

# **The Acts of the Apostles**



## **Volume 2: Chapters 13-28** **A Self Study Guide**

by: Brent Kercheville

13:1 Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

3 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

5 When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them.

6 When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-jesus.

7 He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God.

8 But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

9 But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him

10 and said, "You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?"

11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time." Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand.

12 Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

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

14 but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down.

15 After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it."

16 So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said: "Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen.

17 The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it.

18 And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness.

19 And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance.

20 All this took about 450 years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet.

21 Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years.

13:1 And in Antioch some among the existing assembly were prophets and teachers: both Barnabas and Simeon, the one being called Niger, and Lucius the Cyrenian, and Manaen, brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

2 And they doing service to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Now separate both Barnabas and Saul to Me, for the work to which I have called them.

3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and placing hands on them, they let them go.

4 Then these indeed sent out by the Holy Spirit went down to Seleucia, and from there sailed away to Cyprus.

5 And coming unto Salamis, they preached the Word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they also had John as a helper.

6 And passing through the island as far as Paphos, they found a certain magician, a false prophet, a Jew named Bar-jesus,

7 who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This one calling Barnabas and Saul to him, he sought to hear the Word of God.

8 But Elymas, the magician, withstood them (for so his name is translated) seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

9 But Saul, the one also is Paul, being filled with the Holy Spirit, and looking intently on him,

10 said, O son of the devil, full of all deceit and of all villainy, hostile to all righteousness, will you not stop perverting the right ways of the Lord?

11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is on you, and you will be blind, not seeing the sun until a time. And instantly a mist and darkness fell on him, and going about he sought some to lead him by the hand.

12 Then the proconsul seeing the thing happening, he believed, being astounded at the doctrine of the Lord.

13 And setting sail from Paphos with those around him, Paul came to Perga of Pamphylia. But John departing from them, returned to Jerusalem.

14 But going through from Perga, they came to Antioch-Pisidia, and going into the synagogue on the day of the sabbaths, they sat down.

15 And after the reading of the Law, and of the Prophets, the synagogue rulers sent to them, saying, Men, brothers, if there is a word of exhortation to the people, speak.

16 And rising up, and signaling with his hand, Paul said, Men, Israelites, and the ones fearing God, hear.

17 The God of this people Israel chose out our fathers, and lifted up the people in the sojourn in the land of Egypt. And with a high arm, He led them out of it.

18 And for about forty years time, He endured them in the wilderness.

19 And He pulled down seven nations in Canaan land, and gave their land to them as an inheritance.

20 And after these things, about four hundred and fifty years, He gave judges until Samuel the prophet.

21 And from there they asked for a king. And God gave Saul the son of Kish to them, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years.

**BEFORE YOU BEGIN:** You are going to read about a number of cities that Paul travels into to preach the gospel. Please take the time to research the inhabitants, population, culture, and location of each city to have a better understanding of the challenges Paul faces. Use Bible reference books and commentaries to do this research ([www.studylight.org](http://www.studylight.org); [www.crosswalk.com](http://www.crosswalk.com))

13:1-12 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Other key themes:

1. What do we learn about what was happening in the first century from the first 4 verses of chapter 13?

2. Who accompanied Barnabas and Saul on this journey?

3. Where are Barnabas and Saul preaching?

4. What is the conflict at Paphos?

13:13-43 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Other key themes:

5. What is the next city that Barnabas and Saul stop in?

6. What interesting points do you learn from Paul's account of Israel's history?

22 And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.'

23 Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised.

24 Before his coming, John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

25 And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.'

26 "Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation.

27 For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him.

28 And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed.

29 And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb.

30 But God raised him from the dead,

31 and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people.

32 And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers,

33 this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you.'

34 And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way, "I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.'

35 Therefore he says also in another psalm, "You will not let your Holy One see corruption.'

36 For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption,

37 but he whom God raised up did not see corruption.

38 Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,

39 and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

40 Beware, therefore, lest what is said in the Prophets should come about:

41 "Look, you scoffers, be astounded and perish; for I am doing a work in your days, a work that you will not believe, even if one tells it to you."

42 As they went out, the people begged that these things might be told them the next Sabbath.

43 And after the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who, as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in the grace of God.

22 And removing him, He raised up to them David for a king, to whom He also said, witnessing, I found David the son of Jesse "to be a man according to My own heart," who will do all My will.

23 From the seed of this one, according to promise, God raised up to Israel a Savior, Jesus;

24 John going before to proclaim before the face of His entrance a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

25 And as John fulfilled the course, he said, Whom do you suppose me to be? Not I AM, but, behold, "He comes after me, One of whom I am not worthy to loose the sandal of His feet."

26 Men, brothers, sons of the race of Abraham, and the ones among you fearing God, to you the Word of this salvation was sent.

27 For the ones dwelling in Jerusalem, and their rulers, not knowing this One, and the voices of the prophets, the ones being read according to every sabbath, condemning Him, they fulfilled the Scriptures.

28 And finding no cause of death, they asked Pilate to kill Him.

29 And when they finished all the things having been written concerning Him, taking Him down from the tree, they laid Him in a tomb.

30 But God raised Him from the dead;

31 who appeared for many days to the ones coming up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are witnesses of Him to the people.

32 And we preach the gospel to you, the promise to the fathers having come into being,

33 that this God has fulfilled to us, their children, raising up Jesus; as also it is written in the second Psalm, "You are My Son, today I have begotten You."

34 And that He raised Him from the dead, no more being about to return to corruption, therefore He has said, "I will give You" "the faithful and holy things of David."

35 Therefore He also said in another, "You will not give Your Holy One to see corruption."

36 For having served his own generation by the purpose of God, David truly fell asleep and was added to his fathers and saw corruption.

37 But He whom God raised up, He did not see corruption.

38 Therefore let it be known to you, men, brothers, that through this One is proclaimed to you remission of sins.

39 And from all the things from which you could not be justified in the Law of Moses, in this One every one believing is justified.

40 Therefore watch that the things spoken in the Prophets may not come on you:

41 "Behold, the despisers," "and marvel," "and perish, because I work a work in your days," a work which you will "not believe, not even if someone fully declares it to you," not one.

42 But the Jews going out of the synagogue, the nations begged that these words be spoken to them unto the next sabbath.

43 And the synagogue being broken up, many of the Jews and of the devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who speaking to them persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

7. Find the following quotations in the scriptures. Explain the quotation in its original context and also explain how Paul applies the quotation.

“You are My Son, today I have begotten You.”

“I will give You the holy and sure blessings of David”

“You will not let Your Holy One see corruption”

“Look, you scoffers, be astounded and perish; for I am doing a work in your days, a work that you will not believe, even if one tells it to you.”

8. What is the reaction of the Jewish audience?

9. What is the reaction of the Gentile audience?

44 The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.

45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him.

46 And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.

47 For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."

48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

49 And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region.

50 But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.

51 But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium.

52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

#### ESV

14:1 Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed.

2 But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers.

3 So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

4 But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles.

5 When an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them,

6 they learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country,

7 and there they continued to preach the gospel.

8 Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked.

9 He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well,

10 said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he sprang up and began walking.

11 And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!"

12 Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.

13 And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds.

14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying

44 But on the coming sabbath, almost all the city was gathered to hear the Word of God.

45 And the Jews seeing the crowds, they were filled with jealousy, and contradicted the things being spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

46 But speaking boldly, Paul and Barnabas said, It was necessary for the Word of God to be spoken first to you; but since you indeed thrust it away and judge yourselves not worthy of eternal life, behold, we turn to the nations.

47 For so the Lord has commanded us, "I have set You for a Light of nations, that You be for salvation to the end of the earth."

48 And hearing, the nations rejoiced and glorified the Word of the Lord. And as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

49 And the Word of the Lord was borne through all the country.

50 But the Jews incited the devout and honorable women, and the first ones of the city, and raised up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and threw them out from their borders.

51 But these shaking off the dust of their feet on them, they came into Iconium.

52 And the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

#### KJ3

14:1 And it happened in Iconium, according to the same they entered into the synagogue of the Jews, and spoke thus, so that a large multitude of both Jews and Greeks came to believe.

2 But the unbelieving Jews excited and embittered the souls of the nations against the brothers.

3 Therefore, they stayed a considerable time, speaking boldly on the Lord, witnessing to the Word of His grace, and He giving miraculous signs and wonders to occur through their hands.

4 But the multitude of the city was divided; and the ones were with the Jews, but the other ones with the apostles.

5 And when a rush of the nations occurred, and both the Jews with their rulers came to treat shamefully and to stone them,

6 perceiving it all, they fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra and Derbe, and the region around.

7 And there they were preaching the gospel.

8 And a certain man was sitting in Lystra, powerless in the feet, being lame from his mother's womb, who had never walked.

9 This one heard Paul speaking, who, looking intently at him, and seeing that he had faith to be cured,

10 he said with a great voice, Stand up erect on your feet! And he leaped up and walked about.

11 And seeing what Paul did, the crowd lifted up their voice in Lycaonian, saying, The gods have come down to us, becominglike men.

12 And they called Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the one leading in the word.

13 And the priest of Zeus being before their city, bringing bulls and garlands to the gates, he wished to sacrifice along with the crowds.

14 But Paul and Barnabas, the apostles, hearing, tearing their



13:44-52 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Other key themes:

10. What was the turn out for Paul and Barnabas on the next Sabbath? Why did things go badly?

11. What is Paul's response to the Jews' reviling? Explain the quotation from the scriptures Paul uses. Be sure to check its meaning in the original context.

## **ACTS**

## **14**

14:1-28 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Other key themes:

1. What happens in Iconium?

2. While in Iconium, what is the reaction of the Jews? What is the reaction of the Gentiles?

3. What happens in Lystra?

4. What do you find interesting about what transpires in Lystra?

out,

15 “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

16 In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways.

17 Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.”

18 Even with these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them.

19 But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead.

20 But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe.

21 When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch,

22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

23 And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

24 Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia.

25 And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia,

26 and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled.

27 And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

28 And they remained no little time with the disciples.

#### ESV

15:1 But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”

2 And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.

3 So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers.

4 When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them.

5 But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.”

6 The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter.

garments, they leaped out into the crowd, crying out,

15 and saying, Men, why do you do these things? We also are men of like feelings to you, preaching the gospel to you to turn you from these vain things to the living God, who “made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all the things in them,”

16 who in the generations having passed allowed all the nations to go in their own ways.

17 And yet He did not leave Himself without witness, doing good, giving rain and fruitful seasons to us from heaven, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

18 And saying these things, they hardly settled down the crowds, that they not sacrifice to them.

19 But Jews came there from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, and having stoned Paul, they dragged him outside the city, supposing him to have died.

20 But the disciples surrounding him, arising he entered into the city. And on the next day he went out with Barnabas to Derbe.

21 And having preached the gospel to that city, and having made considerable disciples, they returned to Lystra and Iconium and Antioch,

22 confirming the souls of the disciples, exhorting to continue in the faith, and that through many afflictions we must enter into the kingdom of God.

23 And having hand-picked elders for them in every assembly, having prayed with fastings, they committed them to the Lord into whom they had believed.

24 And passing through Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia.

25 And speaking the Word in Perga, they came down to Attalia,

26 and from there they sailed away to Antioch, from where they were being given over to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled.

27 And arriving, and gathering the assembly, they reported as many things God did with them and that He opened a door of faith to the nations.

28 And they remained there not a little time with the disciples.

#### KJ3

15:1 And some, coming down from Judea, were teaching the brothers, saying, If you are not circumcised in the custom of Moses, you are not able to be saved.

2 Therefore strife and not a little discussion with them occurring by Paul and Barnabas, they appointed Paul and Barnabas and some others of them to go up into Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this question.

3 Therefore, indeed, being sent forward by the assembly they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, relating in detail the conversion of the nations. And they caused great joy among all the brothers.

4 And arriving into Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the assembly and the apostles and the elders. And they reported as many things as God did with them.

5 But some of the ones rose up from the sect of the Pharisees, having believed, saying, It is necessary to circumcise them and to command them to keep the Law of Moses.

6 And the apostles and the elders were assembled to see about this matter.



5. What happens to Paul in Lystra? Why did this happen?

6. What was the reaction in Derbe?

7. Are you surprised at the cities Paul and Barnabas visit after Derbe? Why or why not?

8. What did Paul preach in Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch on their return trip? Why? What else was done in these cities by Paul and Barnabas?

## **ACTS**

**15**

15:1-21 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Other key themes:

1. What exactly is the problem or issue that is brought up? Who are the people who bring up this issue?

2. What is the purpose of the gathering in Jerusalem? Is this a pattern we are to repeat today?

7 And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.

8 And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us,

9 and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.

10 Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?

11 But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

12 And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

13 After they finished speaking, James replied, "Brothers, listen to me.

14 Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name.

