the door*, they saw him, and were amazed. 17But he, motioning to them with his hand to be silent, told them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, “Tell these things to James, and to the brothers.” And he departed, and went to another place.

18Now as soon as it was day, there was no small commotion among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter. 19And when Herod had searched for him, and did not find him, he cross-examined the guards, and commanded that they be led away *and put to death*.

Death of Herod Agrippa

And he went down from Judea to Caesarea, and spent some time there. 20Now he was very angry with the *people* of Tyre and Sidon, so they came to him with one accord and, having made Blastus, the one in charge of the king’s bedroom, their friend, they asked for peace, because their country was fed from the king’s country. 21Now on an appointed day Herod clothed himself in royal apparel, and sat on the judgment seat, and began addressing them. 22But the people began to cry out, “*It is* the voice of a god, and not of a man.” 23And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms, and breathed out *his last breath*. 24And the word of God continued to grow and spread.

Barnabas and Saul Back to Antioch

25Now Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, having fulfilled their service, taking with them John, who is *also* called Mark.

**Acts Chapter 13**

PAUL’S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY (13:1-14:28)

1Now there were prophets and teachers in the church at Antioch: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2And while they were serving the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work I have called them *to do*.” 3Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

Paul on Island of Cyprus

4So they, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. 5And when they were at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews, and they also had John as their attendant. 6And when they had gone through the whole island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-jesus, 7who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. He, having summoned Barnabas and Saul, sought to hear the word of God. 8But Elymas the sorcerer (for thus his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. 9But Saul, who is also *called* Paul, filled with holy spirit, fixed his gaze on him 10and said, “O you son of the Devil,[[49]](#footnote-10351) full of every sort of deceit and wickedness, you enemy of all righteousness, will you never stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? 11And now, look, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind, not seeing the sun for a time.” And immediately there fell on him a mist and darkness, and he went around seeking people to lead him by the hand. 12Then, when he saw what had happened, the proconsul believed, being amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

Paul to Pamphylia; John Departs

13Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos, and came to Perga in Pamphylia, but John departed from them and returned to Jerusalem.

Paul to Antioch in Pisidia

14But they, passing through Perga, came to Antioch of Pisidia and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down. 15And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent to them, saying, “Men, brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the People,[[50]](#footnote-19630) say it.”

16And Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said, “Men of Israel, and you *Gentiles* who are God-fearers, listen! 17The God of the People, Israel, chose our fathers, and exalted the People during their sojourn in the land of Egypt, and with a high arm he led them out of it. 18And for about the time of 40 years he endured their conduct in the desert. 19And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave *them* the land as an inheritance. 20And after these things he gave *them* judges until Samuel the prophet—all this took about 450 years— 21and afterward they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for 40 years. 22And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king; *and* he also testified about him and said, I have found David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.[[51]](#footnote-15204) 23From this man’s seed God has, according to *his* promise, brought to Israel a Savior—Jesus. 24Before his coming, John had proclaimed to all the People of Israel baptism *as a sign* of repentance. 25Now while John was fulfilling his course, he kept saying, ‘Who do you suppose I am? I am not *he*. But look! One is coming after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to loosen.’

26“Men, brothers, sons of the race of Abraham, and those *Gentiles* among you who are God-fearers, the message of this salvation has been sent out to us. 27For those who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know him, nor the voices of the prophets that are read every Sabbath, fulfilled *them* by condemning *him*. 28And without having found a reason *to put him to* death, they *nevertheless* asked Pilate that he be executed. 29And when they had carried out all the things that were written about him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a tomb. 30But God raised him from among the dead, 31and for many days he was seen by those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the People. 32And *now* we are telling to you the good news of the promise made to the Fathers,[[52]](#footnote-24389) 33that God has fulfilled these *promises* to us, *that is,* to their children, by raising up Jesus, just as it is written in the second psalm, You are my Son; today I have become your Father.[[53]](#footnote-18697) 34Now concerning *the fact* that he raised him from among the dead, never again destined to return to *death and* corruption, he has spoken in this way: I will give to you the sacred promises made to David, the trustworthy ones![[54]](#footnote-15565) 35Therefore he says also in another *psalm*, You will not allow your Devout One to see corruption.[[55]](#footnote-21917)

36“For David, after he had served God’s purpose in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid among his fathers and saw corruption, 37but he whom God raised did not see corruption. 38Therefore let it be known among you, men, brothers, that through him the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, 39and by him everyone who believes is declared righteous from all the things that kept you from being able to be declared righteous under the Law of Moses. 40Be careful, therefore, that the thing that was spoken by the prophets does not happen to you: 41Look you despisers, and be amazed, and perish, for I work a work in your days, a work that you will never believe, even if someone told you in detail.”[[56]](#footnote-21263)

42And as they were going out, the people were entreating *Paul and Barnabas* to speak those words to them the next Sabbath. 43Now when the synagogue *meeting* had broken up, many of the Jews and of the God-fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who were speaking to them *and* were persuading them to continue in the grace of God.

44And the next Sabbath almost the whole city was gathered together to hear the word of the Lord. 45But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy, and contradicted the things that were spoken by Paul, slandering *him*. 46And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, and said, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first. But since you reject it and judge yourselves unworthy of life in the age *to come*, look, we are turning to the Gentiles. 47For this is what the Lord has commanded us: I have placed you as a light for the Gentiles, so that you bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”[[57]](#footnote-11528)

48Now when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorified the word of the Lord, and as many as believed were *at that time* appointed to life in the age *to come*. 49And the word of the Lord spread through the whole region. 50But the Jews stirred up the God-fearing women of prominence, and the leading men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their region.

Paul in Iconium in Galatia

51But they shook off the dust of their feet *as a symbol* against them, and came to Iconium. 52And the disciples were filled with joy and holy spirit.

**Acts Chapter 14**

1And it came to pass in Iconium that they entered together into the synagogue of the Jews and spoke in such a way that a great multitude of both Jews and Greeks believed. 2But the Jews who were defiant stirred up the souls of the Gentiles, and poisoned their minds against the brothers. 3Therefore they spent a long time *there*, speaking boldly for the Lord, who testified to the word of his grace *by* granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. 4The multitude of the city was divided, and some were with the Jews, and some with the apostles. 5But when an attempt was made by both the Gentiles and the Jews (including their rulers), to mistreat and to stone them, 6they became aware *of it and* fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra and Derbe, and the surrounding area, 7and they proclaimed the good news there.

Paul in Lystra

8And in Lystra a certain man was sitting who had no strength in his feet. *He was* a cripple from his mother’s womb and had never walked. 9This *man* heard Paul speaking, who, fixing his eyes on him and seeing that he had trust to be made whole, 10said in a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet.” And he leaped up and was walking around. 11And when the crowd saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voice in the Lycaonian *language*, saying, “The gods, having been made like men, have come down to us.” 12And they called Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. 13And the priest of Zeus, whose *temple* was before the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates. He, along with the crowd, was wanting to offer a sacrifice. 14But when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard about it, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, crying out 15and saying, “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men of the same nature as you and are telling you the good news so that you turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them, 16who in the generations gone by allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. 17And yet he did not leave himself without witness, in that he did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts with food and gladness.” 18And saying these things, with difficulty they restrained the crowd from offering sacrifice to them.

19But Jews came from Antioch *of Pisidia* and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowd and having stoned Paul, dragged *him* out of the city, assuming that he was dead. 20But when the disciples gathered around him, he got up and entered the city.

