

ACTS 21–PAUL GOES TO JERUSALEM

Paul had organized a meeting with the elders of the church at Ephesus. He warned them of the danger of false teachers entering in...even some that would arise from within. Paul prayed with them and then prepared to continue his journey to Jerusalem.

- I. Paul sails for Jerusalem.
 - A. After we were gotten from them.
 1. Could possibly be rendered, “When we had torn ourselves away from them.”
 2. Hard to leave the elders.
 - B. Sailed a straight course.
 1. Indicates they had excellent sailing weather.
 2. Traveled thru Cos, Rhodes, to Patara.
 3. They changed vessels, finding one going to Phoenicia.
 4. Paul is trying to get to Jerusalem before the day of Pentecost.
 - C. Sailed by island of Cyprus.
 1. Passed within sight of...
 2. AS Paul is about to conclude his third missionary journey, you wonder if he had thought of his first journey which began on this island.
 3. Syria was name given to the whole eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea from Cilicia in the north to Egypt to the south.
 4. They landed at Tyre.
 5. Paul and his companions spent seven days with the brethren at Tyre.
 - a. They kept telling Paul not to go to Jerusalem.
 - b. Acts 20;23
 6. Traveled by ship to Ptolemais.
 - a. Stayed one day with them.
 - b. Not sure if they sailed to Caesarea, or traveled by land.
 - D. Philip the evangelist.
 1. An evangelist is one who proclaims by word of mouth the glad tidings, the gospel.
 2. He was one of the seven.
 - a. Acts 6:5
 - b. Led in the evangelism of Samaria and baptized the Ethiopian.
 3. Four virgin daughters who prophesied.
 - a. May very well indicate that these four had dedicated themselves to the single life in order that they could devote their whole time to the service of Christ.
 - b. I Corinthians 7:32-34
 - c. Very like that they prophesied to other women.
 - d. They would not violate God’s instructions elsewhere (I Cor. 14:34; I Tim. 2:12).
 - E. Agabus
 1. Bound Paul with his own girdle (belt).
 2. The Jews would do this in Jerusalem.
 3. They tried to get Paul to change his mind.
 4. Ready to die if necessary.
 5. Gave up trying to convince him to change and said, “The will of the Lord be done.” They were commending him to the protection of God.
- II. Paul in Jerusalem.
 - A. Lodged with a man of Cyprus, Mnason.
 1. Wonder if he was a friend of Barnabas?
 2. Received gladly in Jerusalem.

3. His arrival in Jerusalem ends the third missionary journey.
- B. His reception by the church (17-20).
1. This James was “the Lord’s brother.” (Acts 12:17).
 2. Some believe he was an apostle (Gal. 1:19), since he was mentioned separate from the elders.
 3. Paul gave a detailed report of his missionary trips.
 4. They glorified God because of this report.
 5. Think for a minute about his missionary trips.
 - a. Paul had traveled some 3,400 miles, suffering countless hardships, and extending himself to the limit of human endurance on behalf of the gospel of Christ.
 - b. Covered a period from about 50 A.D. to about 58 A.D.
 - c. Established a large number of Gentile congregations throughout a large portion of the Roman Empire and proved the amazing success of the Lord’s great apostle to the Gentile world.
 - d. During this period, Galatians, 1 & 2 Cor, 1 & 2 Thess, and Romans had been written and sent on their way through history.
 - e. Those eight years were crucial to the spread of Christianity throughout the world.
- C. The Jewish Christians.
1. Many Jewish people had become Christians.
 2. They continue to be zealous for the Law. Hard to change tradition.
 3. They have been told. . .
 - a. Rumors. Someone had deliberately been spreading false teachings concerning Paul among the Jewish community.
 - b. Gossip and rumor are still favorite ways to destroy those who take a stand for truth & right
 - c. What about those who lend a listening ear??
 4. They say you are teaching the Jews to forsake Moses and stop circumcising.
 - a. Half-truths are sometimes more dangerous than out right lies.
 - b. Timothy–circumcised.
 - c. Gal. 5:6; 6:15
 - d. Big difference between “it is not necessary” and “you must not do it!”
 5. Do this... (vss. 23-24).
 - a. Four men which have a vow.
 - b. It is true that Paul, as a Jew, kept many of the customs of Jews, in a patriotic sense.
 - c. He never regarded any such things as being related in any manner whatsoever to salvation in the name of Christ.
 - d. Paul was to pay the expenses.
 - e. I do not fully understand all of this.
 - f. Perhaps Paul was exercising his rights in a matter of expediency, or liberty.
 6. Gentiles were to abide by decision made earlier.
- D. Jews from Asia.
1. Stirred up the people, drug him out of temple. Could not pollute the inner court.
 2. The charges were false, but they were not seeking truth, fairness and justice.
 3. They supposed that Paul had taken a Gentile into the temple.
 4. They were going to kill Paul.
- E. Chief Captain.
1. They rescued Paul.
 2. Commanded him to be carried to the castle (v.34).
3. Paul passed into he custody of the Roman government, beginning a period of imprisonment

which was to last five years.

F. Paul's request to speak (37-40)

1. He could speak Greek.
2. Paul was not the Egyptian.
3. I am a man of. . .
4. Spoke to them in Hebrew tongue.
 - a. Amazing fortitude, faith, power...
 - b. They were trying to kill him, and he was trying to preach the gospel to them.

Con: The chapter began with Paul preparing to return to Jerusalem. It would seem that he was excited about returning and telling about how God had used him to evangelize. What he found was animosity and hatred. He ends the chapter with the opportunity to preach to them, which is recorded in chapter 22.

What a great servant Paul was!