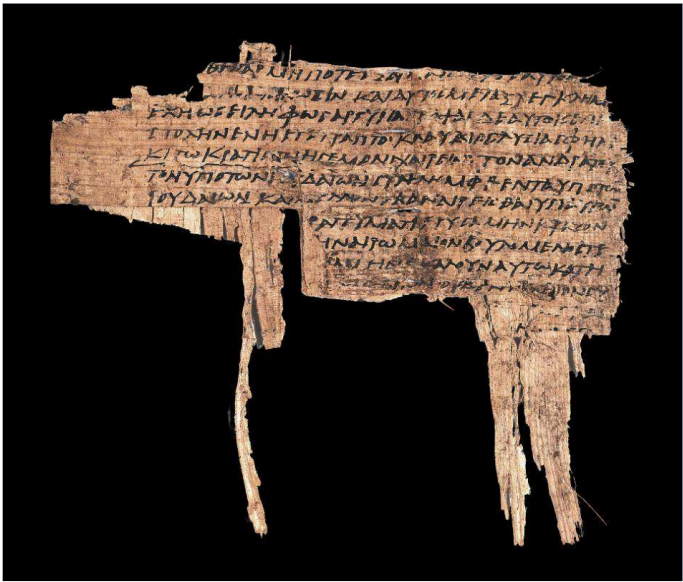


# ACTS

*Luke Part 2*

|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AUTHOR              | Luke, the doctor and Paul's friend, who also wrote the Gospel of Luke. In some chapters Luke switches from they to we starting at 16:10, which shows he was there for parts of the trip. The early church named him as the author by about AD 180. |
| EVENTS TOOK PLACE   | About AD 30 to 62, from Jesus going up into heaven to Paul under house arrest in Rome for two years.                                                                                                                                               |
| DATE WRITTEN        | Many conservative scholars say about AD 62, because the book ends before Paul's trial and death. Many others say AD 80 to 90.                                                                                                                      |
| WRITTEN TO          | Theophilus, the same man Luke wrote his Gospel to Luke 1:3, Acts 1:1. His name means friend of God.                                                                                                                                                |
| ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS | Acts survives in hundreds of Greek manuscripts. One old copy, Codex Bezae, has a longer form of Acts, about 8 percent longer than most.                                                                                                            |
| KEY VERSE           | Acts 1:8. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.                                                                       |



**AN EARLY PIECE OF ACTS**

This scrap is Papyrus 48, copied in the 200s and kept in the Laurentian Library in Florence, Italy. This side holds Acts 23:25 to 29, the letter the Roman commander wrote to Governor Felix about Paul. You can still read the Greek words for to the most excellent governor. The other side holds Acts 23:11 to 17, where the Lord tells Paul he will testify in Rome. Its wording is close to the longer form of Acts found in Codex Bezae. Papyrus 45, from about AD 250, holds larger parts of Acts.

## Historical Setting

Rome rules the whole Mediterranean world. Roman roads and peace make travel easier than ever, and almost everyone speaks Greek. Jewish synagogues stand in cities across the empire, ready made places for Paul to start preaching. But the church begins small, about 120 people praying in an upstairs room in Jerusalem 1:15. Their leader has just left. All they have is His promise: Wait for the Holy Spirit.

## What Was Going Wrong

**JEALOUS LEADERS.** The high priest and his friends were filled with jealousy and threw the apostles in jail 5:17 to 18.

**FAKING IT.** Ananias and Sapphira lied to look more generous than they were. Peter said they lied to God, not just to men 5:4.

**MONEY OVER GOD.** Simon tried to buy the Holy Spirit 8:18 to 20, and the silversmiths of Ephesus started a riot because Jesus was bad for business 19:24 to 27.

**WHO GETS IN.** Some taught that Gentiles had to keep the law of Moses before they could be saved 15:1.

**MOB RULE.** In the Ephesus riot most of the crowd did not even know why they were there 19:32.

## The Idiot Proof Summary

Jesus goes up to heaven, and the Holy Spirit comes down. Acts shows a small group of scared followers turn into bold witnesses who fill Jerusalem with the news that Jesus is alive. Peter leads the first half of the book. Then Saul, who hunted Christians, meets Jesus and becomes Paul, who leads the second half. The good news jumps from Jews to Samaritans to Gentiles, and the book ends with Paul preaching in Rome, the capital of the world.

## Acts at a Glance: Acts 1:8 Is the Map

|                    |                                                                                                      |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CH 1 to 7</b>   | <b>JERUSALEM</b><br>Pentecost, Peter preaches and Stephen dies.                                      |
| <b>CH 8 to 12</b>  | <b>JUDEA AND SAMARIA</b><br>The church scatters, Saul meets Jesus and the Gentiles get the Spirit.   |
| <b>CH 13 to 20</b> | <b>THE ENDS OF THE EARTH</b><br>Three missionary trips, the Jerusalem council and churches all over. |
| <b>CH 21 to 28</b> | <b>IN CHAINS TO ROME</b><br>Paul's arrest, trials, shipwreck and two years in Rome.                  |

## Where Jesus Shows Up

**ACTS 1:11** This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go. Still to come.

**ACTS 2:16 TO 21** This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Fulfills Joel 2:28 to 32.

**ACTS 2:25 TO 31** You will not abandon My soul to the grave. Peter says David was speaking about the resurrection of the Christ. Fulfills Psalm 16:10.

**ACTS 8:32 TO 35** He was led like a sheep to the slaughter. Philip starts with Isaiah 53 and tells the Ethiopian the good news about Jesus.

## What to Watch for in Acts

|                                   |                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MESSIANIC PROPHECIES              | 1:5, 1:8-11, 1:16-20, 1:26, 2:1-4, 2:21, 2:25 and 17 more                |
| MESSIANIC FORESHADOW              | 2:5-11, 2:23, 7:9-10                                                     |
| PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE | 2:16-18, 2:41, 7:42-43, 8:5-8, 8:27, 9:15-16, 11:28 and 10 more          |
| PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN HISTORY   | 20:29-30                                                                 |
| END TIMES PROPHECIES              | 17:31                                                                    |
| THE HEART                         | 1:24, 2:37, 2:46, 4:32, 5:3-4, 7:54, 8:21-22 and 1 more                  |
| ARCHAEOLOGY                       | 4:6, 13:7, 17:6, 17:23, 18:12, 19:27-29, 21:28-29 and 1 more             |
| MIRACLES                          | 3:1-10, 4:31, 5:5, 5:9-10, 5:15, 5:19, 7:55-56 and 23 more               |
| DEMONIC                           | 5:16, 7:39-41, 8:9-11, 8:18-20, 13:6, 13:8-10, 14:11-18 and 13 more      |
| NOTABLE                           | 15:19, 17:28                                                             |
| JESUS SPEAKING                    | Words in red are Jesus speaking, or God the Father speaking from heaven. |

## Cool Stuff Most People Miss

### PART TWO OF TWO

Luke ends his Gospel with Jesus telling the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for power from on high Luke 24:49. Acts picks up right there. Same author, same reader, one story.

### WE WERE THERE

In 16:10 Luke stops saying they and starts saying we. The we sections, through the shipwreck in chapter 27, read like a travel diary, with ports, winds and days counted.

### LUKE GOT THE TITLES RIGHT

Roman titles changed from city to city, and Luke uses the right one every time: politarchs in Thessalonica, a proconsul in Cyprus and Corinth, and the first man of the island on Malta. Digs have found the same titles carved in stone. See the Field Notes pages.

### THE BOOK WITH NO ENDING

Acts stops with Paul still waiting for his trial. Many say the story is not over, because the church is still writing it.

## Did Anybody Listen?

About 120 believers in one room became churches in Jerusalem, Antioch, Ephesus, Corinth and Rome in about thirty years. Church tradition says Peter and Paul were both killed in Rome under Nero in the AD 60s. Less than three hundred years later the Roman emperor himself became a Christian. Today about one in three people on earth call themselves Christians.

## MESSIANIC PROPHECIES OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW JESUS SPEAKING

## 1

## CHAPTER 1 IN 30 SECONDS

For forty days the risen Jesus teaches His followers. He tells them to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit, then goes up into the clouds while they stand there staring. Two angels basically say, Why are you looking at the sky? He is coming back the same way. They pray, and Matthias is picked to replace Judas.

## PROLOGUE // LUKE 1:1-4

<sup>1</sup>In my first book, O Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach, <sup>2</sup>until the day He was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After His suffering, He presented Himself to them with many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a span of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

<sup>4</sup>And while they were gathered together, He commanded them: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift the Father promised, which you have heard Me discuss. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

## THE ASCENSION // MARK 16:19-20; LUKE 24:50-53

<sup>6</sup>So when they came together, they asked Him, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

<sup>7</sup>Jesus replied, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- **ACTS 1:1 [TEXT]** Acts comes down to us in two forms. Most manuscripts have the shorter one, which this Bible follows. Codex Bezae, from about AD 400, and a few other early copies have a longer form, about 8 percent longer. For example, Bezae adds the Golden Rule to the letter in 15:20 and 15:29. The story is the same in both.
- **ACTS 1:5 [PROPHECY]** In a few days the disciples would be baptized with the Holy Spirit → ACTS 2:1-4 p.-
- **ACTS 1:5 [FULFILLS]** The One coming after John would baptize with the Holy Spirit ← MT 3:11; MK 1:8; LK 3:16; JN 1:33 p.-
- **ACTS 1:8 [PROPHECY]** The witnesses would carry the gospel to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth → ACTS 2:41; ACTS 8:5-8; ACTS 13:46-47; ACTS 28:30-31 p.-
- **ACTS 1:8 [FULFILLS]** The Servant exalted after suffering ← IS 52:13 p.-

<sup>9</sup>After He had said this, they watched as He was taken up, and a cloud hid Him from their sight. <sup>10</sup>They were looking intently into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup>"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 REPLACES JUDAS

<sup>12</sup>Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is near the city, a Sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup>When they arrived, they went to the upper room where they were staying: Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup>With one accord they all continued in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

<sup>15</sup>In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (a gathering of about a hundred and twenty) and said, <sup>16</sup>"Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled that the Holy Spirit foretold through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus. <sup>17</sup>He was one of our number and shared in this ministry."

<sup>18</sup>(Now with the reward for his wickedness Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong and burst open in the middle, and all his intestines spilled out. <sup>19</sup>This became known to all who lived in Jerusalem, so they called that field in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

<sup>20</sup>"For it is written in the book of Psalms: 'May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,'

- **ACTS 1:9 [MIRACLE]** Jesus' bodily ascension; angels appear
- **ACTS 1:9 [FULFILLS]** He would ascend into heaven (the Son of Man) ← DAN 7:13-14a p.-
- **ACTS 1:11 [PROPHECY]** This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven → STILL TO COME
- **ACTS 1:16 [FULFILLS]** The unrepentant death of the betrayer ← PS 55:15 · MEDIUM p.-

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE

THE HEART

OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

and,

*'May another take his position.'*

<sup>21</sup> Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup> beginning from John's baptism until the day Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection."

<sup>23</sup> So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. <sup>24</sup> And they prayed, "Lord, You know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two You have chosen" <sup>25</sup> to take up this ministry and apostleship, which Judas abandoned to go to his rightful place."