To Derbe and Other Cities, Then Return Home

And on the next day he went out with Barnabas to Derbe. 21And when they had proclaimed the good news in that city, and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, and to Iconium, and to Antioch *of Pisidia*, 22strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and *saying* that we cannot avoid going through many hardships on our way into the Kingdom of God. 23And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they committed them to the Lord, on whom they had believed. 24And having passed through Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia. 25And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia 26and from there they sailed to Antioch *of Syria*, where they had been entrusted to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled.

Dispute Over Circumcision

27And having come *to Antioch*, and having gathered the church together, they reported everything that God had done with them, and that he had opened a door of trust for the Gentiles. 28And they spent no little time with the disciples.

**Acts Chapter 15**

JERUSALEM COUNCIL (15:1-35)

1And certain *men* came down from Judea and taught the brothers, *saying,* “If you are not circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you are not able to be saved.” 2Now when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, the people appointed Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this question.

The Council at Jerusalem

3They therefore, being sent on their way by the church, passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and they brought great joy to all the brothers and sisters. 4And when they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church, and the apostles, and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. 5But some from the sect of the Pharisees, who had believed, rose up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to command them to keep the Law of Moses.”

6Both the apostles and the elders were gathered together to see about this matter. 7And when there had been much disputing, Peter got up and said to them, “Men, brothers, you know that a good while ago God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the good news and believe. 8And God, who knows the heart, testified on their behalf *by* giving them the holy spirit just as he did to us, 9and in cleansing their hearts by trust, he has made no distinction between us and them. 10Now then, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we could carry? 11But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also *are*.”

12And the entire multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they were recounting all the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. 13And after they had stopped speaking, James answered, saying, “Men, brothers, listen to me. 14Simeon[[58]](#footnote-12937) has related how God first showed his concern by taking out from the Gentiles a people for his name. 15And to this the words of the prophets agree, as it is written, 16After these things I will return, and I will build again the tent of David, which is fallen. And I will build again the parts of it that have been torn down, and I will set it up, 17so that the rest of humankind will seek the Lord—even all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord who does these things.[[59]](#footnote-10391)

18“*This has been* known from of old. 19Therefore, my judgment is that we do not trouble those who from among the Gentiles turn to God, 20but that we write to them that they abstain from the pollutions of idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what is strangled, and from blood. 21For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.”

The Letter to Gentile Believers

22Then the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, decided to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. *They* *chose* Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, *who were* leading men among the brothers. 23They wrote *and sent the letter* through them:

“The apostles and the elders, brothers, to the brothers and sisters who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, and Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings. 24Since we have heard that certain *men who* have gone out from us, to whom we gave no instruction, have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, 25we, having come to one accord, decided to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, 26men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.[[60]](#footnote-25111) 27Therefore, we have sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will also tell you the same things by word *of mouth*. 28For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay on you no greater burden than these necessary things, 29that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these things, you will do well. Farewell.”

Encouraged by the Council’s Letter

30So when they were sent off, they came down to Antioch, and having gathered the multitude together, they delivered the letter. 31And when they had read it, they rejoiced over its encouragement. 32And Judas and Silas, who were also prophets themselves, encouraged the brothers and sisters with many words, and strengthened them. 33And after they had spent some time *there*, they were sent off in peace from the brothers and sisters to those who had sent them out. 34[[But it seemed good to Silas to remain there.]] 35But Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch, teaching and proclaiming the good news of the word of the Lord with many others also.

PAUL’S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY (15:36-18:22)  
Paul and Barnabas Part Company

36And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let’s return and visit the brothers and sisters in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord *and see* how they are doing.” 37Now Barnabas was intending to take John (who was called Mark) with them also. 38But Paul was thinking it was not appropriate to take with them the one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia, and did not go with them to the work. 39And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus.

Through Syria and Cilicia

40But Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. 41And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

**Acts Chapter 16**

Derbe and Lystra: Timothy Joins

1And he came also to Derbe and to Lystra, and look, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman *who was* a believer, but his father was a Greek. 2He was well spoken of by the brothers and sisters who were at Lystra and Iconium. 3Paul wanted this man to go with him, and he took and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

4Now while they were passing through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees they should keep, which had been decided upon by the apostles and elders who were at Jerusalem. 5So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.

Vision of a Man of Macedonia

6And they went through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in *the province of* Asia, 7and when they had come to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, but the spirit of Jesus did not permit them *to go*. 8Now passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. 9And a vision appeared to Paul during the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and entreating him, and saying, “Come over into Macedonia and help us.” 10And when he saw the vision, immediately we[[61]](#footnote-32480) sought to go over to Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

Lydia’s Conversion in Philippi

11So, setting sail from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and the day following to Neapolis, 12and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of that part of Macedonia, a *Roman* colony, and we were staying in this city some days. 13And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by a riverside, to a place habitually used for prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. 14And a certain God-fearing woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a seller of purple cloth, kept listening. The Lord opened her heart to be paying attention to the things that were spoken by Paul. 15And when she was baptized, and her household, she entreated us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay *there*.” And she constrained us.

Paul and Silas Imprisoned

16And it came to pass as we were going to the place of prayer, a certain slave girl who had a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her owners much profit by fortune telling. 17Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” 18And she did this for many days. But Paul, being greatly disturbed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ[[62]](#footnote-22082) to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

19But when her owners[[63]](#footnote-28584) saw that the hope of their profit had gone out, they took hold of Paul and Silas, and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. 20And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, “These men, being Jews, are seriously disturbing our city, 21and are promoting customs that are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or to observe.” 22And the crowd rose up together against them, and the magistrates tore their clothes off of them, and gave orders for them to be beaten with rods. 23And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely, 24who, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison, and he fastened their feet in the stocks.

Philippian Jailer Gets Saved

25But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing songs of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, 26and suddenly there was a great earthquake so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone’s bonds were unfastened. 27And the jailor, being roused out of sleep and seeing the prison doors open, drew his sword and was about to kill himself, assuming that the prisoners had escaped. 28But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” 29And he asked for lights and sprang in, and, trembling with fear, fell down before Paul and Silas, 30and brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” 31And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your house.” 32And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds. And immediately he was baptized, he and all his *household*. 34And he brought them up into his house, and set a table *with food* before them, and rejoiced greatly, with all his house, because he had believed in God.

Paul Refuses to Leave Secretly

35But when it was day, the magistrates sent their lictors, saying, “Release those men.” 36And the jailor reported the words to Paul, *saying*, “The magistrates have sent to release you. So now come out and go in peace.” 37But Paul said to them, “They have beaten us publicly, uncondemned, men who are Romans, and have thrown us into prison, and are they now sending us away secretly? No indeed! But let them come themselves and bring us out.” 38And the lictors told those words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans, 39and they came and appealed to them, and when they had brought them out, they asked them repeatedly to leave the city. 40And they went out of the prison and went into *the house* of Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers and sisters, they encouraged them and departed.

**Acts Chapter 17**

Paul and Silas in Thessalonica

1Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews, 2And according to Paul’s custom, he went in to them, and for three Sabbath days reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3explaining and setting before *them* that it was necessary for the Christ[[64]](#footnote-15658) to suffer and to rise from among the dead, and that, “This Jesus, whom I am proclaiming to you, is the Christ.” 4And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, and a great multitude of the God-fearing Greeks, and not a few of the prominent women.