15 And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written,

16 "After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it,

17 that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who makes these things

18 known from of old."

19 Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God,

20 but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood.

21 For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues."

22 Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers,

23 with the following letter: "The brothers, both the apostles and the elders, to the brothers who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings.

24 Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions,

25 it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

26 men who have risked their lives for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

27 We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth.

28 For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements:

29 that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from

7 And much discussion having occurred, rising up Peter said to them: Men, brothers, you recognize that from ancient days, God chose among us that through my mouth the nations should hear the Word of the gospel, and to believe.

8 And God, the knower of hearts, testified to them, giving them the Holy Spirit, even as also to us.

9 And He distinguished in nothing between both us and them, having purified their hearts by faith.

10 Now, therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we had strength to bear?

11 But through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, we believe to be saved, according to which manner those also believed.

12 And all the multitude was silent and were hearing Barnabas and Paul recounting as many things as God did through them among the nations, even the miraculous signs and wonders.

13 And after they were silent, James answered, saying, Men, brothers, hear me:

14 Simon recounted how even as at first God oversaw to take a people out from among the nations for His name.

15 And with this agree the words of the prophets, as it is written,

16 After these things "I" will return and "will build again the tabernacle of David, the one having fallen," "and I will build again the things" being destroyed of it, and I will set it up,

17 so that the remaining ones of men may seek the Lord, "even all the nations on whom My name has been called, says the Lord, the One doing all these things."

18 Known to God from eternity are all His works,

19 For this reason I judge not to cause trouble to the ones from the nations turning to God,

20 but to write to them to hold back from the pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from the strangled thing, and blood.

21 For in according to a city from ancient generations Moses has the ones proclaiming him, being read in the synagogues according to every sabbath.

22 Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with all the assembly, to send men being chosen from them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, Judas, the one being called Barsabas, and Silas, men leading among the the brothers,

23 writing by their hand these things: The apostles and the elders and the brothers, to the brothers throughout Antioch, and Syria, and Cilicia, the ones from the nations: Greeting.

24 Since we heard that some of us going out have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, Be circumcised and keep the Law, to whom we gave no command;

25 it seemed good to us, having become of one mind, to send men being chosen out to you along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

26 men who have given over their souls on behalf of the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

27 Therefore, we have sent Judas and Silas, they by word also announcing the same things.

28 For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to put on you no more burden except these necessary things:

29 To hold back from idol sacrifices, and from blood, and

3. Read Galatians 2:11-21. Paul describes this scene in Jerusalem to the Galatians. What was going on? Explain what Paul had to do there.
4. Explain Peter's argument and how it relates to the issue being discussed in Jerusalem:
5. Explain Paul and Barnabas' argument and how it relates to the issue being discussed in Jerusalem:
7. Explain James' argument and how it relates to the issue being discussed in Jerusalem:
8. What scripture does James quote? Examine the meaning of this quotation in its original context:

15:22-35 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other key themes:

9. What conclusion do they come to at Jerusalem?

sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.”

30 So when they were sent off, they went down to Antioch, and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter.

31 And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement.

32 And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words.

33 And after they had spent some time, they were sent off in peace by the brothers to those who had sent them.

35 But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

36 And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.”

37 Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark.

38 But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work.

39 And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus,

40 but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.

41 And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

from the strangled thing, and from fornication; from which carefully keeping yourselves, you will do well. Farewell.

30 Then they indeed being let go, they came to Antioch. And having assembled the multitude, they delivered the letter.

31 And reading it, they rejoiced at the comfort.

32 And Judas and Silas, themselves also being prophets, exhorted the brothers through much speech, and confirmed them.

33 And having made time, they were let go with peace from the brothers to the apostles.

34 But it seemed good to Silas to remain there.

35 And Paul and Barnabas spent time in Antioch, teaching and preaching the gospel, the Word of the Lord, with many others also.

36 And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, Indeed, Returning, let us look after our brothers throughout every city in which we proclaimed the Word of the Lord, how they have fared.

37 But Barnabas purposed to take John with them, the one being called Mark.

38 But Paul thought it fitting, he having withdrawn from them from Pamphylia, and not going with them to the work, not to take this one with them.

39 Therefore sharp contention happened, so as to be separated them from each other. And taking Mark, Barnabas sailed away to Cyprus.

40 But choosing Silas, Paul went out, being given over to the grace of God by the brothers,

41 and he went through Syria and Cilicia, making the assemblies strong.

#### ESV

16:1 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek.

2 He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium.

3 Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

4 As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem.

5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

6 And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.

7 And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.

8 So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas.

9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”

10 And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

#### KJ3

1 And he arrived in Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple by name Timothy was there, the son of a certain believing Jewish woman, but his father was a Greek.

2 who was testified to by the brothers in Lystra and Iconium.

3 Paul desired this one to go forth with him, and taking him he circumcised him, because of the Jews being in those places. For they all knew his father, that he was a Greek.

4 And as they went through the cities, they gave over to them to keep the decrees, the ones having been decided by the apostles and the elders in Jerusalem.

5 Therefore, indeed, the assemblies were being made stronger in the faith, and increased in number according to a day.

6 And passing through Phrygia and the Galatian region, being forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the Word in Asia,

7 coming against Mysia, they attempted to go alongside Bithynia, and the Spirit did not allow them.

8 And passing by Mysia, they came down into Troas.

9 And a vision appeared to Paul during the night: a certain man of Macedonia was standing, entreating him and saying, Passing over into Macedonia, help us!

10 And when he saw the vision, we immediately sought to go forth into Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

15:36-41 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Other key themes:

10. Explain the problem that arises:

11. What is the solution for Paul and Barnabas?

12. What lessons do we learn from this incident?

## **ACTS**

**16**

16:1-10 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Other key themes:

1. Why does Paul have Timothy circumcised?

2. What does the Holy Spirit do in Paul's travels?

3. There is a change in the pronouns in the narrative. Look carefully for when the "they" turned into "we." Who are the "we?"

11 So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis,  
12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days.  
13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.  
14 One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.  
15 And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.  
16 As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling.  
17 She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation."  
18 And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.  
19 But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers.  
20 And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city.  
21 They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice."  
22 The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods.  
23 And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely.  
24 Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.  
25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them,  
26 and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.  
27 When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.  
28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here."  
29 And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas.  
30 Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"  
31 And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

11 Therefore setting sail from Troas, we ran a straight course into Samothrace, and on the next day into Neapolis,  
12 and from there into Philippi, which is the first city of that part of Macedonia, a colony. And we were in this city, spending some days.  
13 And on the day of the sabbaths, we went outside the city beside a river, where was supposed to be a place of prayer . And sitting down, we spoke to the women having come together there.  
14 And a certain woman, Lydia by name, a seller of purple of the city of Thyatira, one worshipping God, heard us, whose heart the Lord opened thoroughly to pay attention to the things being spoken by Paul.  
15 And as she and her household were baptized, she entreated Paul, saying, If you have judged me to be a believing one in the Lord, entering into my house, remain. And she strongly urged us.  
16 And it happened, as we were going into a place of prayer, a certain slave girl having a Pythonic spirit met us, whose divining brought much profit to her masters.  
17 Following after Paul and us, she cried out, saying, These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to us a way of salvation!  
18 And she did this over many days. But becoming distressed, and turning around to the demonic spirit, Paul said, In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out from her! And it came out in the very hour.  
19 And seeing that the hope of their profit went out, taking hold of Paul and Silas, her masters dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers.  
20 And bringing them near to the magistrates, they said, These men are completely disturbing our city, being Jews,  
21 and they are proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for us to receive, nor to do, being Romans.  
22 And the crowd rose up against them. And tearing off their clothes, the magistrates ordered men to beat them with a rod.  
23 And laying on them many strokes, they threw them into prison, charging the prison-keeper to keep them securely,  
24 who, receiving such a charge, threw them into the inner prison, and locked their feet in the stocks.  
25 And about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing praise to God, and the prisoners listened to them.  
26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and all of the bonds were loosed.  
27 And becoming awake, and seeing the doors of the prison being opened, drawing a sword, the prison-keeper was about to kill himself, supposing the prisoners to have escaped.  
28 But Paul called out with a great voice, saying, Do no harm to yourself! For we are all here.  
29 And asking for lights, he rushed in. And becoming trembling, he fell before Paul and Silas.  
30 And bringing them outside, he said, Sirs, what must I do that I may be saved?  
31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.  
32 And they spoke the Word of the Lord to him, and to all the ones in his household.  
33 And taking them in that hour of the night, he washed 14



16:11-40 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Other key themes:

#### KEY INFORMATION ABOUT PHILIPPI:

It was situated about a mile east of the small stream Gangites which flows into the river Strymon some thirty miles away. In this valley the Battle of Philippi was fought B.C. 42 between the Second Triumvirate (Octavius, Antonius, Lepidus) and Brutus and Cassius. In memory of the victory Octavius made it a colony (*koloaenia*) with all the privileges of Roman citizenship, such as freedom from scourging, freedom from arrest save in extreme cases, and the right of appeal to the emperor. This Latin word occurs here alone in the N.T. Octavius planted here a colony of Roman veterans with farms attached, a military outpost and a miniature of Rome itself. The language was Latin. Here Paul is face to face with the Roman power and empire in a new sense. He was a new Alexander, come from Asia to conquer Europe for Christ, a new Caesar to build the Kingdom of Christ on the work of Alexander and Caesar. One need not think that Paul was conscious of all that was involved in destiny for the world. Philippi was on the Egnatian Way, one of the great Roman roads, that ran from here to Dyrrachium on the shores of the Adriatic, a road that linked the east with the west. (Robertson's Word Pictures)

In brief, the colonists enjoyed the same rights and privileges as if their land were part of Italy. (New Testament Commentary, Acts)

4. What was Paul's tradition when in another city on the Sabbath? Why doesn't he do this in Philippi?
5. What must have been part of Paul's instructions to Lydia as he was teaching the women by the river?
6. Why does Paul cast out the spirit of divination from the slave girl? Did the spirit speak anything that was false?
7. Who seizes Paul and Silas in Philippi? What are the charges?
8. Explain the transition from verses 28-30. What does all the prisoners remaining in the jail have to do with the jailor asking what he must do to be saved? Why is this the reaction of the jailor?

32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.  
 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.  
 34 Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.  
 35 But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying, "Let those men go."  
 36 And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Therefore come out now and go in peace."  
 37 But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us publicly, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and do they now throw us out secretly? No! Let them come themselves and take us out."  
 38 The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens.  
 39 So they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city.  
 40 So they went out of the prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed.

#### ESV

17:1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.  
 2 And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures,  
 3 explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ."  
 4 And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women.  
 5 But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd.  
 6 And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also,  
 7 and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus."  
 8 And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things.  
 9 And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.  
 10 The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue.  
 11 Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.  
 12 Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men.

from their strokes. And he and all the ones of him were baptized at once.  
 34 And bringing them up to the house, he set a table before them, and exulted wholehousely, believing God.  
 35 And it becoming day, the magistrates sent the rod-carriers, saying, Set those men free.  
 36 And the prison-keeper announced these words to Paul, The magistrates have sent that you be set free. Now, therefore, going out, go in peace.  
 37 But Paul said to them, Having beaten us publicly, being Romans and uncondemned men, they threw us into prison. And now do they throw us out secretly? No, indeed! But coming themselves, let them bring us out.  
 38 And the rod-carriers reported these words to the magistrates. And hearing that they were Romans, they were afraid.  
 39 And coming, they begged them. And bringing them out, they asked them to go out of the city.  
 40 And going out from the prison, they went into the house of Lydia. And seeing the brothers, they exhorted them, and went out.

#### KJ3

17:1 And traveling through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.  
 2 And according to Paul's custom, he went in to them, and on three sabbaths he reasoned with them from the Scriptures,  
 3 opening and setting forth that the Christ must have suffered, and to have risen from the dead, and that this is the Christ, Jesus, whom I proclaim to you.  
 4 And some of them were persuaded and joined themselves to Paul and Silas, both a great multitude of the worshipping Greeks, and of the first ones of the women, not a few.  
 5 But becoming jealous, and taking some wicked men of the market loafers, and gathering a crowd, the disobeying Jews set the city into an uproar. And coming on the house of Jason, they sought to bring them on to the assembled people.  
 6 But not finding them, they dragged Jason and some brothers before the city judges, crying, The ones disturbing the inhabited earth have come here, too;  
 7 whom Jason has received. And these all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king, Jesus.  
 8 And hearing these things, they agitated the crowd and the city judges.  
 9 And taking security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.  
 10 But the brothers at once sent away both Paul and Silas to Berea during the night; who having arrived went into the synagogue of the Jews.  
 11 And these were more noble than the ones in Thessalonica, who received the Word with all readiness, according to a day examining the Scriptures if these things might have been so.  
 12 Therefore truly many of them believed, and of the honorable Greek women and men, not a few.  
 13 But when the Jews from Thessalonica knew that the Word of God was also proclaimed in Berea by Paul, they came there

9. What is Paul's answer to the jailor's question: "What must I do to be saved?"

10. Why does Paul demand that the authorities of Philippi remove them from the prison publicly?

## **ACTS**

**17**

17:1-18 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Other key themes:

1. Explain the reaction of the city of Thessalonica. Who accepted? Who rejected?
2. What else happens in Thessalonica? What are the charges against the brethren?
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20 and write down what was happening exactly in Thessalonica to Paul and the believers.
4. What is the reaction of the people in Berea? What problems arose?
5. What does Paul see in Athens? Where is Paul teaching?

