

2022-2023 CMA Acts Reference Materials

Acts 1

Jesus Taken Up Into Heaven

- ¶ Acts 1:1 - In my **former** book, **Theophilus**, I wrote about all that Jesus **began** to do and to teach
- Acts 1:2 - **until** the day he was taken up to heaven, after **giving instructions** through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.
- Acts 1:3 - After his **suffering**, he **presented himself** to them and gave **many convincing proofs** that he was **alive**. He **appeared** to them over a **period** of **forty** days and spoke about the kingdom of **God**.
- Acts 1:4 - On one **occasion**, **while** he was **eating** with them, he gave them this **command**: "Do not **leave** Jerusalem, but **wait** for the **gift** my Father **promised**, which you have heard **me speak** about.
- Acts 1:5 - For John baptized with **water**, but in a **few** days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."
- ¶ Acts 1:6 - Then they **gathered around** him and **asked** him, "Lord, **are you at** this time going to **restore** the kingdom to Israel?"
- ¶ Acts 1:7 - He said to them: "It is **not** for you to know the **times or dates** the Father has **set by** his **own authority**.
- Acts 1:8 - But you will **receive power** when the Holy Spirit **comes on you**; and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all **Judea** and **Samaria**, and to the **ends** of the **earth**."
- ¶ Acts 1:9 - After he said this, he was taken up **before** their **very eyes**, and a **cloud hid** him from their **sight**.
- ¶ Acts 1:10 - They were looking **intently** up into the sky as he was going, when **suddenly** two men **dressed in white** stood **beside** them.
- Acts 1:11 - "Men of **Galilee**," they said, "**why** do you **stand here** looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will **come back** in the same **way** you have **seen** him go into heaven."

Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas

- ¶ Acts 1:12 - Then the **apostles returned** to Jerusalem from the **hill** called the **Mount of Olives**, a **Sabbath day's walk** from the **city**.
- Acts 1:13 - When they **arrived**, they **went upstairs** to the **room** where they were **staying**. Those **present** were Peter, John, James and **Andrew**; **Philip** and **Thomas**; **Bartholomew** and **Matthew**; James son of **Alphaeus** and **Simon the Zealot**, and Judas son of James.
- Acts 1:14 - They all **joined together constantly** in **prayer**, along with the **women** and **Mary** the **mother** of Jesus, and with his brothers.
- ¶ Acts 1:15 - In those days Peter stood up among the **believers** (a **group numbering** about a **hundred** and **twenty**)
- Acts 1:16 - and said, "Brothers and **sisters**, the **Scripture** had to be **fulfilled** in which the Holy Spirit spoke **long ago** through **David concerning** Judas, who **served as guide** for those who **arrested** Jesus.
- Acts 1:17 - He was one of our **number** and **shared** in our ministry."
- ¶ Acts 1:18 - (With the **payment** he received for his **wickedness**, Judas **bought** a field; there he fell **headlong**, his **body burst open** and all his **intestines spilled out**.)
- Acts 1:19 - **Everyone** in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their **language Akeldama**, that is, **Field of Blood**.)
- ¶ Acts 1:20 - "For," said Peter, "it is **written** in the Book of **Psalms**: "'May his place be **deserted**; let there be **no one** to **dwell** in it,' and, "'May **another** take his place of **leadership**.'"
- ¶ Acts 1:21 - **Therefore** it is **necessary** to **choose** one of the men who have been with us the **whole** time the Lord Jesus was **living** among us,
- Acts 1:22 - **beginning** from **John's baptism** to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these **must become a witness** with us of his **resurrection**."
- ¶ Acts 1:23 - So they **nominated** two men: **Joseph** called **Barsabbas** (also known as **Justus**) and Matthias.
- Acts 1:24 - Then they **prayed**, "Lord, you know **everyone's heart**. **Show** us which of these two you have chosen
- Acts 1:25 - to take over this **apostolic** ministry, which Judas **left** to go where he **belongs**."
- Acts 1:26 - Then they **cast lots**, and the **lot** fell to Matthias; so he was **added** to the **eleven** apostles.

Acts 2

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

- ¶ Acts 2:1 - When the day of **Pentecost** came, they were all together in one place.

- Acts 2:2 - Suddenly a sound like the **blowing** of a **violent wind** came from heaven and filled the **whole house** where they were **sitting**.
- Acts 2:3 - They saw what **seemed** to be tongues of fire that **separated** and came to rest on each of them.
- Acts 2:4 - All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and **began** to **speak** in other tongues as the Spirit **enabled** them.
- ¶ Acts 2:5 - Now **there** were **staying** in Jerusalem **God-fearing Jews** from every **nation under** heaven.
- Acts 2:6 - When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in **bewilderment**, because each one heard their own language being spoken.
- Acts 2:7 - **Utterly** amazed, they asked: "**Aren't** all these who are **speaking Galileans**?"
- Acts 2:8 - Then **how** is it that each of **us hears** them in our **native** language?
- Acts 2:9 - **Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,**
- Acts 2:10 - **Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome**
- Acts 2:11 - (both Jews and **converts to Judaism**); **Cretans and Arabs**--we hear them **declaring** the wonders of God in our own tongues!"
- Acts 2:12 - Amazed and **perplexed**, they asked one **another**, "What **does this mean**?"
- ¶ Acts 2:13 - **Some, however, made fun** of them and said, "They have had **too much wine**."

Peter Addresses the Crowd

- ¶ Acts 2:14 - Then Peter **stood up** with the **Eleven**, raised his **voice** and **addressed** the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who **live** in Jerusalem, let me **explain** this to you; listen **carefully** to what I **say**."
- Acts 2:15 - These people are not **drunk**, as you **suppose**. **It's only nine** in the morning!
- Acts 2:16 - **No**, this is what was spoken by the prophet **Joel**:
- ¶ Acts 2:17 - "'In the **last** days, God **says**, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your **sons** and **daughters** will prophesy, your **young** men will see **visions**, your **old** men will **dream dreams**."
- Acts 2:18 - **Even** on my **servants**, both men and **women**, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.
- Acts 2:19 - I will **show** wonders in the **heavens above** and signs on the **earth below**, blood and fire and **billows of smoke**.
- Acts 2:20 - The **sun** will be **turned** to **darkness** and the **moon** to blood before the **coming** of the **great and glorious** day of the Lord.
- Acts 2:21 - And everyone who **calls** on the name of the Lord will be saved.'
- ¶ Acts 2:22 - "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of **Nazareth** was a man **accredited** by God to you by **miracles**, wonders and signs, **which** God did **among** you **through** him, as you yourselves **know**."
- Acts 2:23 - This man was **handed over** to you by **God's deliberate plan** and **foreknowledge**; and you, with the **help** of **wicked men**, **put** him to death by **nailing** him to the **cross**."
- Acts 2:24 - But God raised him from the **dead**, **freeing** him from the **agony** of death, because it was **impossible** for death to **keep its hold** on him."
- Acts 2:25 - David said about him: "'I saw the Lord **always** before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be **shaken**."
- Acts 2:26 - Therefore my heart is glad and my **tongue rejoices**; my body **also** will rest in **hope**,
- Acts 2:27 - because you will not **abandon** me to the realm of the **dead**, you will not let your holy one see decay."
- Acts 2:28 - You have made **known** to me the **paths** of life; you will **fill** me with **joy** in your **presence**.'
- ¶ Acts 2:29 - "Fellow Israelites, I **can tell** you **confidently** that the **patriarch** David **died** and was **buried**, and his **tomb is here** to this day."
- Acts 2:30 - But he was a **prophet** and **knew** that God had promised him on **oath** that he **would** place one of his **descendants** on his **throne**."
- Acts 2:31 - **Seeing** what was to **come**, he **spoke** of the **resurrection** of the Messiah, that he was not **abandoned** to the realm of the **dead**, **nor** did his body see decay."
- Acts 2:32 - God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all **witnesses** of it."
- Acts 2:33 - **Exalted** to the right hand of God, he has **received** from the **Father** the promised Holy Spirit and has **poured** out what you now see and hear."
- Acts 2:34 - For David did not **ascend** to heaven, and **yet** he said, "'The Lord said to my Lord: "**Sit** at my right hand
- Acts 2:35 - **until I make** your **enemies** a **footstool** for your feet.'" "
- ¶ Acts 2:36 - "Therefore let all **Israel** be **assured** of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you **crucified**, both Lord and Messiah."
- ¶ Acts 2:37 - When the **people** heard this, they were **cut** to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "**Brothers**, what **shall** we do?"
- ¶ Acts 2:38 - Peter **replied**, "**Repent** and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus **Christ** for the **forgiveness** of your **sins**. And you will **receive** the **gift** of the Holy Spirit."
- Acts 2:39 - The **promise** is for you and your **children** and for all who are **far off**--for all whom the Lord our God will **call**."
- ¶ Acts 2:40 - With many other **words** he **warned** them; and he **pleaded** with them, "**Save** yourselves from this **corrupt** generation."

Acts 2:41 - Those who **accepted his message** were baptized, and about **three thousand** were added to their number that day.

The Fellowship of the Believers

- ¶ **Acts 2:42** - They **devoted themselves** to the apostles' **teaching** and to **fellowship**, to the **breaking** of bread and to **prayer**.
- Acts 2:43** - Everyone was filled with **awe** at the many wonders and signs **performed** by the apostles.
- Acts 2:44** - All the **believers** were together and had **everything in common**.
- Acts 2:45** - They **sold property and possessions** to **give to anyone** who had **need**.
- Acts 2:46** - Every day they **continued** to meet together in the **temple courts**. They **broke bread** in their **homes** and **ate** together with glad and **sincere hearts**.
- Acts 2:47** - **praising** God and **enjoying** the **favor** of all the people. And the Lord added to their number **daily** those who were being saved.

Acts 3

Peter Heals a Lame Beggar

- ¶ **Acts 3:1** - One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of **prayer--at three** in the **afternoon**.
- Acts 3:2** - Now a man who was **lame from birth** was **being carried** to the temple gate called Beautiful, **where** he was **put every day to beg** from those going into the temple courts.
- Acts 3:3** - When he saw Peter and John **about to enter**, he asked them for **money**.
- Acts 3:4** - Peter **looked straight** at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "**Look** at us!"
- Acts 3:5** - So the man **gave them his attention, expecting to get something** from them.
- ¶ **Acts 3:6** - Then Peter said, "**Silver or gold** I do not have, but what I do have I **give** you. In the name of Jesus **Christ** of **Nazareth**, walk."
- Acts 3:7** - **Taking** him by the **right hand**, he **helped** him up, and **instantly** the **man's feet and ankles became strong**.
- Acts 3:8** - He **jumped** to his feet and **began** to walk. Then he **went** with them into the temple courts, walking and **jumping**, and praising God.
- Acts 3:9** - When all the people saw him walking and praising God,
- Acts 3:10** - they **recognized** him as the **same man who used to sit begging** at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were **filled with wonder and amazement** at what had **happened** to him.

Peter Speaks to the Onlookers

- ¶ **Acts 3:11** - While the man **held on** to Peter and John, all the people were **astonished** and **came running** to them in the **place called Solomon's Colonnade**.
- Acts 3:12** - When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this **surprise** you? Why do you **stare** at us as **if by our own power or godliness** we had made this man walk?"
- Acts 3:13** - The God of Abraham, **Isaac** and **Jacob**, the God of our fathers, has **glorified** his servant Jesus. You **handed him over** to be killed, and you **disowned him before Pilate, though** he had **decided to let him go**.
- Acts 3:14** - You **disowned the Holy and Righteous One** and asked that a **murderer be released** to you.
- Acts 3:15** - You killed the **author of life**, but God raised him from the **dead**. We are **witnesses** of this.
- Acts 3:16** - By faith in the name of Jesus, this man **whom** you see and know was made strong. **It** is Jesus' name and the **faith that comes through him that has completely healed him**, as you **can** all see.
- ¶ **Acts 3:17** - "Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you **acted in ignorance**, as did your **leaders**."
- Acts 3:18** - But this is **how** God **fulfilled** what he had foretold through all the prophets, **saying** that his Messiah **would suffer**.
- Acts 3:19** - **Repent**, then, and **turn** to God, so that your **sins** may be **wiped out**, that **times of refreshing** may come from the Lord,
- Acts 3:20** - and that he may **send the Messiah**, who has **been appointed** for you--**even** Jesus.
- Acts 3:21** - **Heaven must receive him until** the time comes for God to **restore everything**, as he **promised long ago** through his holy prophets.
- Acts 3:22** - For **Moses** said, 'The Lord your God will **raise up** for you a **prophet like me** from **among** your own people; you must listen to everything he **tells** you.'
- Acts 3:23** - **Anyone** who does not listen to him will be completely **cut off** from **their** people.'
- ¶ **Acts 3:24** - "**Indeed, beginning with Samuel**, all the prophets who have **spoken** have foretold **these days**."
- Acts 3:25** - And you are **heirs** of the prophets and of the **covenant** God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, 'Through your **offspring** all **peoples** on **earth** will be **blessed**.'