5But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from among those who loitered at the marketplace,[[65]](#footnote-24491) formed a mob and were setting the city in an uproar. And assaulting the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people. 6And when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and certain brothers before the rulers of the city, shouting, “These who have turned the inhabited world upside down have come here also, 7whom Jason has received. And these all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.” 8And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city, who heard these things. 9And when they had taken money as a security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

Paul and Silas in Berea

10And the brothers and sisters immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night to Berea, *and* when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with great willingness, examining the Scriptures daily, *to see* if these things were so. 12Therefore, many of them believed, along with *many* of the Greek women of high standing, and of *Greek* men, not a few. 13But when the Jews of Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there also, stirring up and troubling the people. 14And then immediately the brothers and sisters sent Paul away to go as far as to the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there still. 15But those who escorted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving instructions that Silas and Timothy were to come to him as quickly as possible, they departed.

Paul in Athens

16Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred up within him as he saw the city full of idols. 17So he reasoned in the synagogue with Jews and the God-fearing *Greeks*, and in the marketplace[[66]](#footnote-11314) every day with those who happened to be there. 18And some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also debated with him. And some said, “What would this babbler say?” Others, “He seems to be a promoter of foreign divinities,” because he proclaimed the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. 19And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we learn what this new teaching is that you are speaking? 20For you bring certain strange things to our ears, therefore, we want to know what these things mean.” 21(Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing else, but either telling or hearing something new.)

22And Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus, and said, “You men of Athens, I perceive that you are very religious in every way. 23For as I passed along and observed the objects of your devotion, I even found an altar with this inscription, TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, to what you show reverence without knowledge, this I proclaim to you. 24The God who made the world and all things in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made with hands, 25nor is he served by human hands, as if he needed anything, seeing he himself gives to all *people* life, and breath, and all things. 26And from one *man* he made every nation of humankind to live on the entire face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed seasons, and the boundaries of where they live, 27so that they would seek God, if perhaps they might feel around for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 28For it is in him we live, and move, and have our being, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also his offspring.’ 29Since we are the offspring of God, we have an obligation not to assume that the divine nature is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by human art and imagination. 30God overlooked the times of ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31because he has set a day in which he will judge the inhabited world righteously by the man whom he has appointed, having given proof to all people by raising him from among the dead.”

32Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, but others said, “We will hear you again about this.” 33So Paul went out from among them. 34But some men joined him, and believed, among whom also was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

**Acts Chapter 18**

Paul in Corinth

1After these things he departed from Athens and came to Corinth. 2And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome. And he came to them, 3and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them, and they were working *together* because they were tentmakers by trade. 4And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, trying to persuade both Jews and Greeks.

5But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was wholly occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.[[67]](#footnote-13666) 6And when they opposed him and insulted him, he shook out his clothes and said to them, “Your blood *be* on your own heads. I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” 7And he departed from there, and went into the house of a certain man named Titius Justus, a God-fearing *Greek*, whose house was next to the synagogue. 8And Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized. 9And the Lord said to Paul by a vision at night, “Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent, 10for I am with you and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many people in this city.” 11And he stayed *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Paul Taken Before Gallio

12While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia,[[68]](#footnote-25580) the Jews rose up with one accord against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, 13saying, “This man is persuading the people to worship God contrary to the law.” 14But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If indeed it were a matter of injury or evil crime, O you Jews, reason would dictate that I should put up with you, 15but if there are questions about words and names and your own law, look to it yourselves. I do not intend to be a judge of these matters.” 16And he drove them from the judgment seat. 17And they all took hold of Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat. Yet none of these things were a concern for Gallio.

Paul Returns to Antioch and Syria

18Now Paul, having still remained a considerable number of days *after that*, said goodbye to the brothers and sisters, and sailed from there to Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila were with him. In Cenchreae he shaved his head, for he had *taken* a vow. 19And they arrived at Ephesus; and as for Aquila and Priscilla,[[69]](#footnote-29513) he left them there. Now he himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. 20And when they asked him to stay a longer time, he did not consent, 21but having said goodbye to them and having said, “I will return again to you if God wills,” he set sail from Ephesus. 22And when he had landed at Caesarea, he went up *to Jerusalem* and greeted the church, and went down to Antioch.

PAUL’S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY (18:23-21:16)  
Paul in Galatia and Phrygia

23And having spent some time *in Antioch*, he departed, and went from one place to the next through the Galatian region and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

Apollos in Ephesus

24Now a certain Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus, and he was mighty in the scriptures. 25He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and having great enthusiasm,[[70]](#footnote-27514) he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, knowing only the baptism of John. 26And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and expounded to him the way of God more accurately. 27And when he intended to go across into Achaia, the brothers and sisters encouraged him, and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. And when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, 28for he powerfully refuted the Jews, *and that* publicly, showing through the scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

**Acts Chapter 19**

Paul in Ephesus

1And it came to pass that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul, having passed through the higher districts, came to Ephesus and found some disciples. 2And he said to them, “Did you receive holy spirit when you believed?” And they *said* to him, “No, we have not *even* heard that there is holy spirit.” 3And he said, “Then with what kind of baptism were you baptized?” And they said, “With John’s baptism.” 4And Paul said, “John baptized with a baptism *that was a sign* of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in him who was coming after him, that is, on Jesus.” 5And when they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the holy spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. 7And there were about 12 men in all.

8And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading *them* about the Kingdom of God. 9But when some were becoming hardened and defiant, speaking evil of the Way in front of the multitude, he departed from them and separated the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. 10And this continued for two years, so that all those who lived in *the province of* Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks. 11And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, 12so that handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits came out *of them*.

The Sons of Sceva

13But also some of the Jews, exorcists who traveled from place to place, attempted to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had the evil spirits, saying, “I charge you under oath by Jesus whom Paul preaches.” 14And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, a chief priest, who did this. 15And the evil spirit answered and said to them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?” 16And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overpowered all of them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17And this became known to everyone who lived at Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks, and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. 18Many also of those who had believed were coming forward *and* openly confessing and divulging their practices. 19And a number of those who practiced the magic arts brought their scrolls together and burned them in the sight of everyone, and they counted the price of them, and found they were *worth* 50,000 pieces of silver.[[71]](#footnote-20691) 20In this mighty way the word of the Lord continued to grow and prevail.

Paul Makes Future Plans

21Now when these things were accomplished, Paul resolved in the spirit, after he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, “After I have been there, I must also see Rome.” 22And having sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in *the province of* Asia for a while.[[72]](#footnote-19094)

The Riot in Ephesus

23And about that time there arose no small stir concerning the Way. 24For a certain *man* named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. 25He gathered them together along with the workmen of similar trades and said, “Men, you know that by this business we get our wealth. 26And you see and hear, that not only at Ephesus, but almost throughout the whole *province* of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that things that are made with hands are not gods. 27And *so* not only is there danger that this trade of ours will be discredited, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be counted as nothing, and that she to whom all *the province* of Asia and the world shows devotion will even be pulled down from her magnificence.”

28And when they heard this they were filled with rage, and began crying out, saying, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians.” 29And the city was filled with confusion, and having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul’s companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theater. 30And when Paul was planning to enter in ​​​​*to speak* to the people, the disciples did not allow him *to go*. 31And certain also of the Asiarchs,[[73]](#footnote-25377) who were his friends, sent to him and urged him not to take the risk of going into the theater.