13 But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds.  
14 Then the brothers immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there.  
15 Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed.  
16 Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols.  
17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.  
18 Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.  
19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?"  
20 For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean."  
21 Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.  
22 So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious.  
23 For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.  
24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,  
25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.  
26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,  
27 that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,  
28 for "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring."  
29 Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.  
30 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,  
31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."  
32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this."  
33 So Paul went out from their midst.  
34 But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

also, shaking up the crowds.  
14 And immediately, then, the brothers sent away Paul, to go as far as to the sea. But both Silas and Timothy remained there.  
15 But the ones conducting Paul brought him as far as Athens. And receiving a command to Silas and Timothy that they come to him as quickly as possible, they went out.  
16 But awaiting them in Athens, Paul's spirit was provoked within him, seeing the city utterly idolatrous.  
17 Therefore, indeed, he addressed the Jews in the synagogue, and the ones worshiping, also in the marketplace according to every day, to the ones happening by.  
18 And some of the Epicurean and of the Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, What may this seed-picker wish to say? And these others, He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign demons (because he proclaimed Jesus and the resurrection to them).  
19 And taking hold of him, they led him to the Ares Hill, saying, Are we able to know what is this new doctrine being spoken by you?  
20 For you bring some surprising things to our ears. We are minded, therefore, to know what these things wish to be.  
21 And all Athenians and the strangers dwelling there have leisure for nothing else than to say and to hear newer things.  
22 And standing in the midst of the Areopagus, Paul said, Men, Athenians, I see how you in everything are gods-fearing ones;  
23 for passing through and looking up at the objects of your worship, I also found an altar on which had been written, TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, not knowing Him whom you worship, I proclaim this One to you.  
24 God, the One who made the world and all things in it, this One being Lord of Heaven and of earth, does not dwell in temples made by hand,  
25 nor is served by hands of men, as having need of anything. For He is giving life and breath and all things to all.  
26 And He made every nation of men of one blood, to live on all the face of the earth, having determined fore-appointed seasons and boundaries of their dwelling,  
27 to seek the Lord, if perhaps they might feel after Him and might find Him, though indeed He not being far from each one of us.  
28 For in Him we live and move and exist, as also some of the poets among you have said, For we are also His offspring.  
29 Therefore being offspring of God, we ought not to suppose that the Deity is like gold or silver or stone, engraved by art and the imagination of man.  
30 Indeed, therefore, God overlooking the times of ignorance, now strictly commands all men everywhere to repent,  
31 because He set a day in which "He is going to judge the inhabited earth in righteousness," by a Man whom He appointed; having offered faith to all, having raised Him up from the dead.  
32 And hearing of a resurrection of the dead, the ones indeed ridiculed, but said, We will hear you again concerning this.  
33 And so Paul went out from their midst.  
34 But some men believed, joining themselves to him, among whom also were both Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

### THE AREOPAGUS:

The Areopagus (Areios Pagos ; lit., “Court” or “Council of Ares,” the Gr. god of thunder and war) reaches back to legendary antiquity.

Presumably it first met at Athens on the Hill of Ares (Lat. equivalent, “Mars Hill”), northwest of the Acropolis, for murder trials. Early descriptions of processions in ancient Greek city-states, however, depict the Areopagus of the cities as always heading the column of dignitaries, which suggests that the “Court” or “Council of Ares” was the senate or city council of a Greek city-state. At Athens, therefore, while the earlier powers of the Council of Ares were greatly



reduced with the demise of the maritime empire, during Roman times it was still the chief judicial body of the city and exercised jurisdiction in such matters as religion and education. One of the functions of the council was that of supervising education, particularly of controlling the many visiting lecturers. Today “Areopagus” survives as the title of the Greek Supreme Court. In Paul’s time its membership consisted of all city administrators (“Archons”) who alter their term of office were free of official misconduct; it met since the fifth century B.C. in the Stoa Basileios (“The Royal Portico”) at the northwest corner of the agora. (Expositors Bible Commentary & New Testament Commentary, Acts)

5. Notice Acts 17:14-15. Then read 1 Thessalonians 3:1-6. What was happening at this time?
6. Explain Paul’s sermon to the Athenians? What points does Paul make in this sermon? What scriptures are quoted? What else is quoted?
7. What is the reasons of the Athenians? What caused this response?
8. What lessons do we learn from Paul in how he approached teaching the Athenians?



18:1 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.  
 2 And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them,  
 3 and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.  
 4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.  
 5 When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus.  
 6 And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."  
 7 And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue.  
 8 Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.  
 9 And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent,  
 10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people."  
 11 And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.  
 12 But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal,  
 13 saying, "This man is persuading people to worship God contrary to the law."  
 14 But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason to accept your complaint.  
 15 But since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these things."  
 16 And he drove them from the tribunal.  
 17 And they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this.

18 After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had cut his hair, for he was under a vow.  
 19 And they came to Ephesus, and he left them there, but he himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.  
 20 When they asked him to stay for a longer period, he declined.  
 21 But on taking leave of them he said, "I will return to you if God wills," and he set sail from Ephesus.  
 22 When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church, and then went down to Antioch.  
 23 After spending some time there, he departed and went from one place to the next through the region of Galatia and

18:1 And after these things, departing from Athens, Paul came to Corinth.  
 2 And finding a certain Jew, Aquila by name, of Pontus by race, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome, he came to them.  
 3 And because of his being of the same trade, he lived and worked with them; for they were tentmakers by trade.  
 4 And he reasoned in the synagogue according to every sabbath, persuading both Jews and Greeks.  
 5 And when both Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was pressed by the Spirit, earnestly testifying to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.  
 6 But they resisting, and blaspheming, having shaken his garments, he said to them, Your blood be on your head. I am pure from it; from now on I will go to the nations.  
 7 And having gone over from there, he went into the house of a certain one, Justus by name, one worshipping God, whose house was being next door to the synagogue.  
 8 And Crispus, the synagogue ruler, was believing the Lord along with all his household. And hearing, many of the Corinthians were believing and were being baptized.  
 9 And the Lord said to Paul through a vision in the night, Do not fear, but speak, and do not keep silence;  
 10 because I am with you, and no one shall set on you to oppress you; because there is much people to Me in this city.  
 11 And he remained a year and six months teaching the Word of God among them.  
 12 But Gallio being proconsul of Achaia, the Jews rushed against Paul with one mind and led him to the tribunal,  
 13 saying, This one persuades men to worship God contrary to the Law.  
 14 But Paul being about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, If, indeed, then, it was some wrong or wicked criminality, O Jews, according to reason I would endure you.  
 15 But if it is a question about a word, and names, and the law according to you, you will see to it yourselves; for I do not wish to be a judge of these things.  
 16 And he drove them from the tribunal.  
 17 And all the Greeks having seized Sosthenes the ruler of the synagogue, they beat him before the tribunal. And not one of these things mattered to Gallio.

18 And having remained considerable days more, bidding farewell to the brothers, Paul sailed to Syria, having shorn his head in Cenchrea, for he had a vow. And Priscilla and Aquila were with him.  
 19 And he came to Ephesus, and he left those two there. But he having entered into the synagogue, he reasoned with the Jews.  
 20 And they asking him to remain over a longer time with them, he did not consent,  
 21 but bid farewell to them, saying, I must by all means to make the coming feast, the one at Jerusalem; but I will come again to you, God willing. And he set sail from Ephesus.  
 22 And landing at Caesarea, having gone up and greeted the assembly, he went down to Antioch.  
 23 And spending some time, he went out, in order passing



18:1-17 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other key themes:

**KEY BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT THE JEWISH EXPULSION FROM ROME:**

Aquila and Priscilla had been forced to leave Rome because of the Edict of Claudius, an expulsion order proclaimed during the ninth year of Emperor Claudius's reign (i.e., 25 January A.D. 49 to 24 January 50) and directed against the Jews in Rome to put down the riots arising within the Jewish community there (cf. Suetonius Vita Claudius 25.4: "As the Jews were indulging in constant riots at the instigation of Chrestus, he banished them from Rome"). The "Chrestus" Suetonius speaks of may have been an otherwise unknown agitator who was active in Jewish circles within Rome in the forties (the Gr. Chrestos means "useful" or "kindly" and was a common name for slaves in the Greco-Roman world). Probably, however, Suetonius, writing seventy years after the event, had no clear understanding of who this Chrestus really was and assumed him to be a local troublemaker, whereas the dispute in the Jewish community was over Jesus Christ and between those who favored his messiahship and those who rejected it. (Expositors Bible Commentary)

1. What is Paul doing while staying in Corinth? Why? Be sure to read 2 Corinthians 11:7-11.
2. What was Paul's condition when coming to Corinth? Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.
3. What happens to Paul while in Corinth? What is Paul's response? What is the Lord's response?
4. How long did Paul stay in Corinth?

**KEY BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT GALLIO:**

Paul seems to have been preaching in Corinth for eight or nine months before Gallio came to Achaia as proconsul (i.e., from the fall of 50 to 1 July 51). When Gallio took office, the Jews decided to try out the new proconsul.

5. Explain verses 12-17 and the events that unfold.

Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

24 Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures.

25 He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John.

26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

27 And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed,

28 for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.

### ESV

19:1 And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples.

2 And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

3 And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism."

4 And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus."

5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.

7 There were about twelve men in all.

8 And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God.

9 But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus.

10 This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

11 And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul,

12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.

13 Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims."

14 Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this.

15 But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?"

through the Galatian region and Phrygia, making strong all the disciples.

24 But a certain Jew, Apollos by name, an Alexandrian by people, an eloquent man, came into Ephesus, being powerful in the Scriptures.

25 This one having been taught by mouth in the way of the Lord, and glowing in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things about the Lord, understanding only the baptism of John.

26 And this one began to speak boldly in the synagogue. And hearing him Priscilla and Aquila took him and more accurately expounded the way of God to him.

27 And he having intended to go through into Achaia, having been encouraged, the brothers wrote to the disciples to welcome him; who, arriving, helped much the ones who were believing through grace.

28 For he powerfully confuted the Jews publicly, proving through the Scriptures Jesus to be the Christ.

### KJ3

19:1 And it happened, in the time Apollos was in Corinth, Paul was passing through the higher parts to come to Ephesus. And finding some disciples,

2 he said to them, Having believed, if you received the Holy Spirit? And the ones said to him, We did not even hear whether the Holy Spirit is.

3 And he said to them, Then into what were you baptized? And the ones said, To the baptism of John.

4 And Paul said, John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe into the One coming after him, that is, into the Christ, Jesus.

5 And hearing, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 And Paul laying hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in languages and prophesied.

7 And all the men were about twelve.

8 And going into the synagogue, he spoke boldly over three months, having reasoned with them, and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God.

9 But when some were hardened, and did not obey, speaking evil of the Way before the multitude, going away from them, he separated the disciples, conversing according to a day in the school of a certain Tyrannus.

10 And this happened over two years, so that all the ones living in Asia heard the Word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

11 And God did uncommon works of power through the hands of Paul,

12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons from his skin to be brought onto the ones being sick, and the diseases to be released from them, and the evil spirits to go out from them.

13 But certain from the going about Jewish exorcists undertook to name the name of the Lord Jesus over the ones having evil spirits, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.

14 And there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, the ones doing this.

15 But answering the evil spirit said, I know Jesus, and I comprehend Paul, but who are you?

18:18-28 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Other key themes:

5. Why did Paul have his hair cut? Is this something more than just a normal hair cut that we get every 6 weeks?

6. Describe Apollos.

## **ACTS**

**19**

19:1-20 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Other key themes:

1. What, exactly, is Paul asking these disciples? Why would he ask this question?

2. Why are they baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus? What do we learn from this?

3. What is the response of some in the synagogue in Corinth?

4. What do you find interesting about the incident with evil spirit and the seven sons of Sceva?

16 And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

17 And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled.

18 Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices.

19 And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver.

20 So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

21 Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome."