Acts 3:26 - When God raised up his servant, he **sent him first** to you to **ble^ss** you by **turning each** of you from your **wicked ways**."

Acts 4

Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin

- ¶ **Acts 4:1** - The **priests** and the **captain** of the **temple guard** and the **Sadducees came** up to Peter and John **while** they were **speaking** to the people.
- Acts 4:2** - They were **greatly disturbed** because the apostles were **teaching** the people, **proclaiming** in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.
- Acts 4:3** - They **seized** Peter and John and, because it was **evening**, they put them in **jail until** the next day.
- Acts 4:4** - But **many** who heard the **message believed**; so the **number** of men who **believed grew** to about **five thousand**.
- ¶ **Acts 4:5** - The next day the **rulers**, the **elders** and the **teachers** of the **law met** in Jerusalem.
- Acts 4:6** - **Annas** the high **priest** was there, and so were **Caiaphas**, **John**, **Alexander** and **others** of the high **priest's family**.
- Acts 4:7** - They had Peter and John brought before them and **began** to **question** them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"
- ¶ **Acts 4:8** - Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people!
- Acts 4:9** - **If** we are being called to **account today** for **an act** of **kindness shown** to a man who was **lame** and are being asked how he was healed,
- Acts 4:10** - then **know** this, you and all the people of **Israel**: It is by the name of Jesus **Christ** of **Nazareth**, whom you **crucified** but whom God raised from the **dead**, that this man **stands** before you healed.
- Acts 4:11** - Jesus is "'the **stone** you **builders rejected**, which **has become** the **cornerstone**.'
- ¶ **Acts 4:12** - **Salvation is found** in no one **else**, for there is no **other name** **under heaven given** to **mankind** by which we must be **saved**."
- ¶ **Acts 4:13** - When they **saw** the **courage** of Peter and John and **realized** that they were **unschooled**, **ordinary** men, they were **astonished** and they **took note** that these men had been with Jesus.
- Acts 4:14** - But **since** they could **see** the man who had been healed **standing** there with them, there was **nothing** they could **say**.
- Acts 4:15** - So they **ordered** them to **withdraw** from the **Sanhedrin** and then **conferred** together.
- Acts 4:16** - "What are we **going** to do with these men?" they asked. "**Everyone living** in Jerusalem **knows** they have **performed** a **notable sign**, and we cannot **deny** it.
- Acts 4:17** - But to **stop** this **thing** from **spreading** any further among the people, we must **warn** them to speak no **longer** to anyone in this name."
- ¶ **Acts 4:18** - Then they called them **in again** and **commanded** them not to **speak** or **teach** at all in the name of Jesus.
- Acts 4:19** - But Peter and John **replied**, "Which is **right** in God's **eyes**: to **listen** to you, or to **him**? You be the **judges**!
- Acts 4:20** - **As** for **us**, we cannot **help** speaking about what we have **seen** and heard."
- ¶ **Acts 4:21** - After further threats they **let** them **go**. They could not **decide** how to **punish** them, because all the people were **praising** God for what had **happened**.
- Acts 4:22** - For the man who was **miraculously** healed was **over forty years old**.

The Believers Pray

- ¶ **Acts 4:23** - **On their release**, Peter and John **went back** to their own people and **reported** all that the **chief** priests and the **elders** had said to them.
- Acts 4:24** - When they heard this, they **raised their voices** together in **prayer** to God. "**Sovereign** Lord," they said, "you **made** the **heavens** and the earth and the **sea**, and everything in them.
- Acts 4:25** - You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the **mouth** of your servant, **our father David**: "'Why do the **nations rage** and the **peoples plot** in **vain**?
- Acts 4:26** - The **kings** of the earth **rise up** and the rulers **band** together against the Lord and against **his** anointed one.'
- ¶ **Acts 4:27** - **Indeed Herod** and **Pontius Pilate** met together with the **Gentiles** and the people of **Israel** in this **city** to **conspire** against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.
- Acts 4:28** - They did what your power and **will** had **decided beforehand** should happen.
- Acts 4:29** - **Now**, Lord, **consider** their threats and **enable** your **servants** to speak your word with great **boldness**.
- Acts 4:30** - **Stretch out** your **hand** to **heal** and **perform signs** and **wonders** through the name of your holy servant Jesus."
- ¶ **Acts 4:31** - After they **prayed**, the **place** where they were **meeting** was **shaken**. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God **boldly**.

The Believers Share Their Possessions

- ¶ Acts 4:32 - All the **believers** were one in **heart** and **mind**. No one **claimed** that any of their **possessions** was their own, but they **shared** everything they had.
- Acts 4:33 - With great **power** the apostles **continued** to **testify** to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's **grace** was so **powerfully** at **work** in them all
- Acts 4:34 - that there were no **needy persons** among them. For from time to time **those** who owned **land** or **houses** sold them, brought the money from the **sales**
- Acts 4:35 - and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was **distributed** to anyone who had **need**.
- ¶ Acts 4:36 - **Joseph**, a **Levite** from **Cyprus**, whom the apostles called **Barnabas** (which means "**son of encouragement**"),
- Acts 4:37 - sold a **field** he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 5

Ananias and Sapphira

- ¶ Acts 5:1 - **Now** a man named **Ananias**, together with his wife **Sapphira**, also sold a **piece** of property.
- Acts 5:2 - With his **wife's** full **knowledge** he kept back **part** of the money for **himself**, but brought the **rest** and put it at the apostles' feet.
- ¶ Acts 5:3 - Then Peter said, "**Ananias**, how is it that **Satan** has so filled your **heart** that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for **yourself** some of the money you **received** for the land?"
- Acts 5:4 - **Didn't it belong** to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, **wasn't** the money at your **disposal**? What made you **think** of **doing such a thing**? You have not lied **just** to human beings but to God."
- ¶ Acts 5:5 - When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened.
- Acts 5:6 - Then some young men came **forward**, **wrapped up** his **body**, and carried him out and buried him.
- ¶ Acts 5:7 - About **three hours later** his wife came in, not **knowing** what had happened.
- Acts 5:8 - Peter **asked** her, "**Tell me**, is this the **price** you and Ananias **got** for the land?" "**Yes**," she said, "that is the price."
- ¶ Acts 5:9 - Peter said to her, "**How could you conspire** to **test** the Spirit of the Lord? **Listen!** The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the **door**, and they will **carry** you out also."
- ¶ Acts 5:10 - At that **moment** she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, **finding** her dead, carried her out and buried her **beside** her husband.
- Acts 5:11 - Great fear seized the **whole church** and all who heard about these **events**.

The Apostles Heal Many

- ¶ Acts 5:12 - The apostles **performed many signs** and **wonders among** the people. And all the **believers used** to meet together in **Solomon's Colonnade**.
- Acts 5:13 - No one **else dared join** them, **even though** they were **highly regarded** by the people.
- Acts 5:14 - **Nevertheless**, more and more men and **women believed** in the Lord and were **added** to their number.
- Acts 5:15 - As a **result**, people brought the sick **into the streets** and **laid** them on **beds** and **mats** so that at **least Peter's shadow** might **fall** on some of them as he **passed by**.
- Acts 5:16 - **Crowds gathered** also from the **towns around** Jerusalem, **bringing** their sick and those **tormented** by **impure spirits**, and all of them were **healed**.

The Apostles Persecuted

- ¶ Acts 5:17 - Then the high priest and all his associates, who were **members** of the **party** of the **Sadducees**, were filled with **jealousy**.
- Acts 5:18 - They **arrested** the apostles and put them in the **public jail**.
- Acts 5:19 - **But during** the **night** an angel of the Lord opened the **doors of the jail** and brought them out.
- Acts 5:20 - "**Go, stand** in the temple courts," he said, "**and tell the people** all about this **new life**."
- ¶ Acts 5:21 - At **daybreak** they **entered** the temple courts, as they had been **told**, and **began** to teach the people. When the high priest and his associates **arrived**, they called together the Sanhedrin--the full **assembly** of the **elders** of **Israel**--and **sent** to the jail for the apostles.
- Acts 5:22 - **But on arriving** at the jail, the officers did not find them **there**. So they went back and **reported**,
- Acts 5:23 - "**We found the jail securely locked**, with the **guards** standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one **inside**."
- Acts 5:24 - On **hearing this report**, the captain of the temple **guard** and the **chief priests** were at a **loss**, wondering what this might **lead** to.

- ¶ **Acts 5:25** - Then **someone** came and said, "**Look!** The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people."
- Acts 5:26** - At that, the *captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people **would stone** them.*
- ¶ **Acts 5:27** - The apostles were brought in and made to **appear** before the Sanhedrin to be **questioned** by the high priest.
- Acts 5:28** - "**We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,**" he said. "**Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this **man's blood.**"**
- ¶ **Acts 5:29** - Peter and the **other apostles replied:** "We **must obey God rather than human beings!**"
- Acts 5:30** - The God of **our ancestors raised** Jesus from the dead--whom you killed by **hanging** him on a **cross**.
- Acts 5:31** - God **exalted** him to his **own right hand as Prince and Savior** that he might **bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins**.
- Acts 5:32** - We are **witnesses** of these **things**, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has **given** to those who obey him."
- ¶ **Acts 5:33** - When they heard this, they were **furious** and **wanted** to put them to **death**.
- Acts 5:34** - But a **Pharisee** named **Gamaliel**, a **teacher of the law**, who was **honored** by all the people, **stood** up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put **outside** for a **little while**.
- Acts 5:35** - Then he **addressed** the Sanhedrin: "Men of Israel, **consider carefully** what you **intend to do** to these men."
- Acts 5:36** - Some **time ago Theudas** appeared, **claiming to be somebody**, and about **four hundred men rallied** to him. He was **killed**, all his followers were **dispersed**, and it all came to **nothing**.
- Acts 5:37** - After him, **Judas the Galilean** appeared in the **days of the census** and **led a band** of people in **revolt**. He **too** was killed, and all his followers were **scattered**.
- Acts 5:38** - **Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone!** Let them go! For if their **purpose or activity is of human origin**, it will **fail**.
- Acts 5:39** - But if it is from God, you will not be **able** to **stop** these men; you will **only find yourselves fighting against God**."
- ¶ **Acts 5:40** - His **speech persuaded** them. They called the apostles in and **had them flogged**. Then they ordered them not to **speak** in the name of Jesus, and let them go.
- ¶ **Acts 5:41** - The **apostles left** the Sanhedrin, **rejoicing** because they had been **counted worthy of suffering disgrace** for the Name.
- Acts 5:42** - Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they **never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news** that Jesus is the **Messiah**.

Acts 6

The Choosing of the Seven

- ¶ **Acts 6:1** - In **those days when** the number of **disciples was increasing**, the **Hellenistic Jews among them complained** against the **Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food**.
- Acts 6:2** - So the **Twelve gathered all the disciples together** and **said**, "It would not be **right** for us to **neglect** the ministry of the word of God in **order to wait on tables**."
- Acts 6:3** - **Brothers and sisters, choose seven men** from among you who **are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over** to them
- Acts 6:4** - and will **give our attention to prayer** and the ministry of the word."
- ¶ **Acts 6:5** - This **proposal pleased the whole group**. They **chose Stephen**, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; **also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism**.
- Acts 6:6** - They **presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them**.
- ¶ **Acts 6:7** - So the word of God **spread**. The number of disciples in **Jerusalem increased rapidly**, and a **large number of priests became obedient** to the faith.

Stephen Seized

- ¶ **Acts 6:8** - **Now Stephen**, a man full of **God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs** among the people.
- Acts 6:9** - **Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen** (as it was called)--Jews of **Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia--who began to argue with Stephen**.
- Acts 6:10** - **But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke**.
- ¶ **Acts 6:11** - **Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God."**

- ¶ Acts 6:12 - So they **stirred** up the people and the **elders** and the **teachers** of the *law*. They **seized** Stephen and **brought** him **before** the Sanhedrin.
- Acts 6:13 - They **produced false witnesses**, who **testified**, "**This fellow never stops speaking** against this holy place and against the law.
- Acts 6:14 - For we have heard him say that this **Jesus** of **Nazareth** will **destroy** this place and **change** the **customs** Moses **handed down** to us."
- ¶ Acts 6:15 - All who were **sitting** in the Sanhedrin **looked intently at** Stephen, and they **saw** that **his face was like** the face of **an angel**.