<sup>26</sup> Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias. So he was added to the eleven apostles.

## 2

### CHAPTER 2 IN 30 SECONDS

*Pentecost. A sound like a mighty wind fills the house, flames rest on each believer, and they speak in languages they never learned. Visitors from all over hear God praised in their own tongue. Some say they are drunk. Peter says, It is only nine in the morning. He preaches Jesus, and about three thousand people are baptized in one day.*

**THE HOLY SPIRIT AT PENTECOST** // GENESIS 11:1-9; LEVITICUS 23:15-22

<sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like a mighty rushing wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw tongues like flames of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and

■ **ACTS 1:20 [FULFILLS]** The betrayer's place would be left empty ← PS 69:25 p.-

■ **ACTS 1:20 [FULFILLS]** Another would take the betrayer's position ← PS 109:8 p.-

■ **ACTS 1:24 [HEART]** The apostles pray to the Lord who knows every heart before choosing Matthias.

■ **ACTS 1:26 [FULFILLS]** Another would take the betrayer's position ← PS 109:8 p.-

■ **ACTS 2:1 [FULFILLS]** Fifty days were counted to the feast of new grain and 5 more ← LEV 23:15-16; MT 3:11; MK 1:8; LK 3:16; JN 1:33; LK 24:49; JN 7:38-39; JN 14:16-17; ACTS 1:5 p.-

■ **ACTS 2:1 [MIRACLE]** Pentecost — wind, fire, tongues

■ **ACTS 2:1 [NOTE]** PENTECOST. See Pentecost.

began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> And when this sound rang out, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking his own language.

<sup>7</sup> Astounded and amazed, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"

<sup>8</sup> How is it then that each of us hears them in his own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome, <sup>11</sup> both Jews and converts to Judaism; Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"

<sup>12</sup> Astounded and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

<sup>13</sup> But others mocked them and said, "They are drunk on new wine!"

**PETER ADDRESSES THE CROWD** // PSALM 16:1-11; JOEL 2:28-32

<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, lifted up his voice, and addressed the crowd: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen carefully to my words. <sup>15</sup> These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It is only the third hour of the day! <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> '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.*

<sup>18</sup> *Even on My menservants and maidservants*

*I will pour out My Spirit in those days,*

*and they will prophesy.*

<sup>19</sup> *I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below,*

■ **ACTS 2:5 [FULFILLS]** God confused the languages at Babel and scattered the people ← GEN 11:7-9 · MEDIUM p.-

■ **ACTS 2:9 [FULFILLS]** In the last days God would restore Elam ← JER 49:39 · MEDIUM p.-

■ **ACTS 2:16 [FULFILLS]** I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and daughters shall prophesy ← JOEL 2:28-29 p.-

■ **ACTS 2:17 [QUOTES]** Direct ← JOEL 2:28-32 p.-

## MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

## MESSIANIC FORESHADOW

## PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE

## THE HEART

## OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

*blood and fire and billows of smoke.*

<sup>20</sup> *The sun will be turned to darkness,  
and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the great and glorious  
Day of the Lord.*

<sup>21</sup> *And everyone who calls on the name of the  
Lord  
will be saved.*

<sup>22</sup> Men of Israel, listen to this message: Jesus of Nazareth was a man certified by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs, which God did among you through Him, as you yourselves know. <sup>23</sup> He was delivered up by God's set plan and fore-knowledge, and you, by the hands of the lawless, put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross. <sup>24</sup> But God raised Him from the dead, releasing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep Him in its grip.

<sup>25</sup> *David says about Him:*

*'I saw the Lord always before me;  
because He is at my right hand, I will not be  
shaken.*

<sup>26</sup> *Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue  
rejoices;*

*my body also will dwell in hope,*

<sup>27</sup> *because You will not abandon my soul to  
Hades,*

*nor will You let Your Holy One see decay.*

<sup>28</sup> *You have made known to me the paths of  
life;*

*You will fill me with joy in Your presence.'*

<sup>29</sup> Brothers, I can tell you with confidence that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

<sup>30</sup> *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.* <sup>31</sup> *Fore-  
seeing this, David spoke about the resur-  
rection of the Christ, that He was not  
abandoned to Hades, nor did His body  
see decay.* <sup>32</sup> *God has raised this Jesus to  
life, to which we are all witnesses.*

■ ACTS 2:21 [FULFILLS] Salvation offered to all mankind through His name ← JOEL 2:32 p.-

■ ACTS 2:23 [FULFILLS] What Joseph's brothers meant for evil, God meant for good to save many lives ← GEN 50:20 · MEDIUM p.-

■ ACTS 2:25 [FULFILLS] The Holy One sets Yahweh always before Him and will not be shaken ← PS 16:8 p.-

■ ACTS 2:30 [FULFILLS] 'The last words of David' prophesying of the latter messianic days and 3 more ← 2SA 23:1; PS 89:3-4; PS 132:11; LK 1:31-33, 35 p.-

<sup>33</sup> *Exalted, then, 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.* <sup>34</sup> *For David  
did not ascend into heaven, but he himself  
says:*

*'The Lord said to my Lord,*

*"Sit at My right hand*

<sup>35</sup> *until I make Your enemies*

*a footstool for Your feet."*

<sup>36</sup> *Therefore let all Israel know with cer-  
tainty that God has made this Jesus,  
whom you crucified, both Lord and  
Christ!"*

## THREE THOUSAND BELIEVE

<sup>37</sup> *When the people heard this, they were  
cut to the heart and asked Peter and the  
other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we  
do?"*

<sup>38</sup> 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. <sup>39</sup> This promise belongs to you and your children and to all who are far off—to all whom the Lord our God will call to Himself."

<sup>40</sup> With many other words he testified, and he urged them, "Be saved from this corrupt generation." <sup>41</sup> *Those who embraced  
his message were baptized, and about  
three thousand were added to the believ-  
ers that day.*

## THE FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS // ACTS 4:32-37

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> A

■ ACTS 2:31 [FULFILLS] His body would not see corruption (decay) in the tomb ← PS 16:10 p.-

■ ACTS 2:32 [FULFILLS] Resurrection from the grave foreshadowed ← PS 30:3 · MEDIUM p.-

■ ACTS 2:33 [FULFILLS] Streams of living water, the Spirit, would be given to believers after Jesus was glorified ← JN 7:38-39 p.-

■ ACTS 2:33 [FULFILLS] If Jesus went away He would send the Advocate ← JN 16:7 p.-

■ ACTS 2:34 [FULFILLS] David's Lord sits at God's right hand until His enemies are His footstool ← PS 110:1 p.-

■ ACTS 2:36 [FULFILLS] He would be the Anointed One ← PS 2:2 p.-

■ ACTS 2:37 [HEART] The crowd was cut to the heart and asked what they should do.

■ ACTS 2:38 [NOTE] IN JESUS' NAME. See In Jesus' Name?

■ ACTS 2:41 [FULFILLS] The witnesses would carry the gospel to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth ← ACTS 1:8 p.-

## THE HEART

sense of awe came over everyone, and the apostles performed many wonders and signs.

<sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> Selling their possessions and goods, they shared with anyone who was in need.

<sup>46</sup> With one accord they continued to meet daily in the temple courts and to break bread from house to house, sharing their meals with gladness and sincerity of heart, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

## THE BIG QUESTION

## PENTECOST

*The Day the Church Was Born*

ACTS 2:1 TO 47 · LEVITICUS 23:15 TO 21 · JOEL 2:28 TO 32 · GENESIS 11:1 TO 9 · EXODUS 19 AND 32

## WHAT THE FEAST WAS

Pentecost is Greek for fiftieth. It is the Feast of Weeks, Shavuot, fifty days after Passover, when the first loaves of the wheat harvest were offered to God, Leviticus 23:15 to 21. It was one of three feasts when Jewish men came to Jerusalem, Deuteronomy 16:16. That is why Jews from every nation under heaven were in town, 2:5.

## WHAT HAPPENED

About 120 believers were together, 1:15. A sound like a mighty rushing wind filled the house, tongues like fire rested on each one, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, 2:2 to 4. Jesus had told them to wait for this, 1:4 to 5.

## REAL LANGUAGES

The crowd heard them in their own languages, from Parthia and Media to Egypt, Libya, Crete, Arabia and Rome, praising the mighty works of God, 2:6 to 11. Some mocked and said they were drunk. Peter said, it is only nine in the morning, 2:15. See the Romans tongues pages, p. 10, for how this compares with tongues in 1 Corinthians 14.

## WHAT PETER SAID

This is what Joel spoke about: In the last days I will pour out My Spirit on all people; your sons and daughters will prophesy, 2:16 to 18 and Joel 2:28 to 29. The Spirit was no longer for a few prophets and kings. It was for everyone, men and women, young and old.

## WHAT IT STARTED

About 3,000 were baptized that day, 2:41. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship, to breaking bread and to prayer, 2:42. Most Christians count this day as the birthday of the church.

*Babel, Sinai and the Harvest*

ACTS 2:1 TO 41 · GENESIS 11:1 TO 9 · EXODUS 19:16 TO 19 · 32:28 · 2 CORINTHIANS 3:6

## BABEL TURNED AROUND

At Babel, God confused one language into many and scattered the people, Genesis 11:7 to 9. At Pentecost, many languages carried one message and gathered people back together. Christians have pointed this out since the early church.

## THE SINAI CONNECTION

Israel reached Mount Sinai in the third month after leaving Egypt, about the time of this feast, Exodus 19:1. Jewish tradition came to remember Shavuot as the day God gave the Law; the Book of Jubilees, written before Jesus, already ties the feast to God's covenant, and later rabbis say it plainly. At Sinai there was fire, smoke and a loud trumpet, Exodus 19:16 to 19. At Pentecost there was wind, fire and many voices.

## 3,000 AND 3,000

After the golden calf at Sinai, about 3,000 people died, Exodus 32:28. At Pentecost about 3,000 were saved, Acts 2:41. Many preachers connect the two with Paul's words: the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life, 2 Corinthians 3:6. Acts itself does not make the link, but the numbers are hard to miss.

## THE FIRSTFRUITS

The feast offered the first loaves of the harvest. Jesus had said the fields are white for harvest, John 4:35. Pentecost

■ ACTS 2:46 [HEART] The early church shared meals with glad and sincere hearts.

## MIRACLES

was the first loaf of a harvest that is still going on.

**WHY PENTECOSTALS ARE CALLED THAT**

The Pentecostal movement, which began in 1901 and 1906, took its name from this day because it expected the same Spirit and the same gifts. Churches still keep the feast of Pentecost, sometimes called Whitsunday, fifty days after Easter.

**DEBATED** THE BIG QUESTION**IN JESUS' NAME?**

*Acts 2:38 and Matthew 28:19*

ACTS 2:38 • 8:16 • 10:48 • 19:5 • MATTHEW 28:19

**THE TWO VERSES**

Peter said: Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, 2:38. Acts says the same in 8:16, 10:48 and 19:5. But Jesus said to baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Matthew 28:19. Which words should be said?