22 And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

23 About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way.

24 For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen.

25 These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, "Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth.

26 And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods.

27 And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship."

28 When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

29 So the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed together into the theater, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul's companions in travel.

30 But when Paul wished to go in among the crowd, the disciples would not let him.

31 And even some of the Asiarchs, who were friends of his, sent to him and were urging him not to venture into the theater.

32 Now some cried out one thing, some another, for the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come together.

33 Some of the crowd prompted Alexander, whom the Jews had put forward. And Alexander, motioning with his hand, wanted to make a defense to the crowd.

34 But when they recognized that he was a Jew, for about two hours they all cried out with one voice, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

35 And when the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, "Men of Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the

16 And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, and having subdued them, he was strong against them, and having been wounded and naked, they fled out of that house.

17 And this became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, the ones living in Ephesus. And fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

18 And many of the ones having believed came confessing, and reporting their practices.

19 And a considerable number of the ones practicing the magical arts, bringing together the books, burned them before all. And they counted the prices of them, and found it to be fifty thousands of silver.

20 So with might, the Word of the Lord was growing and was strong.

21 And when these things were fulfilled, passing through Macedonia and Achaia, Paul purposed in the Spirit to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have come there, I must also see Rome.

22 And having sent into Macedonia two of the ones who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, he stayed a time in Asia.

23 And at that time there came to be no small disturbance about the Way.

24 For a certain silversmith, Demetrius by name, was making silver shrines of Artemis, providing no little trade for the craftsmen,

25 whom assembling the workmen about such things, he said, Men, you understand that from this trade our wealth is.

26 And you see and hear that not only Ephesus, but this Paul has persuaded almost all of Asia, perverting a considerable crowd, saying that they are not gods, the ones being made by hands.

27 And not only this is in danger to us, lest our part come to be in contempt, but also the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be counted nothing, and her majesty is also about to be brought down, whom all Asia and the world worships.

28 And hearing, and becoming full of anger, they cried out, saying, Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!

29 And all the city was filled with confusion. And they rushed with one mind into the theater, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, traveling companions of Paul.

30 And Paul purposing to go in to the assembled people, the disciples did not allow him.

31 And also some of the Asiarchs, being his friends, sending to him begged him not to give himself into the theater.

32 Then others indeed were crying out something different, for the assembly was confused, and the majority did not know on what account they came together.

33 But out of the crowd they put forward Alexander, the Jews thrust him forward. And signaling with his hand, Alexander desired to defend himself to the assembled people.

34 But recognizing that he is a Jew, one voice came to be from all, as they were crying out over two hours, Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!

35 And quieting the crowd, the town clerk said, Men, Ephesians, for what man is there who does not know the city of the Ephesians to be temple keepers of the great goddess



19:21-41 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

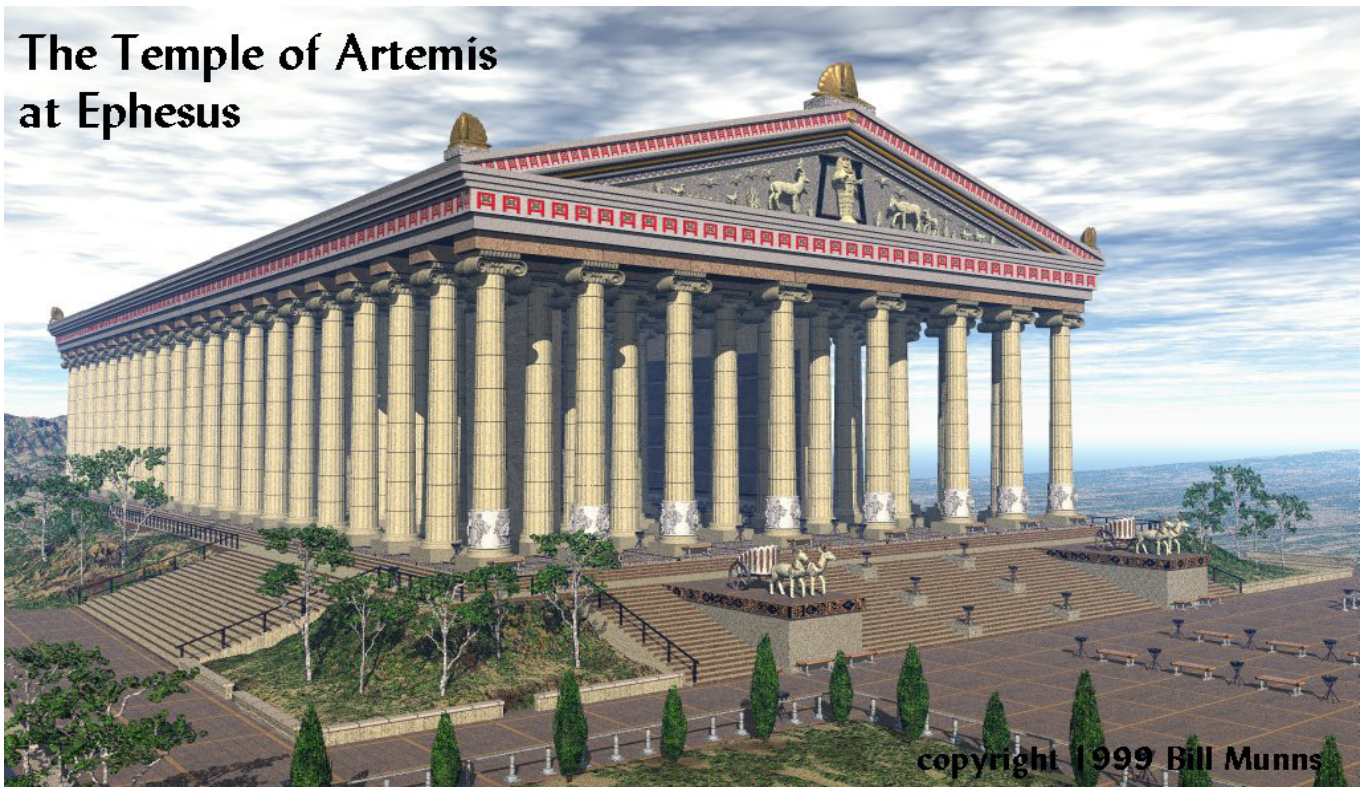
Other key themes:

5. Describe the problem that takes place in Ephesus:

6. What is the resolution?



## The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus



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city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great Artemis, and of the sacred stone that fell from the sky?  
 36 Seeing then that these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash.  
 37 For you have brought these men here who are neither sacrilegious nor blasphemers of our goddess.  
 38 If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen with him have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another.  
 39 But if you seek anything further, it shall be settled in the regular assembly.  
 40 For we really are in danger of being charged with rioting today, since there is no cause that we can give to justify this commotion.”  
 41 And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

#### ESV

20:1 After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia.  
 2 When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece.  
 3 There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.  
 4 Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus.  
 5 These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas,  
 6 but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days.  
 7 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.  
 8 There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered.  
 9 And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead.  
 10 But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, “Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him.”  
 11 And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed.  
 12 And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.  
 13 But going ahead to the ship, we set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there, for so he had arranged, intending himself to go by land.  
 14 And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and went to Mitylene.  
 15 And sailing from there we came the following day opposite Chios; the next day we touched at Samos; and the day after that we went to Miletus.

Artemis, and of the image Fallen from Zeus?  
 36 Therefore, these things being undeniable, it is necessary for you, being calmed, to be so, and to do nothing rash.  
 37 For you brought these men, being neither temple-robbers nor blaspheming your goddess.  
 38 If then, indeed, Demetrius and the craftsmen with him have a matter against anyone, the courts lead, and there are proconsuls. Let them accuse one another.  
 39 But if you seek concerning other things, it will be settled in a lawful assembly.  
 40 For we are in danger to be accused of insurrection concerning today, there being no cause about which we will be able to give account of this crowding together.  
 41 And saying these things, he dismissed the assembly.

#### KJ3

20:1 And after the ceasing of the tumult, calling and greeting the disciples, Paul went away to go into Macedonia.  
 2 And passing through those parts, and exhorting them with much speech, he came into Greece.  
 3 And having acted three months there, a plot by the Jews having occurred against him, being about to sail into Syria, he was of a mind to return through Macedonia.  
 4 And was accompanying him as far as Asia Sopater, a Berean; and Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Asians Tychicus and Trophimus.  
 5 These men having gone ahead awaited us in Troas.  
 6 But we sailed along after the days of Unleavened Bread from Philippi, and came to them at Troas within five days, where we stayed seven days.  
 7 And on the one of the sabbaths, the disciples being assembled to break bread, Paul was discoursing to them, being about to depart on the next day, Paul discoursed to them. And he continued his speech until midnight.  
 8 And many lamps were in the upper room where they were gathered.  
 9 And a certain young man. Eutychus by name, was sitting on the window sill being overborne by deep sleep, Paul discoursing for a longer time, having been overborne by the sleep, he fell down from the third floor and was taken up dead.  
 10 But going down Paul fell on him, and embracing him, he said, Do not be troubled, for his soul is in him.  
 11 And going up, and breaking bread, and eating, and conversing over a considerable time, until daybreak, he went out thus.  
 12 And they brought the boy alive and were comforted not a little.  
 13 But going before onto the ship, we set sail for Assos, being about to take up Paul in there; for so it was arranged, he being about to go on foot.  
 14 And when he met us in Assos, taking him up we came to Mitylene.  
 15 And sailing away from there, on the next day we arrived off Chios, and on the next we crossed to Samos. And staying in Trogyllium, the following day we came to Miletus.



20:1-16 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Other key themes:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 7:5-16. This seems to be the time when Paul wrote this part of the Corinthian letter. What does Paul tell us about his condition and how his travels have been?
  
2. Read Romans 15:17-33. This seems to be the time when Paul wrote the letter to the Romans. What does Paul tell us about his condition? What are Paul's plans?
  
3. What "breaking of bread" is being described in verse 7? Is this a common meal with the disciples or the partaking of the Lord's Supper? How do you know?
  
4. What "breaking of bread" is being described in verse 11? Is this a common meal with the disciples or the partaking of the Lord's Supper? How do you know?
  
5. Consider the miracle Paul performs. Who else had performed a similar miracle? (cf. 1 Kings 17:21; 2 Kings 4:34-35)
  
6. Where is Paul hurrying to? Why?

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

17 Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him.

18 And when they came to him, he said to them: "You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia,

19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews;

20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house,

21 testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

22 And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there,

23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.

24 But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

25 And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again.

26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you,

27 for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

31 Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears.

32 And now I commend 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 are sanctified.

33 I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel.

34 You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me.

35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

36 And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

37 And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him,

38 being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

16 For Paul had decided to sail by Ephesus, so as it might not happen to him to spend time in Asia; for he hastened if it were possible for him to be into Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

17 And having sent to Ephesus from Miletus, he called for the elders of the assembly.

18 And when they came to him, he said to them: You understand, from the first day on which I set foot in Asia, how I was with you all the time,

19 serving the Lord with all humility, and many tears and trials happening to me, the ones by the plots of the Jews;

20 as I drew nothing back of the things profiting you, so as not to declare and to teach you publicly, and according to houses,

21 earnestly testifying both to Jews and to Greeks repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

22 And now, behold, being bound by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing the things going to meet me in it,

23 but that the Holy Spirit according to each city solemnly testifies, saying that bonds and afflictions await me.

24 But I make account of nothing, nor do I hold my life precious to myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to solemnly testify the gospel of the grace of God.

25 And now, behold, I know that you all will see my face no more, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom of God.

26 Therefore I testify to you in this very day that I am clean from the blood of all.

27 For I did not draw back from declaring to you all the counsel of God.

28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit placed you as overseers, to shepherd the assembly of God which He purchased through His own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departure unsparing wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

30 and out of you yourselves will rise up men speaking perverting things in order to draw away the disciples after themselves.

31 Therefore, be alert, remembering that I did not cease admonishing each one with tears night and day for three years.

32 And now, brothers, I commend you to God and to the Word of His grace, the One being able to build up and to give you inheritance among all the ones having been sanctified.

33 I have desired the silver, or gold, or clothing of no one.

34 But you yourselves know that these hands ministered to my needs, and to the ones who were with me.

35 I showed you by all things that working hard in this way it is needful to help the ones being feeble, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

36 And having said these things, placing his knees, he prayed with them all.

37 And there was much weeping of all; and falling on the neck of Paul, they tenderly kissed him,

38 most of all grieving for the word which he said, that they were going to see his face no more. And they went with him to the ship.