Acts 7

Stephen's Speech to the Sanhedrin

- ¶ Acts 7:1 - Then the high **priest** asked Stephen, "**Are these charges true?**"
- ¶ Acts 7:2 - To this he **replied**: "**Brothers and fathers, listen** to me! The God of *glory* appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in **Mesopotamia**, before he **lived** in Harran.
- Acts 7:3 - '**Leave** your country and your people,' God said, 'and go to the *land* I will **show** you.'
- ¶ Acts 7:4 - "So he **left** the *land* of the **Chaldeans** and settled in Harran. After the **death** of his father, God sent him to *this land* where you are now living.
- Acts 7:5 - He gave him no **inheritance here**, not even **enough** ground to set his **foot on**. But God **promised** him that he and his descendants after him would **possess** the land, even **though** at that time Abraham had no child.
- Acts 7:6 - God spoke to him in this **way**: '**For four hundred** years your descendants will be **strangers** in a country not their own, and they will be **enslaved** and mistreated.
- Acts 7:7 - **But I will punish** the **nation** they **serve** as **slaves**,' God said, 'and **afterward** they will come out of that country and worship me in this place.'
- Acts 7:8 - Then he gave Abraham the covenant of **circumcision**. And Abraham became the father of Isaac and **circumcised** him **eight days** after his **birth**. Later Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the **twelve patriarchs**.
- ¶ Acts 7:9 - "**Because** the patriarchs were **jealous** of Joseph, they **sold** him as a **slave** into Egypt. But God was with him
- Acts 7:10 - and **rescued** him from all his **troubles**. He gave Joseph wisdom and **enabled** him to **gain** the **goodwill** of Pharaoh king of Egypt. So Pharaoh made him ruler over Egypt and all his **palace**.
- ¶ Acts 7:11 - "Then a **famine struck** all Egypt and **Canaan**, **bringing great suffering**, and our ancestors **could not find food**.
- Acts 7:12 - When Jacob heard that there was **grain** in Egypt, he sent our **forefathers** on their **first** visit.
- Acts 7:13 - On their **second** visit, Joseph told his brothers who he was, and Pharaoh **learned about Joseph's** family.
- Acts 7:14 - After this, Joseph sent for his father Jacob and his **whole** family, **seventy-five** in all.
- Acts 7:15 - Then Jacob went down to Egypt, where he and our ancestors **died**.
- Acts 7:16 - Their **bodies** were brought back to *Shechem* and placed in the **tomb** that Abraham had **bought** from the sons of **Hamor** at *Shechem* for a **certain sum** of money.
- ¶ Acts 7:17 - "As the time **drew near** for God to **fulfill** his **promise** to Abraham, the **number** of our people in Egypt had **greatly increased**.
- Acts 7:18 - Then 'a **new king**, to **whom** Joseph **meant nothing**, came to **power** in Egypt.'
- Acts 7:19 - He **dealt treacherously** with our people and **oppressed** our ancestors by **forcing** them to **throw** out their **newborn babies** so that they would **die**.
- ¶ Acts 7:20 - "At that time Moses was **born**, and he was no **ordinary** child. For **three months** he was **cared** for by his family.
- Acts 7:21 - When he was placed **outside**, **Pharaoh's daughter** took him and brought him up as **her own** son.
- Acts 7:22 - Moses was **educated** in all the *wisdom* of the **Egyptians** and was **powerful** in **speech** and **action**.
- ¶ Acts 7:23 - "When Moses was forty years **old**, he **decided** to visit his own people, the Israelites.
- Acts 7:24 - He saw one of them **being** mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his **defense** and **avenged** him by killing the Egyptian.
- Acts 7:25 - Moses **thought** that his own people would **realize** that God was **using** him to **rescue** them, but they did not.
- Acts 7:26 - The **next day** Moses came **upon** two Israelites who were **fighting**. He **tried to reconcile** them by **saying**, '**Men**, you are brothers; **why** do you **want to hurt** each other?'
- ¶ Acts 7:27 - "But the man who was **mistreating** the other **pushed** Moses **aside** and said, 'Who made you ruler and judge over us?'
- Acts 7:28 - Are you **thinking** of killing me as you killed the Egyptian **yesterday?**'
- Acts 7:29 - When Moses heard this, he **fled to** **Midian**, where he settled as a **foreigner** and had two sons.

- ¶ **Acts 7:30** - "After forty years had **passed**, an angel appeared to Moses in the **flames** of a **burning** bush in the **desert** near Mount Sinai.
- Acts 7:31** - When he saw this, he was **amazed** at the **sight**. As he went over to **get** a **closer** look, he heard the Lord **say**:
- Acts 7:32** - 'I **am** the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.' Moses **trembled** with **fear** and did not **dare** to look.
- ¶ **Acts 7:33** - "Then the Lord said to him, '**Take off** your **sandals**, for the place where you are **standing** is **holy ground**.'
- Acts 7:34** - I have **indeed** seen the **oppression** of my people in **Egypt**. I have heard their **groaning** and have come down to **set them free**. Now come, I will send you back to **Egypt**.'
- ¶ **Acts 7:35** - "This is the **same** Moses they had rejected with the words, 'Who made you ruler and judge?' He was sent to be their ruler and **deliverer** by God **himself**, through the angel who appeared to him in the bush.
- Acts 7:36** - He led them out of Egypt and **performed wonders** and **signs** in Egypt, at the **Red Sea** and for forty years in the wilderness.
- ¶ **Acts 7:37** - "This is the Moses who told the Israelites, 'God will **raise** up for you a prophet like me from your own people.'
- Acts 7:38** - He was in the **assembly** in the wilderness, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our ancestors; and he received living words to **pass** on to us.
- ¶ **Acts 7:39** - "But our ancestors **refused** to **obey** him. **Instead**, they rejected him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt.
- Acts 7:40** - They told **Aaron**, '**Make us gods** who will go before us. As for this **fellow** Moses who led us out of Egypt- **we don't know** what has **happened** to him!'
- Acts 7:41** - That was the time they made an **idol** in the **form** of a **calf**. They brought sacrifices to it and **reveled** in what their own hands had made.
- Acts 7:42** - But God turned **away** from them and gave them over to the worship of the **sun**, **moon** and **stars**. This **agrees** with what is **written** in the **book** of the **prophets**: "'Did you **bring** me sacrifices and **offerings** forty years in the wilderness, people of Israel?'
- Acts 7:43** - You have **taken** up the tabernacle of **Molek** and the **star** of your god **Rephan**, the **idols** you made to worship. **Therefore** I will send you into exile' **beyond Babylon**.
- ¶ **Acts 7:44** - "Our ancestors had the tabernacle of the covenant law with them in the wilderness. It had **been** made as God **directed** Moses, **according** to the **pattern** he had seen.
- Acts 7:45** - After **receiving** the tabernacle, our ancestors **under Joshua** brought it with them when they took the land from the **nations** God **drove** out before them. It **remained** in the land **until** the time of **David**,
- Acts 7:46** - who **enjoyed God's favor** and asked that he **might provide** a **dwelling** place for the God of Jacob.
- Acts 7:47** - But it was **Solomon** who **built** a house for him.
- ¶ **Acts 7:48** - "**However**, the **Most High** **does** not live in **houses** made by **human** hands. As the prophet says:
- ¶ **Acts 7:49** - "'Heaven is my **throne**, and the **earth** is my **footstool**. What **kind** of house will you **build** for me? says the Lord. **Or** where will my **resting** place be?'
- Acts 7:50** - Has not my hand made all these **things**?'
- ¶ **Acts 7:51** - "You **stiff-necked** people! Your hearts and ears are still **uncircumcised**. You are **just** like your ancestors: You **always resist** the Holy Spirit!
- Acts 7:52** - Was there **ever** a prophet your ancestors did not **persecute**? They even killed **those** who **predicted** the coming of the **Righteous One**. And now you have **betrayed** and **murdered** him--
- Acts 7:53** - you who have received the law that was **given** through **angels** but have not **obeyed** it."

The Stoning of Stephen

- ¶ **Acts 7:54** - When the **members** of the **Sanhedrin** heard this, they were **furious** and **gnashed** their **teeth** at him.
- Acts 7:55** - But Stephen, **full** of the Holy Spirit, **looked** up to heaven and saw the **glory** of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
- Acts 7:56** - "Look," he said, "I **see** heaven **open** and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."
- ¶ **Acts 7:57** - At this they **covered** their ears and, **yelling** at the **top** of their **voices**, they all **rushed** at him,
- Acts 7:58** - **dragged** him out of the **city** and **began** to **stone** him. **Meanwhile**, the **witnesses laid** their **coats** at the feet of a **young man** named **Saul**.
- ¶ **Acts 7:59** - While they were **stoning** him, Stephen **prayed**, "Lord Jesus, **receive** my spirit."
- Acts 7:60** - Then he **fell** on his **knees** and **cried** out, "Lord, do not **hold** this **sin** against them." When he had said this, he fell **asleep**.

Acts 8

The Church Persecuted and Scattered

- ¶ Acts 8:1 - And Saul **approved** of their **killing** him. On that **day** a great **persecution broke out against** the church in Jerusalem, and **all except** the apostles were scattered **throughout Judea** and Samaria.
- Acts 8:2 - **Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply** for him.
- Acts 8:3 - But Saul began to **destroy** the church. **Going** from house to house, he **dragged off** both men and women and **put** them in **prison**.

Philip in Samaria

- ¶ Acts 8:4 - **Those** who had been scattered **preached** the word **wherever** they went.
- Acts 8:5 - Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the **Messiah** there.
- Acts 8:6 - When the **crowds** heard Philip and saw the signs he **performed**, they all **paid close** attention to what he said.
- Acts 8:7 - For with **shrieks, impure spirits** came out of many, and many who were **paralyzed or lame** were **healed**.
- Acts 8:8 - So there was great **joy** in that city.

Simon the Sorcerer

- ¶ Acts 8:9 - Now for some time a man **named** Simon had **practiced** sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He **boasted** that he was someone great,
- Acts 8:10 - and all the people, both **high and low**, gave him their attention and **exclaimed**, "This man is **rightly called** the Great **Power** of God."
- Acts 8:11 - They followed him because he had amazed them for a **long** time with his sorcery.
- Acts 8:12 - But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the **kingdom** of God and the name of Jesus **Christ**, they were baptized, both men and women.
- Acts 8:13 - Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip **everywhere, astonished by** the great signs and **miracles** he saw.
- ¶ Acts 8:14 - When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had **accepted** the word of God, they **sent** Peter and John to Samaria.
- Acts 8:15 - When they **arrived**, they **prayed** for the **new believers** there that they **might** receive the Holy Spirit,
- Acts 8:16 - because the Holy Spirit had **not yet** come on **any** of them; they had **simply** been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
- Acts 8:17 - Then Peter and John **placed** their hands on them, and they **received** the Holy Spirit.
- ¶ Acts 8:18 - When Simon saw that the Spirit was **given** at the **laying on** of the apostles' hands, he **offered** them money
- Acts 8:19 - and said, "**Give me also this ability** so that **everyone on whom I lay** my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."
- ¶ Acts 8:20 - Peter answered: "May your money **perish** with you, because you thought you **could buy** the **gift** of God with money!
- Acts 8:21 - You have **no part or share** in this **ministry**, because your heart is **not right** before God.
- Acts 8:22 - **Repent** of this **wickedness** and pray to the Lord in the **hope** that he may **forgive** you for **having such a thought** in your heart.
- Acts 8:23 - For I see that you are **full of bitterness and captive to sin**."
- ¶ Acts 8:24 - Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord for me so that **nothing** you have said may **happen** to me."
- ¶ Acts 8:25 - **After** they had **further** proclaimed the word of the Lord and **testified** about Jesus, Peter and John **returned** to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many **Samaritan villages**.

Philip and the Ethiopian

- ¶ Acts 8:26 - Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go **south** to the road--the **desert** road--that **goes** down from Jerusalem to **Gaza**."
- Acts 8:27 - So he **started** out, and on his way he **met** an **Ethiopian** eunuch, an **important official** in **charge** of all the **treasury** of the **Kandake** (**which means "queen of the Ethiopians"**). This man had **gone** to Jerusalem to **worship**,
- Acts 8:28 - and on his way **home** was **sitting** in his chariot reading the **Book** of Isaiah the prophet.
- Acts 8:29 - The Spirit **told** Philip, "Go to that chariot and **stay near** it."
- ¶ Acts 8:30 - Then Philip **ran** up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "**Do you understand** what you are reading?" Philip asked.
- ¶ Acts 8:31 - "**How** can I," he said, "**unless** someone **explains** it to me?" So he **invited** Philip to come up and **sit** with him.
- ¶ Acts 8:32 - This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: "He was **led like a sheep** to the **slaughter**, and as a **lamb** before **its shearer** is **silent**, so he did **not open** his mouth.
- Acts 8:33 - In his **humiliation** he was **deprived** of **justice**. Who can **speak** of his **descendants**? For his **life** was taken from the **earth**."