32Meanwhile, some cried one thing, and some another, for the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know the reason that they had come together. 33And some of the crowd gave advice to Alexander, whom the Jews had pushed to the front. And Alexander motioned with his hand, wanting to make a defense to the people. 34But when they realized that he was a Jew, for about two hours everyone was crying out with one voice, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

35Now when the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, “Men, Ephesians, what person is there who doesn’t know that the city of the Ephesians is temple-keeper of the great Artemis, and of the *image* that fell down from Zeus? 36Seeing then that these things cannot be denied, you must quiet down and not do anything rash. 37For you have brought *here* these men, who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of our goddess. 38So if Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a matter against anyone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls *available*, let them bring charges against one another. 39But if you seek anything further, it will have to be settled in the regular *legal* assembly. 40For indeed we are in danger of being charged with rioting for *what happened* today, since there is no reason that we can give as a justification for this disorderly gathering.” 41And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

**Acts Chapter 20**

To Macedonia, Greece, and Back

1And after the uproar ceased, Paul, having sent for the disciples and having encouraged them, said farewell and departed to go into Macedonia. 2And when he had gone through those parts and had given them much encouragement, he came into Greece. 3And when he had spent three months *there,* and a plot was formed against him by Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. 4And he was accompanied by Sopater of Berea, *the son* of Pyrrhus, and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and of *the province of* Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus. 5But these had gone ahead, and were waiting for us at Troas. 6And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of the *Feast of* Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed seven days.

Raising Eutychus in Troas

7And on the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul was having a discussion with them, intending to depart on the next day, and extended his speech until midnight. 8And there were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were gathered together. 9And a certain young man named Eutychus sat in the window sinking into a deep sleep. And while Paul lectured still longer, having been overcome by his sleep he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. 10And Paul went down and threw himself on him, and embracing him said, “Do not be troubled, for his life is in him.” 11And when he had gone *back* up, and had broken bread and eaten, he talked with them a long time, even until daybreak, and so departed. 12And they took the young man away alive, and were not a little comforted.

Paul Travels to Miletus

13Then we, going on ahead to the ship, set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul on board there, because that is what he had arranged, *but* he himself intended to go *there* by land. 14And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board, and came to Mitylene. 15And sailing from there, the following day we arrived near *the shore of* Chios, and the next day we crossed over to Samos, and the day after we came to Miletus. 16For Paul had determined to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost.

Speaking to Elders From Ephesus

17And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called to him the elders of the church. 18And when they had come to him, he said to them, “You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in *the province of* Asia, how I was with you all the time, 19serving the Lord with all humility, and with tears, and with trials that happened to me by the plots of the Jews, 20how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, 21testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and trust toward our Lord Jesus Christ.[[74]](#footnote-28292) 22And now, look, I am going to Jerusalem, bound in the spirit, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, 23except that the Holy Spirit warns me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. 24But I consider my life worth nothing to myself, if only I can finish my course, and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to bear witness to the good news of the grace of God.

25“And now, listen, I know that you all, among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom, will see my face no more. 26Therefore I testify to you this day that I am clean from everyone’s blood. 27For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. 28Pay attention to yourselves, and to all the flock over which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he purchased with the blood of his own *Son*. 29I know that after my departure grievous wolves will enter in among you, not sparing the flock, 30and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking twisted things to draw away the disciples after them. 31Therefore watch, remembering that for three years I did not cease to admonish[[75]](#footnote-30372) everyone night and day with tears.

32“And now I commit you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build *you* up and to give *you* the inheritance among all those who have been made holy. 33I have coveted no one’s silver, or gold, or clothing. 34You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my needs and to those who were with me. 35In all things I showed you that working hard in this way we must help the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

36And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. 37And there was much sobbing among them all, and they fell on Paul’s neck and kissed him, 38sorrowing most of all for the word that he had spoken, that they should see his face no more. And they brought him on his way to the ship.

**Acts Chapter 21**

Onward to Jerusalem

1And it came to pass that when we tore ourselves away from them and had set sail, we came by a straight course to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara, 2and having found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard, and set sail. 3And when we had come in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left hand, we sailed to Syria, and landed at Tyre, for the ship was to unload her cargo there. 4And having found the disciples, we stayed there seven days. And through the spirit they repeatedly told Paul that he should not set foot in Jerusalem. 5And when it came to pass that we had accomplished the days, we departed and went on our journey, and they all, with wives and children, brought us on our way until we were out of the city. And kneeling down on the shore, we prayed and said farewell to each other. 6And we went on board the ship, but they returned home again.

7And when we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais, and we greeted the brothers and sisters and stayed with them one day.

Paul, Philip, and Agabus

8And on the next day we departed, and came to Caesarea, and entering into the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, we stayed with him. 9Now this man had four virgin daughters, who prophesied. 10And as we stayed there some days, a certain prophet came down from Judea, named Agabus. 11And coming to us, and taking Paul’s belt, he bound his own feet and hands, and said, “This is what the Holy Spirit says: ‘In this way the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man that owns this belt, and will deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’” 12And when we heard these things, both we and they of that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. 13Then Paul answered, “What are you doing, crying and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.” 14And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, *and* said, “The will of the Lord be done.”

15And after these days we got ready and went up to Jerusalem. 16And also *some* of the disciples from Caesarea went with us, bringing *with them* Mnason of Cyprus, one of the earliest disciples, with whom we were to lodge.

PAUL’S JOURNEY TO ROME (21:17-28:31)  
Paul Meets With James

17And when we had come to Jerusalem the brothers and sisters received us gladly. 18And on the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present. 19And when he had greeted them, he related, one by one, the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. 20And when they heard it, they glorified God, and they said to him, “You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law. 21And they have been informed about you, that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs. 22What, then, is *to be done*? They will certainly hear that you have come. 23Therefore, do what we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow. 24Take them, and purify yourself along with them, and pay their expenses so they can shave their heads, and everyone will know that there is nothing *true* in what they have been told about you, but that you yourself also walk orderly, keeping the law. 25But concerning the Gentiles who have believed, we wrote a letter, with our judgment that they should keep themselves from things sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what is strangled, and from sexual immorality.” 26Then Paul took the men, and the next day, purifying himself along with them, went into the Temple, announcing the fulfillment of the days of purification, until the offering was offered for every one of them.

Paul Arrested in the Temple

27And when the seven days were almost completed, the Jews from *the province of* Asia, when they saw him in the Temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, 28crying out, “Men of Israel, help! This is the man who is teaching everyone everywhere against the People,[[76]](#footnote-13737) and the law, and this Place.[[77]](#footnote-12910) And in addition he even brought Greeks into the Temple, and has defiled this Holy Place” 29(for they had earlier seen him in the city with Trophimus the Ephesian, whom they assumed that Paul had brought into the Temple).

30And the whole city was moved, and the People ran together; and they took hold of Paul and dragged him out of the Temple and immediately the doors were shut. 31And as they were seeking to kill him, a report went up to the commander of the *Roman* cohort, that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. 32And immediately he took soldiers and centurions, and ran down to them, and they, when they saw the commander and the soldiers, stopped beating Paul. 33Then the commander came near and took hold of him and commanded him to be bound with two chains. And he began to inquire who he was and what he had done. 34And some among the crowd shouted one thing, some another. And when he was not able to learn the facts because of the uproar, he commanded him to be brought into the barracks. 35And when he came to the stairs, it came to pass that he was carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the crowd, 36for the multitude of the People followed after *them*, crying out, “Away with him.”