20:17-38 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Other key themes:

7. Write down the instructions Paul gives to the elders of the church in Ephesus:

8. From these instructions, explain the work and role of elders in the local church:

9. What was Paul's expectations in Jerusalem?

10. What Christian characteristics did Paul model as examples to the Ephesians that they were also to follow?

21:1 And when we had parted from them and set sail, we came by a straight course to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara.  
 2 And having found a ship crossing to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail.  
 3 When we had come in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left we sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre, for there the ship was to unload its cargo.  
 4 And having sought out the disciples, we stayed there for seven days. And through the Spirit they were telling Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.  
 5 When our days there were ended, we departed and went on our journey, and they all, with wives and children, accompanied us until we were outside the city. And kneeling down on the beach, we prayed  
 6 and said farewell to one another. Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home.  
 7 When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais, and we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for one day.  
 8 On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him.  
 9 He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied.  
 10 While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.  
 11 And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"  
 12 When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem.  
 13 Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."  
 14 And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done."  
 15 After these days we got ready and went up to Jerusalem.  
 16 And some of the disciples from Caesarea went with us, bringing us to the house of Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we should lodge.  
 17 When we had come to Jerusalem, the brothers received us gladly.  
 18 On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present.  
 19 After greeting them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.  
 20 And when they heard it, they glorified God. And they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed. They are all zealous for the law,  
 21 and they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or walk according to

21:1 And when it was time to sail, we tearing away ourselves from them, sailing a straight course we came to Cos, and on the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara.  
 2 And finding a ship crossing over to Phoenice, going on board we set sail:  
 3 and sighting Cyprus, and leaving it on the left, we sailed to Syria, and came down to Tyre; for the ship was unloading the cargo there.  
 4 And having found disciples, we remained there seven days; who told Paul through the Spirit not to go up to Jerusalem.  
 5 But when it was time for us to finish out the days, having gone out, we traveled. And they, with all the women and children went with us as far as outside the city. And placing the knees on the shore, we prayed.  
 6 And having given parting greetings to one another, we went up into the ship, and those went back to their own homes.  
 7 And completing the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais. And having greeted the brothers, we remained one day with them.  
 8 And on the next day, the ones around Paul going out, we came to Caesarea. And going into Philip the evangelist's house, he being of the Seven, we remained with him.  
 9 And to this one there were four virgin daughters who prophesied.  
 10 And we remaining more days, a certain prophet from Judea, Agabus by name, came down.  
 11 And coming to us, and taking Paul's girdle-band, and binding his hands and feet, he said, The Holy Spirit says these things: In Jerusalem the Jews will bind in this way the man whose girdle-band this is, and will give him over into the hands of the nations.  
 12 And when we heard these things, both we and the resident saints begged him not to go up to Jerusalem.  
 13 But Paul answered, What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For not only am I ready to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.  
 14 And he not being persuaded, we were silent, saying, The will of the Lord be done.  
 15 And after these days, having packed up, we went up to Jerusalem.  
 16 And also some of the disciples from Caesarea went with us, bringing Mnason, a certain Cypriot, an old disciple, with whom we might lodge.  
 17 And we being in Jerusalem, the brothers joyfully received us.  
 18 And on the next day, Paul went in with us to James. And all the elders arrived.  
 19 And having greeted them, he related according to each one what things God had worked among the nations through his ministry.  
 20 And hearing, they glorified the Lord, and said to him, You see, brother, how many myriads there are of Jews, the ones having believed, and all are zealots of the Law.  
 21 And they have been informed about you, that you are teaching falling away from Moses, telling all the Jews throughout the nations, saying not to circumcise their children, nor to walk in the customs.

21:1-16 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Other key themes:

1. What warning was given to Paul in the city of Tyre (vs. 3-6)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What warning was given to Paul in the city of Caesarea?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What is unique about Philip's daughters?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What is Paul's response to the warnings? Why? Why do you think he continues to go to Jerusalem despite all of the warnings? Why not continue his ministry in other cities?

21:17-36 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Other key themes:

5. Who has gone with Paul to Jerusalem?

our customs.

22 What then is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come.

23 Do therefore what we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow;

24 take these men and purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses, so that they may shave their heads. Thus all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told about you, but that you yourself also live in observance of the law.

25 But as for the Gentiles who have believed, we have sent a letter with our judgment that they should abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality.”

26 Then Paul took the men, and the next day he purified himself along with them and went into the temple, giving notice when the days of purification would be fulfilled and the offering presented for each one of them.

27 When the seven days were almost completed, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him,

28 crying out, “Men of Israel, help! This is the man who is teaching everyone everywhere against the people and the law and this place. Moreover, he even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.”

29 For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple.

30 Then all the city was stirred up, and the people ran together. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple, and at once the gates were shut.

31 And as they were seeking to kill him, word came to the tribune of the cohort that all Jerusalem was in confusion.

32 He at once took soldiers and centurions and ran down to them. And when they saw the tribune and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.

33 Then the tribune came up and arrested him and ordered him to be bound with two chains. He inquired who he was and what he had done.

34 Some in the crowd were shouting one thing, some another. And as he could not learn the facts because of the uproar, he ordered him to be brought into the barracks.

35 And when he came to the steps, he was actually carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the crowd,

36 for the mob of the people followed, crying out, “Away with him!”

37 As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he said to the tribune, “May I say something to you?” And he said, “Do you know Greek?”

38 Are you not the Egyptian, then, who recently stirred up a revolt and led the four thousand men of the Assassins out into the wilderness?”

39 Paul replied, “I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no obscure city. I beg you, permit me to speak to the people.”

40 And when he had given him permission, Paul, standing on the steps, motioned with his hand to the people. And when there was a great hush, he addressed them in the

22 What is it, then? Certainly a multitude must come together, for they will hear that you have come.

23 Therefore, do this, which we say to you: There are four men who have a vow on themselves;

24 taking these, be purified with them, and be at expense on them, that they may shave the head. And all shall know that all what they have been told about you is nothing, but you yourself walk by rule, and yourself keeping the Law.

25 And as to the believing nations, we wrote, having judged them to observe no such thing, except to keep themselves from both idol sacrifice, and from the blood, and from a thing strangled, and from fornication.

26 Then having taken the men on the following day, having been purified with them, Paul went into the temple, declaring the fulfillment of the days of the purification, until the offering should be offered for each one of them.

27 But when the seven days were about to be completed, having seen him in the temple, the Jews from Asia were stirring up all the crowd, and they laid hands on him,

28 crying out, Men, Israelites, help! This is the man, the one teaching all everywhere against the people and the Law and this place. And even more, he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.

29 For they were seeing before Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with him, whom they supposed that Paul brought into the temple.

30 And the whole city was stirred up and there was a running together of people. And laying hands on Paul, they drew him outside of the temple, and at once the doors were shut.

31 But as they were seeking to kill him, a report came up to the chiliarch of the cohort, that all Jerusalem has been stirred up.

32 He at once ran down to them, taking soldiers and centurions. And seeing the chiliarch and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.

33 Then going near, the chiliarch laid hold of him, and commanded him to be bound with two chains. And he asked who he might be, and what he is doing.

34 But others cried the other thing in the crowd, and not being able to know the certain thing because of the uproar, he commanded him brought into the barracks.

35 But when he came on the stairs, it happened for him to be borne by the soldiers because of the violence of the crowd.

36 For the multitude of the people followed, crying out, Take him away!

37 But being about to be brought into the barracks, Paul said to the chiliarch, Is it lawful for me to say a thing to you? And he said, Do you know Greek?

38 Then are you not the Egyptian, the one before these days caused a riot, and led four thousand men of the assassins out into the desert?

39 But Paul said, Indeed I am a man, a Jew of Tarsus, of Cilicia, a citizen of a not insignificant city. And I beg you, allow me to speak to the people.

40 And he allowing him, standing on the stairs, Paul signaled with his hand to the people. And much silence taking place, he spoke in the Hebrew dialect, saying,



6. What false charge has been circulating among the Jews in Jerusalem (vs. 17-22)?
7. What does Paul do to try to show the Jerusalem Jews that he is not guilty of this charge?
8. How do we reconcile Paul's actions with the fact that the Law of Moses was no longer in effect?
9. What other charge is brought against Paul by the Jews from Asia (vs. 27-30)?
10. What prevents Paul from being killed by the Jews?

## **ACTS**

## **22**

21:37-22:21 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other key themes:

1. Paul begins his defense with with credentials. Write down all the things that made him influential among the Jews.

Hebrew language, saying:

22:1 "Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before you."

2 And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said:

3 "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day.

4 I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women,

5 as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.

6 "As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me.

7 And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'

8 And I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.'

9 Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me.

10 And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.'

11 And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.

12 "And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there,

13 came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him.

14 And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth;

15 for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard.

16 And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

17 "When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance

18 and saw him saying to me, 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.'

19 And I said, 'Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you.

20 And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.'

21 And he said to me, 'Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

22 Up to this word they listened to him. Then they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live."

22:1 Men, brothers, and fathers, hear my defense now to you.

2 And hearing that he spoke in the Hebrew dialect to them, they showed more quietness. And he said:

3 Indeed I am a man, a Jew having been born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but having been brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, having been trained according to the exactness of the ancestral law, being a zealot of God, even as you all are today.

4 I persecuted this Way as far as death, binding and giving over both men and women to prisons,

5 as also the high priest, and all the elderhood witnesses to me. And receiving letters from them to the brothers, I was going, also bringing to Jerusalem the ones being bound there, in order that they might be punished.

6 And it happened to me, going and drawing near to Damascus: suddenly, about midday, a considerable light out of the heaven shone around me.

7 And I fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to me, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?

8 And I answered, Who are you, Sir? And He said to me, I am Jesus the Nazarene whom you persecute.

9 But the ones being with me indeed beheld the light, and were terrified, but did not hear the voice of the One speaking to me.

10 And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said to me, Rising up, go into Damascus, and there you will be told about all things which has been appointed to you to do.

11 And as I was not seeing, from the glory of that light, being led by the hand by the ones being with me, I went into Damascus.

12 And a certain Ananias, a devout man according to the Law, being testified to by all the Jews living there,

13 coming to me and standing by, he said to me, Brother Saul, see again. And in the same hour I saw again to him.

14 And he said, The God of our fathers has beforehand chosen you to know His will, and to see the Righteous One, and to hear a voice out of His mouth;

15 for you shall be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard.

16 And now what are you going to do? Rising up, be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

17 And it happened to me, having returned to Jerusalem and praying in the temple, for me coming to be in an ecstasy,

18 and I saw Him saying to me, Hurry and go out quickly from Jerusalem, because they will not receive your testimony concerning Me.

19 And I said, Lord, they understand that I was imprisoning and beating the ones believing on You throughout the synagogues.

20 And when the blood of Your witness Stephen was poured out, I myself also was standing by and consenting to the murder of him, and guarding the garments of the ones killing him.

21 And He said to me, Go, for I will send you to the nations afar off.

22 And they heard him as far as this word, and lifted up their voice, saying, Take away such a one from the earth, for it is not fitting that he should live!

2. What is Paul doing as part of his defense in verses 6-21?

3. Describe all of the things that happen to Paul while on the road to Damascus:

4. What does Ananias do to Paul upon meeting him?

5. Consider all of your answers from questions 3 and 4. Would most people in the religious world believe that Paul was saved at this point because of all that Paul did and all that happened to Paul?

6. What did Paul still have to do to receive salvation?

7. How does a person “call on the name of the Lord?”

22:22-30 Main point:\_\_\_\_\_

Other key themes:

8. What is the response of the people upon hearing Paul’s defense thus far?

23 And as they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air,  
 24 the tribune ordered him to be brought into the barracks, saying that he should be examined by flogging, to find out why they were shouting against him like this.  
 25 But when they had stretched him out for the whips, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, "Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is a Roman citizen and uncondemned?"  
 26 When the centurion heard this, he went to the tribune and said to him, "What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman citizen."  
 27 So the tribune came and said to him, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?" And he said, "Yes."  
 28 The tribune answered, "I bought this citizenship for a large sum." Paul said, "But I am a citizen by birth."  
 29 So those who were about to examine him withdrew from him immediately, and the tribune also was afraid, for he realized that Paul was a Roman citizen and that he had bound him.  
 30 But on the next day, desiring to know the real reason why he was being accused by the Jews, he unbound him and commanded the chief priests and all the council to meet, and he brought Paul down and set him before them.

