

Turning the World
Upside Down

ACTS

Acts 17:6



The Beginning and Spread of the Lord's Church

Outline of the Book of Acts



Where does the prophet Isaiah say the Word of God would go out? (Isaiah 2:3) _____

Between Jesus' resurrection and His ascension (40 days) how many people had actually seen Jesus? (1 Corinthians 15:1-11)



But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.
Acts 1:8 (NKJ)

From a land hardly bigger than New Jersey, God's Word was going to take root and cover the whole world. The bearers of this "Good News" were a small group of fishermen, a doctor, a tax collector, a zealot and a Hebrew scholar—-and *this* was the marketing plan?

4 All the Earth!



Who will be the most active throughout the book of Acts?

Holy Spirit
Peter — **Paul**



- 3 Samaria.** If Galilee was considered "hicks" by their Jewish brethren, all Judea regarded the Samaritans as trash, dogs. These people were half breed Jews or remnants of the cruel Assyrians and neighboring people who came to Israel after their conquest. To go to Jerusalem for feast days, the Galileans crossed the Jordan River to get to the southern section of Judea to avoid going through Samaria. Jesus chose to go that route sometimes.
- 2 All Judea** included **Galilee** in the north. Jewish intellectuals looked upon them (Mt 26:73, Acts 4:13) as the less educated, the country cousins of their society.
- 1** The ancient city of **Jerusalem**, the place of the Temple, the place of the Jewish intellectuals and the Sanhedrin. The priests, rabbis and scribes wielded most of the power.



The Sequel to the Gospel of Luke

It is often said that the Book of Acts in the New Testament is about the acts of the apostles. However, it is more correctly some of the acts of some of the apostles as they were guided by the Holy Spirit.

Outlining the Book of Acts

There are several ways to outline the book of Acts.

One way is the geographic spread of the early church. Before His ascension forty days after His resurrection Jesus told His disciples “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.” (1:8)

Jerusalem (Chapters 1 - 8)

Judea & Samaria (Chapters 8 - 12)

Ends of the earth (chapters 13 - 28)

Another way is to take all of the Lord’s communications directly, through visions, angels or His Holy Spirit throughout Acts where He basically gives a “preview of things to come.” Highlight these verses as you read through Acts.

Main characters make up another way to divide the book. **Peter** (Cephas) dominates the first half of the book while **Paul** (Saul) dominates the second half of the book. The dominating person throughout the book, however, is the **Holy Spirit**. The first half of Acts Peter, Jerusalem and Jews have the main emphasis. The second half we hear more of Paul, Antioch and gentiles.



Sea of Galilee Boat

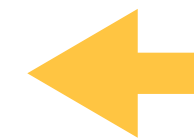
The ancient Galilee Boat, also known as the Jesus Boat, is an ancient fishing boat from the 1st century AD, discovered in 1986 on the north-west shore of the Sea of Galilee in Israel.

Did you know: Sea of Galilee Boat is the eighth-oldest surviving ship in the world (constructed 50 BC - 70 AD).

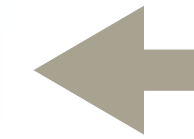
Chapter by Chapter Recap:

- 1 - Ascension & Choosing Judas’ Replacement
- 2 - Pentecost - Beginning of the Church
- 3 - Beggar Healed at Gate Called Beautiful
- 4 - Peter & John Before the Sanhedrin
- 5 - Ananias & Sapphira, Lie to God
- 6 - Choosing the Seven
- 7 - Stephen before Sanhedrin, Stones
- 8 - Persecution Spreads Church/ Ethiopian Eunuch
- 9 - Saul (Paul) Persecutor is Converted
- 10 - Cornelius, First Recorded Gentile Conversion
- 11 - Peter Explains about Gentile Conversion/ Followers First Called Christians at Antioch
- 12 - Peter’s Miraculous Escape from Prison
- 13 - Saul & Barnabas on 1st Missionary Journey
- 14 - Paul Stoned & Left for Dead
- 15 - Meeting in Jerusalem
- 16 - Paul & Silas on 2nd Journey
- 17 - Paul’s Speech on Mars Hill
- 18 - In Corinth
- 19 - Paul in Ephesus/ Riot
- 20 - Macedonia & Greece/ Paul’s Farewell to the Ephesian Elders
- 21 - On to Jerusalem & Paul is Arrested
- 22 - Paul Explains his Conversion
- 23 - Paul before the Sanhedrin, taken to Caesarea
- 24 - Paul’s Trial before Felix
- 25 - Paul’s Trial before Festus & King Agrippa
- 26 - Paul continues to Speak before Agrippa
- 27 - Paul Sails for Rome, Shipwrecked
- 28 - Paul Under Guard in Rome

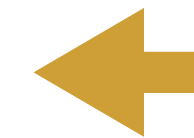
Daniel's Interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's Dream



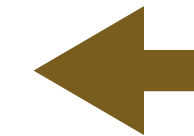
Head of Gold
Babylon



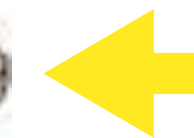
Breast of Silver
Medo-Persian



Thighs of Brass
Greece



Legs of Iron
Rome



Feet of Iron & Clay
Stone
**Kingdom that Cannot
Be Destroyed**
Will Come During the
Days of Those Kings (Rome)

Prophecies of the Church or Kingdom to Come:

Isaiah 2

**Word to Go Out
from Jerusalem**

Daniel 2

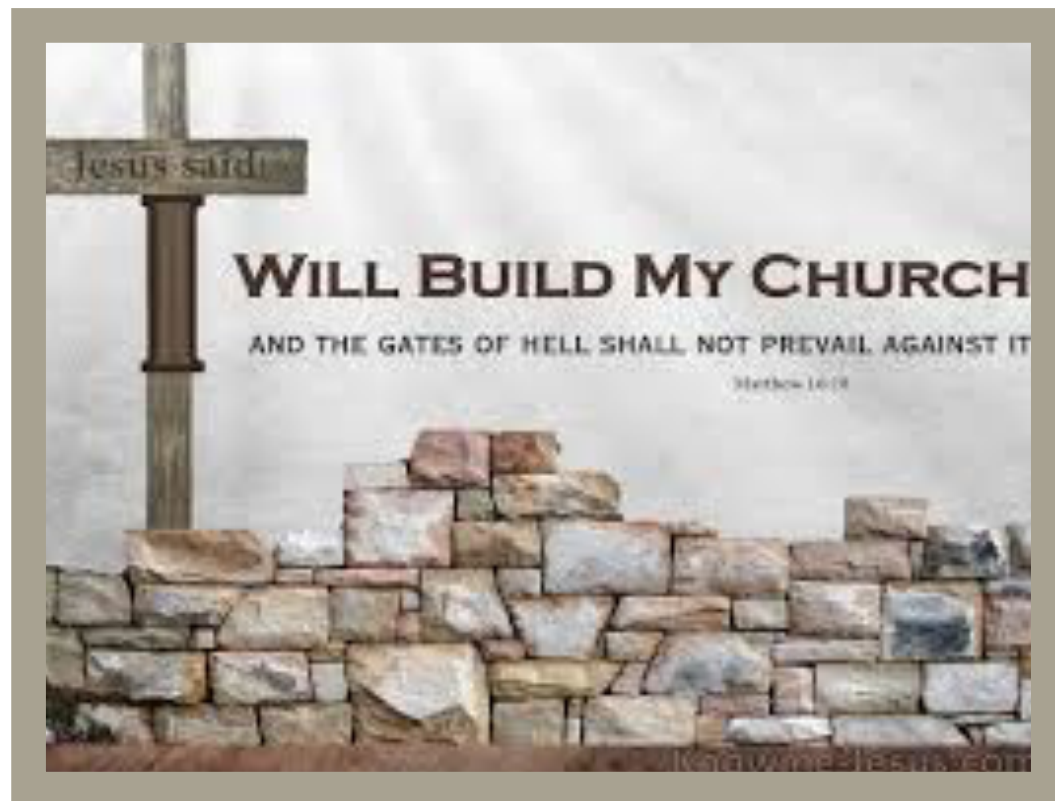
**Coming During
Days of Rome**

Joel 2

**Spirit to be Poured
Out in those Days**

Acts 2

Day of Pentecost



church

Meaning and use of the word church:

1. Eklesia, Greek for assembly, church
2. The “called out” or “separated from”
3. The invisible body composed of all the saved
4. Signifies entire body of believers



And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all. Eph.1:22

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Matthew 16:13 - 19



Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.

Matthew 16:28

The church as a Kingdom

When they believed Philip preaching good tidings concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Acts 8:12; 19:8

Who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love. Col. 1:13

The church as a Body

And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have preeminence. Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22, 23; 4:4

The church as the Temple of God/Spiritual Building

Eph. 2:19; 1 Pet.2:5

The church as the House of God

Heb.3:6; 1Tim.3:15;

The church and her members

Saints Phil. 1:1; 4:21; 2 Cor. 13:13

Col. 1:2; 1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 1:1

Brethren Rom. 10:1; 12:1; 11Pet.1:10

Christians. Acts 11:26; 1 Pet. 4:16;

Designations of the church

church of God I Cor. 1:2; II Cor. 1:1

church of the living God 1 Tim. 3:15;

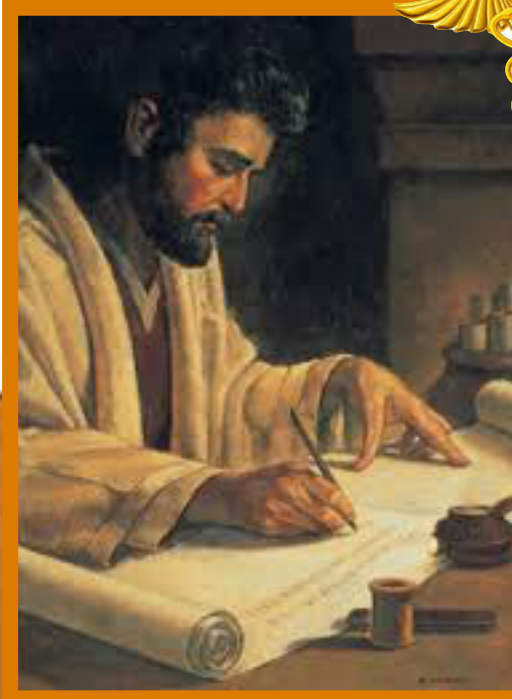
church of the Lord. Acts 20:28

church of the firstborn. Heb. 12:23

churches of Christ. Rom. 16:16

the Way Acts 9:2

Who wrote the book of Acts?



Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent **Theophilus**, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

Luke 1:1-4

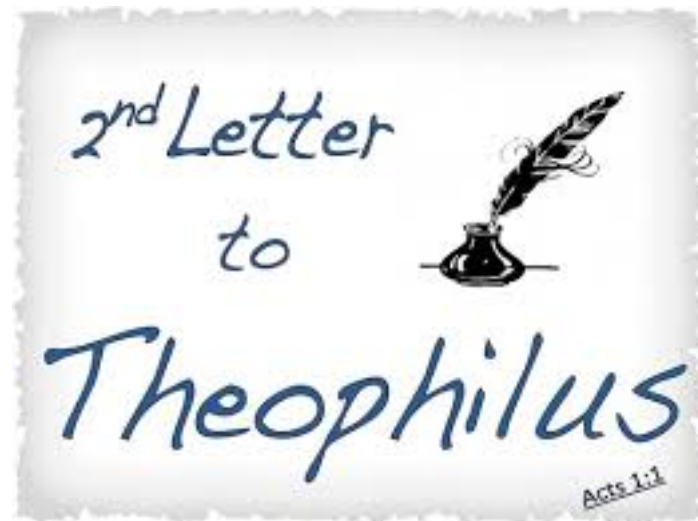
In my former book, **Theophilus**, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day He was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After His suffering, he showed Himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

Acts 1:1-3

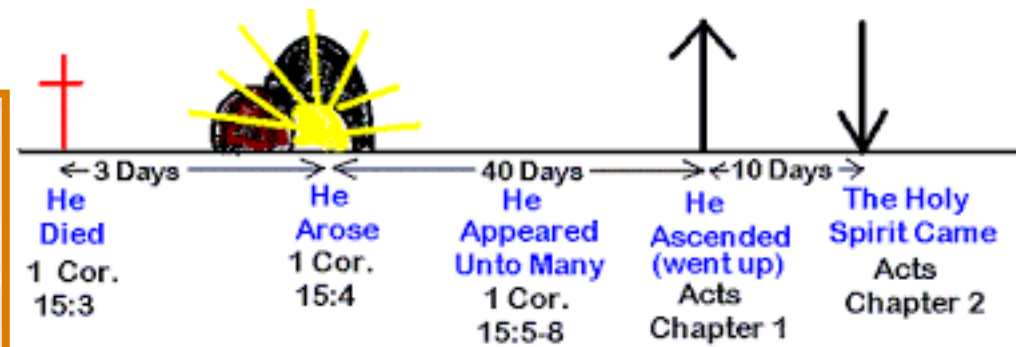
Luke, the beloved physician, is, perhaps, the only gentile writer of the Bible. He wrote the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. He addresses the same person in both books, a Theophilus, (meaning *lover of God*). Rather than a name this is a respectful way of addressing someone who holds a position of authority. He was likely a Gentile who was either a new believer or someone wanting to learn more about Christ.