- ¶ Acts 8:34 - The eunuch asked Philip, "**Tell me, please**, who is the prophet **talking** about, himself or someone **else**?"
- Acts 8:35 - Then Philip began with that **very** passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.
- ¶ Acts 8:36 - As they traveled **along** the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "**Look, here** is water. What can **stand** in the way of my **being** baptized?"
- Acts 8:38 - And he gave **orders** to **stop** the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down **into** the water and Philip baptized him.
- Acts 8:39 - When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord **suddenly took Philip away**, and the eunuch did not see him **again**, but went on his way **rejoicing**.
- Acts 8:40 - Philip, **however, appeared** at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the **towns until he reached Caesarea**.

Acts 9

Saul's Conversion

- ¶ Acts 9:1 - **Meanwhile**, Saul was still **breathing** out **murderous threats against** the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest
- Acts 9:2 - and asked him for **letters** to the synagogues in Damascus, so that **if** he found **any** there who **belonged** to the **Way, whether** men or **women**, he **might** take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.
- Acts 9:3 - As he **neared** Damascus on his journey, **suddenly** a **light** from **heaven flashed** around him.
- Acts 9:4 - He fell to the ground and heard a **voice say** to him, "Saul, Saul, **why** do you **persecute** me?"
- ¶ Acts 9:5 - "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "**I am** Jesus, **whom** you are **persecuting**," he replied.
- Acts 9:6 - "**Now** get up and go into the city, and you will be told **what** you **must** do."
- ¶ Acts 9:7 - The men **traveling** with Saul stood there **speechless**; they heard the **sound** but did not see **anyone**.
- Acts 9:8 - Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see **nothing**. So they **led** him by the hand into Damascus.
- Acts 9:9 - For **three** days he was **blind**, and did not **eat** or **drink anything**.
- ¶ Acts 9:10 - In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "**Yes, Lord**," he answered.
- ¶ Acts 9:11 - The Lord told him, "Go to the house of **Judas** on **Straight Street** and **ask** for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he **is praying**."
- Acts 9:12 - In a vision he **has seen** a man named Ananias come and **place** his hands on him to **restore his sight**."
- ¶ Acts 9:13 - "Lord," Ananias answered, "**I have** heard many **reports** about this man and all the **harm** he has **done** to your holy people in Jerusalem."
- Acts 9:14 - And he **has come here with authority** from the chief priests to **arrest** all who call on your name."
- ¶ Acts 9:15 - But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my **chosen instrument** to **proclaim** my name to the **Gentiles** and their **kings** and to the people of Israel."
- Acts 9:16 - I will **show** him how **much** he must **suffer** for my name."
- ¶ Acts 9:17 - Then Ananias went to the house and **entered** it. **Placing** his hands on Saul, he said, "**Brother** Saul, the Lord--Jesus, who **appeared** to you on the **road** as you were **coming here**--has sent me so that you **may** see again and be **filled** with the Holy Spirit."
- Acts 9:18 - **Immediately, something like scales** fell from **Saul's** eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized,

Saul in Damascus and Jerusalem

- Acts 9:19 - and **after taking** some **food**, he **regained** his **strength**. Saul **spent several** days with the disciples in Damascus.
- Acts 9:20 - At **once** he **began** to **preach** in the synagogues that Jesus is the **Son of God**.
- Acts 9:21 - All those who heard him were **astonished** and asked, "**Isn't** he the man who **raised havoc** in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And **hasn't** he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?"
- Acts 9:22 - **Yet** Saul **grew** more and more **powerful** and **baffled** the Jews living in Damascus by **proving** that Jesus is the **Messiah**.
- ¶ Acts 9:23 - **After many days had gone by**, there was a **conspiracy** among the Jews to kill him,
- Acts 9:24 - but Saul learned of their **plan**. **Day** and night they **kept close watch** on the city **gates** in **order** to kill him.
- Acts 9:25 - **But his followers** took him by night and **lowered** him in a **basket through an opening** in the **wall**.
- ¶ Acts 9:26 - When he **came** to Jerusalem, he tried to **join** the disciples, but they were all **afraid** of him, not **believing** that he **really** was a disciple.

- Acts 9:27** - But **Barnabas** took him and **brought** him to the **apostles**. He told *them* how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord *had* **spoken** to him, and *how* in Damascus he had **preached fearlessly** in the name of Jesus.
- Acts 9:28** - So Saul stayed with them and **moved** about **freely** in Jerusalem, **speaking boldly** in the name of the Lord.
- Acts 9:29** - He **talked** and **debated** with the **Hellenistic Jews**, but they tried to kill him.
- Acts 9:30** - When the *believers* learned of this, they took him down to **Caesarea** and sent *him* **off** to Tarsus.
- ¶ **Acts 9:31** - Then the **church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed** a time of **peace** and was **strengthened**. Living in the **fear** of the Lord and **encouraged** by the Holy Spirit, it **increased** in numbers.

Aeneas and Dorcas

- ¶ **Acts 9:32** - As Peter **traveled** about the **country**, he went to **visit** the Lord's people who lived in Lydda.
- Acts 9:33** - There he found a man named Aeneas, who was **paralyzed** and had **been bedridden** for **eight years**.
- Acts 9:34** - "Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus **Christ heals** you. Get up and **roll** up your **mat**." Immediately Aeneas got up.
- Acts 9:35** - All those who lived in Lydda and **Sharon** saw him and **turned** to the Lord.
- ¶ **Acts 9:36** - In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in **Greek** her name is Dorcas); she was **always doing good** and **helping the poor**.
- Acts 9:37** - About that time she became **sick** and **died**, and her **body** was **washed** and **placed** in an upstairs room.
- Acts 9:38** - Lydda was **near** Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent **two** men to him and **urged** him, "**Please** come at once!"
- ¶ **Acts 9:39** - Peter went with them, and when he **arrived** he was **taken** upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, **crying** and **showing** him the **robes** and **other clothing** that Dorcas had **made** while she was still with them.
- ¶ **Acts 9:40** - Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his **knees** and **prayed**. **Turning toward** the **dead woman**, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and **seeing** Peter she **sat** up.
- Acts 9:41** - He took her by the hand and **helped** her to her **feet**. Then he called for the *believers*, **especially** the widows, and **presented** her to them **alive**.
- Acts 9:42** - This became **known** all **over** Joppa, and many people **believed** in the Lord.
- Acts 9:43** - Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a **tanner** named **Simon**.

Acts 10

Cornelius Calls for Peter

- ¶ **Acts 10:1** - At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the **Italian Regiment**.
- Acts 10:2** - He and all his **family** were devout and God-fearing; he **gave generously** to those in **need** and **prayed** to God **regularly**.
- Acts 10:3** - One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He **distinctly** saw **an** angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!"
- ¶ **Acts 10:4** - Cornelius **stared** at him in **fear**. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your **prayers** and gifts to the poor have come up as a **memorial offering** before God.
- Acts 10:5** - Now send men to Joppa to **bring** back a man named Simon who is called Peter.
- Acts 10:6** - He is staying with Simon the tanner, **whose** house is by the sea."
- ¶ **Acts 10:7** - When the angel who spoke to him had **gone**, Cornelius called **two** of his **servants** and a devout **soldier** who was one of his **attendants**.
- Acts 10:8** - He told *them* everything that had **happened** and sent them to Joppa.

Peter's Vision

- ¶ **Acts 10:9** - About **noon** the following day as they were on their **journey** and **approaching** the **city**, Peter went up on the **roof** to **pray**.
- Acts 10:10** - He **became hungry** and **wanted** something to eat, and while the **meal** was being **prepared**, he fell into a **trance**.
- Acts 10:11** - He saw heaven **opened** and something like a large sheet being **let** down to **earth** by its **four** corners.
- Acts 10:12** - It **contained** all **kinds** of **four-footed animals**, as well as **reptiles** and **birds**.
- Acts 10:13** - Then a **voice** told him, "Get up, Peter. **Kill** and eat."
- ¶ **Acts 10:14** - "Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have **never eaten** anything impure or unclean."
- ¶ **Acts 10:15** - The voice spoke to him a **second time**, "Do not call anything impure that God has made **clean**."
- ¶ **Acts 10:16** - This happened three **times**, and immediately the sheet was **taken** back to heaven.

- ¶ Acts 10:17 - While Peter was **wondering** about the **meaning** of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out **where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate**.
- Acts 10:18 - They called out, **asking if** Simon who was known as Peter was staying there.
- ¶ Acts 10:19 - While Peter was **still thinking** about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you.
- Acts 10:20 - So get up and go **downstairs**. Do not **hesitate** to go with them, for I have sent them."
- ¶ Acts 10:21 - Peter went down and said to the men, "**I'm** the one **you're** looking for. Why have you come?"
- ¶ Acts 10:22 - The men replied, "We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a **righteous** and God-fearing man, who is **respected** by all the **Jewish** people. A holy angel told him to ask you to come to his house so that he **could hear** what you have to say."

Peter at Cornelius's House

- Acts 10:23 - Then Peter **invited** the men into the house to be his **guests**. The next day Peter **started** out with them, and **some** of the believers from Joppa went **along**.
- Acts 10:24 - The following day he **arrived** in Caesarea. Cornelius was **expecting** them and had called **together** his **relatives** and **close friends**.
- Acts 10:25 - As Peter **entered** the house, Cornelius **met** him and fell at his **feet** in **reverence**.
- Acts 10:26 - But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I **am only** a man **myself**."
- ¶ Acts 10:27 - While **talking** with him, Peter went **inside** and found a large **gathering** of people.
- Acts 10:28 - He said to them: "You are well **aware** that it is **against our law** for a **Jew** to **associate** with or **visit** a **Gentile**. But God has **shown** me that I **should** not call **anyone** impure or unclean.
- Acts 10:29 - So when I was sent for, I came **without raising any objection**. **May I** ask why you sent for me?"
- ¶ Acts 10:30 - Cornelius answered: "Three days **ago** I was in **my** house **praying** at this **hour**, at three in the **afternoon**. **Suddenly** a man in **shining clothes** stood before me
- Acts 10:31 - and said, 'Cornelius, God has heard your **prayer** and **remembered** your gifts to the poor.
- Acts 10:32 - Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is a **guest** in the **home** of Simon the tanner, who **lives** by the sea.'
- Acts 10:33 - So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all **here** in the **presence** of God to **listen** to everything the Lord has **commanded** you to **tell** us."
- ¶ Acts 10:34 - Then Peter **began** to **speak**: "I now **realize** how **true** it is that God does not **show favoritism**
- Acts 10:35 - **but accepts** from **every nation** the one who **fears** him and does what is **right**.
- Acts 10:36 - You know the message God sent to the people of **Israel**, **announcing** the good news of **peace** through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.
- Acts 10:37 - You know what has **happened throughout** the **province** of **Judea**, **beginning** in **Galilee** after the **baptism** that **John** preached--
- Acts 10:38 - how God **anointed** Jesus of **Nazareth** with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went **around doing** good and **healing** all who were **under** the power of the **devil**, **because** God was with him.
- ¶ Acts 10:39 - "We are witnesses of everything he **did** in the **country** of the **Jews** and in **Jerusalem**. They **killed** him by **hanging** him on a **cross**,
- Acts 10:40 - but God **raised** him from the **dead** on the **third** day and **caused** him to be seen.
- Acts 10:41 - He was **not** seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had **already chosen**--by us who **ate** and **drank** with him after he **rose** from the dead.
- Acts 10:42 - He **commanded** us to **preach** to the people and to **testify** that he is the one whom God **appointed** as **judge** of the **living** and the dead.
- Acts 10:43 - All the **prophets** testify about him that **everyone** who **believes** in him **receives forgiveness** of **sins** through his name."
- ¶ Acts 10:44 - While Peter was **still speaking these words**, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.
- Acts 10:45 - The **circumcised** believers who had come with Peter were **astonished** that the **gift** of the Holy Spirit had **been poured out even on Gentiles**.
- Acts 10:46 - For they heard them speaking in **tongues** and **praising** God. Then Peter said,
- Acts 10:47 - "Surely **no one can** stand in the **way** of their being baptized with **water**. They have **received** the Holy Spirit **just** as we have."
- Acts 10:48 - So he **ordered** that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to **stay** with them for a **few** days.

Acts 11

Peter Explains His Actions

- ¶ Acts 11:1 - The **apostles** and the **believers throughout** Judea heard that the **Gentiles** also had **received** the word of

God.