#### ESV

23:1 And looking intently at the council, Paul said, "Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day."  
 2 And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth.  
 3 Then Paul said to him, "God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting to judge me according to the law, and yet contrary to the law you order me to be struck?"  
 4 Those who stood by said, "Would you revile God's high priest?"  
 5 And Paul said, "I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'"  
 6 Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial."  
 7 And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided.  
 8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.  
 9 Then a great clamor arose, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees' party stood up and contended sharply, "We find nothing wrong in this man. What if a spirit or an angel spoke to him?"  
 10 And when the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him away from among them by force and bring him into the barracks.  
 11 The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."  
 12 When it was day, the Jews made a plot and bound

23 And they were shouting, and casting off their garments, and throwing dust into the air,  
 24 the chiliarch ordered to bring him into the barracks, saying for him to be examined with scourges, that he may know for what crime they cried out so against him.  
 25 But as they stretched him with the thongs, Paul said to the centurion standing by, Is it lawful for you to scourge a man, a Roman not found guilty?  
 26 And hearing, coming near the centurion reported to the chiliarch, saying, Watch what you are about to do, for this man is a Roman.  
 27 And coming up, the chiliarch said to him, Tell me, are you a Roman? And he said, Yes.  
 28 And the chiliarch answered, I bought this citizenship with a great sum of money. And Paul said, But I even was born free.  
 29 Then at once the ones being about to examine him stood away from him. And the chiliarch also feared, fully knowing that he was a Roman, and that he had bound him.  
 30 And on the next day, purposing to know the certain thing as to why he was accused by the Jews, he freed him from the bonds. And he commanded the chief priests and all their sanhedrin to come. And having brought Paul down, he stood him among them.

#### KJ3

23:1 And looking intently at the sanhedrin, Paul said, Men, brothers, I in all good conscience have conducted myself toward God until this day.  
 2 But Ananias the high priest ordered those standing by him to strike his mouth.  
 3 Then Paul said to him, God is going to strike you, whitewashed wall! And do you sit judging me according to the Law, and breaking the Law command me to be stricken?  
 4 And the ones standing by said, Do you revile the high priest of God?  
 5 And Paul said, Brothers, I did not know that he is high priest; for it has been written, "You shall not speak badly" "of a ruler of your people."  
 6 But knowing that the one part consisted of Sadducees, and the other of Pharisees, Paul cried out in the sanhedrin, Men, brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees; I am being judged concerning hope and resurrection of the dead!  
 7 And he speaking this, there was a discord between the Pharisees and the Sadducees; and the multitude was divided.  
 8 For the Sadducees indeed say there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit. But Pharisees confess both the things.  
 9 And there was a great cry. And the scribes of the part of the Pharisees rising up, they were contending, saying, We find nothing bad in this man. And, If a spirit spoke to him, or an angel, let us not fight against God.  
 10 And much discord taking place, fearing lest Paul should be torn apart by them, the chiliarch commanded the soldiers to go down to seize him out of their midst, and to bring him into the barracks.  
 11 And in the following night standing by him the Lord said, Be cheered, Paul, for as you fully testified the things concerning Me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify at Rome.  
 12 And it becoming day, some of the Jews making a conspiracy<sup>36</sup>

9. What happens to Paul?

10. What does Paul do to end his mistreatment?

11. What do the Romans do to try to get to the bottom of what is happening?

## **ACTS**

**23**

23:1-22 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Other key themes:

1. Explain the situation in the first five verses. Why was Paul struck? Why did the high priest revile the high priest?

2. How does Paul go about pitting the Pharisees against the Sadducees? What doctrine did the Sadducees not believe in?

3. What is the plan of the Jews concerning Paul? How serious is this plan?

themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.

13 There were more than forty who made this conspiracy.

14 They went to the chief priests and elders and said, "We have strictly bound ourselves by an oath to taste no food till we have killed Paul.

15 Now therefore you, along with the council, give notice to the tribune to bring him down to you, as though you were going to determine his case more exactly. And we are ready to kill him before he comes near."

16 Now the son of Paul's sister heard of their ambush, so he went and entered the barracks and told Paul.

17 Paul called one of the centurions and said, "Take this young man to the tribune, for he has something to tell him."

18 So he took him and brought him to the tribune and said, "Paul the prisoner called me and asked me to bring this young man to you, as he has something to say to you."

19 The tribune took him by the hand, and going aside asked him privately, "What is it that you have to tell me?"

20 And he said, "The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though they were going to inquire somewhat more closely about him.

21 But do not be persuaded by them, for more than forty of their men are lying in ambush for him, who have bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink till they have killed him. And now they are ready, waiting for your consent."

22 So the tribune dismissed the young man, charging him, "Tell no one that you have informed me of these things."

23 Then he called two of the centurions and said, "Get ready two hundred soldiers, with seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go as far as Caesarea at the third hour of the night.

24 Also provide mounts for Paul to ride and bring him safely to Felix the governor."

25 And he wrote a letter to this effect:

26 "Claudius Lysias, to his Excellency the governor Felix, greetings.

27 This 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 citizen.

28 And desiring to know the charge for which they were accusing him, I brought him down to their council.

29 I found that he was being accused about questions of their law, but charged with nothing deserving death or imprisonment.

30 And when it was disclosed to me that there would be a plot against the man, I sent him to you at once, ordering his accusers also to state before you what they have against him."

31 So the soldiers, according to their instructions, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris.

32 And on the next day they returned to the barracks, letting the horsemen go on with him.

33 When they had come to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they presented Paul also before him.

34 On reading the letter, he asked what province he was from. And when he learned that he was from Cilicia,

35 he said, "I will give you a hearing when your accusers arrive." And he commanded him to be guarded in Herod's praetorium.

bound themselves by an oath, saying neither to eat nor to drink until they should kill Paul.

13 And the ones making this plot were more than forty;

14 who, having come near to the chief priests and to the elders, said, "With a curse we have bound ourselves by an oath to taste of nothing until we shall kill Paul.

15 Now, therefore, you with the sanhedrin inform the chiliarch, so that tomorrow he may bring him down to you, as being about to more accurately determine the things about him. And before his drawing near, we are ready to kill him.

16 But the son of Paul's sister hearing of the ambush, coming, and entering into the barracks, reported to Paul.

17 And calling near one of the centurions, Paul said, "Bring this young man to the chiliarch, for he has something to report to him.

18 Therefore, indeed, taking him, he brought him to the chiliarch and said, "Paul the prisoner having called me near asked me to bring this young man to you, having a thing to tell you.

19 And taking hold of his hand, and drawing aside to his own place, the chiliarch asked, "What is it that you have to report to me?"

20 And he said, "The Jews agreed to ask you that tomorrow you bring down Paul into the sanhedrin, as going to learn something more accurate about him.

21 Therefore, you do not be persuaded by them, for more than forty men of them lie in wait for him who bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor to drink until they kill him. And now they are ready, awaiting the promise from you.

22 Then the chiliarch sent away the young man, charging him, "Tell no one that you made known these things to me.

23 And having called near a certain two of the centurions, he said, "Get two hundred soldiers ready, so that they may go to Caesarea, and seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen, from the third hour of the night;

24 and animals to stand by, so that setting Paul on, they may bring him safely to Felix the governor.

25 For he was writing a letter, having this form:

26 Claudius Lysias to the most excellent governor, Felix, greeting:

27 This man being seized by the Jews, and being about to be killed by them, coming on with the soldiers I rescued him, learning that he was a Roman.

28 And purposing to know the charge for which they were accusing him, I brought him down to their sanhedrin;

29 I found him to be accused concerning questions of their law, and having no accusation worthy of death or of bonds.

30 And it being made known to me that a plot against the man was about to be executed by the Jews, I at once sent him to you, also commanding the accusers to say the things against him before you. Farewell.

31 Then indeed taking up Paul according to that order given to them, the soldiers brought him through the night to Antipatris.

32 And on the next day, allowing the horsemen to go with him, they returned to the barracks.

33 Entering into Caesarea, and giving over the letter to the governor, they also presented Paul to him.

34 And having read it, the governor asked from what province he is. And having learned that he was from Cilicia,

35 he said, "I will hear you fully when your accusers arrive. And he commanded him to be guarded in the praetorium of Herod."



23:23-35 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Other key themes:

4. How do the Romans thwart the plan of the Jews?

5. How does Claudius Lysias make himself sound good in this letter?

6. What do we know historically about Felix? Is he sympathetic to the Jews? Do we know how long he has been governor over the region? Write down your findings about Felix:

7. Locate on a map where Caesarea is in relation to Jerusalem.

24:1 And after five days the high priest Ananias came down with some elders and a spokesman, one Tertullus. They laid before the governor their case against Paul.

2 And when he had been summoned, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying: "Since through you we enjoy much peace, and since by your foresight, most excellent Felix, reforms are being made for this nation,

3 in every way and everywhere we accept this with all gratitude.

4 But, to detain you no further, I beg you in your kindness to hear us briefly.

5 For we have found this man a plague, one who stirs up riots among all the Jews throughout the world and is a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.

6 He even tried to profane the temple, but we seized him.

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8 By examining him yourself you will be able to find out from him about everything of which we accuse him."

9 The Jews also joined in the charge, affirming that all these things were so.

10 And when the governor had nodded to him to speak, Paul replied: "Knowing that for many years you have been a judge over this nation, I cheerfully make my defense.

11 You can verify that it is not more than twelve days since I went up to worship in Jerusalem,

12 and they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the temple or in the synagogues or in the city.

13 Neither can they prove to you what they now bring up against me.

14 But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, 15 having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.

16 So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.

17 Now after several years I came to bring alms to my nation and to present offerings.

18 While I was doing this, they found me purified in the temple, without any crowd or tumult. But some Jews from Asia—

19 they ought to be here before you and to make an accusation, should they have anything against me.

20 Or else let these men themselves say what wrongdoing they found when I stood before the council,

21 other than this one thing that I cried out while standing among them: 'It is with respect to the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you this day.'"

22 But Felix, having a rather accurate knowledge of the Way, put them off, saying, "When Lysias the tribune comes down, I will decide your case."

23 Then he gave orders to the centurion that he should be kept in custody but have some liberty, and that none of his friends should be prevented from attending to his needs.

24 After some days Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, and he sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus.

25 And as he reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, "Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you."

24:1 And after five days Ananias the high priest came down with the elders, and a certain orator, Tertullus, who made a statement to the governor against Paul.

2 And him being called, Tertullus began to accuse, saying,

3 Obtaining much peace through you and successful achievements having come to this nation due to your forethought, both in every thing and everywhere we accept with all thankfulness, most excellent Felix.

4 But that I not hinder you more, I beseech you to hear us briefly in your fairness.

5 For having found this man a pestilence and moving insurrection among all the Jews throughout the world, and a leader of the Nazarene sect;

6 who also attempted to profane the temple, whom we also seized and wished to judge according to our law;

7 but Lysias the chiliarch coming up with much force took him away out of our hands,

8 commanding his accusers to come to you, from whom you will be able yourself to know, having examined as to all these things of which we are accusing him.

9 And the Jews also joined in, asserting these things to have been so.

10 But the governor having nodded to him to speak, Paul answered: Understanding you as being a judge to this nation many years, I cheerfully defend myself as to the things concerning myself.

11 You are able to know that not more than twelve days are to me since I went worshiping in Jerusalem;

12 and neither did they find me discussing with anyone in the temple, or making a gathering of a crowd, neither in the synagogues, nor throughout the city;

13 nor are they able to prove that about which they now accuse me.

14 But I confess this to you that according to the Way, which they call a sect, so I worship the paternal God, believing all things according to that having been written in the Law and the Prophets,

15 having hope toward God, which these themselves also are awaiting, of a resurrection being about to be of the dead, both of just and unjust ones.

16 And in this I exercise myself to have always a blameless conscience toward God and men.

17 And through many years I arrived doing merciful deeds and offerings to my nation,

18 among whom they found me purified in the temple, not with a crowd, nor with tumult, but by some Jews from Asia,

19 for whom it is right to be present before you and to accuse if they have anything against me.

20 Or these themselves say if they found anything unjust in me, I standing before the sanhedrin,

21 than about this one voice which I cried out standing among them, that I am being judged today before you about a resurrection of the dead.

22 And hearing these things, Felix put them off, knowing more accurately about the Way, saying, When Lysias the chiliarch comes down, I will examine the things as to you.

23 And having ordered the centurion to keep Paul, and to have ease, and not to forbid anyone of his own to minister or to come to him, he dismissed them.

24 And after some days, Felix having arrived with his wife

24:1-27 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Other key themes:

1. TEXTUAL QUESTION: Why does the ESV have verse 7 missing?

2. What are the charges brought against Paul?

3. How does the high priest try to endear himself to Felix?

4. What is Paul's defense of these charges?

5. What else do we learn about Felix in this chapter?

6. How long does Paul remain stuck in prison?

26 At the same time he hoped that money would be given him by Paul. So he sent for him often and conversed with him.  
27 When two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And desiring to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison.