Paul Speaks to the People

37And as Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he said to the commander, “May I say something to you?” And he said, “Do you know Greek? 38Then you are not the Egyptian, who before these days stirred up a revolt and led out into the desert the 4,000 men of the Assassins?” 39But Paul said, “I am a Jew, of Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no insignificant city, and I implore you, allow me to speak to the People.” 40And having allowed it, Paul, standing on the stairs, motioned with his hand to the People, and when there was a great hush, he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, saying,

**Acts Chapter 22**

1“Men, brothers, and fathers, listen to my defense that I now *make* to you.” 2And when they heard that he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet, and he said, 3“I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, at the feet of Gamaliel, instructed according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God just as you all are this day. 4I persecuted *the followers of* the Way to the death, binding and delivering both men and women into prisons, 5as also the high priest and all the council of the elders can testify. I also received letters from them to our *Jewish* brothers, and traveled to Damascus to even bring those who were there as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

6“And it came to pass while traveling and drawing close to Damascus, about noon, suddenly a bright light from heaven shined around me. 7And I fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’ 8And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’ 9Those who were with me saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who spoke to me. 10And I said, ‘What should I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told about everything that has been appointed for you to do.’ 11And when I could not see because of the glory of that light, I came into Damascus being led by the hand of those who were with me.

12“And one Ananias, a *deeply* religious man according to the law, well reported of by all the Jews who lived there 13came to me and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And in that very hour I looked up at him. 14And he said, ‘The God of our fathers has appointed you to know his will, and to see the Righteous One, and to hear a voice from his mouth. 15For you will be a witness for him to all people of what you have seen and heard. 16And now what are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins by calling on his name.’

17“And it came to pass that when I had returned to Jerusalem, and while I prayed in the Temple, I fell into a state of suspended consciousness, 18and saw him saying to me, ‘Make haste and get quickly out of Jerusalem, because they will not receive your testimony concerning me.’ 19And I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you, 20and when the blood of Stephen your witness was shed, I also was standing by and fully approving, and keeping the outer garments of those who killed him.’ 21And he said to me, ‘Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’”

22And they were listening to him up to this statement, and *then* they lifted up their voice and said, “Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he should not have even been allowed to live this long!” 23And as they were crying out and throwing off their outer garments and throwing dust into the air, 24the commander ordered him to be brought into the barracks, saying that he should be examined by flogging, in order to know the reason why they were shouting against him that way. 25And when they stretched him out for the whips, Paul said to the centurion who stood by, “Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman *citizen*, and uncondemned?” 26And when the centurion heard it, he went to the commander and told him, saying, “What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman.” 27And the commander came and said to him, “Tell me, are you a Roman?” And he said, “Yes.” 28And the commander answered, “I acquired this citizenship with a great sum of money.” But Paul said, “But I am *Roman* born.” 29Then they who were about to examine him immediately departed from him, and the commander also was afraid when he knew that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him.

Paul Taken Before the Sanhedrin

30But on the next day, desiring to know for certain why he was accused by the Jews, he set him free and commanded the chief priests and all the Sanhedrin to come together. And he brought Paul down and set him before them.

**Acts Chapter 23**

1And Paul, looking steadfastly at the Sanhedrin, said, “Men, brothers, I have lived before God in all good conscience up to this day.” 2And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. 3Then Paul said to him, “God is about to strike you, you whitewashed wall, for you sit to judge me according to the law, and command me to be smitten contrary to the law?” 4And those who stood by said, “Do you *dare to* insult God’s high priest?” 5And Paul said, “I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written, You are not to speak evil of a ruler of your people.”[[78]](#footnote-24505)

6But when Paul perceived that one part was Sadducees and the other *part* Pharisees, he cried out in the Sanhedrin, “Men, brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. Concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.” 7And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. 8For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor an angel, nor a spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. 9And a great clamor arose, and some of the experts in the law of the Pharisees party stood up, and argued intensely, saying, “We find no evil in this man. And if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him….” 10And when there arose a great dissension, the commander, afraid that Paul would be torn in pieces by them, ordered the soldiers to go down and take him by force from among them, and bring him into the barracks.

11And that night the Lord stood by him and said, “Have courage! For as you have testified about me at Jerusalem, so you must testify at Rome also.”

The Jews Plot to Kill Paul

12And when it was day, the Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. 13And there were more than 40 *men* who made this conspiracy. 14And they came to the chief priests and the elders and said, “We have bound ourselves under a great curse, to taste nothing until we have killed Paul. 15Now therefore you, with the Sanhedrin, signify to the commander that he bring him down to you, as if you were going to determine the things about him more exactly, and we, before he comes near, are ready to kill him.” 16But Paul’s sister’s son heard of their ambush, and he went and entered the barracks and told Paul. 17And Paul called to him one of the centurions, and said, “Bring this young man to the commander, for he has something to tell him.” 18So he took him and brought him to the commander, and said, “Paul the prisoner called me to him, and asked me to bring this young man to you, who has something to say to you.” 19And the commander took him by the hand, and going aside, asked him privately, “What is it that you have to tell me?” 20And he said, “The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring down Paul tomorrow to the Sanhedrin, as if they were going to inquire somewhat more precisely about him. 21So do not be persuaded by them, for more than 40 men of them are lying in wait for him, who have bound themselves under a curse not to eat or to drink until they have killed him, and now they are ready, waiting for a commitment from you.” 22So the commander dismissed the young man, charging him, “Tell no one that you have informed me of this.”

The Letter to Governor Felix

23And he called to him two of the centurions, and said, “Get ready 200 soldiers to go to Caesarea, and 70 horsemen, and 200 spearmen, at the third hour of the night.”[[79]](#footnote-26689) 24And *he ordered them to* provide animals *to ride*, to put Paul on and bring him safely to Felix the governor. 25And he wrote a letter as follows: 26“Claudius Lysias to the most excellent governor Felix: Greeting. 27This man was seized by the Jews, and was about to be killed by them when I came upon them with the soldiers and rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman. 28And desiring to know the charge of which they were accusing him, I brought him down to their Sanhedrin. 29I found him to be accused about questions of their law, but to not have an accusation worthy of death or prison. 30And when it was shown to me that there was a plot against the man, I sent him to you immediately, ordering his accusers also to speak against him before you.”

Paul Moved to Caesarea

31So the soldiers, as it was commanded them, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris. 32But on the next day they allowed the horsemen to go on with him, *while* they returned to the barracks. 33When they had come to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they also presented Paul before him. 34And when he had read it, he asked what province he was from. And when he understood that he was of Cilicia, 35he said, “I will hear you fully when your accusers have also come,” and he commanded him to be kept in Herod’s praetorium.[[80]](#footnote-15535)

**Acts Chapter 24**

Paul Before Felix

1And after five days the high priest Ananias came down with certain elders, and *with* an orator, one Tertullus, and they brought charges to the governor against Paul. 2And when he was called, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying, “Seeing that by you we enjoy much peace, and that by your providence evils are corrected for this nation, 3we accept it in all ways and in all places, most excellent Felix, with all thankfulness. 4But, so that I will not delay you any further, I beg you in your *customary* graciousness to hear us briefly. 5For we have found this man *to be* a public enemy, and stirring up riots among all the Jews throughout the inhabited world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. 6Moreover, he tried to profane the Temple, but we seized him. [[And we would have judged him according to our law. 7But the commander, Lysias, came, and with great violence took him away out of our hands, 8commanding his accusers to come before you.]] From whom you will be able, by examining him yourself, to find out exactly about all these things of which we accuse him.” 9And the Jews also joined in the attack, affirming that these things were so.