- Acts 11:2** - So when Peter went up to *Jerusalem*, the **circumcised** believers **criticized** him
- Acts 11:3** - and said, "You went into the house of **uncircumcised** men and **ate** with them."
- ¶ **Acts 11:4** - **Starting** from the beginning, Peter told them the **whole story**.
- Acts 11:5** - "I was in the **city** of Joppa **praying**, and in a **trance** I saw a **vision**. I saw **something** like a large sheet **being let** down from heaven by its **four corners**, and it came down to where I was.
- Acts 11:6** - I **looked** into it and saw **four-footed animals** of the **earth**, **wild beasts**, **reptiles** and **birds**.
- Acts 11:7** - Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. **Kill** and eat.'
- ¶ **Acts 11:8** - "I **replied**, 'Surely not, Lord! **Nothing** impure or **unclean** has **ever** entered **my mouth**.'
- ¶ **Acts 11:9** - "The voice **spoke** from heaven a **second** time, 'Do not **call** anything impure that God has **made clean**.'
- Acts 11:10** - This happened three **times**, and then it was all **pulled up** to heaven **again**.
- ¶ **Acts 11:11** - "**Right** then three men who had been sent to me from **Caesarea** **stopped** at the house where I was **staying**.
- Acts 11:12** - The Spirit told me to **have** no **hesitation** about **going** with them. **These six** brothers also went with me, and **we** entered the **man's** house.
- Acts 11:13** - He told us **how** he had **seen an angel** appear in his house and **say**, 'Send to Joppa for **Simon** who is called Peter.
- Acts 11:14** - He will **bring** you a **message** through **which** you and **all your household** will be **saved**.'
- ¶ **Acts 11:15** - "As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had **come on us** at the beginning.
- Acts 11:16** - Then I **remembered** what the Lord had said: '**John** baptized with **water**, **but** you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'
- Acts 11:17** - So **if** God gave them the **same gift** he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus **Christ**, who was I to **think** that I **could stand** in **God's way**?"
- ¶ **Acts 11:18** - When they heard this, they had **no further objections** and **praised** God, **saying**, "So then, **even** to **Gentiles** God has **granted repentance** that **leads** to life."

The Church in Antioch

- ¶ **Acts 11:19** - **Now those** who had been **scattered** by the **persecution** that **broke out** when **Stephen** was **killed** **traveled** as far as **Phoenicia**, **Cyprus** and **Antioch**, **spreading** the word **only among Jews**.
- Acts 11:20** - Some of them, **however**, men from **Cyprus** and **Cyrene**, went to **Antioch** and began to speak to **Greeks** also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus.
- Acts 11:21** - The **Lord's hand** was with them, and a great number of people believed and **turned** to the Lord.
- ¶ **Acts 11:22** - News of **this** **reached** the church in **Jerusalem**, and they **sent Barnabas** to **Antioch**.
- Acts 11:23** - When he **arrived** and saw what the **grace** of God had **done**, he was **glad** and **encouraged** them **all to remain true** to the Lord with **all their hearts**.
- Acts 11:24** - He was a **good man**, **full** of the Holy Spirit and **faith**, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.
- ¶ **Acts 11:25** - Then **Barnabas** went to **Tarsus** to **look** for **Saul**,
- Acts 11:26** - and when he **found him**, he brought him to **Antioch**. So for a whole **year** **Barnabas** and **Saul** **met** with the church and **taught** great numbers of people. The disciples were called **Christians** **first** at **Antioch**.
- ¶ **Acts 11:27** - **During this time** some **prophets** came down from **Jerusalem** to **Antioch**.
- Acts 11:28** - One of them, **named Agabus**, **stood up** and through the Spirit **predicted** that a **severe famine** would **spread over the entire Roman world**. (This happened during the **reign** of **Claudius**.)
- Acts 11:29** - The **disciples**, as **each one** was **able**, **decided to provide help** for the brothers and **sisters** living in **Judea**.
- Acts 11:30** - This they **did**, **sending** their gift to the **elders** by **Barnabas** and **Saul**.

Acts 12

Peter's Miraculous Escape From Prison

- ¶ **Acts 12:1** - It was about this **time** that **King Herod** **arrested some** who belonged to the church, **intending** to **persecute** them.
- Acts 12:2** - He had **James**, the **brother** of **John**, put to **death** with the **sword**.
- Acts 12:3** - When he saw that **this** **met with approval** among the **Jews**, he **proceeded** to **seize** **Peter** also. This **happened during** the **Festival** of **Unleavened Bread**.
- Acts 12:4** - After **arresting** him, he put him in **prison**, **handing him over** to be **guarded** by four **squads** of four soldiers **each**. **Herod** **intended** to bring him out for **public trial** after the **Passover**.
- ¶ **Acts 12:5** - So **Peter** was kept in prison, but the church was **earnestly** praying to God for him.

- ¶ Acts 12:6 - The **night before** Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was **sleeping between** two soldiers, **bound** with two chains, and **sentries stood guard** at the entrance.
- Acts 12:7 - Suddenly an angel of the Lord **appeared** and a **light shone** in the **cell**. He struck Peter on the **side** and **woke** him up. "**Quick, get up!**" he said, and the chains **fell off** Peter's **wrists**.
- ¶ Acts 12:8 - Then the angel said to him, "**Put on your clothes and sandals.**" And Peter did so. "**Wrap your cloak around you and follow me,**" the angel told him.
- Acts 12:9 - Peter **followed** him out of the prison, but he had no **idea** that what the angel was **doing** was **really happening**; he **thought** he was **seeing a vision**.
- Acts 12:10 - They **passed** the **first** and **second** guards and came to the **iron gate leading** to the **city**. It opened for them **by itself**, and they went **through** it. When they had **walked the length** of **one street**, suddenly the angel left him.
- ¶ Acts 12:11 - Then Peter came to **himself** and said, "Now **I know** without a **doubt** that the Lord **has sent** his angel and **rescued** me from **Herod's clutches** and from **everything** the **Jewish** people were **hoping would happen**."
- ¶ Acts 12:12 - When this had **dawned** on him, he went to the **house** of **Mary** the **mother** of John, also called **Mark**, where **many people** had **gathered** and were praying.
- Acts 12:13 - Peter **knocked** at the **outer** entrance, and a servant **named Rhoda** came to **answer** the door.
- Acts 12:14 - When she **recognized** Peter's voice, she was so **overjoyed** she **ran back** without **opening** it and **exclaimed**, "Peter is at the door!"
- ¶ Acts 12:15 - "**You're out of your mind,**" they told **her**. When she kept **insisting** that it was so, they said, "It **must** be his angel."
- ¶ Acts 12:16 - But Peter kept on **knocking**, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were **astonished**.
- Acts 12:17 - Peter **motioned** with his **hand** for them to be **quiet** and **described how** the Lord had **brought** him out of prison. "**Tell James and the other brothers and sisters** about this," he said, and then he left for **another place**.
- ¶ Acts 12:18 - In the **morning**, there was no **small commotion** among the soldiers **as** to what had **become** of Peter.

Herod's Death

- Acts 12:19 - After Herod had a **thorough search made** for him and did not **find** him, he **cross-examined** the guards and **ordered** that they be **executed**. Then Herod went from **Judea** to **Caesarea** and **stayed** there.
- Acts 12:20 - He had **been quarreling** with the people of **Tyre** and **Sidon**; they now **joined together** and **sought** an **audience** with him. After **securing the support** of **Blastus**, a **trusted personal** servant of the king, they **asked for peace**, because they **depended** on the **king's country** for their **food supply**.
- ¶ Acts 12:21 - On the **appointed day** Herod, **wearing his royal robes**, **sat** on his **throne** and **delivered** a public **address** to the people.
- Acts 12:22 - They **shouted**, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man."
- Acts 12:23 - **Immediately**, because Herod did not **give praise** to God, an angel of the Lord struck him **down**, and he was **eaten** by **worms** and **died**.
- ¶ Acts 12:24 - But the **word of God** **continued** to **spread** and **flourish**.

Barnabas and Saul Sent Off

- ¶ Acts 12:25 - When **Barnabas** and **Saul** had **finished** their **mission**, they **returned** from **Jerusalem**, **taking** with them **John**, also called **Mark**.

Acts 13

- ¶ Acts 13:1 - Now in the **church** at Antioch there were prophets and **teachers**: Barnabas, **Simeon** called **Niger**, **Lucius** of **Cyrene**, **Manaen** (who had been brought up with **Herod the tetrarch**) and **Saul**.
- Acts 13:2 - **While** they were **worshipping** the Lord and **fasting**, the Holy Spirit said, "Set **apart** for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to **which** I have called them."
- Acts 13:3 - So after they had **fasted** and **prayed**, they **placed** their **hands** on them and sent them off.

On Cyprus

- ¶ Acts 13:4 - The **two** of them, sent on their **way** by the Holy Spirit, went down to **Seleucia** and sailed from there to **Cyprus**.
- Acts 13:5 - When they **arrived** at **Salamis**, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish **synagogues**. John was with them as their **helper**.

- ¶ Acts 13:6 - They traveled through the *whole island* until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named **Bar-Jesus**,
- Acts 13:7 - who was an **attendant** of the proconsul, **Sergius Paulus**. The proconsul, an **intelligent** man, sent for Barnabas and Saul **because he wanted** to hear the word of God.
- Acts 13:8 - But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his **name means**) **opposed** them and **tried** to turn the proconsul from the **faith**.
- Acts 13:9 - Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, **looked straight at Elymas** and said,
- Acts 13:10 - "You are a **child** of the **devil** and an **enemy** of everything that is *right*! You are **full** of all **kinds of deceit** and **trickery**. Will you never **stop perverting** the **right ways** of the Lord?"
- Acts 13:11 - Now the hand of the Lord is *against* you. You are going to be **blind** for a time, not even able to see the light of the **sun**." **Immediately mist** and **darkness** came **over** him, and he **groped** about, **seeking** someone to **lead** him by the hand.
- Acts 13:12 - When the proconsul saw what had **happened**, he believed, for he was **amazed** at the **teaching** about the Lord.

In Pisidian Antioch

- ¶ Acts 13:13 - From Paphos, Paul and his **companions** sailed to Perga in **Pamphylia**, where John **left** them to **return** to Jerusalem.
- Acts 13:14 - From Perga they went on to **Pisidian** Antioch. On the Sabbath they **entered** the synagogue and **sat** down.
- Acts 13:15 - After the **reading** from the Law and the Prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent word to them, saying, "**Brothers**, if you have a word of **exhortation** for the people, **please** speak."
- ¶ Acts 13:16 - Standing up, Paul **motioned** with his hand and said: "Fellow **Israelites** and you Gentiles who **worship** God, **listen** to me!
- Acts 13:17 - The God of the people of Israel **chose** our ancestors; he made the people **prosper during** their **stay** in **Egypt**; with **mighty power** he **led** them out of that **country**;
- Acts 13:18 - for about forty years he **endured** their **conduct** in the **wilderness**;
- Acts 13:19 - and he **overthrew seven nations** in **Canaan**, **giving** their **land** to his people as their **inheritance**.
- Acts 13:20 - All this took about **450** years. "After this, God gave them **judges** until the time of **Samuel** the prophet.
- Acts 13:21 - Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of **Kish**, of the **tribe of Benjamin**, who **ruled** forty years.
- Acts 13:22 - After **removing** Saul, he made David their king. God **testified concerning** him: 'I have found David son of **Jesse**, a man after my own **heart**; he will do everything I want him to do.'
- ¶ Acts 13:23 - "From this **man's descendants** God has brought to Israel the **Savior** Jesus, as he promised.
- Acts 13:24 - **Before** the coming of Jesus, John **preached repentance** and **baptism** to all the people of Israel.
- Acts 13:25 - As John was **completing** his work, he said: 'Who do you **suppose** I am? I am not the one you are **looking** for. But there is one coming after me **whose sandals** I am not worthy to **untie**.'
- ¶ Acts 13:26 - "Fellow children of **Abraham** and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this **message** of salvation has been sent.
- Acts 13:27 - The people of Jerusalem and their **rulers** did not **recognize** Jesus, **yet in condemning** him they fulfilled the **words** of the prophets that are **read** every Sabbath.
- Acts 13:28 - **Though** they found **no proper ground** for a **death sentence**, they asked **Pilate** to have him **executed**.
- Acts 13:29 - When they had **carried out** all that was written about him, they took him down from the **cross** and **laid** him in a **tomb**.
- Acts 13:30 - But God raised him from the dead,
- Acts 13:31 - and for many days he was **seen** by **those** who had traveled with him from **Galilee** to Jerusalem. They are now his **witnesses** to our people.
- ¶ Acts 13:32 - "We **tell** you the **good news**: What God promised our ancestors
- Acts 13:33 - he has fulfilled for us, their children, by **raising up** Jesus. As it is written in the **second Psalm**: "'You are my son; **today** I have **become** your **father**.'
- ¶ Acts 13:34 - God raised him from the *dead* so that he will never be **subject** to decay. As God has said, "'I will **give** you the holy and **sure blessings** promised to David.'
- ¶ Acts 13:35 - So it is also **stated elsewhere**: "'You will not **let** your holy one see decay.'
- ¶ Acts 13:36 - "Now when David had **served God's purpose** in his own **generation**, he **fell asleep**; he was **buried** with his ancestors and his **body decayed**.
- Acts 13:37 - But the one **whom** God raised from the *dead* did not see decay.
- ¶ Acts 13:38 - "Therefore, my **friends**, I want you to **know** that through Jesus the **forgiveness** of **sins** is proclaimed to you.
- Acts 13:39 - Through him **everyone** who **believes** is set **free** from every **sin**, a **justification** you were not able to **obtain under** the law of **Moses**.
- Acts 13:40 - **Take care** that what the prophets have said **does not happen** to you:

- ¶ Acts 13:41 - "**Look, you scoffers, wonder and perish**, for I am going to do **something** in your days that you **would never believe**, even if someone **told** you."
- ¶ Acts 13:42 - As Paul and Barnabas were **leaving** the synagogue, the people **invited** them to speak **further** about **these things** on the next Sabbath.
- Acts 13:43 - When the **congregation** was **dismissed**, many of the Jews and **devout converts** to **Judaism followed** Paul and **Barnabas**, who **talked** with them and **urged** them to **continue** in the **grace** of God.
- ¶ Acts 13:44 - On the next Sabbath **almost** the whole city **gathered** to hear the word of the Lord.
- Acts 13:45 - When the Jews saw the **crowds**, they were filled with **jealousy**. They **began** to **contradict** what Paul was saying and **heaped abuse** on him.
- ¶ Acts 13:46 - Then Paul and **Barnabas answered** them **boldly**: "We had to speak the word of God to you **first**. **Since** you **reject** it and do not **consider yourselves** worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles.
- Acts 13:47 - For this is what the Lord has **commanded** us: "**I have made you a light** for the Gentiles, that you **may bring** salvation to the **ends** of the **earth**."
- ¶ Acts 13:48 - When the Gentiles **heard** this, they were **glad** and **honored** the word of the Lord; and all who were **appointed** for eternal life believed.
- ¶ Acts 13:49 - The word of the Lord **spread** through the whole region.
- Acts 13:50 - But the Jewish leaders **incited** the God-fearing **women** of **high standing** and the **leading men** of the city. They **stirred up persecution** against Paul and Barnabas, and **expelled** them from their region.
- Acts 13:51 - So they **shook the dust** off their **feet** as a **warning** to them and went to **Iconium**.
- Acts 13:52 - And the **disciples** were filled with **joy** and with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 14

In Iconium

- ¶ Acts 14:1 - At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as **usual** into the **Jewish synagogue**. There they **spoke** so **effectively** that a **great** number of Jews and **Greeks believed**.
- Acts 14:2 - But the Jews who **refused** to **believe** **stirred** up the **other** Gentiles and **poisoned** their **minds** against the **brothers**.
- Acts 14:3 - So Paul and **Barnabas** **spent considerable** time there, speaking **boldly** for the Lord, who **confirmed** the **message** of his **grace** by **enabling** them to **perform signs** and **wonders**.
- Acts 14:4 - The **people** of the city **were divided**; some **sided** with the Jews, **others** with the apostles.
- Acts 14:5 - There was a **plot afoot** among **both** Gentiles and Jews, together with their **leaders**, to **mistreat** them and **stone** them.
- Acts 14:6 - But they **found out** **about it** and **fled** to the Lycaonian **cities** of Lystra and Derbe and to the **surrounding country**,
- Acts 14:7 - where they **continued** to **preach** the gospel.

In Lystra and Derbe

- ¶ Acts 14:8 - In Lystra there **sat** a man who was **lame**. He had been that way from **birth** and had **never walked**.
- Acts 14:9 - He **listened** to Paul as he was speaking. Paul **looked directly** at him, saw that he had faith to **be healed**
- Acts 14:10 - and called out, "**Stand** up on your **feet!**" At that, the man **jumped up** and **began** to walk.
- ¶ Acts 14:11 - When the crowd saw **what** Paul had done, they **shouted** in the Lycaonian **language**, "**The gods have come** down to **us** in human **form!**"
- Acts 14:12 - Barnabas they called **Zeus**, and Paul they called **Hermes** because he was the **chief speaker**.
- Acts 14:13 - The **priest** of Zeus, **whose temple** was **just** outside the city, **brought bulls** and **wreaths** to the city **gates** because he and the crowd **wanted** to **offer sacrifices** to them.
- ¶ Acts 14:14 - But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul **heard** of this, they **tore their clothes** and **rushed** out into the crowd, **shouting**:
- Acts 14:15 - "**Friends, why** are you **doing** this? We **too** are **only** human, **like** you. We are **bringing** you **good news**, **telling** you to **turn** from these **worthless things** to the **living** God, who **made** the **heavens** and the **earth** and the **sea** and **everything** in them.
- Acts 14:16 - In the **past**, he **let** all **nations** go their **own** way.
- Acts 14:17 - **Yet** he has **not** left **himself without testimony**. He has **shown kindness** by **giving** you **rain** from heaven and **crops** in their **seasons**; he **provides** you with **plenty** of **food** and **fills** your **hearts** with **joy**."
- Acts 14:18 - **Even** with these **words**, they had **difficulty keeping** the crowd from **sacrificing** to them.
- ¶ Acts 14:19 - Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and **won the crowd over**. They **stoned** Paul and **dragged** him outside the city, **thinking** he was **dead**.
- Acts 14:20 - **But** after the disciples had gathered **around** him, he **got** up and went **back** into the city. The **next day** he and **Barnabas** left for Derbe.

The Return to Antioch in Syria

- ¶ Acts 14:21 - They preached the gospel in that city and won a **large** number of disciples. Then they **returned** to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch,
- Acts 14:22 - **strengthening** the disciples and **encouraging** them to **remain true** to the faith. "We **must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom** of God," they said.
- Acts 14:23 - Paul and Barnabas **appointed elders** for them in **each church** and, with **prayer** and **fasting**, committed them to the Lord, in **whom** they had **put their trust**.
- Acts 14:24 - After **going through Pisidia**, they came into **Pamphylia**,
- Acts 14:25 - and when they had preached the **word in Perga**, they went down to Attalia.
- ¶ Acts 14:26 - From Attalia they **sailed back** to Antioch, where they had **been committed** to the grace of God for the **work** they had **now completed**.
- Acts 14:27 - On **arriving** there, they gathered the church together and **reported** all that God had done through them and **how he had opened a door** of faith to the Gentiles.
- Acts 14:28 - And they **stayed there a long** time with the disciples.

Acts 15

The Council at Jerusalem

- ¶ Acts 15:1 - **Certain** people came down from **Judea** to Antioch and were **teaching** the believers: "**Unless** you are circumcised, **according** to the **custom** taught by Moses, you **cannot** be saved."
- Acts 15:2 - This **brought** Paul and Barnabas **into sharp dispute and debate** with them. So Paul and Barnabas were **appointed, along with some other** believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.
- Acts 15:3 - The church sent them on their **way**, and as they **traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria**, they **told** how the Gentiles had been **converted**. This **news** made all the believers **very glad**.
- Acts 15:4 - When they came to Jerusalem, they were **welcomed** by the church and the apostles and elders, to **whom they reported everything** God had done through them.
- ¶ Acts 15:5 - Then some of the believers who **belonged** to the **party of the Pharisees stood** up and said, "The Gentiles **must be circumcised and required to keep** the law of Moses."
- ¶ Acts 15:6 - The apostles and elders **met to consider** this question.
- Acts 15:7 - After much **discussion**, **Peter got up** and **addressed** them: "Brothers, you **know** that some time ago God made a **choice** among you that the Gentiles **might hear from my lips** the message of the **gospel** and believe.
- Acts 15:8 - God, who **knows the heart**, **showed** that he **accepted** them by **giving** the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us.
- Acts 15:9 - He did not **discriminate between us and them**, for he **purified their hearts by faith**.
- Acts 15:10 - **Now then, why** do you **try to test** God by **putting on the necks** of Gentiles a **yoke** that **neither we nor our ancestors** have been **able to bear**?
- Acts 15:11 - **No!** We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."
- ¶ Acts 15:12 - The whole **assembly became silent** as they **listened** to Barnabas and Paul telling about the **signs and wonders** God had done among the Gentiles through them.
- Acts 15:13 - When they **finished**, **James spoke up**. "Brothers," he said, "**listen to me**.
- Acts 15:14 - **Simon has described** to us how God **first intervened** to choose a people for **his name** from the Gentiles.
- Acts 15:15 - The **words** of the prophets are in **agreement** with this, as it is **written**:
- ¶ Acts 15:16 - "'After this I will return and rebuild **David's fallen tent**. Its **ruins** I will rebuild, and I will restore it,
- Acts 15:17 - that the **rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who bear my name, says** the Lord, who **does these things**'--
- Acts 15:18 - things **known from long** ago.
- ¶ Acts 15:19 - "It is my **judgment, therefore**, that we should not **make it difficult** for the Gentiles who are **turning** to God.
- Acts 15:20 - **Instead** we should **write** to them, telling them to abstain from food **polluted by idols**, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.
- Acts 15:21 - For the law of Moses has been preached in every **city** from the **earliest times** and is read in the **synagogues on every Sabbath**."

The Council's Letter to Gentile Believers

- ¶ Acts 15:22 - Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, **decided** to choose some of their **own men** and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas (called **Barsabbas**) and Silas, men who were **leaders** among the believers.

- Acts 15:23** - With them they sent the following letter. The apostles and elders, your brothers, To the **Gentile** believers in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia: **Greetings**.
- ¶ **Acts 15:24** - We have **heard** that some went **out** from us **without** our **authorization** and **disturbed** you, **troubling** your **minds** by what they said.
- Acts 15:25** - So we all **agreed** to choose some men and send them to you with our **dear friends** Barnabas and Paul--
- Acts 15:26** - men who **have risked** their **lives** for the name of our Lord Jesus **Christ**.
- Acts 15:27** - Therefore we are **sending** Judas and Silas to **confirm** by word of **mouth** what we are **writing**.
- Acts 15:28** - It **seemed good** to the Holy Spirit and to us not to **burden** you with **anything beyond** the following **requirements**:
- Acts 15:29** - You are to abstain from food **sacrificed** to idols, from **blood**, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual **immorality**. You will do **well** to **avoid** these things. **Farewell**.
- ¶ **Acts 15:30** - So the **men** were sent off and went down to Antioch, where they **gathered** the church **together** and **delivered** the letter.
- Acts 15:31** - The **people** read it and were glad for its **encouraging** message.
- Acts 15:32** - Judas and Silas, who **themselves** were prophets, said much to **encourage** and **strengthen** the believers.
- Acts 15:33** - After **spending** some time **there**, they were sent off by the **believers** with the **blessing of peace** to return to those who had sent them.
- Acts 15:35** - But Paul and Barnabas **remained** in Antioch, where **they and many others** taught and preached the word of the Lord.

Disagreement Between Paul and Barnabas

- ¶ **Acts 15:36** - Some time **later** Paul said to Barnabas, "**Let us go back** and **visit** the believers in all the **towns** where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are **doing**."
- Acts 15:37** - Barnabas **wanted** to take **John, also** called Mark, with them,
- Acts 15:38** - but Paul did not **think it wise** to take him, because he had **deserted** them in **Pamphylia** and had not **continued** with them in the **work**.
- Acts 15:39** - They had **such** a sharp **disagreement** that they **parted company**. Barnabas **took** Mark and **sailed** for **Cyprus**,
- Acts 15:40** - but Paul chose Silas and **left, commended** by the believers to the grace of the Lord.
- Acts 15:41** - He went **through** Syria and Cilicia, **strengthening** the **churches**.

Acts 16

Timothy Joins Paul and Silas

- ¶ **Acts 16:1** - Paul came to **Derbe** and then to Lystra, where a **disciple** named **Timothy** lived, whose **mother** was **Jewish** and a believer but whose father was a Greek.
- Acts 16:2** - The **believers** at Lystra and **Iconium** spoke **well** of him.
- Acts 16:3** - Paul **wanted** to take him **along** on the **journey**, so he **circumcised** him because of the Jews who lived in that **area**, for they all **knew** that his father was a Greek.
- Acts 16:4** - **As** they traveled from **town** to **town**, they **delivered** the **decisions** reached by the **apostles** and **elders** in **Jerusalem** for the **people** to **obey**.
- Acts 16:5** - So the **churches** were **strengthened** in the **faith** and **grew daily** in numbers.

Paul's Vision of the Man of Macedonia

- ¶ **Acts 16:6** - Paul and his **companions** traveled **throughout** the **region** of **Phrygia** and **Galatia**, **having** been kept by the **Holy Spirit** from **preaching** the word in the **province** of **Asia**.
- Acts 16:7** - When they came to the **border** of **Mysia**, they **tried** to **enter** **Bithynia**, but the Spirit of Jesus **would not allow** them to.
- Acts 16:8** - So they **passed** by **Mysia** and went down to **Troas**.
- Acts 16:9** - **During** the **night** Paul had a vision of a **man** of Macedonia **standing** and **begging** him, "**Come over** to Macedonia and **help** us."
- Acts 16:10** - After Paul had **seen** the vision, we **got ready** at once to leave for Macedonia, **concluding** that God had called us to **preach** the **gospel** to them.