#### ESV

25:1 Now three days after Festus had arrived in the province, he went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea.  
2 And the chief priests and the principal men of the Jews laid out their case against Paul, and they urged him,  
3 asking as a favor against Paul that he summon him to Jerusalem—because they were planning an ambush to kill him on the way.  
4 Festus replied that Paul was being kept at Caesarea and that he himself intended to go there shortly.  
5 “So,” said he, “let the men of authority among you go down with me, and if there is anything wrong about the man, let them bring charges against him.”  
6 After he stayed among them not more than eight or ten days, he went down to Caesarea. And the next day he took his seat on the tribunal and ordered Paul to be brought.  
7 When he had arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many and serious charges against him that they could not prove.  
8 Paul argued in his defense, “Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I committed any offense.”  
9 But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, “Do you wish to go up to Jerusalem and there be tried on these charges before me?”  
10 But Paul said, “I am standing before Caesar’s tribunal, where I ought to be tried. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you yourself know very well.  
11 If then I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything for which I deserve to die, I do not seek to escape death. But if there is nothing to their charges against me, no one can give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar.”  
12 Then Festus, when he had conferred with his council, answered, “To Caesar you have appealed; to Caesar you shall go.”  
13 Now when some days had passed, Agrippa the king and Bernice arrived at Caesarea and greeted Festus.  
14 And as they stayed there many days, Festus laid Paul’s case before the king, saying, “There is a man left prisoner by Felix,  
15 and when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews laid out their case against him, asking for a sentence of condemnation against him.  
16 I answered them that it was not the custom of the Romans to give up anyone before the accused met the accusers face to face and had opportunity to make his defense concerning the charge laid against him.

Drusilla, who was a Jewess, he sent for Paul. And he heard him concerning the faith into Christ.  
25 And Paul discoursing about righteousness and self control, and the Judgment, the one that is about to be, becoming terrified, Felix answered, For now having no time, go; but taking a time later, I will call for you;  
26 but at the same time also hoping that money would be given to him by Paul, that he might free him. Because of this he also more frequently sent for him and conversed with him.  
27 But two years being completed, Felix received a successor, Porcius Festus. And wishing to lay up favors to the Jews, Felix left Paul being bound.

#### KJ3

25:1 Then going into the province, after three days Festus went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea.  
2 And the high priest and the first ones of the Jews informed to him against Paul, and they entreated him,  
3 asking a favor against him, so as he might send for him to Jerusalem, making an ambush to kill him on the way.  
4 Then indeed Festus answered that Paul was to be kept at Caesarea, and he himself being about to go shortly.  
5 Therefore he said, the powerful ones among you going down with me. If there is a thing amiss in this man, let them accuse him.  
6 And spending among them more than ten days, going down to Caesarea, on the next day sitting on the tribunal, he ordered Paul to be brought.  
7 And he arriving, the Jews having come down from Jerusalem stood around, also bringing many and weighty charges against Paul, which they were not able to prove.  
8 Defending himself, Paul said, Neither against the Law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I sinned in anything.  
9 But desiring to lay up a favor to the Jews, answering Paul, Festus said, Going up, are you willing to go to Jerusalem to be judged before me there about these things?  
10 But Paul said, I am standing before the tribunal of Caesar where I must be judged. I have wronged the Jews in nothing, as also you very well know.  
11 For if I indeed do wrong and have done anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die. But if there is nothing of which they accuse me, no one can give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar.  
12 Then conferring with the sanhedrin, Festus answered, You have appealed to Caesar; you shall go before Caesar.  
13 And some days having passed, Agrippa the king and Bernice arrived at Caesarea, greeting Festus.  
14 And when they remained there more days, Festus set out to the king the things as to Paul, saying, A certain man is here having been left a prisoner by Felix,  
15 about whom, I being in Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed, asking judgment against him;  
16 to whom I answered, It is not a custom with Romans to give up any man to destruction before the one being accused may have the accusers face to face, and may receive place of defense concerning the charge.  
17 Therefore, they coming together here, having made no delay, sitting on the tribunal on the next day, I commanded

25:1-27 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Other key themes:

1. Research Festus. What do we know about him? Was he sympathetic to Jews? How long did he rule? When did he rule? Write down all you can find out about him:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What is the first thing that Festus does when he arrives in the province?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What did the Jews request for Festus to do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Why does Paul appeal to Caesar?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Which Caesar would have been on the throne at this time? Does this reveal how desperate a situation Paul is currently in?

17 So when they came together here, I made no delay, but on the next day took my seat on the tribunal and ordered the man to be brought.  
 18 When the accusers stood up, they brought no charge in his case of such evils as I supposed.  
 19 Rather they had certain points of dispute with him about their own religion and about a certain Jesus, who was dead, but whom Paul asserted to be alive.  
 20 Being at a loss how to investigate these questions, I asked whether he wanted to go to Jerusalem and be tried there regarding them.  
 21 But when Paul had appealed to be kept in custody for the decision of the emperor, I ordered him to be held until I could send him to Caesar.”  
 22 Then Agrippa said to Festus, “I would like to hear the man myself.” “Tomorrow,” said he, “you will hear him.”  
 23 So on the next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp, and they entered the audience hall with the military tribunes and the prominent men of the city. Then, at the command of Festus, Paul was brought in.  
 24 And Festus said, “King Agrippa and all who are present with us, you see this man about whom the whole Jewish people petitioned me, both in Jerusalem and here, shouting that he ought not to live any longer.  
 25 But I found that he had done nothing deserving death. And as he himself appealed to the emperor, I decided to go ahead and send him.  
 26 But I have nothing definite to write to my lord about him. Therefore I have brought him before you all, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that, after we have examined him, I may have something to write.  
 27 For it seems to me unreasonable, in sending a prisoner, not to indicate the charges against him.”

#### ESV

26:1 So Agrippa said to Paul, “You have permission to speak for yourself.” Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense:  
 2 “I consider myself fortunate that it is before you, King Agrippa, I am going to make my defense today against all the accusations of the Jews,  
 3 especially because you are familiar with all the customs and controversies of the Jews. Therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently.  
 4 “My manner of life from my youth, spent from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem, is known by all the Jews.  
 5 They have known for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that according to the strictest party of our religion I have lived as a Pharisee.  
 6 And now I stand here on trial because of my hope in the promise made by God to our fathers,  
 7 to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship night and day. And for this hope I am accused by Jews, O king!  
 8 Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?  
 9 “I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

the man to be brought;  
 18 about whom, standing up, the accusers brought no charge of which I supposed,  
 19 but they had certain questions about their own demon worship, and about a certain Jesus dying, whom Paul claimed to be living.  
 20 And I being perplexed about this inquiry, I said, If he was willing to go to Jerusalem and to be judged there concerning these things?  
 21 But Paul appealing for him to be kept to the examination of Augustus, I commanded him to be held until I might send him to Caesar.  
 22 And Agrippa said to Festus, I myself also was purposing to hear the man. And he said, Tomorrow you shall hear him.  
 23 Therefore on the next day, Agrippa and Bernice coming with much pomp and entering into the auditorium, with both the chiliarchs and the men of eminence being of the city, also Festus commanding, Paul was brought out.  
 24 And Festus said, King Agrippa, and all the men present with us, you see this one about whom all the multitude of the Jews pleaded with me, both here and in Jerusalem, crying out that he ought to live no longer.  
 25 But I having understood nothing he had done worthy of death, also this one himself having appealed to Augustus, I decided to send him;  
 26 about whom I have nothing certain to write to my lord. So I brought him out before you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so as the examination taking place, I may have something I may write.  
 27 For it seems unreasonable to me to send a prisoner, and not also to signify the charges against him.

#### KJ3

1 And Agrippa said to Paul, It is allowed for you yourself to speak. Then Paul made a defense, stretching out the hand:  
 2 Concerning all of which I am accused by Jews, King Agrippa, I consider myself blessed being about to make defense before you today,  
 3 you being especially expert, knowing of all the customs and questions also among the Jews. Therefore, I beg you patiently to hear me.  
 4 Truly, then, all the Jews know my way of life from youth, which from the beginning had been in my nation in Jerusalem,  
 5 who before knew me from the first, if they will testify, that according to the most exact sect of our religion, I lived a Pharisee.  
 6 And now for the hope of the promise having been made by God to the fathers, I stand being judged;  
 7 to which our twelve tribes hope to arrive, worshiping in earnestness night and day, concerning which hope I am accused by the Jews, King Agrippa.  
 8 Why is it judged unbelievable by you if God raises the dead?  
 9 Indeed, I then thought to myself that I ought to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus the Nazarene,  
 10 which I also did in Jerusalem I also shut up many of the saints in prisons, receiving authority from the chief priests; 44



6. Who is Agrippa? What do we know about him? Was he sympathetic to the Jews? When did he reign? Write down all that you can find out about Agrippa:

7. What does Festus tell Agrippa? Why do you think Festus bothers to tell Agrippa about this person?

8. Had Festus believed that Paul was innocent or guilty of the charges?

## **ACTS**

**26**

26:1-32 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Other key themes:

1. What is Paul describing as he begins his defense in the first eleven verses? Why does Paul begin here in his defense?

10 And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them.

11 And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

12 "In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests.

13 At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me.

14 And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'

15 And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.

16 But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you,

17 delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you

18 to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

19 "Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

20 but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.

21 For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me.

22 To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass:

23 that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles."

24 And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind."

25 But Paul said, "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words.

26 For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner.

27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe."

28 And Agrippa said to Paul, "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?"

29 And Paul said, "Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains."

30 Then the king rose, and the governor and Bernice and those who were sitting with them.

and they being put to death, I cast a vote.

11 And often punishing them through all the synagogues, I compelled them to blaspheme. And being exceedingly furious against them, I even persecuted them as far as the outer cities.

12 In which also traveling to Damascus with authority and permission from the chief priests,

13 at midday along the highway, O king, I saw a light from Heaven shining around me above the brightness of the sun, also the ones traveling with me.

14 And all of us falling to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me, and saying in the Hebrew dialect, Saul, Saul why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.

15 And I said, Who are you, Sir? And He said, I am Jesus whom you are persecuting;

16 but rise up and stand on your feet, for it is for this reason I appeared to you, to appoint you a servant and a witness both of the things which you saw, and the things in which I shall appear to you,

17 delivering you from the people and the nations, to whom I now am sending you,

18 to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness into light, and from the authority of Satan onto God, in order for them to receive remission of sins, and an inheritance among the ones being sanctified by faith into Me.

19 For which reason, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

20 but firstly to the ones in Damascus, and Jerusalem, and to all the region of Judea, and to the nations, I proclaimed the command to repent and to turn to God, practicing works worthy of repentance.

21 Because of these things, seizing me in the temple, the Jews tried to lay violent hands on me.

22 Then obtaining help from God, I stand until this day, witnessing both to small and to great, saying nothing except what the prophets and Moses also said was going to happen:

23 whether the Christ was liable to suffer, whether first by a resurrection from the dead He was going to proclaim a light to the people and to the nations.

24 And he defending himself with these things, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, You rave! Your many letters turns you into madness.

25 But he said, Not to rave, most excellent Festus, but I declare words of truth and sanity.

26 For the king understands about these things, to whom I speak, also speaking openly. For I am persuaded not any of these things lie hidden from him, nothing. For the doing of this is not in a corner.

27 Do you believe the prophets, King Agrippa? I know that you believe.

28 And Agrippa said to Paul, In but a little do you persuade me to become a Christian!

29 And Paul said, I would pray to God, both in a little and in much, not only you, but also the ones hearing me today to become such as I also am, except for these bonds.

30 And he saying these things, the king and the governor and Bernice rose up, and the ones sitting with them.

31 And having withdrawn, they spoke to one another saying<sup>46</sup>

2. Verses 12-23 record the rest of Paul's defense. What arguments does Paul present to Agrippa?
3. What is Festus' response to Paul's defense? How does Paul defend himself?
4. Explain what Paul is implying in verse 27.
5. What is Agrippa's response to Paul's defense?
6. What is Agrippa's verdict after this informal trial?

31 And when they had withdrawn, they said to one another, "This man is doing nothing to deserve death or imprisonment."

32 And Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."

#### ESV

27:1 And when it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan Cohort named Julius.

2 And embarking in a ship of Adramyttium, which was about to sail to the ports along the coast of Asia, we put to sea, accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica.

3 The next day we put in at Sidon. And Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him leave to go to his friends and be cared for.

4 And putting out to sea from there we sailed under the lee of Cyprus, because the winds were against us.

5 And when we had sailed across the open sea along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra in Lycia.

6 There the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing for Italy and put us on board.

7 We sailed slowly for a number of days and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus, and as the wind did not allow us to go farther, we sailed under the lee of Crete off Salmone.

8 Coasting along it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near which was the city of Lasea.

9 Since much time had passed, and the voyage was now dangerous because even the Fast was already over, Paul advised them,

10 saying, "Sirs, 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."

11 But the centurion paid more attention to the pilot and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul said.

12 And because the harbor was not suitable to spend the winter in, the majority decided to put out to sea from there, on the chance that somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete, facing both southwest and northwest, and spend the winter there.