10And when the governor had nodded to him to speak, Paul answered, “Forasmuch as I know that you have been a judge over this nation for many years, I cheerfully make my defense. 11You are able to verify that it is not more than 12 days since I went up to worship at Jerusalem, 12and they did not find me in the Temple disputing with any one, or stirring up a crowd, nor in the synagogues, nor in the city. 13Neither are they able to prove to you the things of which they now accuse me. 14But this I admit to you, that I serve the God of our fathers as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect, believing all the things that are in accordance with the Law and the things that are written in the Prophets, 15having a hope in God that these *men* also themselves look for: that there is about to be a resurrection of both the righteous and unrighteous. 16In view of this, I myself always strive to have a conscience *that is* without offense toward God and man.

17“Now after many years I came to bring charitable gifts to my nation, and offerings. 18While I was thus engaged, purified in the Temple, with no crowd, nor with an uproar, certain Jews from *the province of* Asia found me— 19who ought to have been here before you and to make an accusation, if they had anything against me. 20Or else let these men themselves say what wrongdoing they found when I stood before the Sanhedrin, 21except it be for this one outcry that I shouted standing among them, ‘Concerning the resurrection of the dead I am called in question before you this day.’”

22But Felix, having a more exact knowledge concerning the Way, adjourned the proceedings, saying, “When Lysias, the commander, comes down, I will decide your case.” 23And he gave orders to the centurion that he should be kept in custody, but given some freedom, and not to forbid any of his friends from attending to his needs.

24But after some days, Felix came with Drusilla, his wife, who was a Jewess, and sent for Paul, and heard him concerning trust in Christ[[81]](#footnote-13708) Jesus. 25And as he reasoned about righteousness, and self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened, and answered, “Go away for now, and when I find time I will call for you.” 26At the same time he hoped that money would be given to him by Paul, and therefore he sent for him quite often and conversed with him. 27But after two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, and desiring to gain favor with the Jews, Felix left Paul in bonds.

**Acts Chapter 25**

Paul Before Governor Festus

1Now Festus, having come into the province, on the third day went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea. 2And the chief priests and the principal men of the Jews brought to him *their* charges against Paul. And they urged him, 3asking as a favor against Paul, that he would send for him *and have him brought* to Jerusalem (because *they were* preparing an ambush to kill him on the way). 4But Festus answered that Paul was being kept in custody at Caesarea, and that he himself was about to go there shortly. 5“So,” he said, “let those who are the powerful *men* among you go down with me, and if there is anything wrong about the man, let them accuse him.”

6And when he had stayed with them not more than eight or ten days, he went down to Caesarea. And on the next day he sat on the judgment seat and commanded Paul to be brought. 7And when he came, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing against him many and serious charges that they could not prove. 8Paul kept saying in his defense, “Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the Temple, nor against Caesar, have I sinned at all.” 9But Festus, desiring to gain favor with the Jews, answered Paul and said, “Will you go up to Jerusalem, and be judged about these things before me there?” 10But Paul said, “I am standing before Caesar’s judgment seat, where I ought to be judged. To the Jews have I done no wrong, as you also very well know. 11If then I am a wrongdoer, and have committed anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die, but if none of those things is *true* of which these *men* accuse me, no one is able to give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar.” 12Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, “You have appealed to Caesar; to Caesar you will go.”

Paul Before Agrippa and Bernice

13Now when some days had passed, *Herod* Agrippa the king and Bernice arrived at Caesarea, and greeted Festus. 14And when they stayed there many days, Festus laid Paul’s case before the king, saying, “There is a certain man left a prisoner by Felix, 15about whom, when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews brought charges, asking for sentence against him. 16I answered them that it is not the custom of the Romans to give up anyone before the accused meet the accusers face to face, and have had an opportunity to make his defense concerning the matter laid against him. 17Therefore, when they were come together here, I made no delay, but on the next day sat on the judgment seat and commanded the man to be brought. 18Concerning whom, when the accusers stood up, they brought no charge of such evil things as I supposed, 19but had certain questions against him about their own religion, and about one who had died, Jesus, whom Paul affirmed to be alive. 20And I, being perplexed how to inquire concerning these things, asked if he would go to Jerusalem and there be judged concerning these matters. 21But when Paul appealed to be held in custody for the decision of the emperor, I commanded him to be held until I could send him to Caesar.” 22And Agrippa *said* to Festus, “I would also like to hear the man myself.” “Tomorrow,” he said, “you will hear him.”

23So on the next day, when Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp and had entered the audience hall, along with the military commanders and principal men of the city, at the command of Festus, Paul was brought in. 24And Festus said, “King Agrippa, and all who are here present with us, you see this man, about whom the whole Jewish community petitioned me, both at Jerusalem and here, crying out that he ought not to live any longer. 25But I found that he had committed nothing worthy of death. And as he himself appealed to the emperor I determined to send him. 26Yet I have no certain thing to write to my lord about him. Therefore, I have brought him before you all, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after the examination, I will have something to write. 27For it seems to me unreasonable, in sending a prisoner, not also to clearly indicate the charges against him.”

**Acts Chapter 26**

Paul’s Defense Before Agrippa

1And Agrippa said to Paul, “You are permitted to speak for yourself.” Then Paul stretched out his hand, and made his defense: 2“I consider myself blessed, King Agrippa, that I am to make my defense before you this day concerning all the things of which I am accused by the Jews, 3especially because you are an expert in all customs and questions of the Jews. Therefore I implore you to hear me patiently.

4“All the Jews know my manner of life from my youth up, which was from the beginning among my own nation and at Jerusalem. 5They have known about me from the beginning, if they are willing to testify, that after the strictest sect of our religion I lived *as* a Pharisee. 6And now I stand *here* to be judged for the hope *that is based on* the promise made by God to our fathers, 7to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, earnestly serving *God* night and day. And concerning this hope I am accused by the Jews, O king! 8Why is it thought unbelievable by *any of* you that God raises the dead?

9“Indeed, I myself considered that it was necessary to do many hostile things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10And I did this in Jerusalem, and having received authority from the chief priests I both locked up many of the holy ones in prisons and when they were put to death I gave my vote against them. 11And many times, in all the synagogues, by punishing them I tried to force them to blaspheme *the Lord*, and being extremely furious with them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

12“On one such occasion, I was traveling to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, 13*when* at midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, greater than the brightness of the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. 14And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard on you to be kicking against the goads.’ 15And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 16But get up and stand on your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose—to appoint you a minister and a witness both of the things that you have seen, and of the things about which I will appear to you. 17I will deliver you from the People,[[82]](#footnote-13486) and from the Gentiles to whom I send you, 18to open their eyes, so that they turn from darkness to light and from the power of the Adversary[[83]](#footnote-24770) to God, so that they receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are made holy by *their* trust in me.’

19“For this reason, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, 20but declared both to those in Damascus first, and also in Jerusalem, and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works *that are* consistent with repentance. 21For this reason the Jews seized me in the Temple and tried to kill me. 22So to this day, having obtained help from God, I stand testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would happen, 23that the Christ[[84]](#footnote-22321) must suffer *and* that by being first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to the People and to the Gentiles.”