**THE ONENESS VIEW**

In 1913, at a camp meeting at Arroyo Seco near Los Angeles, a preacher named R. E. McAlister pointed out that the apostles baptized in Jesus' name. In 1914 Frank Ewart began rebaptizing people that way. When the Assemblies of God adopted a Trinity statement in 1916, many ministers left. Today the largest Oneness church is the United Pentecostal Church International, formed in 1945. They say Jesus is the one name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, since 28:19 says name, not names, and that baptism should be done in that name.

**THE TRINITARIAN VIEW**

In Jesus' name in Acts means by His authority and into Him, as opposed to John's baptism, 19:3 to 5. The Didache, about AD 100, tells churches to baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (7), and in the same book speaks of those baptized into the name of the Lord (9). The two phrases lived side by side. Most churches use the words of 28:19. See The Trinity in Matthew, p.~.

**THE OTHER BIG QUESTION IN 2:38**

Is baptism needed to be saved?

Churches of Christ, Catholics, Orthodox and Lutherans say baptism is where God forgives and gives new life. Most Baptists and evangelicals say faith saves, and baptism shows it; Cornelius received the Holy Spirit before he was baptized, 10:44 to 48.

**WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON**

Repent, be baptized, and receive the Holy Spirit. Jesus is Lord.

## 3

**CHAPTER 3 IN 30 SECONDS**

*A man who could not walk since birth begs at the temple gate. Peter says, Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus, walk. The man jumps up, walking and leaping and praising God. A crowd runs over, and Peter preaches again.*

**A LAME MAN WALKS**

<sup>1</sup>One afternoon Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. <sup>2</sup>And 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 entering the temple courts. <sup>3</sup>When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.

<sup>4</sup>Peter looked directly at him, as did John. "Look at us!" said Peter. <sup>5</sup>So the man gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup>But Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!"

<sup>7</sup>Taking him by the right hand, Peter helped him up, and at once the man's feet and ankles were made strong. <sup>8</sup>He sprang to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and leaping and praising God.

<sup>9</sup>When all the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup>they recognized him as the man who used to sit begging at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

■ ACTS 3:1 [MIRACLE] Lame man at temple gate healed by Peter and John

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES    ARCHAEOLOGY    OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

**PETER SPEAKS IN SOLOMON'S COLONNADE //**

DEUTERONOMY 18:15-22

<sup>11</sup> While the man clung to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and ran to them in the walkway called Solomon's Colonnade. <sup>12</sup> And when Peter saw this, he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why are you surprised by this? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?"

<sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus. You handed Him over and rejected Him before Pilate, even though he had decided to release Him. <sup>14</sup> You re-

jected the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you.

<sup>15</sup> You killed the Author of life, but God raised Him from the dead, and we are witnesses of this fact.

<sup>16</sup> By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know has been made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through Him that has given him this complete healing in your presence.

<sup>17</sup> And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. <sup>18</sup> But in this way God has fulfilled what He foretold through all the prophets, saying that His Christ would suffer. <sup>19</sup> Repent, then, and turn back, so that your sins may be wiped away, <sup>20</sup> that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus, the Christ, who has been appointed for you.

<sup>21</sup> Heaven must take Him in until the time comes for the restoration of all things, which God announced long ago through His holy prophets. <sup>22</sup> For Moses said, "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. You must listen to Him in everything He tells you." <sup>23</sup>

■ ACTS 3:13 [FULFILLS] God would glorify Him ← IS 55:5 · MEDIUM p. -

■ ACTS 3:13 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← EX 3:6, 15 p. -

■ ACTS 3:19 [PROPHECY] Times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things → STILL TO COME

■ ACTS 3:19 [FULFILLS] He would restore Israel ← IS 49:6 · MEDIUM p. -

■ ACTS 3:22 [FULFILLS] Those who reject this Prophet would bear their own sin ← DT 18:19 p. -

■ ACTS 3:22 [QUOTES] Direct ← DT 18:15-19 p. -

*Everyone who does not listen to Him will be completely cut off from among his people.*

<sup>24</sup> Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have proclaimed these days. <sup>25</sup> And you are sons of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers when He said to Abraham, "Through your offspring all the families of the earth will be blessed." <sup>26</sup> When God raised up His Servant, He sent Him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways."

## 4

**CHAPTER 4 IN 30 SECONDS**

*The leaders arrest Peter and John and tell them to stop talking about Jesus. They answer, We cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard. When they pray, the whole place shakes. The believers share everything they own, and a man named Barnabas sells a field and gives the money.*

**PETER AND JOHN BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN**

<sup>1</sup> While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to them, <sup>2</sup> greatly disturbed that they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. <sup>3</sup> They seized Peter and John, and because it was evening, they put them in custody until the next day. <sup>4</sup> But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

<sup>5</sup> The next day the rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup> along with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and many others from the high priest's family. <sup>7</sup> They had Peter and John brought in and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

■ ACTS 3:25 [FULFILLS] Through Abraham's seed all nations would be blessed and 2 more ← GEN 12:3; GEN 18:18; GEN 26:2-5 p. -

■ ACTS 3:25 [QUOTES] Direct ← GEN 22:18; 26:4 p. -

■ ACTS 4:6 [ARCHAEOLOGY] Caiaphas Ossuary (1990) — ornate bone box inscribed with his name

■ ACTS 4:6 [FIELD NOTES] A bone box carved with the name of this high priest's family was found in 1990. See The Caiaphas Ossuary Field Notes page in Matthew, p. -.

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES THE HEART MIRACLES OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

<sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people! <sup>9</sup> If we are being examined today about a kind service to a man who was lame, to determine how he was healed, <sup>10</sup> then let this be known to all of you and to 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. <sup>11</sup> This Jesus is

*'the stone you builders rejected,  
which has become the cornerstone.'*

<sup>12</sup> Salvation exists in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

#### THE NAME FORBIDDEN

<sup>13</sup> When they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they marveled and took note that these men had been with Jesus. <sup>14</sup> And seeing the man who had been healed standing there with them, they had nothing to say in response. <sup>15</sup> So they ordered them to leave the Sanhedrin and then conferred together.

<sup>16</sup> "What shall we do with these men?" they asked. "It is clear to everyone living in Jerusalem that a remarkable miracle has occurred through them, and we cannot deny it. <sup>17</sup> But to keep this message from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them not to speak to anyone in this name."

<sup>18</sup> Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup> But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to listen to you rather than God. <sup>20</sup> For we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."

<sup>21</sup> After further threats they let them go. They could not find a way to punish them, because all the people were glorifying

God for what had happened. <sup>22</sup> For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

#### THE BELIEVERS' PRAYER // PSALM 2:1-12

<sup>23</sup> On their release, Peter and John returned to their own people and reported everything that the chief priests and elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup> When the believers heard this, they lifted up their voices to God with one accord. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "You made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them.

<sup>25</sup> 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?*

<sup>26</sup> *The kings of the earth take their stand  
and the rulers gather together  
against the Lord  
and against His Anointed One.'*

<sup>27</sup> In fact, this is the very city where Herod and Pontius Pilate conspired with the Gentiles and the people of Israel against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed. <sup>28</sup> They carried out what Your hand and will had decided beforehand would happen. <sup>29</sup> And now, Lord, consider their threats, and enable Your servants to speak Your word with complete boldness,

<sup>30</sup> as You stretch out Your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of Your holy servant Jesus."

<sup>31</sup> After they had prayed, their meeting place was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

#### SHARING AMONG BELIEVERS // ACTS 2:42-47

<sup>32</sup> The multitude of believers was one in heart and soul. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they owned. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles continued to give their testimony about the resurrection

■ ACTS 4:11 [FULFILLS] The precious cornerstone of the Messianic kingdom ← IS 28:16 p.-

■ ACTS 4:11 [QUOTES] Direct ← PS 118:22 p.-

■ ACTS 4:12 [FULFILLS] 'Look to Me and be saved, all ends of the earth' ← IS 45:22 p.-

■ ACTS 4:24 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← EX 20:11; PS 146:6 p.-

■ ACTS 4:25 [FULFILLS] The hostility of kings and rulers against the Messiah foreordained ← PS 2:1-3 p.-

■ ACTS 4:25 [QUOTES] Direct ← PS 2:1-2 p.-

■ ACTS 4:31 [MIRACLE] The place is shaken and all are filled with the Spirit

■ ACTS 4:32 [HEART] The believers were one in heart and soul.

THE HEART   MIRACLES   DEMONIC

of the Lord Jesus. And abundant grace was upon them all.

<sup>34</sup> There were no needy ones among them, because those who owned lands or houses would sell their property, bring the proceeds from the sales, <sup>35</sup> and lay them at the apostles' feet for distribution to anyone as he had need.

<sup>36</sup> Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas ( meaning Son of Encouragement), <sup>37</sup> sold a field he owned, brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

## 5

### CHAPTER 5 IN 30 SECONDS

*Ananias and his wife Sapphira sell land, keep part of the money, and lie that they gave it all. Both drop dead. Sick people line the streets hoping Peter's shadow will fall on them. An angel opens the jail at night. The apostles are whipped and leave happy that they were counted worthy to suffer for His name.*

### ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

<sup>1</sup> Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. <sup>2</sup> With his wife's full knowledge, he kept back some of the proceeds for himself, but brought a portion and laid it at the apostles' feet.

<sup>3</sup> Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and withhold some of the proceeds from the land? <sup>4</sup> Did it not belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? How could you conceive such a deed in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God!"

<sup>5</sup> On hearing these words, Ananias fell down and died. And great fear came over all who heard what had happened. <sup>6</sup> Then the young men stepped forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

<sup>7</sup> About three hours later his wife also came in, unaware of what had happened.

<sup>8</sup> "Tell me," said Peter, "is this the price you and your husband got for the land?"

"Yes," she answered, "that is the price."

<sup>9</sup> "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord?" Peter replied. "Look, the feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

<sup>10</sup> At that instant 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. <sup>11</sup> And great fear came over the whole church and all who heard about these events.

### THE APOSTLES HEAL MANY

<sup>12</sup> The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people, and with one accord the believers gathered together in Solomon's Colonnade. <sup>13</sup> Although the people regarded them highly, no one else dared to join them. <sup>14</sup> Yet more and more believers were brought to the Lord—large numbers of both men and women.

<sup>15</sup> As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. <sup>16</sup> Crowds also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were healed.

### THE APOSTLES ARRESTED AND FREED

<sup>17</sup> Then the high priest and all his associates, who belonged to the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They went out <sup>18</sup> and arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. <sup>19</sup> But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out, saying, <sup>20</sup> "Go, stand in the temple courts and tell the people the full message of this new life."

■ ACTS 5:3 [HEART] Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit. Peter asks why Satan filled his heart.

■ ACTS 5:3 [DEMONIC] Satan filled Ananias' heart to lie

■ ACTS 5:4 [HEART] Peter says Ananias planned this lie in his own heart. The money was never the problem.

■ ACTS 5:5 [MIRACLE] Ananias falls down and dies

■ ACTS 5:9 [MIRACLE] Sapphira falls down and dies

■ ACTS 5:15 [MIRACLE] Peter's shadow healed people in the streets

■ ACTS 5:16 [DEMONIC] Multitudes brought sick and demon-tormented to apostles; all healed

■ ACTS 5:19 [MIRACLE] Angels deliver apostles from prison (twice)

## MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

<sup>21</sup> At daybreak the apostles entered the temple courts as they had been told and began to teach the people.