In reading Acts pay attention to the pronouns. When Luke was with Paul he used the pronoun “we.” It is not used, of course, when he is not with Paul. Being a physician, Luke also uses some medical terms. Highlight them as you read.

Acts I The Ascension/ Matthias Chosen



"...for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."



Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven, Acts 1:11



Replacing Judas



So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to His resurrection. Acts 1:20-21

Matthias replaced Judas and became an apostle.

Some Requirements for Becoming an Apostle

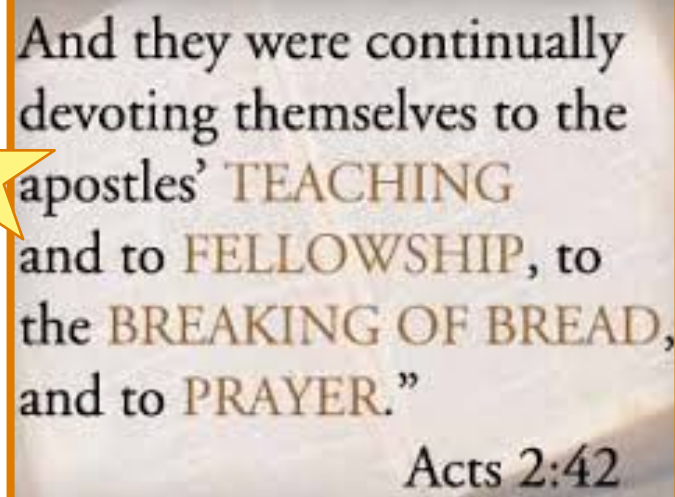
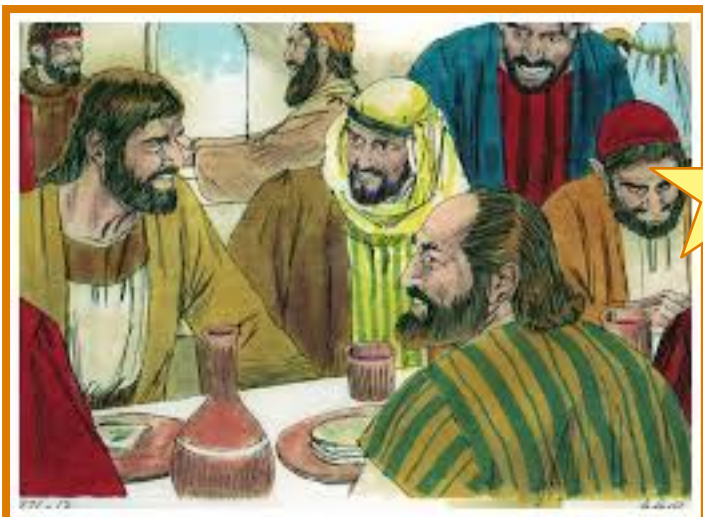
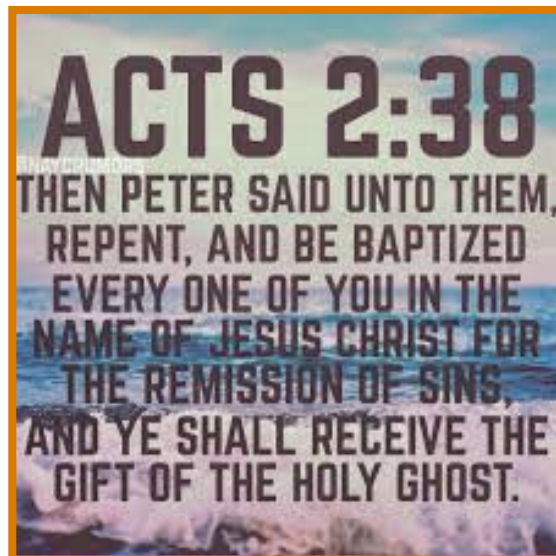
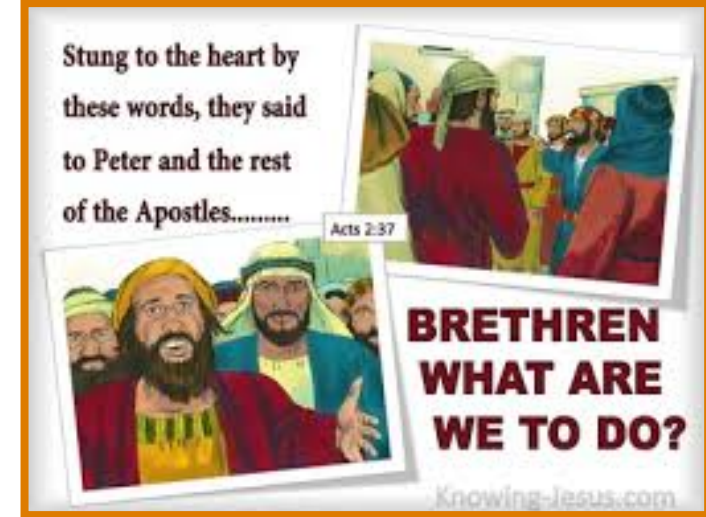
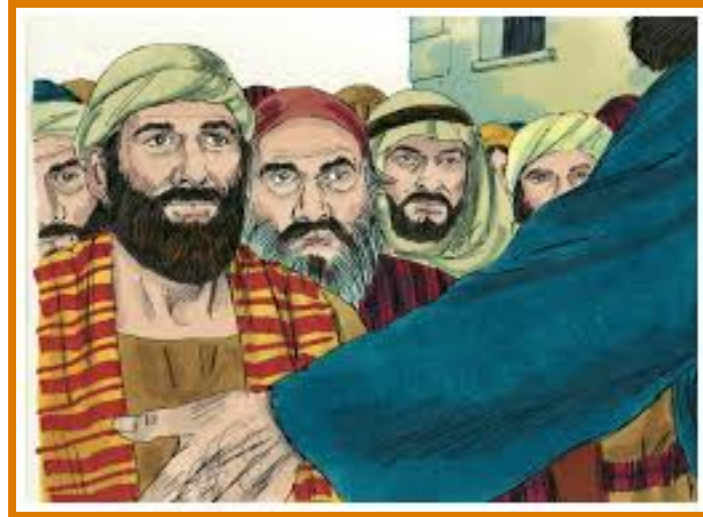
I Corinthians 9: 1, 2

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle
Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are
not you my workmanship in the Lord?
If to others I am not an apostle, at least
I am to you, for you are the seal of my
apostleship in the Lord.

2 Corinthians 12:12

The things that mark an apostle—
signs, wonders and miracles—were
done among you with great
perseverance.

Acts 2 Pentecost/Beginning of the Church



An Ancient Mikveh

A **mikveh** or **mikvah** is a bath used for the purpose of ritual immersion. Mikvehs were prevalent in Jerusalem. Some who would use the mikveh are as follows:

- by Jewish women to achieve ritual purity after menstruation or childbirth before they and their husbands may resume marital relations;
- by Jewish men to achieve ritual purity
- as part of the traditional procedure for conversion to Judaism
- to immerse newly acquired utensils used in serving and eating food

★ Several thousand Jews thought they were going to observe Pentecost and they unexpectedly became followers of the "Way." They needed to learn more about Jesus and His teachings and to experience the joy and strength of being in a scriptural family.

In the religious world today these practices are all called “baptism”—are they?

pouring
sprinkling
infant baptism
christening

Actually, the Bible says nothing about these practices. So how did these customs come about? I'll attempt to go back to the beginning.

Many will say that pouring and sprinkling and immersion was practiced in the Old Testament or Hebrew bible. First, we are not under the old law. However, the priests did sprinkle, pour and dip for certain ceremonies but they did it with blood or oils, never with water.

*The priest shall then take some of the log of oil, **pour** it in the palm of his own left hand, **dip** his right forefinger into the oil in his palm, and with his finger **sprinkle** some of it before before the Lord seven times.*

Leviticus 14:15, 16

You'll notice the three modes were used by the priests. The first translation of the Hebrew bible came about during the time between the testaments. The Hebrew was translated into Greek and called the Septuagint. The words pour, dip and sprinkle all translated into different Greek words. The word “dip” was translated “*baptizo*.” Bible dictionaries or lexicons will give the definition as “to dip, plunge or submerge.”

By the time we came down to the King James Bible the Catholic church had already added sprinkling to the ritual called baptism. The translators decided not to translate *baptizo* but to transliterate it and let everyone decide for themselves what they wanted it to be. So, to transliterate the word they just put an anglicized ending on the Greek word and it became baptize, baptizing, baptized, etc. Therefore, the original meaning is too often ignored.

As far as infants and young children go, obeying the Lord requires intelligent responses of which they are not capable. In Matthew 19:14 the Lord said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” They were not born in an “original sin” state and they are “safe” until they reach an age of accountability.



The beauty of baptism is expressed in Romans 6:2-7:

We died to sin; how we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father we too may live a new life. If we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

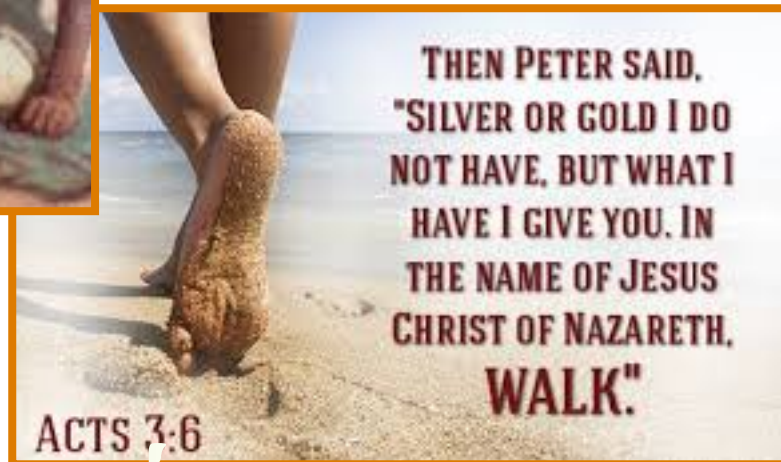
One night Jesus told Nicodemus that one must be born again of the water and the Spirit. So when we are buried in water baptism into Christ's death to be raised up in a new life—this is truly being “born again.” John 3:1-8

The essential things needed for a person to be baptized is enough water to be buried. The water can be in a baptistry, a swimming pool, a river, a bathtub, or a spa. Just as long as there is enough water for immersion and to be baptized “in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.”
Amen.

Acts 3 Healing, Miracles & Preaching!



**At
the
Gate
Called
Beautiful**



THEN PETER SAID,
"SILVER OR GOLD I DO
NOT HAVE, BUT WHAT I
HAVE I GIVE YOU. IN
THE NAME OF JESUS
CHRIST OF NAZARETH,
WALK."

