

Acts Of The Apostles

Chapter Twenty-One

SUMMARY

Paul left the Ephesian elders at Miletus. Paul, Luke and the other traveling companions sailed from Miletus to Cos. From Cos, they sailed to Rhodes, and then on to Patara. At Patara, they caught a ship to Tyre of Phoenicia. The ship passed to the south of the island of Cyprus. Upon arrival in Tyre, they found the disciples and remained with them seven days. The Spirit had indicated to the disciples what awaited Paul in Jerusalem. They told Paul to not go to Jerusalem. Paul continued, the disciples accompanied him outside the city, and they knelt and prayed on the shore. Paul and his companions boarded the ship and departed. They sailed from Tyre to Ptolemais. They greeted the brethren there and remained one day. They then went to Caesarea. Paul and his companions went to Philip's house. He was one of the seven (cf. Acts 6). Philip had four virgin daughters; they prophesied. The prophet Agabus came down from Judea. He took Paul's belt and bound his own hands and feet. This was to indicate that Paul would be bound and delivered to the Gentiles in Jerusalem, as the Holy Spirit revealed. Both his traveling companions and those in Caesarea pleaded with Paul not to go to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." (Acts 21:13 NKJV) They then ceased pleading with Paul and asked that the will of the Lord be done. **(1-14)**

Paul and his companions proceeded to Jerusalem. They were accompanied by some of the disciples from Caesarea. They were to lodge with Mnason of Cyprus, who was an early disciple. They then met with the Jerusalem brethren, who met them gladly. The next day, Paul and his companions met with James and the elders to give a description of the "things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry." The brethren glorified the Lord upon hearing these things. James and the elders then expounded to Paul the problem he faced. Many myriads of Jews had believed, and they were zealous for the law. They had been informed that Paul taught Jews, living among the Gentiles, to forsake Moses – that is, not to circumcise their children, nor to keep the customs. They expected these Jewish believers to learn that Paul was in Jerusalem. James and the elders gave Paul a plan – he should accompany the four men who had taken a vow; purify himself; pay their expenses in an effort to show that Paul kept the law (customs) as a Jew. They reiterated (cf. Acts 15) that the believing Gentiles were not subject to the law. **(15-25)**

Paul followed the plan from James and the elders. He took the men and was purified with them. They then entered the temple. Jews from Asia saw Paul in the temple. They stirred up the crowd and seized

Paul. They cried out charges as James and the elders had expected. Additionally, they charged that Paul had brought Greeks into the temple and had defiled the place. They had seen Trophimus, the Ephesian, with Paul in the city and “supposed” that he had brought him into the temple. The Jews seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple. As they sought to kill him, word came to the Roman commander about the uproar. When the Jews saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. The commander took Paul and bound him with chains. He asked what he had done, but he could not get an answer from the mob. He then took him to the barracks. When they reached the stairs of the barracks, Paul had to be carried due to the violence of the mob. (26-36)

Paul asked to speak to the commander. The commander asked him if he could speak Greek. The commander also asked if he was the Egyptian leader of the assassins. Paul replied that he was a Jew from Tarsus in Cilicia, “a citizen of no mean city.” Paul then requested to speak to the people. The commander gave Paul permission to speak to the people. Paul then began to speak to them in Hebrew. (37-40)

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

- 1) What are the main events in this chapter?**
 - Warnings to Paul as he headed to Jerusalem (1-14)
 - Paul arrived in Jerusalem (15-25)
 - Paul arrested in the temple (26-36)
 - Paul asked to address the mob (37-40)

- 2) Sailing from Miletus, list the cities passed through prior to Tyre? (1-2)**
 - Miletus to Cos, to Rhodes, to Patara, to Tyre (1-2)

- 3) On which side of the ship did they pass Cyprus? What direction would that be? (3)**
 - Left; ship passed to the south of Cyprus [see map] (3)

- 4) What was the common request made of Paul at Tyre and Caesarea? (4-12)**
 - Not to go up to Jerusalem (3)