When the high priest and his associates arrived, they convened the Sanhedrin—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles. <sup>22</sup> But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they returned with the report: <sup>23</sup> “We found the jail securely locked, with the guards posted at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside.”

## THE APOSTLES BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN

<sup>24</sup> When the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests heard this account, they were perplexed as to what was happening. <sup>25</sup> Then someone came in and announced, “Look, the men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people!”

<sup>26</sup> At that point, the captain went with the officers and brought the apostles—but not by force, for fear the people would stone them. <sup>27</sup> They brought them in and made them stand before the Sanhedrin, where the high priest interrogated them. <sup>28</sup> “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 responsible for this man’s blood.”

<sup>29</sup> But Peter and the other apostles replied, “We must obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup>

The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging Him on a tree. <sup>31</sup> God exalted Him to His right hand as Prince and Savior, in order to grant repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.

<sup>32</sup> We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

## GAMALIEL'S ADVICE

<sup>33</sup> When the Council members heard this, they were enraged, and they resolved to put the apostles to death. <sup>34</sup> 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 short time.

<sup>35</sup> “Men of Israel,” he said, “consider carefully what you are about to do to these men. <sup>36</sup> Some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men joined him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. <sup>37</sup> After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and drew away people after him. He too perished, and all his followers were scattered.

<sup>38</sup> So in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone. Let them go! For if their purpose or endeavor is of human origin, it will fail. <sup>39</sup> But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop them. You may even find yourselves fighting against God.”

<sup>40</sup> At this, they yielded to Gamaliel. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and released them.

<sup>41</sup> The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. <sup>42</sup> Every day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they did not stop teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

## 6

## CHAPTER 6 IN 30 SECONDS

*The church grows fast, and Greek speaking widows are being left out of the food line. The apostles pick seven men full of the Spirit to serve tables. One of them is Stephen, who does great wonders. Enemies bring liars against him, and when the council looks at him, his face looks like the face of an angel.*

## THE CHOOSING OF THE SEVEN // 1 TIMOTHY 3:8-13

<sup>1</sup> In those days when the disciples were increasing in number, the Grecian Jews among them began to grumble against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

■ ACTS 5:31 [FULFILLS] Mary would bear a Son named Jesus who would save His people from their sins ← MT 1:21 p.-

## MESSIANIC FORESHADOW OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

<sup>2</sup> So the Twelve summoned all the disciples and said, "It is unacceptable for us to neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup> Therefore, brothers, select from among you seven men confirmed to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will assign this responsibility to them <sup>4</sup> and will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

<sup>5</sup> This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, as well as Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. <sup>6</sup> They presented these seven to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup> So the word of God continued to spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem grew rapidly, and a great number of priests became obedient to the faith.

## THE ARREST OF STEPHEN

<sup>8</sup> Now Stephen, who was full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people. <sup>9</sup> But resistance arose from what was called the Synagogue of the Freedmen, including Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and men from the provinces of Cilicia and Asia. They disputed with Stephen, <sup>10</sup> but they could not stand up to his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke.

<sup>11</sup> Then they prompted some men to say, "We heard Stephen speak words of blasphemy against Moses and against God."

<sup>12</sup> So they stirred up the people, elders, and scribes and confronted Stephen. They seized him and brought him before the Sanhedrin, <sup>13</sup> where they presented false witnesses who said, "This man never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. <sup>14</sup> For we have heard him say that Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs that Moses handed down to us."

<sup>15</sup> All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

## 7

## CHAPTER 7 IN 30 SECONDS

*Stephen walks the council through Israel's history, from Abraham to Moses to Solomon, and shows how they always rejected the ones God sent. They grind their teeth. Stephen sees heaven open and Jesus standing at God's right hand. They stone him while a young man named Saul holds their coats. Stephen dies forgiving them.*

## STEPHEN'S ADDRESS: THE CALL OF ABRAHAM // GENESIS 12:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Then the high priest asked Stephen, "Are these charges true?"

<sup>2</sup> And Stephen declared: "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 Haran, <sup>3</sup> and told him, 'Leave your country and your kindred and go to the land I will show you.' <sup>4</sup> So Abraham left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. After his father died, God brought him out of that place and into this land where you are now living.

<sup>5</sup> He gave him no inheritance here, not even a foot of ground. But God promised to give possession of the land to Abraham and his descendants, even though he did not yet have a child.

<sup>6</sup> God told him that his descendants would be foreigners in a strange land, and that they would be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. <sup>7</sup> 'But I will punish the nation that enslaves them,' God said, 'and afterward they will come forth and worship Me in this place.'

<sup>8</sup> Then God gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision, and Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day. And Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs.

## JOSEPH SOLD INTO EGYPT // GENESIS 37:12-30

<sup>9</sup> Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God was with him <sup>10</sup> and rescued him from all his troubles. He granted Joseph favor and wisdom in the sight of

■ ACTS 7:3 [QUOTES] Direct ← GEN 12:1 p.-

■ ACTS 7:5 [QUOTES] Quotes ← GEN 17:8; 48:4 p.-

■ ACTS 7:6 [QUOTES] Direct ← GEN 15:13-14 p.-

■ ACTS 7:9 [FULFILLS] What Joseph's brothers meant for evil, God meant for good to save many lives ← GEN 50:20 - MEDIUM p.-

## OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

Pharaoh king of Egypt, who appointed him ruler over Egypt and all his household.

<sup>11</sup> Then famine and great suffering swept across Egypt and Canaan, and our fathers could not find food. <sup>12</sup> When Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent our fathers on their first visit. <sup>13</sup> On their second visit, Joseph revealed his identity to his brothers, and his family became known to Pharaoh. <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph sent for his father Jacob and all his relatives, seventy-five in all.

## ISRAEL OPPRESSED IN EGYPT // EXODUS 1:8-22

<sup>15</sup> So Jacob went down to Egypt, where he and our fathers died. <sup>16</sup> Their bones were carried back to Shechem and placed in the tomb that Abraham had bought from the sons of Hamor at Shechem for a price he paid in silver.

<sup>17</sup> As the time drew near for God to fulfill His promise to Abraham, our people in Egypt increased greatly in number. <sup>18</sup> Then another king, who knew nothing of Joseph, arose over Egypt. <sup>19</sup> He exploited our people and oppressed our fathers, forcing them to abandon their infants so they would die.

## THE BIRTH AND ADOPTION OF MOSES // EXODUS 2:1-10; HEBREWS 11:23-29

<sup>20</sup> At that time Moses was born, and he was beautiful in the sight of God. For three months he was nurtured in his father's house. <sup>21</sup> When he was set outside, Pharaoh's daughter took him and brought him up as her own son. <sup>22</sup> So Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.

## THE REJECTION AND FLIGHT OF MOSES // EXODUS 2:11-22

<sup>23</sup> When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his brothers, the children of Israel. <sup>24</sup> And when he saw one of them being mistreated, Moses went to his defense and avenged him by striking down the Egyptian who was oppressing him. <sup>25</sup> He assumed his brothers would understand that God was using him to deliver them, but they did not.

<sup>26</sup> The next day he came upon two Israelites who were fighting, and he tried to reconcile them, saying, 'Men, you are brothers. Why are you mistreating each other?'

<sup>27</sup> But the man who was abusing his neighbor pushed Moses aside and said, '*Who made you ruler and judge over us?*' <sup>28</sup> *Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?*' <sup>29</sup> At this remark, Moses fled to the land of Midian, where he lived as a foreigner and had two sons.

## THE CALL OF MOSES // EXODUS 3:1-22

<sup>30</sup> After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to Moses in the flames of a burning bush in the desert near Mount Sinai. <sup>31</sup> When Moses saw it, he marveled at the sight. As he approached to look more closely, the voice of the Lord came to him: <sup>32</sup> *'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.'* Moses trembled with fear and did not dare to look.

<sup>33</sup> Then the Lord said to him, '*Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.*' <sup>34</sup> *I have indeed seen the oppression of My people in Egypt. I have heard their groaning and have come down to deliver them. Now come, I will send you back to Egypt.'*

<sup>35</sup> This Moses, whom they had rejected with the words, '*Who made you ruler and judge?*' is the one whom God sent to be their ruler and redeemer through the angel who appeared to him in the bush. <sup>36</sup> He led them out and performed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, at the Red Sea, and for forty years in the wilderness.

<sup>37</sup> This is the same Moses who told the Israelites, '*God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers.*' <sup>38</sup> He was in the assembly in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers. And he received living words to pass on to us.

■ ACTS 7:27 [QUOTES] Direct ← EX 2:14 p.-

■ ACTS 7:32 [QUOTES] Direct ← EX 3:6 p.-

■ ACTS 7:33 [QUOTES] Direct ← EX 3:5, 7-8, 10 p.-

■ ACTS 7:35 [QUOTES] Direct ← EX 2:14 p.-

■ ACTS 7:37 [QUOTES] Direct ← DT 18:15 p.-

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE

THE HEART

MIRACLES

DEMONIC

OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

**THE REBELLION OF ISRAEL** // EXODUS 32:1-35;  
DEUTERONOMY 9:7-29; AMOS 5:16-27

<sup>39</sup> But our fathers refused to obey him. Instead, they rejected him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt. <sup>40</sup> They said to Aaron, 'Make us gods who will go before us! As for this Moses who led us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him.'

<sup>41</sup> At that time they made a calf and offered a sacrifice to the idol, rejoicing in the works of their hands. <sup>42</sup> But God turned away from them and gave them over to the worship of the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets:

*'Did you bring Me sacrifices and offerings forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?'*

<sup>43</sup> *You have taken along the tabernacle of Molech and the star of your god Rephan, the idols you made to worship. Therefore I will send you into exile beyond Babylon.'*

**THE TABERNACLE OF THE TESTIMONY** // EXODUS 40:1-33; HEBREWS 9:1-10

<sup>44</sup> Our fathers had the tabernacle of the Testimony with them in the wilderness. It was constructed exactly as God had directed Moses, according to the pattern he had seen. <sup>45</sup> And our fathers who received it brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations God drove out before them. It remained until the time of David, <sup>46</sup> who found favor in the sight of God and asked to provide a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. <sup>47</sup> But it was Solomon who built the house for Him.

<sup>48</sup> However, the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands. As the prophet says:

<sup>49</sup> *'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 place of repose be?*

<sup>50</sup> *Has not My hand made all these things?'*

<sup>51</sup> You stiff-necked people with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit, just as your fathers did. <sup>52</sup> Which of the prophets did your fathers fail to persecute? They even killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One. And now you are His betrayers and murderers— <sup>53</sup> you who received the law ordained by angels, yet have not kept it."

**THE STONING OF STEPHEN**

<sup>54</sup> On hearing this, the members of the Sanhedrin were enraged, and they gnashed their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup> But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked intently into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

<sup>57</sup> At this they covered their ears, cried out in a loud voice, and rushed together at him. <sup>58</sup> They dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile the witnesses laid their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.