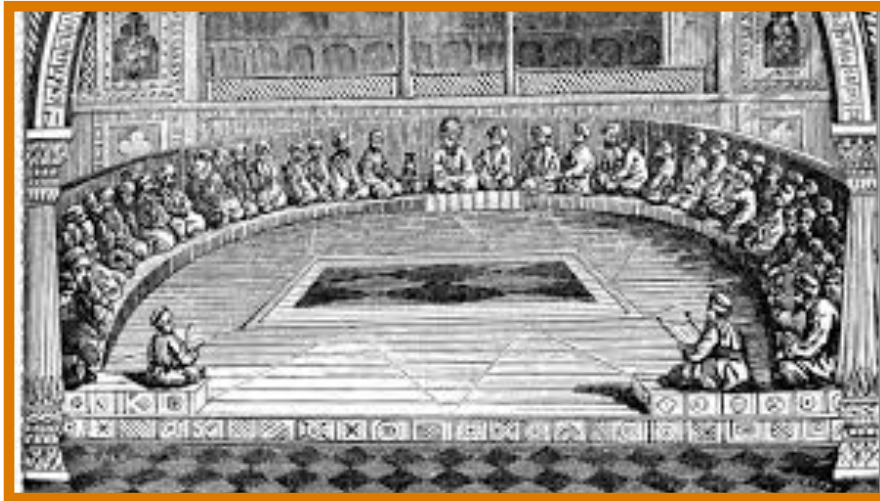


A crowd gathered to witness the miracle of Peter healing the cripple man, who had been cripple since birth. Peter took this opportunity to tell them about Jesus. This man was 40 years old!

Peter told them that the God of the patriarchs healed this man. He told them of their evil part in Jesus' crucifixion and that they needed to repent. Jesus was raised from the dead and was now in heaven.



Acts 4



The Sanhedrin

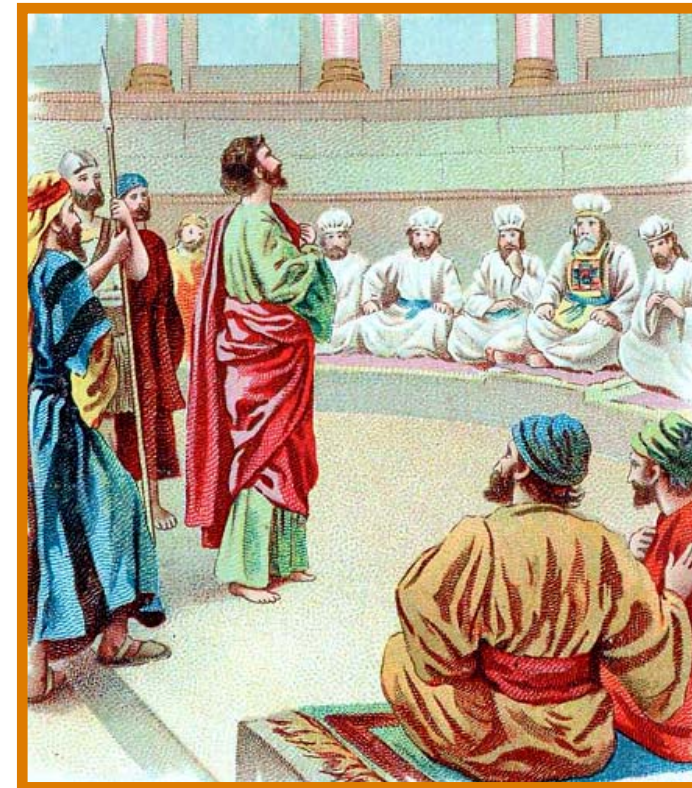
The Sanhedrin served as a Jewish high court, somewhat like our own Supreme Court. They particularly watched out for the religious life of the nation.

The Sanhedrin had up to 71 members, comprised of priests, chief scholars, scribes and elders. In earlier times the High Priest served as the President of the court.

The Sanhedrin had the power to punish by fines or imprisonment, stripes or death. The Sanhedrin was sometimes referred to in such phrases as “the chief priests and the elders of the people,” “their rulers and elders of the people,” “chief priests, elders and scribes.”

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.
Acts 4:12

Peter and John Brought Before the Sanhedrin



Members of the court could see a great miracle had been performed by these men and they didn't want it to spread as they might lose influence over the people. The court didn't know what to do with them as they had done nothing wrong.

After deliberations they released Peter and John telling them to not speak to anyone else about Jesus. They replied, “*Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God for what had happened.*” Acts 4:19



The Acts of the Apostles

The believers share
their possessions
Acts 4:32-37

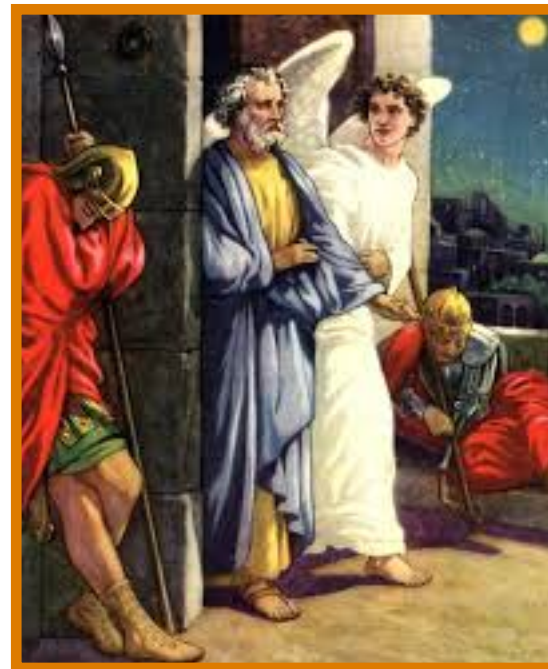
Acts 5 Sin in the Early Church



“Ananias, how is it that Satan 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? Didn’t it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn’t the money at your disposal?” 5:3-4



People began to bring the sick in the street so maybe Peter’s shadow would fall upon them and heal them. The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.



**After an Angel led them out of jail
They went Right Back to the
Temple Courts to Teach**

The Sanhedrin didn’t know what to do with the apostles except to order them to stop preaching Jesus. An honored teacher of the law, Gamaliel, warned them to take care handling these followers of Jesus.

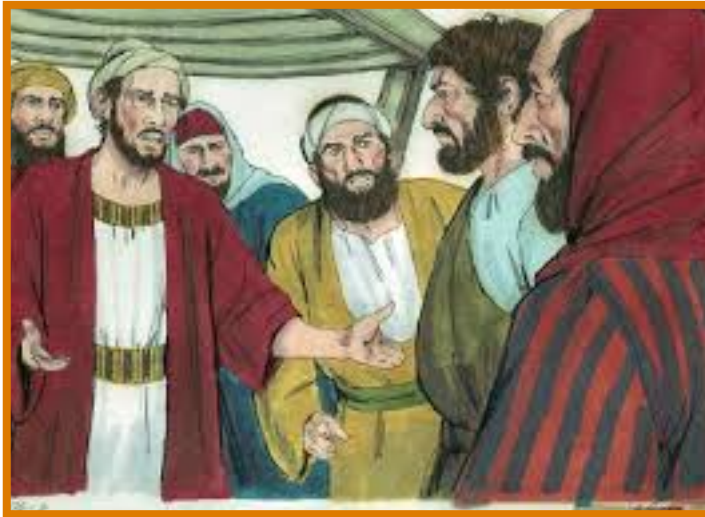
**Arrested for Teaching the
People in the Temple Courts**



Then Peter and the [other] apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

5:29

Acts 6 choosing the seven



The Problem

After Pentecost the church, all new Christians, shared with the new Christians from other countries. They distributed food to the widows daily. The Grecian Jewish widows were getting overlooked by the Hebrew Jews.

The Solution

The apostles said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait tables. Brothers, 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 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.



The following men were chosen: Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicklas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.



The men were presented to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. These men appear to be the first deacons in the church—in all but the name!

There was a critical situation in Jerusalem at this time. There were at least a million Jews, local and from afar, who had come to observe the Passover.

Several thousand, unexpectedly, became Christians. They needed to stay and learn about this new religion from the apostles. They, obviously, did not bring enough supplies or money to hold them over for a lengthy period of time. The local Christians pitched in to help these fellow Christians stay and learn about the church of which they were now members.

In the meantime, Stephen (one of the seven) was doing mighty works and miraculous signs among the people. This drew the displeasure of the Jews and Stephen was arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin.



Some Scriptures for Elders & Deacons

I Timothy 3 & 5; Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 5; Hebrew 13:17



Acts 7 Stephen first Christian martyr



Stephen was described as “a man full of God’s grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people.” Acts 6:8

Certain Jews looked at these good things being done and viewed it as a potential for losing their power. They had to stop him no matter how. They found someone to lie about him saying he spoke against Moses, God, the Temple and against the law.

Stephen spoke to the council and reviewed their history from Abraham to the present. He reminded them that they were like their ancestors in leaving God for idols and persecuting and killing His prophets.



Burning with anger, gnashing their teeth and when Stephen said,

“Look, I see heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.” Acts 7:56

This infuriated his accusers even more and they covered up their ears and, began screaming as they rushed to get Stephen and haul him off to stone him.



“Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he said this he fell asleep. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. Acts 7:59-60

Note. Before Stephen gave his speech before the Sanhedrin a curious thing happened. As the members of the Sanhedrin looked at Stephen intently, it says they saw that his face looked like an angel! If the members had not been so hard hearted, they would realize God was involved in this.

Also, if anyone asks how do you know that Jesus is at the right hand of God, there is an eye witness—Stephen. This is the only time Jesus is said to be standing rather than sitting at the right hand of God.

Acts 8 Persecution begins & spreads the gospel



And Saul was there, giving approval to Stephen's death and he began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, dragging off men and women and putting them in prison.

8:1,3; 22:20



Philip in Samaria

On that day a great persecution arose against the church in Jerusalem. Christians scattered (except the apostles who stayed in Jerusalem) all throughout Judea and Samaria. Philip, one of the seven chosen earlier in Jerusalem, went to work in Samaria.



Philip preached Christ and performed many miracles of healing. The people there had not received the Holy Spirit, Peter and John came from Jerusalem to impart the Spirit to them. Some think these gifts of the Holy Spirit can be passed down from generation to generation, it had to come from the original apostles.



Simon the Sorcerer, who had also been baptized, saw all of miracles and wanted to buy the gift so he could lay hands on whoever and impart the Spirit to them. Peter denounced his request of wanting to buy the gift of God with money!



Philip on the Road to Ethiopia



The Holy Spirit sent Philip to join the Ethiopian eunuch & treasurer for Queen Candace. He had traveled about 900 miles to go worship and he was returning home. He was reading Isaiah 53 when Philip caught up with him. Starting at that scripture he preached Jesus to the traveler. As they traveled along they came upon some water and the eunuch asked, "Here is water, why shouldn't I be baptized?" He was & went on his way rejoicing!

Acts 9 Conversion of Saul of Tarsus



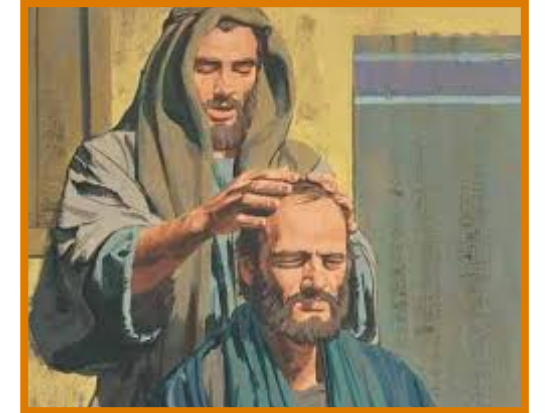
After getting letters from the High Priest Saul was ready to go to Damascus to hunt down Christians—men and women—and take them to Jerusalem and put them in prison.



As Saul and the group with him drew near to Damascus a blinding light appeared and the Lord asked Saul why he was persecuting him. Saul asked who He was and He answered, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.” He told Saul to get up and go to Damascus and he would be told what he must do.



Saul was now blind and had to be led the rest of the journey. His fellow travelers were awestruck. They heard a sound, but did not see anyone. For three days Saul did not eat or drink anything. God instructed a fearful and reluctant Ananias to go and heal Saul, being filled with the Holy Spirit and baptized him.