- 5) What two groups made this common request of Paul in Tyre and Caesarea? (4-12)**
 - The local disciples asked in Tyre (4)
 - The local disciples and Paul’s traveling companions in Caesarea (12)

- 6) What was Paul ready to do in Jerusalem? (13)**
 - Not only ready to be bound, but even to die for the Lord (13)

- 7) When Paul would not be persuaded, what did the brethren say? (14)**
 - “The will of the Lord be done” (14)

- 8) What did Paul tell James and the elders? How did they react? (18-20)**
 - Those things God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry (19)
 - They glorified the Lord (20)

- 9) What had the Jewish believers been informed about Paul? (20-21)**
- He taught all the Jews among the Gentiles to forsake Moses (21)
 - He told them not to circumcise their children (21)
 - He told them not to walk according to the customs (21)
- 10) What was the plan suggested to Paul? What was this to accomplish? (22-24)**
- Take the four men who have taken a vow; be purified with them; pay their expenses (23-24)
 - The things they had been informed of were “nothing,” and that Paul walked orderly and kept the law (24)
- 11) Had James and the elders changed their position regarding the letter written to the Gentiles in Acts 15? (25)**
- No; they reiterated the points of the letter (25)
- 12) Where were the Jews from that saw Paul in the temple? How did they stir up the people? (27-28)**
- Jews from Asia (27)
 - They cried out that Paul taught men everywhere against people, the law, and the temple; they claimed he brought Greeks into the temple and defiled it (28)
- 13) Who did the Jews “suppose” Paul brought into the temple? (29)**
- Trophimus, the Ephesian (29)
- 14) What did the mob do to Paul? (30-32)**
- They seized Paul, and dragged him out of the temple (30)
 - They sought to kill him (31)
 - They were beating him (32)
- 15) When the commander heard of the uproar, what did he do? (31-34)**
- He took soldiers and centurions and ran to them (32)
 - The commander took Paul and had him bound with chains (33)
 - He asked who he was and what he had done (33)
 - He commanded that he be taken to the barracks (34)
- 16) What did the soldiers have to do at the stairs? Why? (35)**
- The soldiers had to carry Paul (35)
 - Because of the violence of the mob (35)
- 17) When Paul asked to speak to the commander, what two questions did he ask Paul? How did Paul respond? (37-39)**
- Can you speak Greek? (37)
 - Are you not the Egyptian, the leader of the assassins? (38)
 - I am a Jew from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city; and I implore you to permit me to speak to the people (39)

18) With the commander's permission, in what language did Paul speak to the people? (40)
- Hebrew (40)

Acts Of The Apostles

Chapter Twenty-Two

SUMMARY

Paul addressed the crowd as “brethren and fathers” in Hebrew. The mob became very quiet when they heard that. Paul began his defense by providing his background: He was a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia; he was brought up in Jerusalem at the “feet of Gamaliel;” he was taught “according to the strictness of our father’s law;” and he was zealous toward God, just like them. Paul added that he had persecuted the Way to the death. He bound and delivered men and women to prison. He acted under the high priest’s and elders’ authority. Paul called upon their witness for himself. He had received letters from them to travel to Damascus to bring those of the Way back to Jerusalem for punishment.

Paul then described the Lord’s appearance to him on the road to Damascus. At about noon, a bright light shined around Paul. He fell to the ground. The Lord asked him why he was persecuting Him. The Lord identified Himself as Jesus of Nazareth. Paul asked, “What shall I do, Lord?” The Lord told him to go into Damascus and he would be told what to do. He was led by the hand into Damascus by his companions, because he could not see. Paul then described his obedience to the gospel when taught by Ananias. Ananias came to Paul. He restored his sight. Ananias told Paul that he had been chosen to “know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth.” Paul was to be “His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard.” Ananias told Paul what to do to be forgiven of his sins. He asked Paul, “Why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” Next, Paul described how the Lord had sent him to the Gentiles. Paul returned to Jerusalem. He was praying in the temple, and was in a trance. The Lord appeared to him and told him to quickly depart from Jerusalem for the Jews would “not receive your testimony concerning Me.” Paul attempted to explain to the Lord that he could make the Jews understand. He responded that the Jews knew of his persecution of those of the Way. He added that he had even consented to the death of Stephen, holding the killer’s clothes. The Lord told Paul of His plans for him. Paul was to depart. He was sent far away to the Gentiles. **(1-21)**