<sup>59</sup> While they were stoning him, Stephen appealed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

<sup>60</sup> Falling on his knees, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

## 8

### CHAPTER 8 IN 30 SECONDS

*Saul goes house to house dragging believers to prison, and the church scatters. That just spreads the message. Philip preaches in Samaria, and a magician named Simon tries to buy the Holy Spirit. Then Philip meets an Ethiopian official reading Isaiah 53 in his chariot, explains it is about Jesus, and baptizes him by the road.*

■ ACTS 7:39 [DEMONIC] Israel worships the golden calf and carries Molech and Rephan

■ ACTS 7:40 [QUOTES] Direct ← EX 32:1, 23 p.~

■ ACTS 7:42 [FULFILLS] Israel would be sent into exile beyond Damascus ← AMOS 5:27 p.~

■ ACTS 7:42 [QUOTES] Direct ← AMOS 5:25-27 p.~

■ ACTS 7:45 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← JOSH 18:1 p.~

■ ACTS 7:47 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← 1KI 6:14; 2CH 3:1 p.~

■ ACTS 7:49 [QUOTES] Direct ← IS 66:1-2 p.~

■ ACTS 7:54 [HEART] The council was cut to the heart but chose rage instead of repentance.

■ ACTS 7:55 [MIRACLE] Stephen sees heaven open and Jesus standing at God's right hand

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE THE HEART DEMONIC

### SAUL PERSECUTES THE CHURCH

<sup>1</sup>And Saul was there, giving approval to Stephen's death.

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. <sup>2</sup>God-fearing men buried Stephen and mourned deeply over him. <sup>3</sup>But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.

### PHILIP IN SAMARIA

<sup>4</sup>Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. <sup>5</sup>Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ to them. <sup>6</sup>The crowds all paid close attention to Philip's message and to the signs they saw him perform. <sup>7</sup>With loud shrieks, unclean spirits came out of many who were possessed, and many of the paralyzed and lame were healed. <sup>8</sup>So there was great joy in that city.

### SIMON THE SORCERER // DEUTERONOMY 18:9-14

<sup>9</sup>Prior to that time, a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and astounded the people of Samaria. He claimed to be someone great, <sup>10</sup>and all the people, from the least to the greatest, heeded his words and said, "This man is the divine power called the Great Power." <sup>11</sup>They paid close attention to him because he had astounded them for a long time with his sorcery.

<sup>12</sup>But when they believed Philip as he preached the gospel of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. <sup>13</sup>Even Simon himself believed and was baptized. He followed Philip closely and was astounded by the great signs and miracles he observed.

<sup>14</sup>When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup>

- ACTS 8:5 [FULFILLS] The witnesses would carry the gospel to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth ← ACTS 1:8 D.-
- ACTS 8:7 [DEMONIC] Philip in Samaria: unclean spirits crying with loud voice came out of many
- ACTS 8:9 [DEMONIC] Simon amazes Samaria with sorcery

On their arrival, they prayed for them to receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>16</sup>For the Holy Spirit had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>17</sup>Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

<sup>18</sup>When Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money. <sup>19</sup>"Give me this power as well," he said, "so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

<sup>20</sup>But Peter replied, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! <sup>21</sup>You have no part or share in our ministry, because your heart is not right before God. <sup>22</sup>Repent, therefore, of your wickedness, and pray to the Lord. Perhaps He will forgive you for the intent of your heart. <sup>23</sup>For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and captive to iniquity."

<sup>24</sup>Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord for me, so that nothing you have said may happen to me."

<sup>25</sup>And after Peter and John had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many of the Samaritan villages.

### DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

## BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

*At Salvation or After?*

ACTS 1:5 · 2:4 · 8:14 TO 17 · 10:44 TO 46 · 19:1 TO 6 · 1 CORINTHIANS 12:13

### WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

John the Baptist said Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire, Luke 3:16. Jesus said, in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit, 1:5. Paul says we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, 1 Corinthians 12:13.

### THE PATTERN IN ACTS

At Pentecost, followers of Jesus were

- ACTS 8:16 [NOTE] THE SPIRIT CAME LATER. See Baptized in the Holy Spirit.
- ACTS 8:18 [DEMONIC] Simon tries to buy the power of the Spirit
- ACTS 8:21 [HEART] Simon wanted to buy God's power. Peter says his heart is not right before God.
- ACTS 8:22 [HEART] Peter tells Simon to repent and pray that the intent of his heart be forgiven.

## MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

## PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE

## MIRACLES

## OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

filled and spoke in tongues, 2:4. The Samaritans believed and were baptized, but received the Spirit later, when Peter and John came and laid hands on them, 8:14 to 17. Cornelius' household received the Spirit and spoke in tongues while Peter was still preaching, before baptism, 10:44 to 46. Twelve disciples in Ephesus received the Spirit after Paul laid hands on them, and spoke in tongues and prophesied, 19:1 to 6. Sometimes at the moment of faith, sometimes after.

#### WHERE THE SECOND BLESSING IDEA CAME FROM

John Wesley taught a second work of grace after salvation. The Holiness movement of the 1800s began calling it the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Preachers like D. L. Moody and R. A. Torrey taught a baptism of power for service. In 1901 Charles Parham tied it to speaking in tongues, and the Pentecostal movement was born. The full story is in the Romans tongues pages, p. 7.

#### WHY IT MATTERS

If the baptism in the Spirit is a second experience, every believer should seek it. If it happens at salvation, every believer already has it and should be filled again and again, Ephesians 5:18.

### *The Baptism in the Holy Spirit*

ACTS 1:8 · 4:31 · 8:17 · ROMANS 8:9 · EPHESIANS 5:18 · GALATIANS 5:22 TO 23

#### CLASSICAL PENTECOSTAL

A second experience after salvation that gives power to be witnesses, 1:8. Speaking in tongues is its first outward sign, 2:4, 10:46 and 19:6. The Assemblies of God, the Church of God and others teach that every believer should seek it.

#### CHARISMATIC AND THIRD WAVE

Believers can be filled with the Spirit in powerful ways, often more than once, as in 4:31. Tongues is a real gift, but one gift among many, and not everyone speaks in tongues, 1 Corinthians 12:30.

#### AT SALVATION

Every believer is baptized in the Spirit the moment they are saved. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him, Romans 8:9. Later

experiences are fillings, not a second baptism. The delays in Acts happened once, as the gospel moved from Jews to Samaritans to Gentiles, so the apostles could see that each group was really included. Baptists, Reformed churches and many evangelicals hold this view. James Dunn argued it in his 1970 book *Baptism in the Holy Spirit*.

#### CATHOLIC AND ORTHODOX

The Spirit is given in baptism and sealed in confirmation, called chrismation in the East, when the bishop or priest anoints and prays, like 8:17. The Catholic Charismatic Renewal, begun in 1967, speaks of baptism in the Spirit as stirring up the grace already given.

#### WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

No one can belong to Christ without the Spirit, Romans 8:9. Every believer is told to be filled with the Spirit, Ephesians 5:18. The proof of the Spirit is love, joy, peace and the rest of His fruit, Galatians 5:22 to 23.

#### PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN // ISAIAH 53:1-8

**26** Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go south to the desert road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."

**27** So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official in charge of the entire treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup> and on his return was sitting in his chariot reading Isaiah the prophet.

**29** The Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to that chariot and stay by it."

**30** So Philip ran up and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

**31** "How can I," he said, "unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

**32** The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture:

*"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,*

■ ACTS 8:26 [MIRACLE] An angel sends Philip to the desert road

■ ACTS 8:27 [FULFILLS] Cush would bring gifts to Yahweh on Mount Zion ← IS 53:7 · MEDIUM p. 7

## MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

## PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE

## MIRACLES

## OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

## JESUS SPEAKING

*and as a lamb before the shearer is silent,  
so He did not open His mouth.*

<sup>33</sup> *In His humiliation He was deprived of justice.*

*Who can recount His descendants?*

*For His life was removed from the earth."*

<sup>34</sup> "Tell me," said the eunuch, "who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?"

<sup>35</sup> Then Philip began with this very Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

<sup>36</sup> As they traveled along the road and came to some water, the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is there to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>37</sup> [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may be baptized." The eunuch replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."] <sup>38</sup> And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

<sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, but went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> But Philip appeared at Azotus and traveled through that region, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

## 9

## CHAPTER 9 IN 30 SECONDS

*On the road to Damascus a light from heaven knocks Saul to the ground, and Jesus asks, Why do you persecute Me? Saul is blind for three days until a nervous believer named Ananias prays for him. Saul starts preaching Jesus and has to escape over the city wall in a basket. Peter heals Aeneas and raises Tabitha from the dead.*

## THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS // ACTS 22:1-21; ACTS 26:1-23

<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the disciples of

the Lord. He approached the high priest <sup>2</sup> and requested letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any men or women belonging to the Way, he could bring them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> As Saul drew near to Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?"

<sup>5</sup> "Who are You, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," He replied. <sup>6</sup> "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

<sup>7</sup> The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless. They heard the voice but did not see anyone. <sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could not see a thing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> For three days he was without sight, and he did not eat or drink anything.

## ANANIAS BAPTIZES SAUL

<sup>10</sup> In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Here I am, Lord," he answered.

<sup>11</sup> "Get up!" 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. <sup>12</sup> In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

<sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, "Lord, many people have told me about this man and all the harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And now he is here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on Your name."

<sup>15</sup> "Go!" said the Lord. "This man is My chosen instrument to carry My name before the Gentiles and their kings, and be-

■ ACTS 8:32 [FULFILLS] Led as a lamb to the slaughter ← IS 53:7c p.-

■ ACTS 8:32 [QUOTES] Direct ← IS 53:7-8 p.-

■ ACTS 8:37 [TEXT] Verse 37 is in brackets because the oldest manuscripts of Acts do not have it. Later copies and the KJV do. It may be an early baptism question and answer that a copyist wrote into the story.

■ ACTS 8:39 [MIRACLE] The Spirit carries Philip away to Azotus

■ ACTS 9:1 [MIRACLE] Saul's Damascus road encounter with the risen Christ

■ ACTS 9:5 [TEXT] Some later manuscripts and the KJV add It is hard for you to kick against the goads here, and more words in verse 6. The oldest copies do not. Jesus does say these words in Acts 26:14.

■ ACTS 9:10 [MIRACLE] The Lord tells Ananias in a vision to go to Saul

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE   MIRACLES   JESUS SPEAKING

fore the people of Israel. <sup>16</sup> I will show him how much he must suffer for My name."

<sup>17</sup> So Ananias went to the house, and when he arrived, he placed his hands on Saul. "Brother Saul," he said, "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."

<sup>18</sup> At that instant, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and his sight was restored. He got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength. And he spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.

#### SAUL PREACHES AT DAMASCUS

<sup>20</sup> Saul promptly began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, declaring, "He is the Son of God."

<sup>21</sup> All who heard him were astounded and asked, "Isn't this the man who wreaked havoc in Jerusalem on those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?"