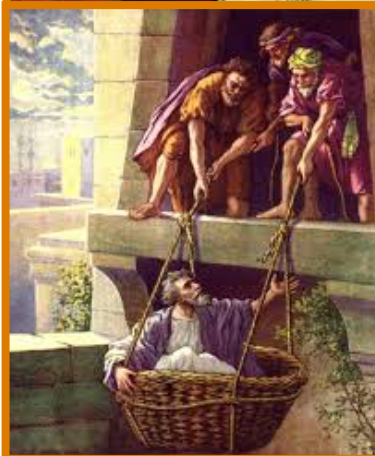
He is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.



I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.
Acts 9:16

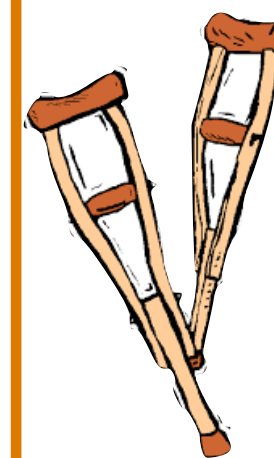


Dorcas & Aeneas



Out of the waters of baptism Saul began preaching Jesus in the synagogues. People couldn't believe that this man was a main persecutor of the church & was now a Christian! The Jews plotted to kill Saul, but upon hearing about this plot followers lowered Saul down from the wall in a basket at night.

Saul wasn't accepted in Jerusalem until Barnabas came and vouched for Saul and told of all the work he had been doing for the Lord. He preached with such fervor the Jews again planned to kill him. The followers got him on a ship going to Tarsus.



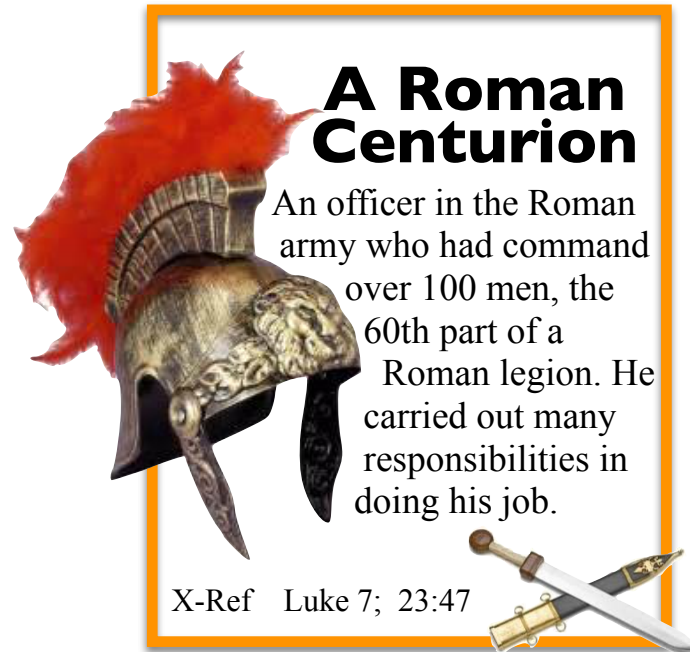
As Peter was traveling about the countryside to visit the saints he came upon Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bedridden for eight years. Peter told him that Jesus would make him well. The people were amazed and turned to the Lord.

In Joppa a disciple named Dorcas who had died and had done much good in helping the poor. People showed Peter the clothing she had made for others. Peter brought Dorcas back to life to everyone's joy and many turned to the Lord.



To cross-reference this read: Acts 22 & 26; Galatians 1:11-24
Acts 9 is Luke's factual account, the other references are Paul's personal account.

Acts 10 First Recorded Gentile Convert



Both Men had to be Prepared



Cornelius, your prayers have been answered. Send to Joppa for Peter.



“Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.” Go with the men the Holy Spirit has sent to take you to Cornelius the Centurion.



If Paul was chosen to take the Lord's message to the Gentiles—why did **Peter** deliver this first message to the Gentiles?



Cornelius bowed to Peter, but the apostle said “Stand up, I am only a man also.”



Do you know many people *this* good?

- ☒ He & his family were all God-fearing
- ☒ Gave generously to those in need
- ☒ Prayed to God regularly

?????

This is one of the accounts some people use for authorizing infant baptism.

In John 9:21 it says that God doesn't hear the prayers of sinners.

Explain **pro** or **con** on each topic & tell why.

Cornelius had not been sitting around waiting for something to happen. He was busy inviting his friends and neighbors to come hear Peter's message.

Peter reminds the group that it was against Jewish law to associate with Gentiles, but that God had shown him not to call any man impure or unclean.

Peter preached Jesus to the group and said that he and his group were eye witnesses to the events surrounding Jesus' life here on earth. While Peter was speaking the Holy Spirit was poured out on these Gentiles and they were speaking in tongues. Then they were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Acts II The Disciples were called Christians First at Antioch

Peter Criticized for Mixing with Gentiles



When Peter returned to Jerusalem, some of his brethren criticized him for going to a Gentile's house and even eating with them! Imagine a Jew eating with uncircumcised men!

Peter recounted all that had happened, from an angel appearing to Cornelius to the animals being let down in a sheet before Peter.

Peter further recounted that after speaking to the group the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Gentiles just like the Jews on Pentecost. This, in essence, put God's seal of approval on both Jewish and Gentile converts. They were all Christians. As Peter asked, "who was I to think that I could oppose God?" This explanation satisfied the group and they asked no more questions.



From Stephen to Antioch

The main persecution of the early church began with the stoning of Stephen. A persecution predominantly led by Saul of Tarsus.

The disciples began to spread everywhere and taking the word of God with them, but teaching only Jews. Then some disciples went to Antioch and had great success teaching Gentiles. The church at Antioch became a large, vigorous congregation with a number of Greek converts.

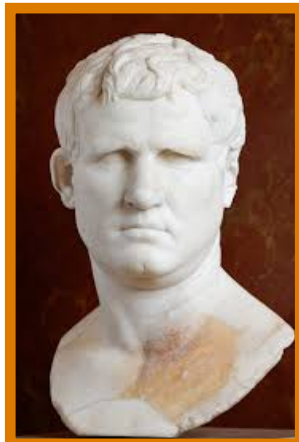
When the Jerusalem church heard about the success at Antioch, they sent Barnabas who was a great encouragement to this new group.

Barnabas went to Tarsus to find Saul. He found Saul and they went to the Antioch church and taught many people, bringing them to the Lord, for a year.

In the meantime, there was a famine that spread in Judea and disciples at Antioch gave free will offerings to help their brethren in Judea. They sent this help to the elders in Judea by Barnabas and Saul.

The disciples were first called Christians at Antioch.

Acts 12 Herod kills James, Imprisons Peter



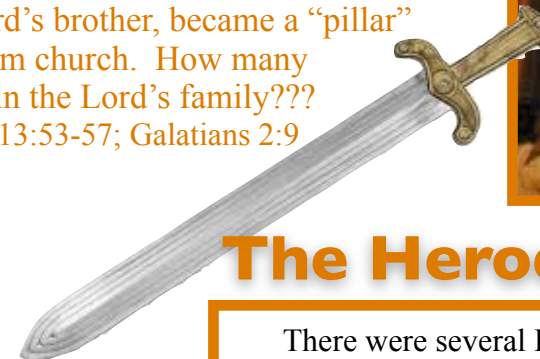
Herod Agrippa I

So far the church suffered persecutions from the Jews—imprisoned Peter and John, then the apostles and stoned Stephen. Now the Romans enter the persecution scene and that is what they excelled in.

Herod had James, the brother of John, killed with a sword. James was the first apostle to be martyred. When King Herod saw that this action pleased the Jews he had Peter imprisoned.



James, the Lord's brother, became a "pillar" in the Jerusalem church. How many siblings were in the Lord's family???
-Matthew 13:53-57; Galatians 2:9



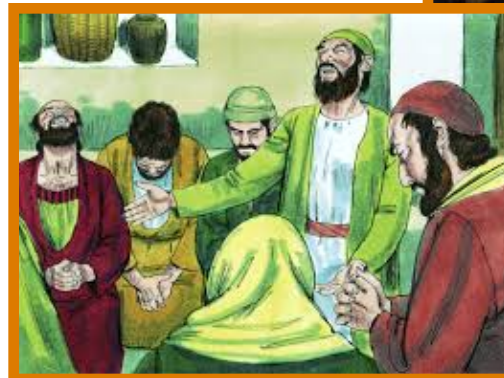
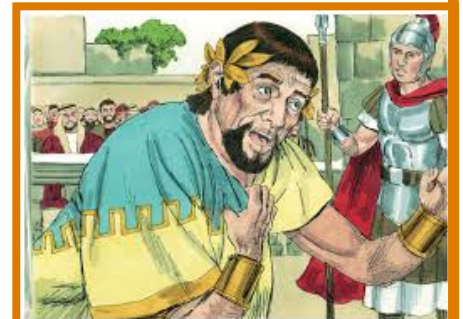
The Herods ★

There were several Herods and they were all bloodthirsty, conniving and paranoid. They were part Jews as they came in through Esau-Edom line, Idumea.

Herod the Great was a great builder and added greatly to the Temple, hoping to please the Jews, which was a difficult thing to do. He also ordered the killing of the babies when Jesus was born.

Herod Agrippa I was the first of the Romans to begin persecuting Christians. He gave a speech in which the people were calling him a god. He did not correct them and he did not offer any praise to God. An angel struck him down right there, and he was eaten with worms and died.

Later on the Apostle Paul will meet Herod Agrippa II.



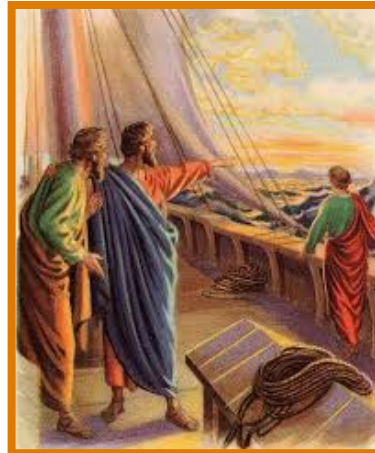
The situation is full of irony. Many Christians in Jerusalem were gathered in Mary's home (mother of John Mark) and fervently prayed for Peter in prison. And they didn't believe it when their prayers were answered!

The answer came when an angel went to get Peter out of the prison. For awhile Peter was in a daze and thought he was seeing a vision. When he came to himself he went to Mary's home and knocked on the door. The girl Rhoda was so excited to hear Peter's voice she didn't open the door for him but ran to tell the others who didn't believe her! Finally, they were joyfully reunited, but Peter cautioned them to be quiet while he slipped off to a safer place.

Acts 13 First Missionary Journey

Seleucia • Cyprus • Salamis • Paphos • Perga • Pisidian Antioch

The Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work for which I have called them.” After fasting and praying they placed their hands on them and sent them off. (Plus John Mark.)



SALAMIS

Preached Christ in the synagogues.



PAPHOS

Met Elymas, Bar-Jesus & Proconsul Sergius Paulus. John left at Perga.



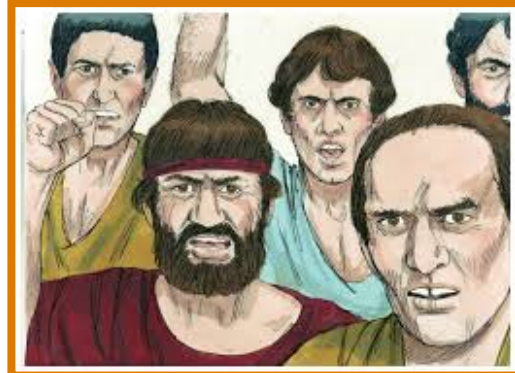
PISIDIAN ANTIOCH

Paul & Barnabas were encouraged to stay and teach the next Sabbath. The whole city came to listen. This infuriated some Jews and they stirred up a persecution against Paul & Barnabas. They told them they would now go to the Gentiles. The Jews rejected the word and the Gentiles were filled with joy to hear of the life giving Word and received it eagerly.