The Jews listened until the Gentiles were mentioned. When the Jews heard that he was sent to the Gentiles, they raised their voices, “...he is not fit to live!” They tore their clothes and threw dust in the air. At this point, the Romans prepared to examine Paul under scourging. The Roman commander ordered that Paul be brought into the barracks. The commander wanted to know why they shouted so against Paul. He ordered that Paul should be examined under scourging. The soldiers bound Paul with thongs. Paul asked the centurion standing nearby, “Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?” The centurion told this to the commander. The commander asked Paul if he was a Roman citizen, and Paul affirmed that he was. The commander then indicated that he had purchased his citizenship at a great price; however, Paul noted that he was a Roman by birth. The

soldiers were frightened by this. They were afraid because they had bound a Roman citizen, and they were about to scourge him. (22-29)

The commander still wanted to know why he was accused by the Jews. The next day, Paul was released from his bonds. The chief priests and the council were commanded to appear, and Paul was brought before them. (30)

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

1) What are the main events in this chapter?

- Paul addressed the Jerusalem mob (1-21)
- Paul claimed Roman citizenship (22-29)
- Paul was taken before the Sanhedrin council (30)

2) When Paul addressed the mob, what caused them to become quiet? (1-2)

- He spoke to them in the Hebrew language (2)

3) List the information that Paul used to describe himself? (3-5)

- He was a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia (3)
- Brought up in Jerusalem at the feet of Gamaliel (3)
- Was taught according to the “strictness of our fathers’ law” (3)
- He was zealous toward God, like them (3)
- He persecuted the Way to death, binding and delivering men and women to prison (4)
- High priest and elders bear him witness (5)
- He received letters from them to bring Christians to Jerusalem to be punished (5)

4) What was the question that Paul heard on the road to Damascus? (6-7)

- “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” (7)

5) How did the Lord answer Paul’s question, “Who are You, Lord?” (8)

- “I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.” (8)

6) When Paul asked, “What shall I do, Lord?” what was the answer? (10)

- “Arise and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all things which are appointed for you to do” (10)

7) Why was Paul led by the hand into Damascus? (11)

- Paul could not see because of the “glory of that light” (11)

8) Why did Paul have the Damascus road encounter? (14-15)

- That he should know His will, see the Just One, and hear His voice (14)
- He was to be His witness to all men of what he had seen and heard (15)

9) At this point, did Paul still have his sins? What did he need to do to have them forgiven (“washed away”)? (16)

- Yes, he still needed to “wash away your sins” (16)
- He had to be baptized (immersed) to “wash away your sins” (16)

10) While in a trance in the temple, what did the Lord say to him? (17-18)

- “Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me” (18)

11) At what word did the Jewish mob stop listening to Paul? (21-22)

- “...I will send you far from here to the Gentiles” (21-22)

12) Why did the commander want to bind and scourge Paul? (24)

- So that he might know why they shouted so against him (24)

13) What did Paul ask the centurion, as they were binding him? (25)

- Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman and uncondemned? (25)

14) What was the reaction to Paul’s question? (26-29)

- The centurion told the commander that Paul was a Roman (26)
- The commander confirmed that he was a Roman by birth (27-28)
- The soldiers became afraid – they had bound and were about to scourge a Roman citizen (29)

15) Who was Paul set before next and why? Was he still bound? (30)

- Chief priests and all their council - Sanhedrin (30)
- To know for certain why Paul was accused by the Jews (30)
- Paul’s bonds had been released (30)