

# 2022-2023 PNW 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, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome**
- 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**.

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## 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 **bless** you by **turning each** of you from your **wicked ways**."

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## Acts 4

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### 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.

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## Acts 5

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### 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**.

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## 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 **cares** 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**.

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## 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**.

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## Acts 9

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### 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## Acts 13

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- ¶ **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 **scuffers**, **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.

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## 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.*

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## Acts 17

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### 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.

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## 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 **misdeemeanor 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 *Tyranus*.
- 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 **worshiped 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.

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## Acts 20

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### 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.