<sup>22</sup> But Saul was empowered all the more, and he confounded the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

#### THE ESCAPE FROM DAMASCUS

<sup>23</sup> After many days had passed, the Jews conspired to kill him, <sup>24</sup> but Saul learned of their plot. Day and night they watched the city gates in order to kill him. <sup>25</sup> One night, however, his disciples took him and lowered him in a basket through a window in the wall.

#### SAUL IN JERUSALEM

<sup>26</sup> When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. <sup>27</sup> Then Barnabas brought him to the apostles and described how Saul had seen the Lord, who had spoken to him on

the road to Damascus, and how Saul had spoken boldly in that city in the name of Jesus.

<sup>28</sup> So Saul stayed with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem and speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. <sup>29</sup> He talked and debated with the Grecian Jews, but they tried to kill him. <sup>30</sup> When the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

#### THE HEALING OF AENEAS

<sup>31</sup> Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria experienced a time of peace. It grew in strength and numbers, living in the fear of the Lord and the encouragement of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>32</sup> As Peter traveled throughout the area, he went to visit the saints in Lydda. <sup>33</sup> There he found a man named Aeneas who had been paralyzed and bedridden for eight years. <sup>34</sup> "Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you! Get up and put away your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up, <sup>35</sup> and all who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

#### THE RAISING OF TABITHA // JOHN 11:38–44

<sup>36</sup> In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which is translated as Dorcas), who was always occupied with works of kindness and charity. <sup>37</sup> At that time, however, she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upper room. <sup>38</sup> Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to urge him, "Come to us without delay."

<sup>39</sup> So Peter got up and went with them. On his arrival, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood around him, weeping and showing him the tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

<sup>40</sup> Then Peter sent them all out of the room. He knelt down and prayed, and turning toward her body, he said, "Tabitha, get up!" She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup> Peter took

■ ACTS 9:15 [PROPHECY] He is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake (to Ananias about Paul) → Fulfilled throughout Acts p. 11

■ ACTS 9:17 [MIRACLE] Something like scales falls from Saul's eyes

■ ACTS 9:32 [MIRACLE] Peter heals Aeneas, paralyzed 8 years

■ ACTS 9:36 [MIRACLE] Peter raises Tabitha (Dorcas) from death

## MIRACLES JESUS SPEAKING

her by the hand and helped her up. Then he called the saints and widows and presented her to them alive.

<sup>42</sup> This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup> And Peter stayed for several days in Joppa with a tanner named Simon.

## 10

## CHAPTER 10 IN 30 SECONDS

*Cornelius, a Roman officer, sees an angel who tells him to send for Peter. Meanwhile Peter, hungry on a rooftop, sees a sheet full of animals he was never allowed to eat. A voice says, Get up, Peter, kill and eat. Peter goes to Cornelius' house, and the Holy Spirit falls on Gentiles while Peter is still talking.*

## CORNELIUS SENDS FOR PETER

<sup>1</sup> At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was called the Italian Regiment. <sup>2</sup> He and all his household were devout and God-fearing. He gave generously to the people and prayed to God regularly. <sup>3</sup> One day at about the ninth hour, he had a clear vision of an angel of God who came to him and said, "Cornelius!"

<sup>4</sup> Cornelius stared at him in fear and asked, "What is it, Lord?" The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have ascended as a memorial offering before God. <sup>5</sup> Now send men to Joppa to call for a man named Simon who is called Peter. <sup>6</sup> He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea."

<sup>7</sup> When the angel who spoke to him had gone, Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among his attendants. <sup>8</sup> He explained what had happened and sent them to Joppa.

**PETER'S VISION** // LEVITICUS 11:1-47; DEUTERONOMY 14:1-21

<sup>9</sup> The next day at about the sixth hour, as the men were approaching the city on their journey, Peter went up on the roof to pray. <sup>10</sup> He became hungry and wanted

something to eat, but while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance.

<sup>11</sup> He saw heaven open and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. <sup>12</sup> It contained all kinds of four-footed animals and reptiles of the earth, as well as birds of the air. <sup>13</sup> Then a voice said to him: "Get up, Peter, kill and eat!"

<sup>14</sup> "No, Lord!" Peter answered. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."

<sup>15</sup> The voice spoke to him a second time: "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."

<sup>16</sup> This happened three times, and all at once the sheet was taken back up into heaven.

## PETER CALLED TO CAESAREA

<sup>17</sup> While Peter was puzzling over the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found Simon's house and approached the gate. <sup>18</sup> They called out to ask if Simon called Peter was staying there.

<sup>19</sup> As Peter continued to reflect on the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. <sup>20</sup> So get up! Go downstairs and accompany them without hesitation, because I have sent them."

<sup>21</sup> So Peter went down to the men and said, "Here am I, the one you are looking for. Why have you come?"

<sup>22</sup> "Cornelius the centurion has sent us," they said. "He is a righteous and God-fearing man with a good reputation among the whole Jewish nation. A holy angel instructed him to request your presence in his home so he could hear a message from you."

<sup>23</sup> So Peter invited them in as his guests. And the next day he got ready and went with them, accompanied by some of the brothers from Joppa.

## PETER VISITS CORNELIUS

<sup>24</sup> The following day he arrived in Caesarea, where Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. <sup>25</sup> As Peter was about to

■ ACTS 10:3 [MIRACLE] Angel visits Cornelius directing him to send for Peter

■ ACTS 10:9 [MIRACLE] Peter's vision of the sheet of animals

■ ACTS 10:14 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← LEV 11:47 p.-

## MESSIANIC PROPHECIES | MIRACLES

enter, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet to worship him. <sup>26</sup> But Peter helped him up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself."

<sup>27</sup> As Peter talked with him, he went inside and found many people gathered together. <sup>28</sup> He said to them, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with a foreigner or visit him. But God has shown me that I should not call any man impure or unclean. <sup>29</sup> So when I was invited, I came without objection. I ask, then, why have you sent for me?"

<sup>30</sup> Cornelius answered: "Four days ago I was in my house praying at this, the ninth hour. Suddenly a man in radiant clothing stood before me <sup>31</sup> and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your gifts to the poor have been remembered before God. <sup>32</sup> Therefore send to Joppa for Simon, who is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, by the sea.'

<sup>33</sup> So I sent for you immediately, and you were kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has instructed you to tell us."

## GOOD NEWS FOR THE GENTILES

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak: "I now truly understand that God does not show favoritism, <sup>35</sup> but welcomes those from every nation who fear Him and do what is right. <sup>36</sup> He has sent this message to the people of Israel, proclaiming the gospel of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

<sup>37</sup> You yourselves know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee with the baptism that John proclaimed: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, because God was with Him.

- **ACTS 10:38 [DEMONIC]** Jesus healed all who were oppressed by the devil
- **ACTS 10:38 [NOTABLE]** Peter's explicit statement that Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit — the pattern for Spirit-empowered ministry
- **ACTS 10:38 [FULFILLS]** Anointed by the Spirit ← IS 11:2 p.-

<sup>39</sup> We are witnesses of all that He did, both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. And although they put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> God raised Him up on the third day and caused Him to be seen— <sup>41</sup> not by all the people, but by the witnesses God had chosen beforehand, by us who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> And He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the One appointed by God to judge the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about Him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name."

## THE GENTILES RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT // ACTS 19:1-7

<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard his message. <sup>45</sup> All the circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. <sup>46</sup> For they heard them speaking in tongues and exalting God.

Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup> "Can anyone withhold the water to baptize these people? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have!" <sup>48</sup> So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay for a few days.

## 11

## CHAPTER 11 IN 30 SECONDS

*Back in Jerusalem some believers are upset that Peter ate with Gentiles. He tells them the whole story, and they praise God. In Antioch, Jews and Greeks believe together, and the disciples are called Christians there for the first time. A prophet named Agabus warns of a famine, so the church sends help to Judea.*

## PETER'S REPORT AT JERUSALEM

<sup>1</sup> The apostles and brothers throughout Judea soon heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. <sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circum-

- **ACTS 10:43 [FULFILLS]** Caiaphas prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation and gather God's scattered children ← JN 11:50-52 p.-
- **ACTS 10:44 [MIRACLE]** The Spirit falls on Cornelius' household and they speak in tongues
- **ACTS 10:44 [FULFILLS]** The child would be a light of revelation to the Gentiles ← LK 2:30-32 p.-

## MESSIANIC PROPHECIES PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE JESUS SPEAKING

cised believers took issue with him <sup>3</sup> and said, "You visited uncircumcised men and ate with them."

<sup>4</sup> But Peter began and explained to them the whole sequence of events: <sup>5</sup> "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision of something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came right down to me. <sup>6</sup> I looked at it closely and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup> Then I heard a voice saying to me, '**Get up, Peter, kill and eat.**'

<sup>8</sup> 'No, Lord,' I said, 'for nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'

<sup>9</sup> But the voice spoke from heaven a second time, '**Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.**'

<sup>10</sup> This happened three times, and everything was drawn back up into heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Just then three men sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. <sup>12</sup> The Spirit told me to accompany them without hesitation. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's home. <sup>13</sup> He told us how he had seen an angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. <sup>14</sup> He will convey to you a message by which you and all your household will be saved.'

<sup>15</sup> As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, just as He had fallen upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, '**John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.**' <sup>17</sup> So if God gave them the same gift He gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to hinder the work of God?"

<sup>18</sup> When they heard this, they had no further objections, and they glorified God, saying, "So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life."

## THE CHURCH AT ANTIOCH

<sup>19</sup> Meanwhile those scattered by the persecution that began with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the message only to Jews. <sup>20</sup> But some of them, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks as well, proclaiming the good news about the Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup> The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

<sup>22</sup> When news of this reached the ears of the church in Jerusalem, they sent Barnabas to Antioch. <sup>23</sup> When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced and encouraged them all to abide in the Lord with all their hearts. <sup>24</sup> Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

<sup>25</sup> Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, <sup>26</sup> and when he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. So for a full year they met together with the church and taught large numbers of people. The disciples were first called Christians at Antioch.

<sup>27</sup> In those days some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. <sup>28</sup> One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted through the Spirit that a great famine would sweep across the whole world. (This happened under Claudius.) <sup>29</sup> So the disciples, each according to his ability, decided to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. <sup>30</sup> This they did, sending their gifts to the elders with Barnabas and Saul.

ACTS 11:16 [FULFILLS] The One coming after John would baptize with the Holy Spirit ← MT 3:11; MK 1:8; LK 3:16; JN 1:33 p.-

ACTS 11:28 [PROPHECY] Agabus stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar → Fulfilled p.-

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE MIRACLES

## 12

## CHAPTER 12 IN 30 SECONDS

*King Herod kills James and throws Peter in prison. The night before his trial, an angel wakes Peter, his chains fall off, and he walks out. He knocks at a house where people are praying for him. A servant girl named Rhoda is so excited she forgets to open the door. Later Herod accepts worship as a god, and an angel strikes him down.*

## JAMES KILLED, PETER IMPRISONED

<sup>1</sup>About that time, King Herod reached out to harm some who belonged to the church. <sup>2</sup>He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword.

<sup>3</sup>And seeing that this pleased the Jews, Herod proceeded to seize Peter during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. <sup>4</sup>He arrested him and put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out to the people after the Passover.