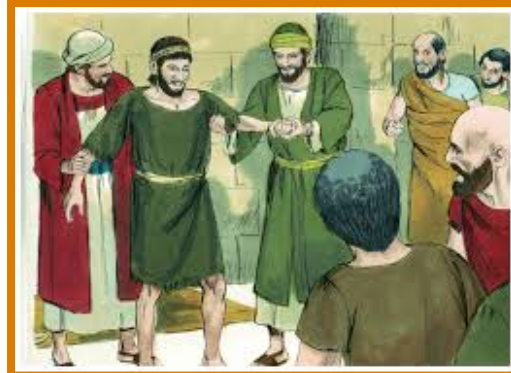


Acts 14 Paul & Barnabas acquire an unexpected persona!

Iconium • Lystra • Derbe • Return to Cities • Return to Syrian Antioch



Jews who refused to believe tried to stir up the Gentiles poisoning their minds against the gospel. City divided & Jews plan to stone Paul & Barnabas. When they heard the plot they left the city.



In Lystra Paul heals a man cripple since birth. The amazed people thought Barnabas and Paul were the “gods” come to earth—Zeus and Hermes!



When Paul & Barnabas realized what the people were doing, making sacrifices to them, they were horrified and tore their clothes! Jews who followed them turned the crowd away from them. Paul was stoned and left out side of the city for dead. He got up and went back into the city.

What did it mean to tear one's clothes in the Bible?



This was a sacrificial act as clothes were expensive and not plentiful. The act runs the whole gamut of emotions. Some are as follows:

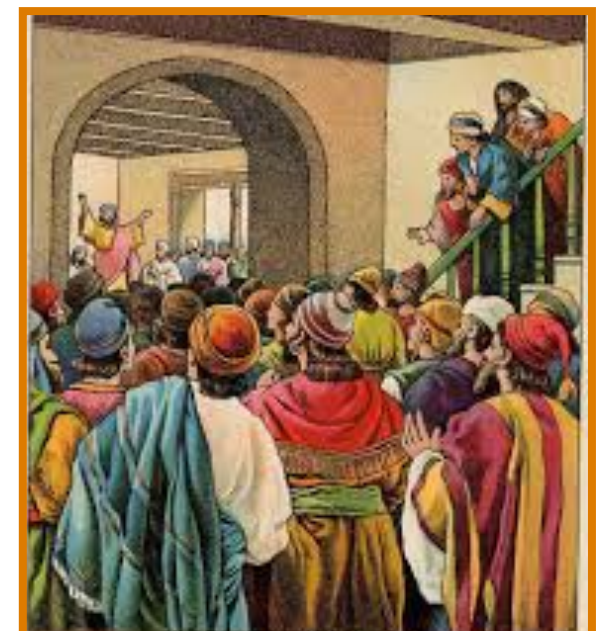
1. When mourning someone's death
2. When in despair
3. When in sorrow
4. When in deep repentance
5. When angry
6. When appalled

This was sometimes done in conjunction with ashes on one's head or wearing sackcloth.



Paul and Barnabas went to Derbe where many received the gospel. Then they returned to cities they had already been to so they could encourage and strengthen them. They also appointed elders in each of these congregations.

They went to Attalia to return to Syrian Antioch. They reported to the church all that God had done through them and how God had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. They remained with the disciples there for a long time.



Acts 15 The Council at Jerusalem

Some men came down from Judah teaching that any brother who had not been circumcised, according to Moses, could not be saved.

Paul and Barnabas took them on in sharp debates. The Antioch church sent Paul, Barnabas and some other believers to Jerusalem to deal with this problem.

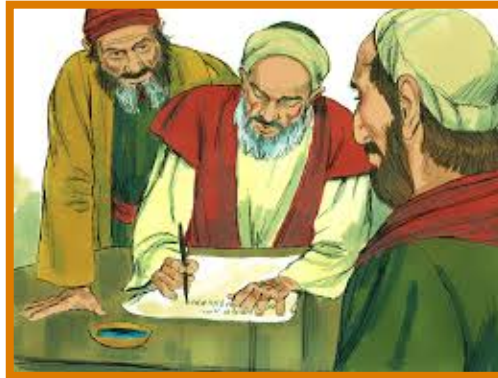
Upon arriving in Jerusalem the brothers welcomed them and they were happy to hear the report of all that God had accomplished on their first missionary journey, telling how Gentiles had been converted.



Some of the brothers who were also Pharisees spoke up claiming the Gentile converts had to be circumcised or they would not be saved. A discussion followed and Peter recounted his experience with Cornelius, the Roman centurion. Then asked why they wanted to burden these disciples with a yoke they themselves were unable to bear?

Barnabas and Paul reiterated the signs and wonders God had done with the Gentiles as He had with them.

James spoke and said they shouldn't make it difficult for these Gentile disciples, only warn them about some things to abstain from. So a letter was written and witnesses were sent to Antioch to affirm what was written.

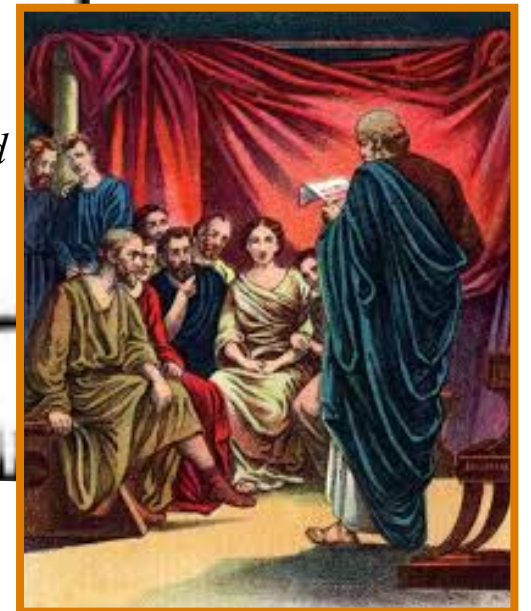


We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said. So we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul—men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing. It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: 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 15:24-29



James? Hadn't Herod killed him?

James, the apostle, was the first apostle to be martyred. He was also the brother of John. This James is described as a "pillar of the church" (Gal.2:9) in Jerusalem. He was the brother of Jesus. He also wrote the book of James.



Get it in context!

Some have used this meeting in Jerusalem to authorize conclaves of all the congregations to meet periodically. I believe this is taking this situation out of context. The problem that arose was just between the Antioch and Jerusalem congregations. Those were the only ones represented at this meeting.

Acts 16 2nd Missionary Journey with Paul & Silas

Syria • Cilicia • Derbe • Lystra • Regions of Phrygia & Galatia • Mysia • Troas • Philippi



Notice!

This dispute is a case of two good Christians disagreeing. The dispute was over John Mark who was a cousin of Barnabas. He went on the first missionary journey with Barnabas and Paul as a helper, but he left and returned to Jerusalem midway in the journey. Barnabas wanted to take John Mark on their second missionary journey. Paul refused.

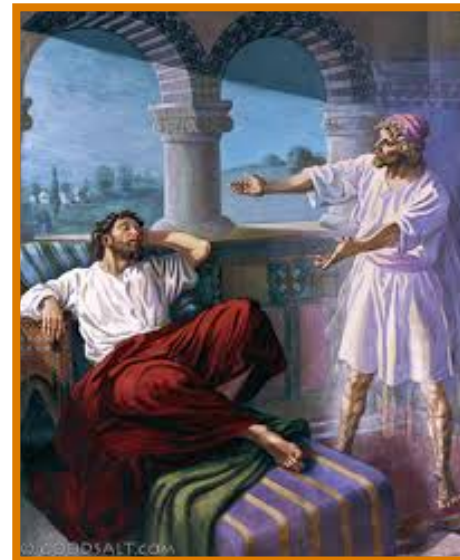
Barnabas and Paul **did not** throw a temper tantrum threatening to leave the church, trying to get fellow Christians to choose sides, quit the journeys as being too much trouble. Instead, Paul took Silas and they went their way while Barnabas took John Mark with him. Everyone continued to serve the Lord.

Paul eventually held Mark in high regard and Mark ended up writing the Gospel of Mark.

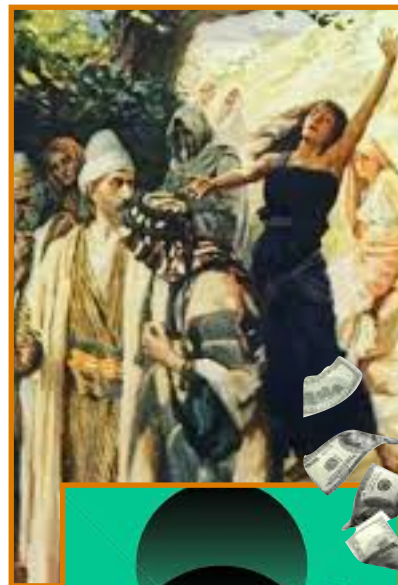
2 Timothy 4:11



Paul and Barnabas disagree about taking Mark. Barnabas takes him and Paul goes with Silas.



“The Macedonian Call” Timothy joins them at Lystra.



Follow the Money

When Paul had ordered the spirit of divination to leave the slave girl her owners were furious because they couldn't make anymore money off of her, so they seized Paul & Silas, had them severally beaten and put in prison.



An earthquake opened prison doors. Before the jailor could commit suicide, the prisoners assured him they were still there. The thankful jailer asked,

What must I do to be saved?

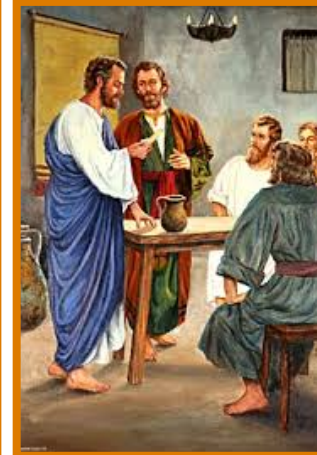
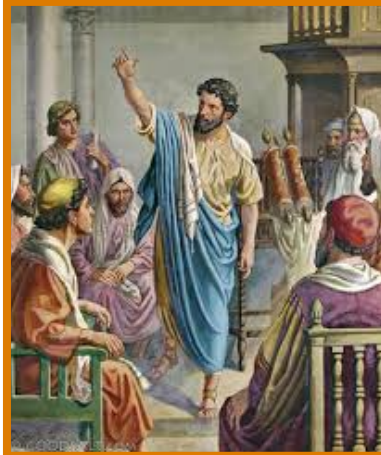
The jailer washed their stripes and he and his family were baptized. When the magistrates heard they had beaten Roman citizens, they immediately got them out of jail & escorted them out of town.



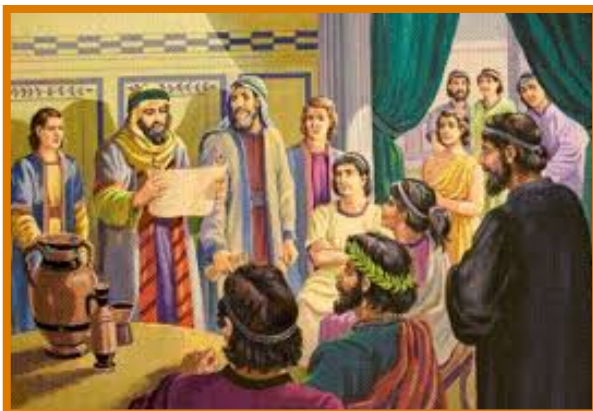
Acts 17 2nd Journey Continues

Thessalonica • Berea • Athens

The Thessalonian Experience:



Paul preached Christ in the synagogue and in public. When so many responded some Jews grew jealous and set out to kill Paul. He and Silas were staying with a brother, Jason. Knowing the danger, Paul & Silas escaped at night. Realizing their plans were thwarted the Jews dragged Jason and other brothers out of his house and beat them and put them in jail. These Jews tried to follow Paul wherever he went to continue to cause trouble.



Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Acts 17:11 NIV
Should any less be expected of us?