24And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, “Paul, you are raving mad, your much learning is turning you to raving madness.” 25But Paul said, “I am not raving mad, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words. 26For the king knows of these things, to whom also I speak freely, for I am persuaded that none of these things is hidden from him, for this has not been done in a corner. 27King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe.” 28And Agrippa *said* to Paul, “You are *trying* to persuade me to become a Christian very quickly.” 29And Paul *said*, “I pray to God that whether in a short or a long *time*, not only you but also all who hear me this day would become the same as I am, except for these bonds.”

30And the king got up, and the governor, and Bernice, and those who sat with them, 31and when they had withdrawn, they spoke one to another, saying, “This man is doing nothing worthy of death or prison.” 32And Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

**Acts Chapter 27**

1And when it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they handed Paul and some other prisoners over to a centurion named Julius, of the Augustan Cohort.

Sailing to Rome

2And embarking in a ship of Adramyttium, which was about to sail to the places on the coast of *the province of* Asia, we put to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, was with us. 3And the next day we put in at Sidon, and Julius treated Paul kindly and allowed him to go to his friends and receive care. 4And putting to sea from there, we sailed under the lee of Cyprus, because the winds were against us. 5And when we had sailed across the sea that is off Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra, *a city* of Lycia.

6And there the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing for Italy, and he put us aboard. 7And when we had sailed slowly many days, and with difficulty had arrived at Cnidus, *and* as the wind was not allowing us *to go* further, we sailed under the lee of Crete, opposite Salmone. 8And sailing along the coast with difficulty, we came to a certain place called Fair Havens, which was near the city of Lasea.

9And when much time had passed, and the voyage was now dangerous because even the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, 10and said to them, “Men, I perceive that the voyage will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives.” 11But the centurion was more persuaded by the captain and by the owner of the ship, than by those things that were spoken by Paul. 12And because the harbor was not suitable to winter in, the greater part advised to put to sea from there, if by any means they were able to reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete looking northeast and southeast, and winter *there*.

The Storm at Sea

13And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, they weighed anchor and sailed along Crete, close to the shore. 14But after not much time a violent wind, called a “northeaster,” rushed down from it, 15and when the ship was caught, and was not able to face the wind, we gave way *to it,* and were driven. 16And running under the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were able, with difficulty, to secure the *ship’s* boat. 17And after they had hoisted that up, they used supporting *ropes* to undergird the ship, and fearing that they would run aground on the *sandbars of the* Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor, and in this manner were driven along. 18And because we were being violently tossed by the storm, the next day they began to throw *the freight* overboard, 19and the third day they threw out the tackle of the ship with their own hands. 20And when neither sun nor stars had shone on *us* for many days, and no small tempest lay on *us,* all hope that we would be saved was being taken away.

21And when they had been a long time without food, Paul stood up in the midst of them and said, “Men, you should have listened to me and not set sail from Crete. You would have avoided this damage and loss. 22And now I exhort you to keep up your courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but *only* of the ship. 23For an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood by me this night 24saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul, you must stand before Caesar. And look, God has graciously given to you all those who sail with you.’ 25Therefore, men, keep up your courage, for I believe God that it will be exactly as I have been told. 26But we must run aground on some island.”

27But when the fourteenth night had come, as we were drifting across the Adriatic *Sea*, about midnight the sailors surmised that they were drawing near to some land. 28And they took soundings, and found *it to be* 20 fathoms. And having sailed a little *further*, they sounded again and found *it to be* 15 fathoms. 29And being afraid that we might run aground on a rocky place, they threw four anchors from the stern and prayed for the day. 30And as the sailors were seeking to flee out of the ship, and had lowered the boat into the sea, pretending as if they intended to lay out anchors from the bow, 31Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, “Unless these *men* stay in the ship, you are not able to be saved.” 32Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the boat, and let her fall off.

33And as the day was about to dawn, Paul urged them all to take some food, saying, “Today is the fourteenth day that you have been *anxiously* waiting and have continued without food, having taken nothing. 34Therefore I urge you to take some food, for this is for your safety. For not one of you will lose a hair from your head.” 35And when he had said this and had taken bread, he gave thanks to God in the presence of *them* all. And he broke it and began to eat. 36Then they were all encouraged and took food themselves. 37(And we were, in all, 276 souls in the ship). 38And when they had eaten enough, they made the ship lighter by throwing the grain into the sea.

The Shipwreck

39And when it was day, they did not recognize the land, but they noticed a certain bay with a beach, and they planned to drive the ship onto it if they could. 40And casting off the anchors, they left them in the sea, at the same time loosing the ropes that tied the rudders and hoisting up the foresail to the wind, they headed toward the beach. 41But having struck a place where the two seas meet, they ran the vessel aground, and the bow stuck and remained unmovable, but the stern began to break up by the force *of the waves*. 42And the soldiers’ plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any *of them* should swim out and escape. 43But the centurion, wanting to save Paul, stopped them from their plan, and commanded that those who were able to swim should throw themselves overboard first, and get to the land, 44and the rest *should follow*, some on planks, and some on *other* things from the ship. And so it came to pass that they all got safely to the land.

**Acts Chapter 28**

Ashore on Malta

1And when they had been brought safely through, then we learned that the island was called Malta. 2And the native people showed us no ordinary kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all because it had started to rain and because of the cold. 3But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand. 4And when the natives saw the *venomous* creature hanging from his hand, they said one to another, “No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped from the sea, Justice *herself* has not allowed him to live.”

5But he shook off the beast into the fire, and suffered no harm. 6They were expecting him to swell or suddenly fall down dead, but when they waited a long time and saw nothing unusual happening to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god.

7Now in the area around that place were lands belonging to the leading man of the island, named Publius, who received us, and for three days treated us kindly as his guests.

8And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went to him and after praying laid hands on him *and* healed him. 9And after this had happened, the rest *of the people* on the island who also had diseases came and were healed. 10They also honored us with many honors; and when we sailed, they put on *the ship* the things we needed.

Onward to Rome

11And after three months we set sail in a ship of Alexandria that had wintered at the island, whose figurehead was the Twin Sons of Zeus. 12And having put in at Syracuse, we stayed there three days. 13And from there we sailed along *the coast*, and arrived at Rhegium. And after one day a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli, 14where we found *some* brothers and sisters and were entreated to stay with them seven days. And so we came to Rome. 15And from there the brothers and sisters, when they heard about us, came to meet us as far as The Market of Appius and the Three Taverns, whom when Paul saw, he thanked God and took courage.

House Arrest in Rome

16And when we entered Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself with the soldier that guarded him. 17And it came to pass, that after three days he called together those who were the leading men of the Jews. And when they had gathered, he said to them, “Men *and* brothers, though I had done nothing against the People[[85]](#footnote-27474) or the customs of our fathers, I was delivered *as* a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans, 18who, when they had examined me, desired to set me free because there was no reason for death in me. 19But when the Jews spoke against it, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar—though I did not have any charge to bring against my nation. 20So for this reason I asked to see you and to speak with you, because I am bound with this chain for the sake of the hope of Israel .”

21And they said to him, “We neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor has any of the brothers coming here reported or spoken any evil about you. 22But we consider it suitable to hear from you what you think, for concerning this sect, it is known to us that it is spoken against everywhere.”