Lydia's Conversion in Philippi

- ¶ **Acts 16:11** - From Troas we put out to **sea** and **sailed straight** for **Samothrace**, and the **next day** we went on to **Neapolis**.

- Acts 16:12** - From *there* we traveled to **Philippi**, a Roman **colony** and the **leading** city of that **district** of Macedonia. And we **stayed** there **several** days.
- ¶ **Acts 16:13** - On the **Sabbath** we went **outside** the city **gate** to the **river**, where we **expected** to **find** a place of prayer. We **sat** down and **began** to **speak** to the **women** who had **gathered** there.
- Acts 16:14** - **One** of those listening was a **woman** from the city of **Thyatira** named **Lydia**, a **dealer** in **purple cloth**. She was a **worshiper** of God. The Lord **opened** her **heart** to **respond** to **Paul's message**.
- Acts 16:15** - When she and the **members** of her household were baptized, she **invited** us to her **home**. "**If you consider me** a believer in the Lord," she said, "**come** and **stay** at my house." And she **persuaded** us.

Paul and Silas in Prison

- ¶ **Acts 16:16** - Once when we were **going** to the place of prayer, we were met by a **female slave** who had a spirit by which she **predicted** the **future**. She **earned** a **great deal** of money for her owners by **fortune-telling**.
- Acts 16:17** - She **followed** Paul and the **rest** of us, **shouting**, "These men are **servants** of the **Most High God**, who are **telling** you the **way** to be saved."
- Acts 16:18** - She kept this up for **many** days. **Finally** Paul **became** so **annoyed** that he **turned around** and said to the spirit, "In the **name** of Jesus **Christ I command** you to come out of her!" At that **moment** the spirit left her.
- ¶ **Acts 16:19** - When her owners **realized** that their **hope** of **making** money was **gone**, they **seized** Paul and Silas and **dragged** them into the **marketplace** to **face** the **authorities**.
- Acts 16:20** - They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are **throwing our city** into an uproar
- Acts 16:21** - by **advocating customs unlawful** for us **Romans** to **accept** or **practice**."
- ¶ **Acts 16:22** - The **crowd joined** in the **attack against** Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be **stripped** and **beaten** with **rods**.
- Acts 16:23** - After they had **been severely flogged**, they were **thrown** into prison, and the **jailer** was **commanded** to **guard** them **carefully**.
- Acts 16:24** - When he **received** these **orders**, he put them in the **inner cell** and **fastened** their feet in the **stocks**.
- ¶ **Acts 16:25** - About **midnight** Paul and Silas were **praying** and **singing hymns** to God, and the **other** prisoners were listening to them.
- Acts 16:26** - **Suddenly** there was **such** a **violent earthquake** that the **foundations** of the prison were **shaken**. At once all the prison doors **flew** open, and **everyone's chains** came **loose**.
- Acts 16:27** - The **jailer woke** up, and when he **saw** the prison doors open, he **drew his sword** and was about to **kill himself** because he **thought** the prisoners had **escaped**.
- Acts 16:28** - But Paul **shouted**, "**Don't harm yourself!** We are all **here!**"
- ¶ **Acts 16:29** - The **jailer called** for **lights**, **rushed** in and **fell trembling** before Paul and Silas.
- Acts 16:30** - He then brought them out and **asked**, "**Sirs, what must I** do to be saved?"
- ¶ **Acts 16:31** - They **replied**, "**Believe** in the Lord Jesus, and you **will** be saved--you and **your** household."
- Acts 16:32** - Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the **others** in his house.
- Acts 16:33** - At that **hour** of the night the **jailer took** them and **washed** their **wounds**; then **immediately** he and all his household were baptized.
- Acts 16:34** - The **jailer brought** them into his house and **set** a **meal** before them; he was **filled** with **joy** because he had come to believe in God--he and his **whole** household.
- ¶ **Acts 16:35** - When it was **daylight**, the magistrates **sent** their officers to the **jailer** with the **order**. "**Release** those men."
- Acts 16:36** - The **jailer told** Paul, "The magistrates **have** ordered that you and Silas be **released**. Now you **can** leave. **Go in peace**."
- ¶ **Acts 16:37** - But Paul said to the officers: "They **beat** us **publicly without a trial**, even though we are Roman citizens, and **threw** us into prison. And now do they **want** to **get rid** of us **quietly**? **No!** **Let** them come **themselves** and **escort** us out."
- ¶ **Acts 16:38** - The **officers reported** this to the magistrates, and when they **heard** that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were **alarmed**.
- Acts 16:39** - They came to **appease** them and **escorted** them from the prison, **requesting** them to leave the city.
- Acts 16:40** - After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to **Lydia's house**, where they met with the **brothers** and **sisters** and **encouraged** them. Then they left.

Acts 17

In Thessalonica

- ¶ **Acts 17:1** - When Paul and his **companions** had **passed through** **Amphipolis** and **Apollonia**, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue.

- Acts 17:2** - As was his **custom**, Paul went into the synagogue, and on **three Sabbath days** he reasoned with them from the Scriptures,
- Acts 17:3** - **explaining** and **proving** that the *Messiah* had to **suffer** and **rise** from the dead. "This Jesus I am **proclaiming** to you is the *Messiah*," he said.
- Acts 17:4** - Some of the Jews were **persuaded** and **joined** Paul and Silas, as did a **large** number of God-fearing Greeks and **quite** a **few** prominent women.
- ¶ **Acts 17:5** - But other Jews were **jealous**; so they **rounded** up some **bad characters** from the marketplace, **formed** a **mob** and **started** a **riot** in the city. They **rushed** to **Jason's** house in **search** of Paul and Silas in **order** to **bring** them out to the crowd.
- Acts 17:6** - But when they did not find them, they **dragged** Jason and some other *believers* **before** the city officials, **shouting**: "These men who have **caused trouble** all over the world have now **come here**,
- Acts 17:7** - and Jason has **welcomed** them into his house. They are all **defying Caesar's decrees**, **saying** that there is **another king**, one **called** Jesus."
- Acts 17:8** - When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were **thrown into turmoil**.
- Acts 17:9** - Then they **made** Jason and the others **post bond** and **let** them **go**.

In Berea

- ¶ **Acts 17:10** - As soon as it was **night**, the *believers* sent Paul and Silas **away** to Berea. On **arriving** there, they went to the Jewish synagogue.
- Acts 17:11** - Now the **Berean** Jews were of **more noble character** than those in Thessalonica, for they **received** the **message** with **great eagerness** and **examined** the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was **true**.
- Acts 17:12** - As a **result**, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.
- ¶ **Acts 17:13** - But when the Jews in Thessalonica **learned** that Paul was preaching the **word** of God at Berea, some of them went there **too**, **agitating** the **crowds** and **stirring** them up.
- Acts 17:14** - The *believers* **immediately** sent Paul to the **coast**, but Silas and Timothy **stayed** at Berea.
- Acts 17:15** - Those who **escorted** Paul brought him to Athens and then left with **instructions** for Silas and Timothy to **join** him as soon as **possible**.

In Athens

- ¶ **Acts 17:16** - **While** Paul was **waiting** for them in Athens, he was **greatly distressed** to see that the city was **full** of **idols**.
- Acts 17:17** - So he reasoned in the *synagogue* with **both** Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as **well** as in the marketplace day by day with those who **happened** to be there.
- Acts 17:18** - A **group** of **Epicurean** and **Stoic philosophers** **began** to **debate** with him. Some of them **asked**, "What is this **babbling** trying to **say**?" Others **remarked**, "He **seems** to be **advocating foreign gods**." They said this **because** Paul was preaching the **good news** about Jesus and the resurrection.
- Acts 17:19** - Then they **took** him and brought him to a *meeting* of the *Areopagus*, where they said to him, "**May** we know what this **new teaching** is that you are **presenting**?"
- Acts 17:20** - You are **bringing** some **strange** ideas to our **ears**, and we would like to know what they **mean**."
- Acts 17:21** - (All the **Athenians** and the **foreigners** who **lived** there **spent** their **time doing nothing** but **talking** about and **listening** to the **latest** ideas.)
- ¶ **Acts 17:22** - Paul then **stood** up in the *meeting* of the *Areopagus* and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every **way** you are very **religious**.
- Acts 17:23** - For as I **walked around** and **looked carefully** at your **objects** of worship, I **even found** an **altar** with this **inscription**: to an **unknown** god. So you are **ignorant** of the very **thing** you worship--and this is what I am **going** to **proclaim** to you.
- ¶ **Acts 17:24** - "The God who made the *world* and everything in it is the **Lord** of **heaven** and **earth** and **does** not live in **temples built** by human hands.
- Acts 17:25** - And he is **not served** by human hands, as if he **needed anything**. **Rather**, he **himself gives** everyone **life** and **breath** and everything **else**.
- Acts 17:26** - From one man he made all the **nations**, that they should **inhabit** the **whole** earth; and he **marked** out their appointed **times** in **history** and the **boundaries** of their **lands**.
- Acts 17:27** - God *did* this so that they would **seek** him and **perhaps reach** out for him and **find** him, **though** he is **not far** from **any** one of **us**.
- Acts 17:28** - 'For in him we live and **move** and have our being.' As some of your **own poets** have said, 'We are his offspring.'
- ¶ **Acts 17:29** - "Therefore **since** we are **God's** offspring, we should **not think** that the **divine** being is like **gold** or **silver** or **stone**--an **image** made by human **design** and **skill**.
- Acts 17:30** - In the **past** God **overlooked such ignorance**, but now he **commands** all people **everywhere** to **repent**.

- Acts 17:31** - For he has **set** a day when he **will judge** the world with **justice** by the man he has appointed. He has **given proof** of this to everyone by **raising** him from the dead."
- ¶ **Acts 17:32** - When they heard about the resurrection of the **dead**, some of them **sneered**, but others said, "We **want to hear you again on this subject**."
- Acts 17:33** - At that, Paul left the **Council**.
- Acts 17:34** - Some of the people **became followers** of Paul and believed. **Among them was Dionysius**, a **member** of the Areopagus, also a **woman named Damaris**, and a number of others.

Acts 18

In Corinth

- ¶ **Acts 18:1** - After this, Paul left **Athens** and went to Corinth.
- Acts 18:2** - There he **met** a Jew named Aquila, a native of **Pontus**, who had **recently** come from **Italy** with his **wife Priscilla**, because **Claudius** had **ordered** all Jews to **leave Rome**. Paul went to **see** them,
- Acts 18:3** - and because he was a **tentmaker** as they were, he stayed and **worked** with them.
- Acts 18:4** - **Every Sabbath** he reasoned in the synagogue, **trying to persuade** Jews and **Greeks**.
- ¶ **Acts 18:5** - When **Silas** and **Timothy** came from **Macedonia**, Paul **devoted himself exclusively** to **preaching, testifying** to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah.
- Acts 18:6** - But when they **opposed** Paul and **became abusive**, he **shook out his clothes** in **protest** and said to them, "Your **blood** be on your own **heads!** I am **innocent** of it. From **now on** I will go to the **Gentiles**."
- ¶ **Acts 18:7** - Then Paul left the synagogue and went **next door** to the house of **Titius Justus**, a **worshiper** of God.
- Acts 18:8** - **Crispus**, the synagogue leader, and his **entire household** believed in the Lord; and many of the **Corinthians** who heard Paul believed and were **baptized**.
- ¶ **Acts 18:9** - **One night** the Lord spoke to Paul in a **vision**: "Do not be **afraid**; **keep on speaking**, do not be **silent**."
- Acts 18:10** - For I am with you, and no one is **going** to attack and **harm** you, because I **have** many people in this **city**."
- Acts 18:11** - So Paul stayed in Corinth for a **year and a half**, **teaching** them the **word** of God.
- ¶ **Acts 18:12** - **While** Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews of Corinth **made a united** attack on Paul and **brought** him to the place of **judgment**.
- Acts 18:13** - "This man," they **charged**, "is **persuading** the people to **worship** God in **ways contrary** to the law."
- ¶ **Acts 18:14** - **Just** as Paul was about to **speak**, Gallio said to them, "If you Jews were **making a complaint** about some **misdemeanor or serious crime**, it would be **reasonable** for me to **listen** to you.
- Acts 18:15** - But **since it involves questions** about **words and names** and your own law--**settle the matter yourselves**. I will not be a **judge of such things**."
- Acts 18:16** - So he **drove** them off.
- Acts 18:17** - Then the **crowd there turned on Sosthenes** the synagogue leader and **beat him in front** of the proconsul; and Gallio **showed no concern whatever**.