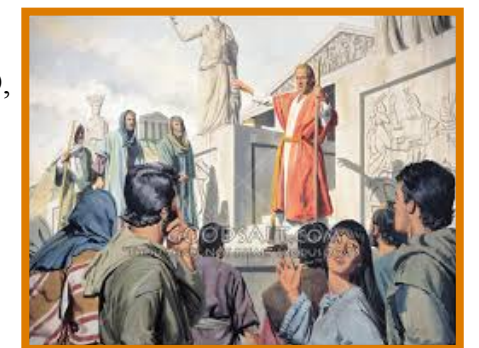
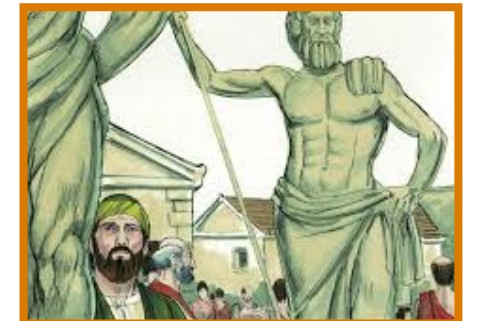
What scriptures did the Bereans search?



Athens, the hotbed of the learned and philosophers who loved to spend their time hearing new ideas and talking about them.

Paul was dismayed seeing the many idols they worshiped. He commended them for being “religious”(superstitious) They had gone so far as erecting an altar TO THE UNKNOWN GOD, just in case they had skipped a god. Paul said that was the God he was going to reveal to them. When he discussed the resurrection, some scoffed while others wanted to know more.

The disciples had moderate success in Athens before moving on to Corinth.



Acts 18

Second Journey Continues, ends & 3rd Journey Begins

Corinth • Cenchrea • Ephesus • Caesarea • Antioch

Synagogues



In Corinth Paul meets Aquila and his wife Priscilla. As they were all tentmakers, Paul stays with them & continues preaching Christ in the synagogues to Jews and Greeks.

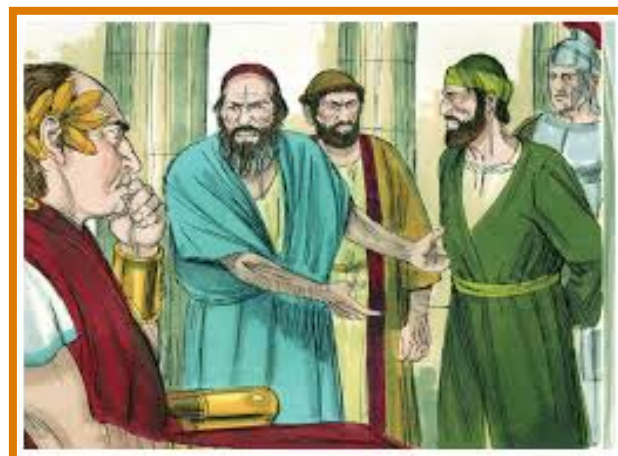
“One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision, ‘Be fearless, speak out and do not keep silence, I am with you. I have so many people that belong to me in this city that no one will attempt to hurt you.’”
Acts 18:9-10

The Greek word synagogue means assembly or church. This is used to describe those who worship there or it can mean the building where they come to worship. The services usually included prayers, reading of Scripture and usually a sermon explaining the Scriptures.

It is thought the synagogues came into existence during the Babylonian captivity when the Jews couldn’t come to the Temple to worship. The Temple had been destroyed but would be rebuilt when the captives were released and came back to Judah. Those who didn’t return but settled all about the Roman Empire were called the Diaspora—or Jews of the dispersion. Synagogues served them.

A synagogue could be built in a city when there were 10 adult men. Synagogues sprang up all around, providing a place for Jews to learn the law and for worship. They were attended by both men and women, as well as, God-fearing Gentiles who were committed to learning more about the God of the Jews.

Visiting sages could be invited to provide the sermon. Paul used synagogues as his initial platform for preaching the gospel as he went from city to city.



Jews Take Paul Before Gallio

The Jews claimed that Paul was persuading people to worship God in ways contrary to the law.

Gallio said that what they were complaining about involved their own law and they should tend to it themselves. Then he ejected them from the court.



“Erastus for his aedileship laid (the pavement) at his own expense “

Romans 16:23; 2 Timothy 4:20

A Whole Lot of Shaking Going On!

Several times in the Bible we hear of someone “shaking the dust from their feet” or shaking out the top part of their garments. This signifies that the persons doing the “shaking” have done all they can about the situation and they are accepting no more responsibility concerning it.

Example: Acts 18:6 NIV

But when the Jews 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 clear of my responsibility. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.’



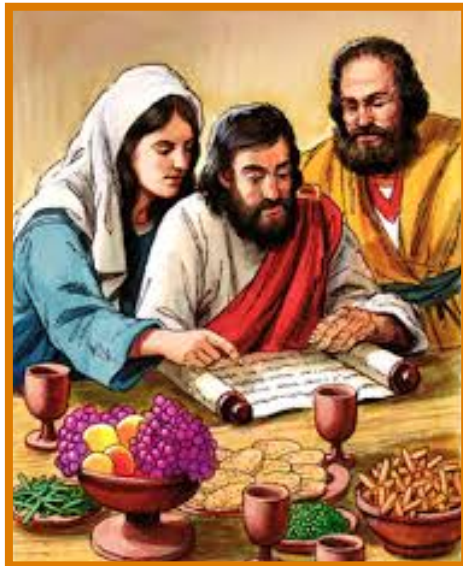
Before leaving Cenchrea Paul had to cut his hair because of a personal vow he was taking when he got to Jerusalem.

After a year and a half in Corinth, Paul, Aquila and Priscilla set sail for Ephesus. As was his habit, Paul preached the gospel in the synagogue in Ephesus. They wanted him to stay and continue teaching them but he declined. He said if the Lord was willing he would be back.



Acts 19 3rd Missionary Journey

Building up Disciples in Galatia & Phrygia • Ephesus • Macedonia • Greece • Troas • Miletus • Cos
Rhodes • Patara • Phoenicia • Tyre • Ptolemais • Caesarea • Jerusalem



As the second journey was ending and the third missionary journey was beginning a Jew named **Apollos** came to Ephesus. He was a knowledgeable man who was also well read in the Scriptures and eloquent speaker. He fervently and accurately taught about Jesus, but he knew only the baptism of John.

When **Priscilla** and **Aquila** heard him they invited him to their home and taught him the way of God more completely. He went on his way teaching and refuting Jews in public debate.



Early Christian
symbol
Chi Rho

Baptistry at
St. John's Church
Ephesus



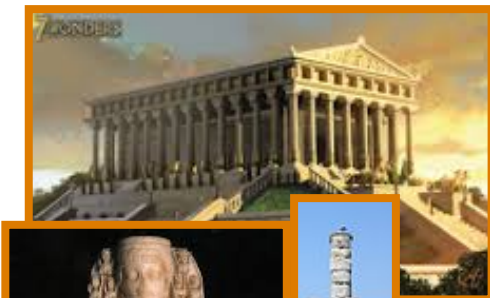
Celsus Library
One of the most beautiful structures in Ephesus, second only to the library in Alexandria, Egypt. This library housed some 20,000 scrolls.

The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World were:

- the Great Pyramid at Giza, Egypt.
- the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.
- the Statue of Zeus at Olympia Greece.
- **the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus.**
- the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus.
- the Colossus of Rhodes.
- the Lighthouse at Alexandria, Egypt.



“Great is Diana (Artemis) of the Ephesians!”



Upon coming into Ephesus Paul came upon twelve men and asked them what baptism they received and if they had received the Holy Spirit. They had been baptized with John's baptism. Paul taught them and they were baptized again and received the Holy Spirit.

As was his habit Paul went to the synagogue to teach for three months. Some became disciples, but some stubbornly refused. So Paul took the disciples to a local lecture hall and had discussions daily. As a result, every-one in Asia had heard the gospel.

Just Follow the Money

Ephesus had the goddess Diana's (Artemis) temple as theirs like a talisman. It spawned a thriving industry in selling figures of the goddess. With this influence many Ephesians got into sorcery, witchcraft and such. Many repented of this practice and brought books they had on the subject to a public bonfire. It was estimated that the books costs about fifty thousand drachmas.

The word of the Lord spread much to the dismay of Demetrius, a silver-smith, who made statues of Diana to sell. He complained so much he got a crowd in the stadium in chaos. They shouted “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians” for two hours! The City Clerk brought order and some common sense to the situation.

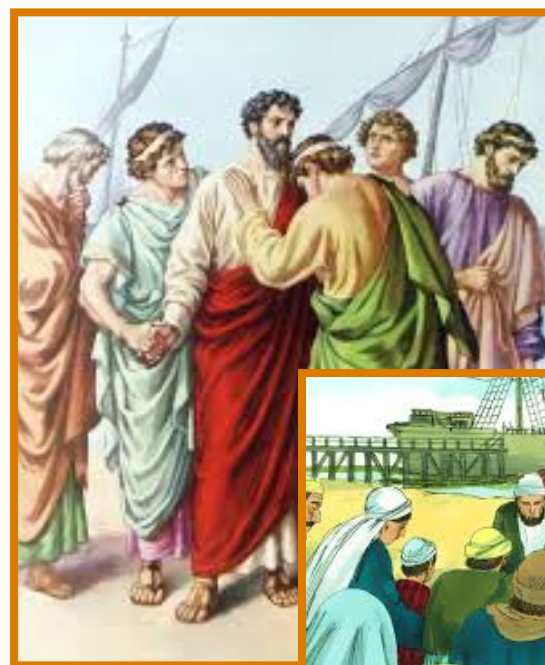
Acts 20 Farewell to Ephesian Elders, in Macedonia, Greece, Philippi, Troas

Paul spent several months traveling through Macedonia and Greece building up fellow Christians. He had to change his plans sometimes when he learned of a Jewish plot to kill him.

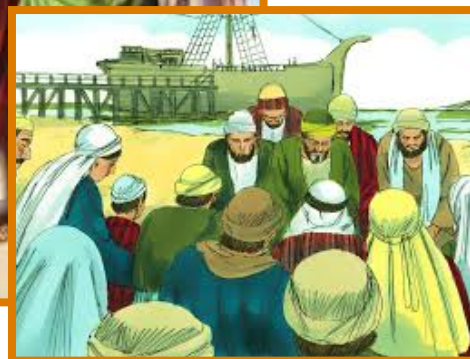
A group of men accompanied Paul and they were given instructions to meet Paul in Troas. He met the group there and they stayed seven days.

On the first day of the week they gathered together for worship and observing the Lord's Supper. Paul preached, it says, "on and on." A victim of the lengthy sermon was Eutychus who was sitting in a window. When he dozed off he fell out of the window! Paul went downstairs to bring the young man back to life. Then Paul returned upstairs and preached until dawn. Nothing is mentioned about anyone else sitting in the window again.

On the first day of the week in Troas



Paul's Farewell to the Ephesian Elders



Paul sent his group on ahead to Assos. He chose to go alone and walk there. When Paul met his group in Assos they set sail to Miletus.

When they arrived in Miletus. Paul chose to sail past Ephesus because he didn't want to be delayed as he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem. He sent word to the Ephesian elders to come meet him in Miletus.

It is here that Paul gives his impassioned farewell, while being warned he did not know what awaited him Jerusalem. After a tearful farewell, they all prayed. The thing that touched the elders was Paul saying they would not see his face again.

★ Paul's Farewell Address to the Ephesian Elders

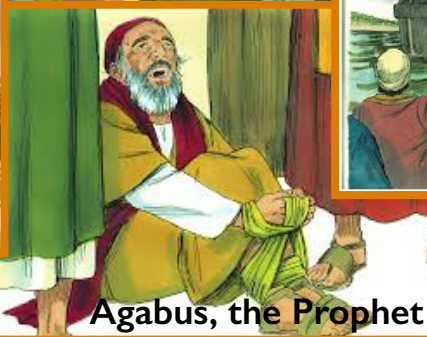
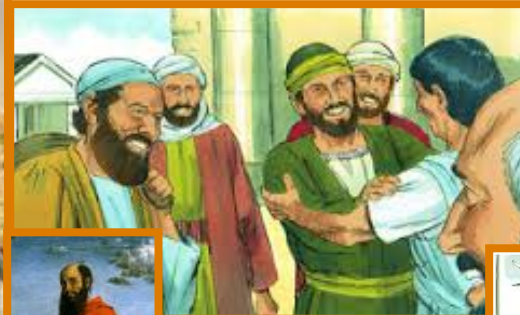
From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them:

"You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God[b] which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship.