## THE RESCUE OF PETER

<sup>5</sup>So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was fervently praying to God for him.

<sup>6</sup>On the night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, with sentries standing guard at the entrance to the prison. <sup>7</sup>Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him up, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his wrists. <sup>8</sup>"Get dressed and put on your sandals," said the angel. Peter did so, and the angel told him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me."

<sup>9</sup>So Peter followed him out, but he was unaware that what the angel was doing was real. He thought he was only seeing a vision. <sup>10</sup>They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city, which opened for them by itself. When they had gone outside and

walked the length of one block, the angel suddenly left him.

<sup>11</sup>Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent His angel and rescued me from Herod's grasp and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating."

<sup>12</sup>And when he had realized this, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered together and were praying. <sup>13</sup>He knocked at the outer gate, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer it. <sup>14</sup>When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that she forgot to open the gate, but ran inside and announced, "Peter is standing at the gate!"

<sup>15</sup>"You are out of your mind," they told her. But when she kept insisting it was so, they said, "It must be his angel."

<sup>16</sup>But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astounded. <sup>17</sup>Peter motioned with his hand for silence, and he described how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. "Send word to James and to the brothers," he said, and he left for another place.

<sup>18</sup>At daybreak there was no small commotion among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter. <sup>19</sup>After Herod had searched for him unsuccessfully, he examined the guards and ordered that they be executed. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and spent some time there.

## THE DEATH OF HEROD

<sup>20</sup>Now Herod was in a furious dispute with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and they convened before him. Having secured the support of Blastus, the king's chamberlain, they asked for peace, because their region depended on the king's country for food. <sup>21</sup>On the appointed day, Herod donned his royal robes, sat on his throne, and addressed the people. <sup>22</sup>And they be-

■ ACTS 12:2 [FULFILLS] James and John would drink the cup of suffering Jesus would drink ← MT 20:23; MK 10:39 p.-

■ ACTS 12:7 [MIRACLE] Angels deliver apostles from prison (twice)

■ ACTS 12:21 [MIRACLE] Herod struck by angel for accepting worship; eaten by worms

■ ACTS 12:21 [DEMONIC] Herod accepts praise as a god and is struck down

## MIRACLES

gan to shout, "This is the voice of a god, not a man!"

<sup>23</sup> Immediately, because Herod did not give glory to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

<sup>24</sup> But the word of God continued to spread and multiply.

<sup>25</sup> When Barnabas and Saul had fulfilled their mission to Jerusalem, they returned, bringing with them John, also called Mark.

## 13

## CHAPTER 13 IN 30 SECONDS

*The church in Antioch sends Barnabas and Saul on the first missionary trip. On Cyprus a sorcerer fights them and is struck blind, and the governor Sergius Paulus believes. From here on Saul goes by Paul. In another Antioch he preaches in the synagogue, many Gentiles believe, and the jealous leaders run them out of town.*

**PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY BEGINS //**  
ACTS 15:36-41; ACTS 18:23-28

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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." <sup>3</sup> And after they had fasted and prayed, they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH

## HEROD AGRIPPA'S DEATH: A SECOND WITNESS

ACTS 12:19 TO 23



A small bronze coin of King Herod Agrippa I, minted in Jerusalem. The design is a royal canopy, a kind of umbrella.

**WHAT IT IS**

Josephus, a Jewish historian who was not a Christian, tells the same story of King Herod Agrippa I's death that Luke tells in Acts 12. Coins Agrippa made with his own name have also been found.

**HOW OLD IT IS**

Josephus wrote it in his *Antiquities of the Jews*, Book 19, about AD 93. Agrippa died in AD 44. Coins like this one were made about AD 41 to 42, in his sixth year as king.

**WHAT JOSEPHUS SAYS**

At a festival in Caesarea, Agrippa came into the theater at sunrise wearing a robe made all of silver. It shined so brightly that flatterers called him a god. He did not stop them. Right away terrible pains struck his stomach. He was carried out and died five days later, at age 54.

**WHAT IT CONFIRMS**

Both writers agree on the city, the royal robe, the crowd calling him a god, his silence, and a sudden attack inside his body. Luke says an angel struck him because he did not give God the glory. Josephus says Agrippa himself admit-

■ ACTS 12:21 [FIELD NOTES] The Jewish historian Josephus tells this same death. See the Herod Agrippa's Death Field Notes page.

## ARCHAEOLOGY DEMONIC

ted he was being punished for accepting the flattery.

## THE HONEST SIDE

The two do not match in every detail. Josephus adds an owl he saw as a sign of death, and Luke says he was eaten by worms. Luke tells why it happened. Josephus tells what people saw. Two writers telling the same event in their own words is what real history looks like.

## WHERE IT IS TODAY

Copies of Josephus are in libraries all over the world. Agrippa's coins are in many museums, including the National Library of France, which owns this one.

## ON CYPRUS

<sup>4</sup> So Barnabas and Saul, sent forth by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. <sup>5</sup> When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. And John was with them as their helper.

<sup>6</sup> They traveled through the whole island as far as Paphos, where they found a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, <sup>7</sup> an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, a man of intelligence, summoned Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God. <sup>8</sup> But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith.

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: MEDIUM

SERGIUS PAULUS,  
GOVERNOR OF CYPRUS

ACTS 13:4 TO 12



Roman ruins in the archaeological park of Paphos, Cyprus, the city where Paul met the governor.

## WHAT IT IS

Stone inscriptions that name men of the Sergius Paullus family, the same family name as the governor Paul met on Cyprus. Luke calls him the proconsul, the right title for a governor of a Roman province run by the Senate, which Cyprus was.

## HOW OLD IT IS

The inscriptions come from the first century AD. The one in Rome is from the time of Emperor Claudius, AD 41 to 54, the same years Paul visited Cyprus, about AD 46 to 48.

## WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

In Rome a stone found in 1887 lists a Lucius Sergius Paullus as one of the men in charge of the banks of the Tiber River. At Pisidian Antioch in Turkey, stones found in 1912 name a younger Lucius Sergius Paullus and a woman named Sergia Paulla. A stone from Cyprus mentions a proconsul named Paulus.

## WHERE IT IS TODAY

The Rome stone is in Rome. The Pisidian Antioch stones are in the museum at Yalvaç, Turkey.

## WHAT IT CONFIRMS

The Sergius Paullus family was real and powerful in Paul's day. It also owned land near Pisidian Antioch. Acts 13:14 says that right after the governor believed, Paul went straight to Pisidian An-

■ ACTS 13:6 [DEMONIC] Elymas Bar-Jesus, a Jewish sorcerer-prophet — struck blind by Paul

■ ACTS 13:7 [ARCHAEOLOGY] Inscriptions from Rome and Cyprus name members of the Sergius Paullus family → FIELD NOTES p.25

■ ACTS 13:7 [FIELD NOTES] Stones naming this family have been found. See the Sergius Paulus Field Notes page.

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES   MIRACLES   DEMONIC   OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

tioch. Some scholars think the governor sent Paul to his family's hometown.

#### WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

No stone clearly says Sergius Paulus was proconsul of Cyprus in the right years. The Cyprus stone's date is debated. The man in Rome may be the governor himself or a relative.

<sup>9</sup> Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked directly at Elymas <sup>10</sup> and said, "O child of the devil and enemy of all righteousness, you are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery! Will you never stop perverting the straight ways of the Lord? <sup>11</sup> Now look, the hand of the Lord is against you, and for a time you will be blind and unable 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.

<sup>12</sup> When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was astonished at the teaching about the Lord.

#### IN PISIDIAN ANTIOCH

<sup>13</sup> After setting sail from Paphos, Paul and his companions came to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And from Perga, they traveled inland to Pisidian Antioch, where they entered the synagogue on the Sabbath and sat down. <sup>15</sup> After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the synagogue leaders sent word to them: "Brothers, if you have a word of encouragement for the people, please speak."

<sup>16</sup> Paul stood up, motioned with his hand, and began to speak: "Men of Israel and you Gentiles who fear God, listen to me! <sup>17</sup> The God of the people of Israel chose our fathers. He made them into a great people during their stay in Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He led them out of that land. <sup>18</sup> He endured their conduct for about forty years in the wilderness. <sup>19</sup> And having vanquished seven nations in Canaan, He gave their land to His people as an inheritance.

<sup>20</sup> All this took about 450 years.

After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. <sup>21</sup> Then the people asked for a king, and God gave them Saul son of Kish, from the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. <sup>22</sup> After removing Saul, He raised up David as their king and testified about him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after My own heart; he will carry out My will in its entirety.'

<sup>23</sup> From the descendants of this man, God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as He promised. <sup>24</sup> Before the arrival of Jesus, John preached a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. <sup>25</sup> As John was completing his course, he said, 'Who do you suppose I am? I am not that One. But there is One coming after me whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.'

<sup>26</sup> Brothers, children of Abraham, and you Gentiles who fear God, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent. <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> And though they found no ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have Him executed.

<sup>29</sup> When they had carried out all that was written about Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb. <sup>30</sup> But God raised Him from the dead, <sup>31</sup> and for many days He was seen by those who had accompanied Him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now His witnesses to our people.

<sup>32</sup> And now we proclaim to you the good news: What God promised our fathers <sup>33</sup> 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 13:20 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← JUDG 2:16 p.-  
■ ACTS 13:22 [FULFILLS] Saul's kingdom would not last and God would choose a man after His own heart and 2 more ← 1SA 13:14; JER 30:9; LK 1:68-71 p.-

■ ACTS 13:22 [HEART] God called David a man after His own heart who would do all His will.

■ ACTS 13:23 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← 2SA 7:12 p.-

■ ACTS 13:29 [FULFILLS] The crucifixion and resurrection foreshadowed ← PS 2:7-8 p.-

■ ACTS 13:33 [QUOTES] Direct ← PS 2:7 p.-

■ ACTS 13:11 [MIRACLE] Elymas struck blind by Paul

## MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

## PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE

## OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

<sup>34</sup> In fact, God raised Him from the dead, never to see decay. As He has said:

*'I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.'*

<sup>35</sup> So also, He says in another Psalm:

*'You will not let Your Holy One see decay.'*

<sup>36</sup> For when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep. His body was buried with his fathers and saw decay. <sup>37</sup> But the One whom God raised from the dead did not see decay.

<sup>38</sup> Therefore let it be known to you, brothers, that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. <sup>39</sup> Through Him everyone who believes is justified from everything from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. <sup>40</sup> Watch out, then, that what was spoken by the prophets does not happen to you:

<sup>41</sup> *'Look, you scoffers, wonder and perish!*

*For I am doing a work in your days that you would never believe, even if someone told you.'*

**A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES // ISAIAH 49:1-6**

<sup>42</sup> As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people urged them to continue this message on the next Sabbath. <sup>43</sup> After the synagogue was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who spoke to them and urged them to continue in the grace of God.

<sup>44</sup> On the following Sabbath, nearly the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. <sup>45</sup> But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy, and they blasphemously contradicted what Paul was saying.