Priscilla, Aquila and Apollos

- ¶ **Acts 18:18** - Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sisters and sailed for **Syria**, **accompanied** by Priscilla and Aquila. **Before** he sailed, he had his **hair cut off** at **Cenchreae** because of a **vow** he had **taken**.
- Acts 18:19** - They arrived at **Ephesus**, **where** Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went **into** the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.
- Acts 18:20** - When they **asked** him to **spend** more time with them, he **declined**.
- Acts 18:21** - But as he left, he **promised**, "I will come **back** if it is **God's will**." Then he set **sail** from Ephesus.
- Acts 18:22** - When he **landed** at **Caesarea**, he went **up** to **Jerusalem** and **greeted** the church and then went **down** to Antioch.
- ¶ **Acts 18:23** - After **spending** some time in **Antioch**, Paul set out from there and **traveled** from place to place **throughout** the region of **Galatia** and **Phrygia**, **strengthening** all the disciples.
- ¶ **Acts 18:24** - **Meanwhile** a Jew named Apollos, a native of **Alexandria**, came to Ephesus. He was a **learned** man, with a **thorough knowledge** of the Scriptures.
- Acts 18:25** - He had **been instructed** in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great **fervor** and **taught** about Jesus **accurately**, though he **knew only the baptism** of John.
- Acts 18:26** - He **began** to **speak boldly** in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they **invited** him to **their home** and **explained** to him the way of God more **adequately**.
- ¶ **Acts 18:27** - When Apollos **wanted** to go to Achaia, the brothers and sisters **encouraged** him and **wrote** to the disciples there to **welcome** him. When he arrived, he was a **great help** to those who by **grace** had believed.

Acts 18:28 - For he **vigorously refuted** his **Jewish opponents** in **public debate**, **proving** from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.

Acts 19

Paul in Ephesus

- ¶ Acts 19:1 - While **Apollos** was at **Corinth**, Paul took the **road** through the **interior** and **arrived** at Ephesus. There he **found** some disciples
- Acts 19:2 - and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."
- ¶ Acts 19:3 - So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied.
- ¶ Acts 19:4 - Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of **repentance**. He told the people to believe in the one **coming** after him, that is, in Jesus."
- Acts 19:5 - On **hearing** this, they were **baptized** in the name of the Lord Jesus.
- Acts 19:6 - When Paul **placed** his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they **spoke in tongues** and **prophesied**.
- Acts 19:7 - There were about **twelve** men in all.
- ¶ Acts 19:8 - Paul **entered** the **synagogue** and spoke **boldly** there for **three months**, **arguing persuasively** about the **kingdom** of God.
- Acts 19:9 - But some of them became **obstinate**; they **refused** to believe and publicly **maligned** the Way. So Paul left them. He took the **disciples** with him and had **discussions daily** in the **lecture hall** of **Tyrannus**.
- Acts 19:10 - This went on for two **years**, so that all the Jews and Greeks who **lived** in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.
- ¶ Acts 19:11 - God did **extraordinary miracles** through Paul,
- Acts 19:12 - so that even **handkerchiefs** and **aprons** that had **touched** him were **taken** to the **sick**, and their **illnesses** were **cured** and the evil spirits left them.
- ¶ Acts 19:13 - Some Jews who went **around driving** out evil spirits **tried to invoke** the name of the Lord Jesus **over** those who were **demon-possessed**. They would say, "In the name of the Jesus **whom Paul preaches**, I **command** you to **come** out."
- Acts 19:14 - **Seven sons of Sceva**, a **Jewish chief priest**, were **doing** this.
- Acts 19:15 - One **day** the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?"
- Acts 19:16 - Then the **man** who had the evil spirit **jumped** on them and **overpowered** them all. He **gave them such a beating** that they **ran** out of the **house naked** and **bleeding**.
- ¶ Acts 19:17 - When this became **known** to the Jews and Greeks **living** in Ephesus, they were all seized with **fear**, and the name of the Lord Jesus was **held in high honor**.
- Acts 19:18 - **Many** of those who **believed now** came and **openly confessed** what they had **done**.
- Acts 19:19 - A **number** who had **practiced sorcery** brought their **scrolls** together and **burned** them publicly. When they **calculated** the **value** of the **scrolls**, the **total** came to **fifty thousand drachmas**.
- Acts 19:20 - In this way the word of the Lord **spread widely** and **grew in power**.
- ¶ Acts 19:21 - After all this had happened, Paul **decided to go** to **Jerusalem**, **passing** through Macedonia and **Achaia**. "After I have **been** there," he said, "I must **visit Rome** also."
- Acts 19:22 - He sent two of his **helpers**, **Timothy** and **Erastus**, to Macedonia, while he **stayed** in the province of Asia a **little longer**.

The Riot in Ephesus

- ¶ Acts 19:23 - About that **time** there **arose** a great **disturbance** about the Way.
- Acts 19:24 - A **silversmith** named Demetrius, who made **silver shrines** of Artemis, brought in a **lot** of business for the craftsmen there.
- Acts 19:25 - He **called** them together, **along** with the **workers** in **related trades**, and said: "You know, **my friends**, that we receive a good **income** from this business.
- Acts 19:26 - And you **see** and **hear how** this fellow Paul **has convinced** and **led astray large numbers** of people here in Ephesus and in **practically** the whole province of Asia. He **says** that gods made **by human** hands are **no gods** at all.
- Acts 19:27 - There is danger not **only** that our **trade** will **lose its** good name, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be **discredited**; and the goddess **herself**, who is **worshipped throughout** the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her **divine majesty**."
- ¶ Acts 19:28 - When they heard this, they were **furious** and **began shouting**: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"
- Acts 19:29 - **Soon** the whole city was in an **uproar**. The people seized **Gaius** and **Aristarchus**, **Paul's traveling companions** from Macedonia, and all of them **rushed** into the theater together.

- Acts 19:30** - Paul **wanted to appear** before the *crowd*, but the *disciples* would not **let** him.
- Acts 19:31** - Even some of the **officials** of the province, friends of Paul, sent him a **message begging** him not to **venture** into the theater.
- ¶ **Acts 19:32** - The *assembly* was in **confusion**: Some were shouting one **thing**, some **another**. **Most** of the people did not even know **why** they were there.
- Acts 19:33** - The Jews in the *crowd* **pushed Alexander** to the **front**, and they shouted **instructions** to him. He **motioned** for **silence** in order to **make a defense** before the people.
- Acts 19:34** - But when they **realized** he was a **Jew**, they all shouted in **unison** for about two **hours**: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"
- ¶ **Acts 19:35** - The city **clerk quieted** the crowd and said: "Fellow Ephesians, **doesn't** all the world know that the city of Ephesus is the **guardian** of the temple of the great Artemis and of her **image**, **which fell** from **heaven**?"
- Acts 19:36** - **Therefore**, since these **facts** are **undeniable**, you **ought** to **calm down** and not **do** anything **rash**.
- Acts 19:37** - You have brought these men here, **though** they have **neither robbed temples nor blasphemed** our goddess.
- Acts 19:38** - If, then, Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a **grievance against anybody**, the **courts** are **open** and there are **proconsuls**. They **can press charges**.
- Acts 19:39** - If there is anything **further** you **want to bring up**, it must be **settled** in a **legal** assembly.
- Acts 19:40** - **As** it is, we are in danger of **being charged with rioting** because of what happened **today**. In that **case** we would not be **able to account** for this **commotion**, since there is no **reason** for it."
- Acts 19:41** - After he had said this, he **dismissed** the assembly.

Acts 20

Through Macedonia and Greece

- ¶ **Acts 20:1** - When the **uproar** had **ended**, Paul sent for the disciples and, after **encouraging** them, said **goodbye** and set **out** for Macedonia.
- Acts 20:2** - He **traveled** through that **area**, speaking many words of **encouragement** to the people, and **finally** arrived in **Greece**,
- Acts 20:3** - where he **stayed three months**. Because **some Jews** had **plotted against him just** as he was about to sail for **Syria**, he decided to **go back** through Macedonia.
- Acts 20:4** - He was accompanied by **Sopater son of Pyrrhus** from **Berea**, **Aristarchus** and **Secundus** from **Thessalonica**, **Gaius** from **Derbe**, **Timothy also**, and **Tychicus** and **Trophimus** from the province of Asia.
- Acts 20:5** - These men went on ahead and **waited** for us at Troas.
- Acts 20:6** - But we sailed from **Philippi** after the **Festival of Unleavened Bread**, and **five days later** joined the **others** at Troas, where we stayed **seven** days.

Eutychus Raised From the Dead at Troas

- ¶ **Acts 20:7** - On the first day of the **week** we came **together to break** bread. Paul **spoke** to the people and, because he **intended** to leave the next day, **kept on talking until midnight**.
- Acts 20:8** - There were many **lamps** in the upstairs **room** where we were **meeting**.
- Acts 20:9** - **Seated** in a **window** was a young man **named Eutychus**, who was **sinking into a deep sleep** as Paul **talked on and on**. When he was **sound asleep**, he **fell** to the **ground** from the **third story** and was **picked up dead**.
- Acts 20:10** - Paul went down, **threw** himself on the young man and **put his arms around** him. "**Don't be alarmed**," he said. "**He's alive!**"
- Acts 20:11** - Then he went upstairs again and **broke** bread and **ate**. After talking until **daylight**, he **left**.
- Acts 20:12** - The people took the young man **home** alive and were **greatly comforted**.

Paul's Farewell to the Ephesian Elders

- ¶ **Acts 20:13** - We went on ahead to the *ship* and sailed for Assos, where we were going to **take** Paul aboard. He had made **this arrangement** because he was **going there on foot**.
- Acts 20:14** - When he **met** us at Assos, we took him aboard and went on to **Mitylene**.
- Acts 20:15** - The next day we set sail from there and arrived **off Chios**. The day after that we **crossed** over to **Samos**, and on the **following** day arrived at Miletus.
- Acts 20:16** - Paul had decided to sail **past Ephesus** to **avoid spending** time in the province of Asia, for he was in a **hurry to reach** Jerusalem, **if possible**, by the day of **Pentecost**.
- ¶ **Acts 20:17** - From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the **elders** of the church.

- Acts 20:18** - When they arrived, he said to them: "You *know how I lived* the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia.
- Acts 20:19** - I *served* the Lord with **great humility** and with *tears* and in the **midst** of **severe testing** by the **plots** of my **Jewish opponents**.
- Acts 20:20** - You know that I have not hesitated to **preach anything** that would be **helpful** to you but have **taught** you **publicly** and from house to house.
- Acts 20:21** - I have **declared** to **both** Jews and **Greeks** that they must **turn** to God in **repentance** and have **faith** in our Lord Jesus.
- ¶ **Acts 20:22** - "And now, **compelled** by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not **knowing** what will **happen** to me there.
- Acts 20:23** - I only know that in **every city** the Holy Spirit **warns** me that **prison** and **hardships** are **facing** me.
- Acts 20:24** - **However**, I **consider** my **life worth nothing** to me; my only **aim** is to **finish** the **race** and **complete** the **task** the Lord Jesus has **given** me--the **task** of **testifying** to the **good news** of God's grace.
- ¶ **Acts 20:25** - "Now I know that **none** of you among **whom** I have **gone** about **preaching** the **kingdom** will **ever** see me again.
- Acts 20:26** - **Therefore**, I **declare** to you **today** that I am **innocent** of the blood of **any** of you.
- Acts 20:27** - For I have not hesitated to **proclaim** to you the **whole will** of God.
- Acts 20:28** - **Keep watch** over yourselves and all the **flock** of which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**. Be **shepherds** of the church of God, which he **bought** with his own blood.
- Acts 20:29** - I know that after I leave, **savage wolves** will **come** in among you and will not **spare** the flock.
- Acts 20:30** - **Even** from your own **number** men will **arise** and **distort** the **truth** in order to **draw away** disciples after them.
- Acts 20:31** - **So** be on your **guard!** **Remember** that for three **years** I never **stopped warning** each of you **night** and day with tears.
- ¶ **Acts 20:32** - "Now I **commit** you to God and to the **word** of his **grace**, which **can build** you up and give you **an inheritance** among all those who are **sanctified**.
- Acts 20:33** - I have not **coveted anyone's silver** or **gold** or **clothing**.
- Acts 20:34** - You yourselves know that these **hands** of **mine** have **supplied** my own **needs** and the **needs** of my **companions**.
- Acts 20:35** - In **everything I did**, I **showed** you that by this **kind** of **hard work** we must **help** the **weak**, **remembering** the words the Lord Jesus himself said: '**It is more blessed** to give **than** to receive.' "
- ¶ **Acts 20:36** - When Paul had **finished** speaking, he **knelt** down with all of them and **prayed**.
- Acts 20:37** - They all **wept** as they **embraced** him and **kissed** him.
- Acts 20:38** - What **grieved** them **most** was his **statement** that they would never see his **face** again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.