Acts 21 On to Jerusalem

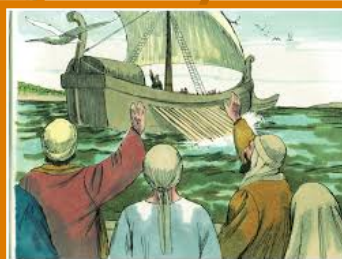
*Why are you weeping and breaking my heart?
I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die
in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.*

Acts 21:13 NIV



Agabus, the Prophet

Why didn't the ship dock in a port nearer Jerusalem?



Paul goes to the apostles and gives an account of all that God accomplished through them during this last lengthy trip. They discussed the lies the Jews were spreading while still trying to impose the old law upon Gentile believers.



Paul and 4 other men entered the Temple to begin the purification process. In seven days the process would be complete & their heads would be shaved and they would pay a fee.



★ Could this have something to do with Paul's actions?
Check: 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

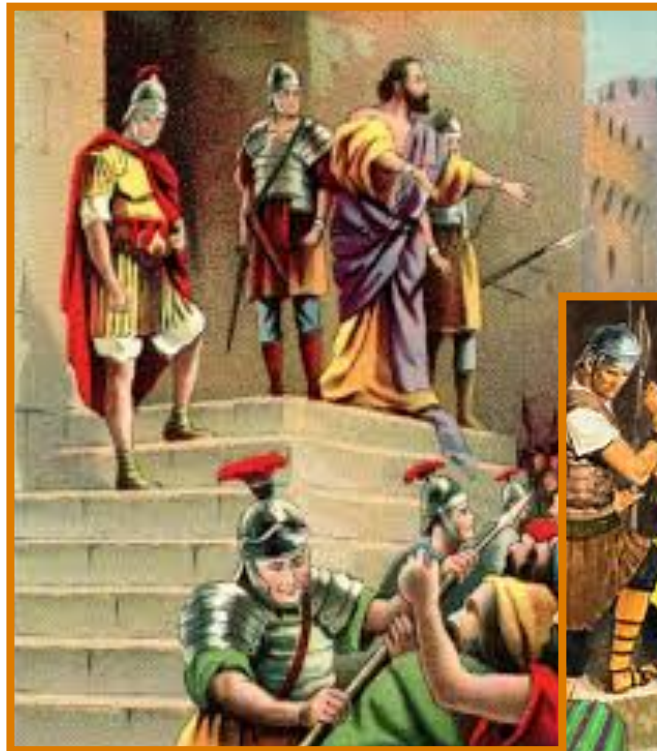


Just before the seven days was over the Jews stirred up everyone saying Paul brought Gentiles into the Temple and that he was teaching against their law and customs.



A riot ensued and Paul was dragged out of the Temple and the Jews were beating Paul. The commander of the Roman troops came and the Jews stopped beating Paul and the Roman soldiers arrested him. Paul asked for permission to speak to the people. He spoke in Aramaic and that got their attention—until he said the one word “Gentiles.” Then chaos followed.

Acts 22 Paul Allowed to Address the Jewish Mob



Roman Citizenship

A Roman citizen had certain rights under Roman Law. He was protected from being beaten and for being put in chains. A citizen was exempt from cruel type punishments. When the mob turned on Paul again the Romans got him out and away from the crowd.

Seeing this, the Roman Commander ordered Paul to be put in the barracks, beaten and chained. Then he would be interrogated to find out what was causing this uproar. Paul speaks up and asks if it was legal to beat and chain a Roman citizen—and especially one who hasn't been charged with a crime.

The situation was taken straight to the Commander who came and verified the information from Paul. The Commander said he had to pay a large sum of money to buy his Roman citizenship. Paul said he was born a Roman citizen. The officer had Paul stand before the Sanhedrin and chief priests the next morning to try to understand the problem.



The speeches in Acts addressing the Jews have a common thread running through them. They tell of their qualifications as a Jew and show that they (the speaker) are witnesses of the events they speak of. Jewish history is often reviewed. The prophecies concerning Christ are pointed out showing He was the Messiah and they were responsible for killing Him. They would be told what to do to become believers of the Way.

Paul, in particular, had to give reasons for the radical change in his life. He gives the account of what happened to him on the road to Damascus. He often had to defend his apostleship even to some believers.

In this particular speech Paul wisely addressed the mob in Aramaic and that got their attention. When he tells of the Lord giving him his mission he mentions the one word “Gentile” and the situation was back in chaos. The Romans had to restore order but they were in a fog trying to understand what was transpiring and why.

The Christian's Citizenship

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 3:20 NKJV

★ X-Ref: Acts 9 & 26; Galatians 1 & 2

The Bible contains three different languages: Hebrew (Old Testament).
Greek (New Testament)

ת ד

Aramaic (some in both testaments)

What is Aramaic? A branch of Semitic languages, spoken in the countries around Israel, then spoken in Israel. It is very similar to Hebrew.

Acts 23 Paul Before Sanhedrin then to Caesarea



★ Should you always let your conscience be your guide?

Paul Before the Sanhedrin



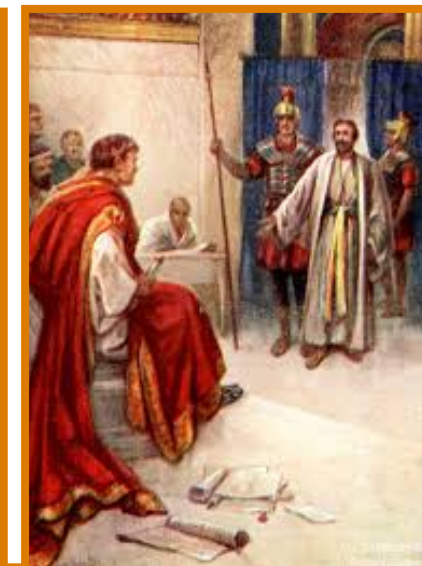
Plot to Kill Paul

Practically a
Whole Army
to Escort
ONE man!
200 Soldiers
70 Horsemen
200 spearmen
I mount for Paul



Transferring Paul to Caesarea

→
The coastline along
Israel does not have
a harbor that could
accommodate large
ships. Herod, the
great builder, designed
Caesarea's unusual port.

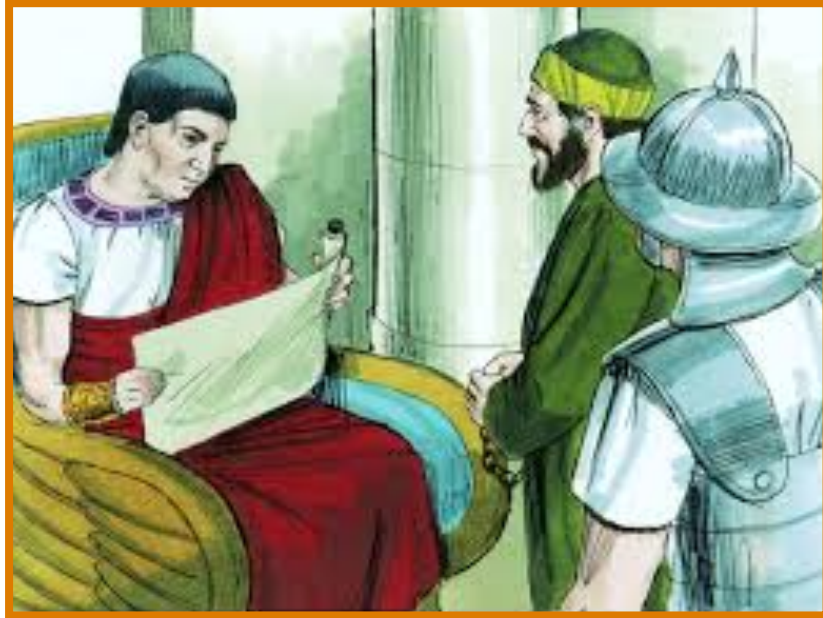


Letter sent to
Governor Felix
Explaining
the Situation
& about Paul

★
When Paul appeared
before the Sanhedrin,
why did the Pharisees
defend Paul???

Acts 24

Paul Before Felix



Paul was presented to Gov. Felix who hoped this prisoner would offer him a bribe! Felix called Paul in to talk to him many times. Paul talked to him about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come. When Felix became fearful he would send Paul away—only to bring him back on another occasion.

Paul states that the Jews did not find:

A crowd around me, but

I came bringing gifts for the poor

I was ceremonially clean when they found me in the temple courts

I was not involved in any disturbance

Where are the Jews that started this trouble to begin with?

Acts 25

Paul Before Festus



Felix was succeeded by Festus, but Felix wanted to grant a favor to the Jews so he left Paul in prison. The Jews tried to get Festus to let Paul be tried in Jerusalem so they could secretly carry out their plot to kill Paul. Paul refused and said to Festus that “No one has the right to hand me over to them (the Jews) I appeal to Caesar!”

A few days later King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to pay respects to Festus. While there, Festus tells Agrippa about Paul and his Jewish accusers. Festus said that the accusers only brought up things concerning their law and about some dead man named Jesus who Paul claimed He came back to life. Festus added that “I found nothing deserving of death.” King Agrippa wanted to hear Paul.



X-Ref Acts 23:11

Acts 26



Paul Goes Before King Agrippa



Would you
persuade me
to be a Christian?

Acts 26:28



Before King Agrippa & Festus

King Agrippa, Bernice and Festus, all heard Paul's impassioned speech. What were their reactions?

Festus interrupted and exclaimed, "Your great learning is driving you insane."

Agrippa asked Paul that in such a short time, was he trying to persuade him to become a Christian?

Both men agreed that Paul had done nothing to deserve death and he could have been freed except that he had appealed to Caesar.

X-ref : Acts 9 & 22; Gal. 1 & 2; 2 Cor. 11: 23-25

What are some of the hardships Paul said he had endured for Christ's sake?

_____ , _____ , _____ ,

_____ , _____

As before, Paul relates the progression of his life and what made him change so drastically! A change from being the chief persecutor of the Lord's church to proclaiming the gospel all over the Roman empire while suffering great risks to his own life.



And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Acts 2:21

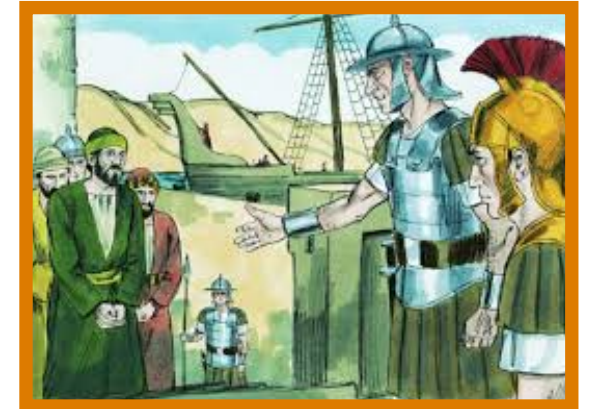
Many consider the phrase about calling on the name of the Lord a stand alone command that it is all that is required to obtain salvation. Actually, there are at least 10 things related to our salvation.

A profitable study of the Bible involves searching out all of the passages related to a particular topic rather than plucking up a single verse and basing everything upon it. For instance, to see another thing involved with "calling on the Lord's name" look up **Acts 22:16**. What else is involved?

Acts 27 Shipwrecked on Way to Rome



Paul's voyage to Rome to appeal to Caesar is often called his fourth missionary journey. Although he was not sent from Antioch like his former three trips he was now being transported as a prisoner. Nevertheless, he tried to make converts wherever he was. He was joined by Luke and Aristarchus, a Macedonian. A centurion named Julius was put in charge of Paul. Julius appeared to like and/or respect Paul and gave him certain privileges.