23And when they had appointed a day for him, they came to him in great numbers to where he was staying. From morning until evening he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the Kingdom of God and trying to persuade them about Jesus, both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. 24And some were being persuaded by the things that were spoken, but others did not believe. 25And as they began to leave, not being in agreement with one another, Paul made one *final* statement: “The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers, 26when he said, Go to this people and say, ‘By hearing you will hear, yet absolutely not understand, and seeing you will see, yet absolutely not perceive.’ 27For the heart of this people has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and they have closed their eyes, otherwise they would perceive with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn *to God*, and I would heal them.[[86]](#footnote-19920) 28Therefore, let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen.” 29[[And when he had said these words, the Jews departed, and had great reasoning among themselves.]]

30And he stayed two whole years in his own rented house and welcomed everyone who came to him, 31preaching the Kingdom of God and teaching the things about the Lord Jesus Christ[[87]](#footnote-24577) with all boldness and without hindrance.

1. From Ps. 69:25 [↑](#footnote-ref-14986)
2. From Ps. 109:8 [↑](#footnote-ref-11249)
3. About 9:00 a.m. [↑](#footnote-ref-29761)
4. From Joel 2:28-32 [↑](#footnote-ref-16122)
5. From Ps. 16:8-11 [↑](#footnote-ref-16293)
6. From Ps. 132:11 [↑](#footnote-ref-20670)
7. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-21336)
8. From Ps. 16:10 [↑](#footnote-ref-23228)
9. From Ps. 110:1 [↑](#footnote-ref-24952)
10. About 3 p.m. [↑](#footnote-ref-24673)
11. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-19500)
12. From Deut. 18:15, 18-19 [↑](#footnote-ref-25190)
13. The nation of Israel was referred to as “the People.” [↑](#footnote-ref-16767)
14. From Gen. 22:18; 26:4 [↑](#footnote-ref-30171)
15. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-29635)
16. From Ps. 118:22 [↑](#footnote-ref-30642)
17. The nation of Israel was called “the People,” so it is appropriate to capitalize it when it refers to Israel. [↑](#footnote-ref-14440)
18. From Ps. 2:1-2 [↑](#footnote-ref-14925)
19. “Adversary” is the translation of the Greek *satanas*. [↑](#footnote-ref-14166)
20. The nation of Israel was referred to as “the People.” [↑](#footnote-ref-21350)
21. “The Name” refers to Jesus. [↑](#footnote-ref-26763)
22. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-26651)
23. “Faith” refers to the Christian Faith. [↑](#footnote-ref-23624)
24. From Gen. 12:1 [↑](#footnote-ref-16389)
25. From Gen. 17:7-8 [↑](#footnote-ref-10590)
26. From Gen. 15:13-14 [↑](#footnote-ref-18894)
27. The nation of Israel was called “the People,” so it is appropriate to capitalize it when it refers to Israel. [↑](#footnote-ref-30262)
28. From Exod. 2:14 [↑](#footnote-ref-11072)
29. From Exod. 3:6 [↑](#footnote-ref-22018)
30. From Exod. 3:5, 7-8, 10 [↑](#footnote-ref-17857)
31. From Deut. 18:15 [↑](#footnote-ref-15183)
32. From Exod. 32:1 [↑](#footnote-ref-13572)
33. From Amos 5:25-27 [↑](#footnote-ref-20947)
34. From Isa. 66:1-2 [↑](#footnote-ref-14041)
35. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-18998)
36. From Isa. 53:7-8 [↑](#footnote-ref-21269)
37. Lit. “went up” [↑](#footnote-ref-17421)
38. “The Way” was one of the first names of the Christian Faith, and it is used six times in Acts. [↑](#footnote-ref-22947)
39. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-10405)
40. Greek is *chitōn*, a long garment worn next to the skin usually under outer clothing. [↑](#footnote-ref-24256)
41. The nation of Israel was called “the People,” so it is appropriate to capitalize it when it refers to Israel. [↑](#footnote-ref-21639)
42. About 3 p.m. [↑](#footnote-ref-11162)
43. About 12 p.m. [↑](#footnote-ref-24980)
44. About 3 p.m. [↑](#footnote-ref-14644)
45. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-22543)
46. “Devil” is a transliteration of the Greek word, *diabolos*, which literally means “Slanderer.” [↑](#footnote-ref-15373)
47. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-12036)
48. The nation of Israel was called “the People.” [↑](#footnote-ref-26759)
49. “Devil” is a transliteration of the Greek word, *diabolos*, which literally means “Slanderer.” [↑](#footnote-ref-10351)
50. The nation of Israel was called “the People,” so it is appropriate to capitalize it when it refers to Israel. [↑](#footnote-ref-19630)
51. From Isa. 44:28; 1 Sam. 13:14; Ps. 89:20 [↑](#footnote-ref-15204)
52. The “Fathers” are the founders of Israel. Abraham, Isaac, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-24389)
53. From Ps. 2:7 [↑](#footnote-ref-18697)
54. From Isa. 55:3 [↑](#footnote-ref-15565)
55. From Ps. 16:10 [↑](#footnote-ref-21917)
56. From Hab. 1:5 [↑](#footnote-ref-21263)
57. From Isa. 49:6 [↑](#footnote-ref-11528)
58. The Hebrew form of Simon, Peter’s old Jewish name. [↑](#footnote-ref-12937)
59. From Amos 9:11-12 [↑](#footnote-ref-10391)
60. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-25111)
61. “We.” Acts changes pronouns from “he,” “him,” and “they” to “we” and “us,” because Luke (who penned Acts) joins Paul. The three “we” sections are Acts 16:10-17; 20:5-21:18; Acts 27:1-28:16. [↑](#footnote-ref-32480)
62. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-22082)
63. Lit. “lords” [↑](#footnote-ref-28584)
64. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-15658)
65. Lit. “agora,” the center of civil, religious, and business activity in a city. [↑](#footnote-ref-24491)
66. Lit. “agora” [↑](#footnote-ref-11314)
67. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-13666)
68. Gallio served July 51-June 52 AD. [↑](#footnote-ref-25580)
69. “Aquila and Priscilla” are added for clarity. [↑](#footnote-ref-29513)
70. Lit. “glowing hot in spirit” [↑](#footnote-ref-27514)
71. Around six million dollars. This indicates there was a very large number of Christians in the area. [↑](#footnote-ref-20691)
72. Paul most likely wrote 1 Cor. from Ephesus near the end of this three-year stay there. [↑](#footnote-ref-19094)
73. The Asiarchs were members of the wealthy class from different cities in the province and were delegates to a provincial council. [↑](#footnote-ref-25377)
74. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-28292)
75. Or “counsel” [↑](#footnote-ref-30372)
76. The nation of Israel was called “the People,” so it is appropriate to capitalize it when it refers to Israel. [↑](#footnote-ref-13737)
77. The Temple was also called the “Place.” [↑](#footnote-ref-12910)
78. From Exod. 22:28 [↑](#footnote-ref-24505)
79. The night was divided into watches that started at 6 p.m. The third hour of the night was 9 p.m. [↑](#footnote-ref-26689)
80. The praetorium was the residence or headquarters of the Roman governor. [↑](#footnote-ref-15535)
81. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-13708)
82. The nation of Israel was called “the People,” so it is appropriate to capitalize it when it refers to Israel. [↑](#footnote-ref-13486)
83. “Adversary” is the translation of the Greek *satanas*. [↑](#footnote-ref-24770)
84. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-22321)
85. The nation of Israel was called “the People,” so it is appropriate to capitalize it when it refers to Israel. [↑](#footnote-ref-27474)
86. From Isa. 6:9-10 [↑](#footnote-ref-19920)
87. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-24577)