13 Now when the south wind blew gently, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, they weighed anchor and sailed along Crete, close to the shore.

14 But soon a tempestuous wind, called the northeaster, struck down from the land.

15 And when the ship was caught and could not face the wind, we gave way to it and were driven along.

16 Running under the lee of a small island called Cauda, we managed with difficulty to secure the ship's boat.

17 After hoisting it up, they used supports to undergird the ship. Then, fearing that they would run aground on the Syrtis, they lowered the gear, and thus they were driven along.

18 Since we were violently storm-tossed, they began the next day to jettison the cargo.

19 And on the third day they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands.

20 When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned.

21 Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul

This man does nothing worthy of death or of bonds.

32 And Agrippa said to Festus, This man was able to have been released, if he had not appealed to Caesar.

#### KJ3

27:1 And when it was decided for us to sail to Italy, they gave over both Paul and certain other prisoners to a centurion by name Julius, of a cohort of Augustus.

2 And boarding a ship of Adramyttium which was about to sail to the places alongside Asia, we set sail, Aristarchus a Macedonian of Thessalonica being with us.

3 And on the next day we brought to land at Sidon. And treating Paul kindly, Julius allowed him, going to his friends to obtain care.

4 And setting sail from there, we sailed close to Cyprus, because of the winds being contrary.

5 And sailing over the sea against Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra of Lycia.

6 And the centurion finding there an Alexandrian ship sailing to Italy, he put us into it.

7 And in many days, sailing slowly and with difficulty, hardly coming against Cnidus, the wind not allowing us, we sailed close to Crete against Salmone.

8 And sailing along it with difficulty, we came to a certain place being called Fair Havens, near to which was a city, Lasea.

9 And considerable time having passed, and the voyage already being dangerous, because the Fast already had gone by, Paul advised them,

10 saying to them, Men, I perceive that the voyage is about to be with hardship and much loss, not only of the cargo and of the ship, but also of our souls.

11 But the centurion was rather persuaded by the helmsman and the ship-owner, than by the things being said by Paul.

12 And the harbor not being fit for wintering, the majority gave counsel to set sail from there, if somehow they may be able to pass the winter, having arrived at Phoenix, a harbor of Crete looking toward the southwest, and with winds toward the northwest.

13 And a south wind blowing gently, thinking to have gained the purpose, raising anchor they sailed by nearer Crete.

14 But not much after, a typhonic wind, being called Euroclydon, smote down on it.

15 And the ship being seized, and not being able to face into the wind, giving over we were borne along.

16 But running under an islet being called Claudia, we hardly had strength to get mastery of the boat;

17 which taking, they used helps, undergirding the ship. And fearing lest into the Syrtis shoals they fall, lowering the tackle, so they were borne along.

18 But we being violently storm tossed, they made a jettisoning on the next day.

19 And on the third day we threw out the ship's tackle with our hands.

20 And neither sun nor stars having appeared over many days, and no small tempest pressing hard, finally all hope for us to be saved was taken away.

21 And there being much abstinence, then standing up in their midst, Paul said, Truly, O men, obeying me you ought 48



stood up among them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss.

22 Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.

23 For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship,

24 and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.'

25 So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told.

26 But we must run aground on some island."

27 When the fourteenth night had come, as we were being driven across the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors suspected that they were nearing land.

28 So they took a sounding and found twenty fathoms. A little farther on they took a sounding again and found fifteen fathoms.

29 And fearing that we might run on the rocks, they let down four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come.

30 And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, and had lowered the ship's boat into the sea under pretense of laying out anchors from the bow,

31 Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved."

32 Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the ship's boat and let it go.

33 As day was about to dawn, Paul urged them all to take some food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day that you have continued in suspense and without food, having taken nothing.

34 Therefore I urge you to take some food. For it will give you strength, for not a hair is to perish from the head of any of you."

35 And when he had said these things, he took bread, and giving thanks to God in the presence of all he broke it and began to eat.

36 Then they all were encouraged and ate some food themselves.

37 (We were in all 276 persons in the ship.)

38 And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, throwing out the wheat into the sea.

39 Now when it was day, they did not recognize the land, but they noticed a bay with a beach, on which they planned if possible to run the ship ashore.

40 So they cast off the anchors and left them in the sea, at the same time loosening the ropes that tied the rudders. Then hoisting the foresail to the wind they made for the beach.

41 But striking a reef, they ran the vessel aground. The bow stuck and remained immovable, and the stern was being broken up by the surf.

42 The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any should swim away and escape.

43 But the centurion, wishing to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and make for the land,

44 and the rest on planks or on pieces of the ship. And so it was that all were brought safely to land.

not to have set sail from Crete, and to spare yourselves and this hardship and loss.

22 And now I exhort you to be cheered, for there will be not one loss of life from you, except of the ship.

23 For this night an angel of God stood by me, whose I am, and whom I serve,

24 saying, Do not fear, Paul, You must stand before Caesar.

And, behold, God has granted to you all the ones sailing with you.

25 Therefore, be cheered, men, for I believe God, that it will be so according to the way it was spoken to me.

26 But it is necessary for us to fall off onto a certain island.

27 And when the fourteenth night came, we being carried about in the Adriatic Sea, toward the middle of the night the sailors supposed us to be coming near to them some land.

28 And taking soundings, they found it to be twenty fathoms; and having gone a little farther, and taking soundings again, they found it to be fifteen fathoms.

29 And fearing lest they should fall off onto rough places, and casting four anchors out of the stern, they prayed day to come on.

30 But the sailors seeking to flee out of the ship, and lowering the boat into the sea, as a pretext to be about to cast out anchors from the prow,

31 Paul said to the centurion, and to the soldiers, If not these men remain in the ship, you cannot be saved.

32 Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the boat, and let it fall.

33 And until day was about to come on, Paul begged all to receive a share of food, saying, Today is the fourteenth day you continued waiting in abstinence, not having taken anything.

34 Therefore I exhort you to take of food, for this is to your deliverance, for not one hair of your head will fall.

35 And having said these things, and having taken bread, he gave thanks to God before all; and having broken, he began to eat.

36 And all becoming cheered, they also took food.

37 And we were, all the souls in the ship, two hundred seventy-six.

38 And being satisfied with food, they lightened the ship, throwing the wheat out into the sea.

39 And when day came on, they did not recognize the land, but they noted a certain bay having a beach, into which they purposed, if they were able, to drive the ship.

40 And casting off the anchors, they left them in the sea, at the same time loosening the bands of the rudders, and raising the foresail to the blowing wind, they headed to the beach.

41 And having fallen on a place with an inlet between two seas, they drove the vessel. And indeed the prow having stuck firmly, it remained. But the stern was broken by the violence of the waves.

42 And the mind of the soldiers was that they should kill the prisoners, lest any swimming out should escape.

43 But purposing to save Paul, the centurion stopped them from their purpose and commanded the ones able to swim, first throwing themselves down, to go out on the land.

44 And the rest went, this one indeed on planks, and this one on some of the things from the ship. And so it happened all to be saved on the land.



4. Draw the voyage of Paul to Rome below:



28:1 After we were brought safely through, we then learned that the island was called Malta.  
 2 The native people showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all, because it had begun to rain and was cold.  
 3 When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand.  
 4 When the native people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "No doubt this man is a murderer. Though he has escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live."  
 5 He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm.  
 6 They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But when they had waited a long time and saw no misfortune come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.  
 7 Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the chief man of the island, named Publius, who received us and entertained us hospitably for three days.  
 8 It happened that the father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery. And Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him healed him.  
 9 And when this had taken place, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and were cured.  
 10 They also honored us greatly, and when we were about to sail, they put on board whatever we needed.  
 11 After three months we set sail in a ship that had wintered in the island, a ship of Alexandria, with the twin gods as a figurehead.  
 12 Putting in at Syracuse, we stayed there for three days.  
 13 And from there we made a circuit and arrived at Rhegium. And after one day a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli.  
 14 There we found brothers and were invited to stay with them for seven days. And so we came to Rome.  
 15 And the brothers there, when they heard about us, came as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns to meet us. On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage.  
 16 And when we came into Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier that guarded him.  
 17 After three days he called together the local leaders of the Jews, and when they had gathered, he said to them, "Brothers, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.  
 18 When they had examined me, they wished to set me at liberty, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case.  
 19 But because the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar—though I had no charge to bring against my nation.  
 20 For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain."  
 21 And they said to him, "We have received no letters from Judea about you, and none of the brothers coming here has reported or spoken any evil about you.

28:1 And being saved, then they knew that the island is called Melita.  
 2 And the foreigners were showing not the common kindness to us, for having kindled a fire because of the rain coming on, and because of the cold, they took us all to heart.  
 3 And Paul gathering a great number of sticks, and putting them on the fire, a snake coming out from the heat fastened on his hand.  
 4 And when the foreigners saw the beast hanging from his hand, they said to one another, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom being saved out of the sea, Justice did not permit to live.  
 5 Then he shaking the beast off into the fire, he suffered nothing bad.  
 6 But they were expecting him to be about to be swollen up, or suddenly to fall down dead. But over much time, they expecting and observing nothing out of place happening to him, changing their minds, they said him to be a god.  
 7 And in the parts about that place were pieces of land to the first man of the island, Publius by name. Welcoming us, he hosted us three days in a friendly way.  
 8 And it happened the father of Publius was lying down, suffering from fevers and dysentery; to whom Paul, entering and praying, laying on his hands, healed him.  
 9 Then, this taking place, the ones in the island having infirmities also were coming up, and they were healed,  
 10 who also honored us with many honors. And on our setting sail, they laid on us such things for our need.  
 11 And after three months we sailed in a ship having wintered in the island, an Alexandrian marked with an ensign, Twin Brothers.  
 12 And landing at Syracuse, we remained three days.  
 13 From where having gone around, we arrived at Rhegium. And after one day, a south wind having come on, on the second we came to Puteoli,  
 14 where finding brothers, we were entreated by them to remain seven days. And so we went toward Rome.  
 15 And the brothers from there hearing the things about us, they came out for a meeting with us, as far as Forum of Appius, and Three Taverns; whom Paul seeing, thanking God, he took courage.  
 16 And when we went into Rome, the centurion gave over the prisoners to the camp commander. But Paul was allowed to remain by himself, with the soldier guarding him.  
 17 And after three days, it happened that Paul decided to call together the ones being first ones of the Jews. And they coming together, he said to them, Men, brothers, I having done nothing hostile to the people, or to the paternal customs, yet I was given over a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans,  
 18 who examining me were of a mind to let me go, because no cause of death was in me.  
 19 But the Jews speaking against it, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar, not as having anything to accuse my nation.  
 20 Therefore, because of this, I called for you, to see and to speak to you. For I have this chain around me for the sake of the hope of Israel.  
 21 But the ones said to him, We neither received letters about

28:1-31 Main point: \_\_\_\_\_

Other key themes:

1. What happens to Paul on Malta?

2. What did the people first think of Paul? What do they think about him after this event on Malta?

3. What else does Paul do while on Malta?

4. How long did they remain on Malta?

5. What are the prison arrangements for Paul in Rome?

22 But we desire to hear from you what your views are, for with regard to this sect we know that everywhere it is spoken against.”

23 When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets.

24 And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved.

25 And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: “The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet:

26 “Go to this people, and say, You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.

27 For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.’

28 Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.”

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30 He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him,

31 proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

you from the Jews, nor arriving has any one of the brothers reported or spoken anything evil about you.

22 But we think it fit to hear from you as to what you think, for truly as concerning this sect, it is known to us that it is spoken against everywhere.

23 And having appointed him a day, more came to him in the lodging, to whom he expounded, earnestly testifying the kingdom of God and persuading them the things concerning Jesus, both from the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning until evening.

24 And some indeed were persuaded by that being said, but others disbelieved.

25 And disagreeing with one another, they were let go, Paul saying one word: Well did the Holy Spirit speak through the prophet Isaiah to our fathers,

26 saying, “Go to this people and say, In hearing you shall hear, and not at all understand; and seeing you will see, and not at all perceive;

27 for the heart of this people was fattened, and they have heard with the ears heavily; and they closed their eyes lest at any time they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.”

28 Then let it be known to you that the salvation of God was sent to the nations, and they will hear.

29 And he saying these things, the Jews went away, having much discussion among themselves.

30 And Paul remained two whole years in his own rented place, and he welcomed all the ones coming in to him,

31 proclaiming the kingdom of God, and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all freedom and without hindrance

6. What does Paul preach to the Jews in Rome?

7. What is the response of the Jews in Rome?

8. How does the prophecy of Isaiah reflect what was happening in the first century with the Jews?

9. Where does Paul say that he will now preach salvation?

10. How long did Paul remain in Rome?