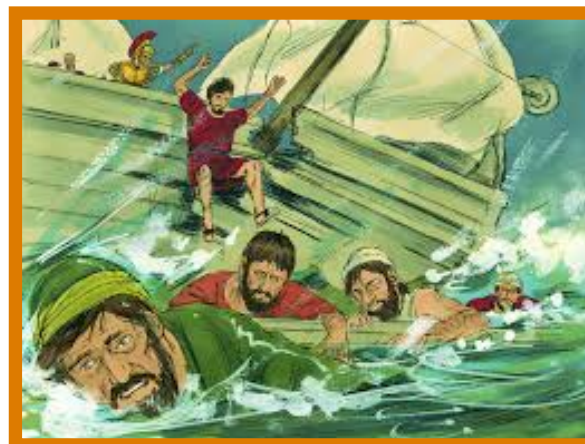
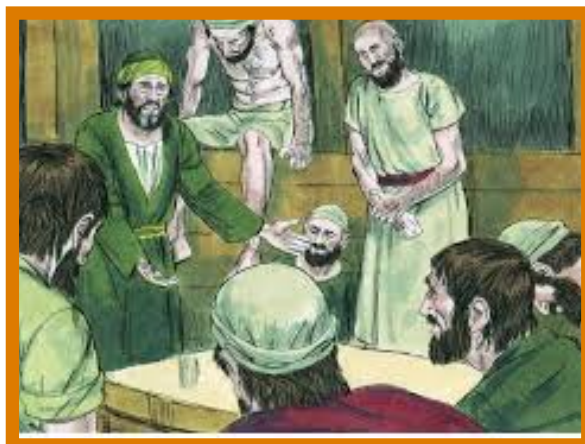


This trip took several miserable weeks. It was a time of year where travel on the Mediterranean was particularly dangerous. They ended up having to change ships, but one didn't do any better than the other. They finally couldn't steer the ship and had to churn up and down however the ship would be tossed.



An Angel of God told Paul everyone's life would be spared. Paul encouraged everyone to eat to stay alive and then they began throwing cargo overboard to lighten the load.

Some of the soldiers were planning to kill the prisoners to prevent them from swimming away. Julius thwarted this plan. He ordered that all who could swim to dive in and swim for shore. The rest grasped pieces of the crumbling ship enabling them to float to shore on the island of Malta.



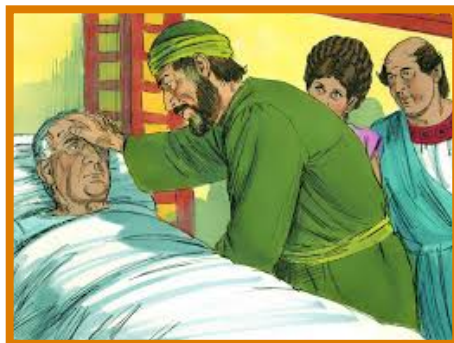
**All 276
Survived
As God
Told
Paul!**

Acts 28 Swept ashore at Malta, Then to Rome



The people of Malta greeted the castaways with hospitality. They had a fire going to warm these unexpected visitors and tended to their needs. As Paul gathered wood for the fire a serpent bit him. Paul just tossed off the serpent and went about his business. Everyone who saw this expected Paul to fall over dead any minute. At first they thought he was a murderer but when the bite didn't bother him they decided he must be some kind of god.

Publius, the chief official of the island offered his home for three days. He entertained them, but when Paul realized Publius' father was sick in bed Paul went and healed him. When word circulated about the island about this many brought their sick for Paul to heal.



After three months in Malta, the group, again, set sail for Rome. In a few days they reached Puteoli where a group of brothers (who heard they were coming) met them and offered the group an invitation to stay with them a week. Just the sight of the brothers lifted Paul's spirits! From there they went to Rome.



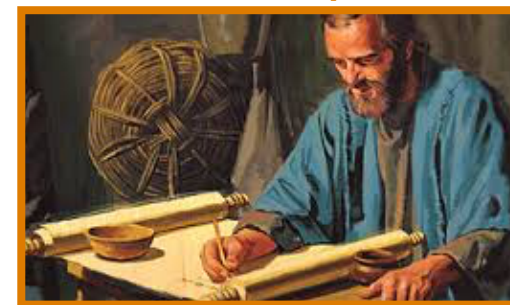
Who are
Some of
the People
Paul
Converted
in Rome?
Philippians 4:22

In Rome Paul was allowed to live by himself in his own rented house with a soldier to guard him. In three days Paul called for a meeting with the leaders of the Jews. Paul explained all of the circumstances that led to his appeal to Caesar. Not having heard from the Jews in Jerusalem, they disbanded and planned to discuss this more fully.

A larger group of Jews came and Paul declared to them about the kingdom of God and to convince them about Jesus. Some believed while others rejected the teachings.

For two years Paul welcomed all who came to see him and he never missed an opportunity to preach about the kingdom of God and about the Lord Jesus Christ.

The "Prison Epistles"



Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
Philemon



The group of "brothers" from Rome—where do you think they heard the gospel? They were not included in any of Paul's journeys. Acts 2:10

The Apostle Paul Writes Almost Half of the New Testament



Paul's Special Requests While in Prison:

2 Timothy 4:11

2 Timothy 4:13

Prison Epistles-written while Paul was in prison

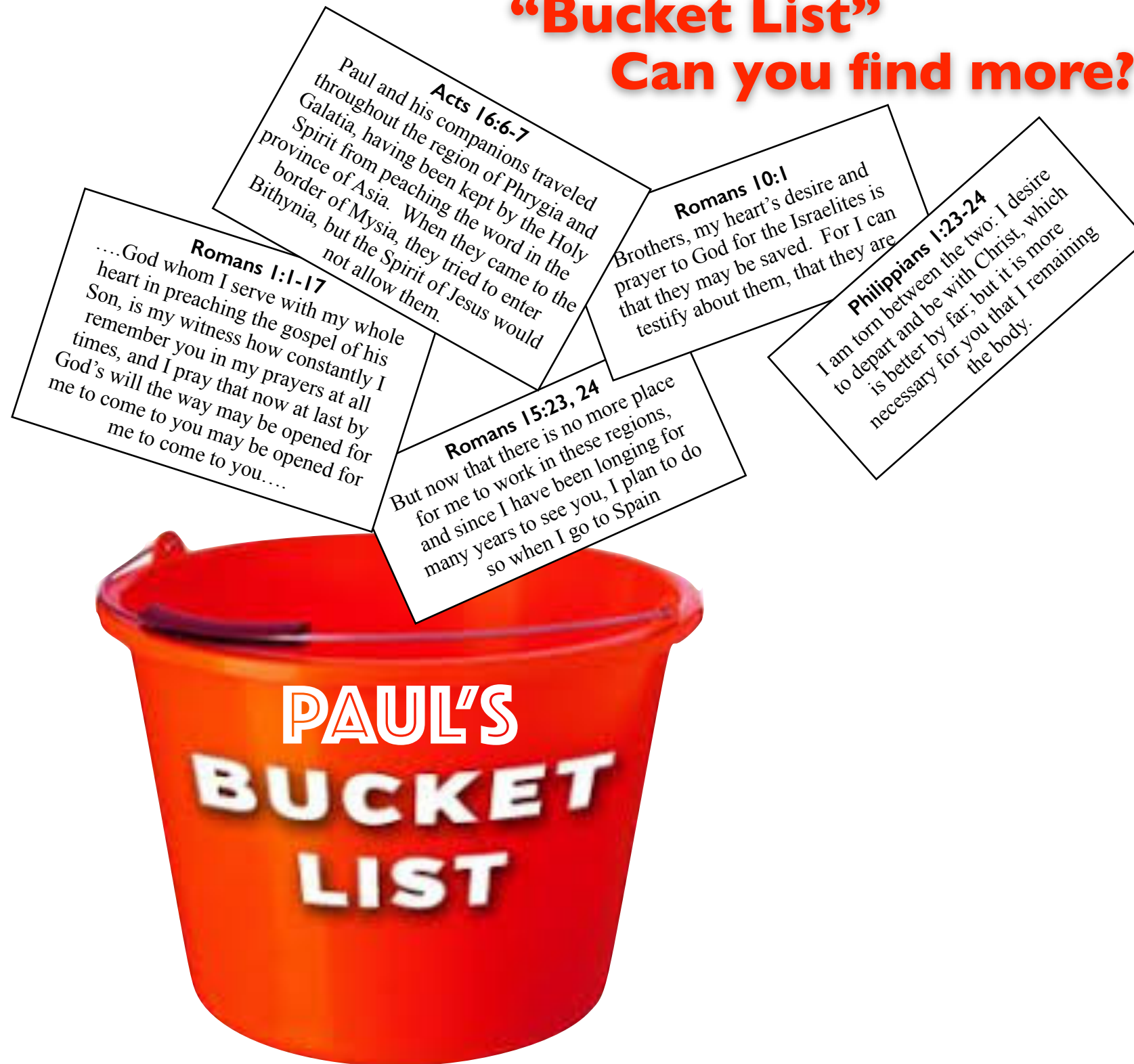
Pastoral Epistles-written to young preachers

General Epistles

Acts	Romans
Acts 18.....1	Corinthians
Acts 18.....2	Corinthians
Acts 16 & 18....	Galatians
Acts 19.....	Ephesians
Acts 16.....	Philippians
Acts	Colossians
Acts 17.....1	Thessalonians
Acts 17.....2	Thessalonians
Acts 16-20.....1	Timothy
Acts. 16-20.....2	Timothy
Acts	Titus
Acts	Philemon
Hebrews????	Hebrews????

What next for the apostle Paul?

A Few Things on the Apostle Paul's “Bucket List” Can you find more?



Nothing Has Changed

When the information contained in the “Great Commission” (Matthew 28:16-20) is combined with the striking examples in the book of Acts (i.e., the rule is illustrated by approved apostolic examples), it becomes impossible for the honest student not to recognize that in the first century men and women who sought to follow Christ were required to:

1. receive gospel teaching
2. believe the message
3. profess their faith in Jesus
4. repent of their wrongs, and
5. be immersed in water for the forgiveness of sin.

Matthew 28.18-19		Examples of Conversion				Mark 16.15-16	
Preaching	Believed	Repented	Confessed	Baptized	Saved		
Pentecost Acts 2.14-41	Believed Acts 2.36	Repented Acts 2.37-38	Confessed Acts 2.47	Baptized Acts 2.38-41	Remission of Sins Acts 2.38-47		
Samaritans Acts 8.5-13	Believed Acts 8.12	Repented Acts 8.9-10	Confessed Acts 8.10, 12	Baptized Acts 8.12-13	Remission of Sins Acts 8.16 (2.38)		
Eunuch Acts 8.35-39	Believed Acts 8.36-37	Repented Acts 8.36	Confessed Acts 8.37	Baptized Acts 8.38	Rejoiced Acts 8.39		
Saul Acts 9.17-18	Believed Acts 22.10	Repented Acts 9.9	Confessed Rom 10.9-10	Baptized Acts 9.18	Sins Washed Away Acts 22.16		
Cornelius Acts 10.34-48	Believed Acts 10.43	Repented Acts 11.18	Confessed Acts 10.46	Baptized Acts 10.48	Remission of Sins Acts 10.43, 48		
Lydia Acts 16.13-15	Believed Acts 16.14			Baptized Acts 16.15	Faithful Acts 16.15		
The Jailer Acts 16.30-34	Believed Acts 16.31, 34	Repented Acts 16.33		Baptized Acts 16.33	Rejoiced Acts 16.34		
Corinthians Acts 18.1-8	Believed Acts 18.8	Repented 1 Cor. 6.9-11		Baptized Acts 18.8	Sanctified 1 Cor. 6.11		
Ephesians Acts 19.1-7ff	Believed Ep. 1.13; Ac. 19.5,18	Repented Acts 19.18; 20.21		Baptized Acts 19.5 (2.38)	Saved Eph. 2.8-9		
Preaching Romans 10.14	+ Faith John 8.24	+ Repentance Luke 13.3	+ Confession Romans 10.9-10	+ Baptism Galatians 3.26-27	= Salvation 2 Timothy 2.10		