<sup>46</sup> Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "It was necessary to speak the word of God to you first. But since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the

Gentiles. <sup>47</sup> For this is what the Lord has commanded us:

*'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, to bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'*

<sup>48</sup> When the Gentiles heard this, they rejoiced and glorified the word of the Lord, and all who were appointed for eternal life believed. <sup>49</sup> And the word of the Lord spread throughout that region.

<sup>50</sup> The Jews, however, incited the religious women of prominence and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas and drove them out of their district. <sup>51</sup> So they shook the dust off their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. <sup>52</sup> And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

## 14

### CHAPTER 14 IN 30 SECONDS

*In Lystra Paul heals a man who has never walked, and the crowd decides Paul and Barnabas are the gods Zeus and Hermes. They try to offer sacrifices. Paul and Barnabas tear their clothes and shout, We are only men. A few days later the same crowd stones Paul and leaves him for dead. He gets up and goes back into the city.*

### PAUL AND BARNABAS AT ICONIUM

<sup>1</sup> At Iconium, Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue, where they spoke so well that a great number of Jews and Greeks believed. <sup>2</sup> But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers.

<sup>3</sup> So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who affirmed the message of His grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders.

<sup>4</sup> The people of the city were divided. Some sided with the Jews, and others with the apostles. <sup>5</sup> But when the Gentiles

■ ACTS 13:34 [FULFILLS] Raised from the dead by God ← IS 55:3 p.-

■ ACTS 13:35 [FULFILLS] His body would not see corruption (decay) in the tomb ← PS 16:10 p.-

■ ACTS 13:41 [QUOTES] Direct ← HAB 1:5 p.-

■ ACTS 13:46 [FULFILLS] God would be found by people who did not seek Him while Israel stayed stubborn ← IS 65:1-2 p.-

■ ACTS 13:46 [FULFILLS] The witnesses would carry the gospel to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth ← ACTS 1:8 p.-

■ ACTS 13:47 [FULFILLS] He is the Light of the Gentiles ← IS 49:6 p.-

■ ACTS 13:47 [FULFILLS] The child would be a light of revelation to the Gentiles ← LK 2:30-32 p.-

## MIRACLES DEMONIC

and Jews, together with their rulers, set out to mistreat and stone them, <sup>6</sup>they found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding region, <sup>7</sup>where they continued to preach the gospel.

## THE VISIT TO LYSTRA AND DERBE

<sup>8</sup>In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. <sup>9</sup>This man was listening to the words of Paul, who looked intently at him and saw that he had faith to be healed. <sup>10</sup>In a loud voice Paul called out, "Stand up on your feet!" And the man jumped up and began to walk.

<sup>11</sup>When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices in the Lycaonian language: "The gods have come down to us in human form!" <sup>12</sup>Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. <sup>13</sup>The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates, hoping to offer a sacrifice along with the crowds.

<sup>14</sup>But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul found out about this, they tore their clothes and rushed into the crowd, shouting, <sup>15</sup>"Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. <sup>16</sup>In past generations, He let all nations go their own way. <sup>17</sup>Yet He has not left Himself without testimony to His goodness: He gives you rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts with food and gladness."

<sup>18</sup>Even with these words, Paul and Barnabas could hardly stop the crowds from sacrificing to them.

<sup>19</sup>Then some Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium and won over the crowds. They stoned Paul and dragged him out-

■ ACTS 14:8 [MIRACLE] Lame man at Lystra healed by Paul

■ ACTS 14:11 [DEMONIC] The crowd calls Paul and Barnabas Zeus and Hermes

■ ACTS 14:15 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← EX 20:11; PS 146:6 p.-

side the city, presuming he was dead. <sup>20</sup>But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. And the next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe.

## STRENGTHENING THE DISCIPLES

<sup>21</sup>They preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, <sup>22</sup>strengthening the souls of the disciples and encouraging them to continue in the faith. "We must endure many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.

<sup>23</sup>Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church, praying and fasting as they entrusted them to the Lord, in whom they had believed.

<sup>24</sup>After passing through Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia. <sup>25</sup>And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.

<sup>26</sup>From Attalia they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work they had just completed. <sup>27</sup>When they arrived, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them, and how He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. <sup>28</sup>And they spent a long time there with the disciples.

## 15

## CHAPTER 15 IN 30 SECONDS

*Some teachers say Gentiles must be circumcised and keep the law of Moses to be saved. The apostles and elders meet in Jerusalem. Peter says we are all saved by grace, and James agrees. They send a letter: no heavy burden for the Gentiles.*

## THE DISPUTE OVER CIRCUMCISION

<sup>1</sup>Then some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." <sup>2</sup>And after engaging these men in sharp debate, Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers,

■ ACTS 14:19 [MIRACLE] Paul is stoned and left for dead, then gets up

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES DEMONIC OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW NOTABLE

to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.

<sup>3</sup> Sent on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, recounting the conversion of the Gentiles and bringing great joy to all the brothers. <sup>4</sup> On their arrival in Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and apostles and elders, to whom they reported all that God had done through them.

**THE COUNCIL AT JERUSALEM** // AMOS 9:11-15; GALATIANS 2:1-10

<sup>5</sup> But some believers from the party of the Pharisees stood up and declared, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses." <sup>6</sup> So the apostles and elders met to look into this matter.

<sup>7</sup> After much discussion, Peter got up and said to them, "Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you that the Gentiles would hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. <sup>8</sup> And God, who knows the heart, showed His approval by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as He did to us. <sup>9</sup> He made no distinction between us and them, for He cleansed their hearts by faith.

<sup>10</sup> Now then, why do you test God by placing on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear? <sup>11</sup> On the contrary, we believe it is through the grace of the Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

<sup>12</sup> The whole assembly fell silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul describing the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. <sup>13</sup> When they had finished speaking, James declared, "Brothers, listen to me! <sup>14</sup> Simon has told us how God first visited the Gentiles to take from them a people to be His own. <sup>15</sup> The words of the prophets agree with this, as it is written:

<sup>16</sup> *'After this I will return and rebuild*

*the fallen tent of David.*

*Its ruins I will rebuild,*

*and I will restore it,*

<sup>17</sup> *so that the remnant of men may seek the Lord,*

*and all the Gentiles who are called by My name,*

*says the Lord who does these things*

<sup>18</sup> *that have been known for ages.'*

<sup>19</sup> It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not cause trouble for the Gentiles who are turning to God. <sup>20</sup> Instead, we

should write and tell them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals, and from blood. <sup>21</sup> For Moses has been proclaimed in every city from ancient times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath."

#### THE LETTER TO THE GENTILE BELIEVERS

<sup>22</sup> Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to select men from among them to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas called Barsabbas and Silas, two leaders among the brothers, <sup>23</sup> and sent them with this letter:

The apostles and the elders, your brothers,

To the brothers among the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia:

Greetings.

<sup>24</sup> It has come to our attention that some went out from us without our authorization and unsettled you, troubling your minds by what they said. <sup>25</sup> So we all agreed to choose men to send to you along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, <sup>26</sup> men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>27</sup>

Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas

■ ACTS 15:16 [FULFILLS] He would restore Israel ← IS 49:6 · MEDIUM p.-

■ ACTS 15:16 [FULFILLS] I will raise up the tabernacle of David which has fallen down... I will bring back the captives of My people Israel ← AMOS 9:11-12 p.-

■ ACTS 15:19 [NOTABLE] The church's first big decision: Gentile believers did not have to be circumcised or become Jews to follow Jesus, 15:11. The rules in 15:20 let Jewish and Gentile believers share a table. Paul fought this same fight in Galatians, p.-.

■ ACTS 15:20 [DEMONIC] The council tells Gentiles to avoid food polluted by idols

■ ACTS 15:20 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← LEV 17:10; 18:6 p.-

■ ACTS 15:7 [FULFILLS] He is Salvation to the ends of the earth ← IS 49:6 p.-

■ ACTS 15:8 [HEART] God, who knows the heart, proved He accepted the Gentiles by giving them the Spirit.

■ ACTS 15:14 [FULFILLS] Many nations would join themselves to Yahweh and become His people ← ZECH 2:11 · MEDIUM p.-

## MIRACLES | DEMONIC

to tell you in person the same things we are writing.

<sup>28</sup> It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond these essential requirements: <sup>29</sup> You must 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.

## THE BELIEVERS AT ANTIOCH REJOICE

<sup>30</sup> So the men were sent off and went down to Antioch, where they assembled the congregation and delivered the letter.

<sup>31</sup> When the people read it, they rejoiced at its encouraging message.

<sup>32</sup> Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the brothers. <sup>33</sup> After spending some time there, they were sent off by the brothers in peace to return to those who had sent them. <sup>34</sup> [Silas, however, decided to remain there.] <sup>35</sup> But Paul and Barnabas remained at Antioch, along with many others, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord.

## PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY BEGINS // ACTS 13:1–3; ACTS 18:23–28

<sup>36</sup> Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the brothers in every town where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, to see how they are doing." <sup>37</sup> Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark. <sup>38</sup> But Paul thought it best not to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not accompanied them in the work.

<sup>39</sup> Their disagreement was so sharp that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, <sup>40</sup> but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. <sup>41</sup> And he traveled through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

■ ACTS 15:29 [DEMONIC] The council's letter says abstain from food sacrificed to idols.

■ ACTS 15:29 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← LEV 17:10; 18:6 p. –

■ ACTS 15:34 [TEXT] Verse 34 is in brackets because the oldest manuscripts do not have it. It may have been added to explain why Silas is still in Antioch in 15:40.

## 16

## CHAPTER 16 IN 30 SECONDS

*A vision of a man from Macedonia calls them to Europe. In Philippi Lydia believes. Paul casts a spirit out of a slave girl, her owners lose their income, and Paul and Silas are beaten and jailed. At midnight they sing, an earthquake opens the doors, and the jailer and his family believe.*

## TIMOTHY JOINS PAUL AND SILAS

<sup>1</sup> Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where he found a disciple named Timothy, the son of a believing Jewish woman and a Greek father. <sup>2</sup> The brothers in Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. <sup>3</sup> Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, so he took him and circumcised him on account of the Jews in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

<sup>4</sup> As they went from town to town, they delivered the decisions handed down by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey. <sup>5</sup> So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

## PAUL'S VISION OF THE MACEDONIAN

<sup>6</sup> After the Holy Spirit had prevented them from speaking the word in the province of Asia, they traveled through the region of Phrygia and Galatia. <sup>7</sup> And when they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not permit them. <sup>8</sup> So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.

<sup>9</sup> During the night, Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and pleading with him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup> As soon as Paul had seen the vision, we got ready to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

## LYDIA'S CONVERSION IN PHILIPPI // REVELATION 2:18–29

<sup>11</sup> We sailed from Troas straight to Samothrace, and the following day on to Neapolis. <sup>12</sup> From there we went to the Roman colony of Philippi, the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

■ ACTS 16:9 [MIRACLE] Paul's vision of the man of Macedonia

## THE HEART   MIRACLES   DEMONIC

<sup>13</sup> On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate along the river, where it was customary to find a place of prayer. After sitting down, we spoke to the women who had gathered there.

<sup>14</sup> Among those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. <sup>15</sup> And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, "If you consider me a believer in the Lord, come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

## PAUL AND SILAS IMPRISONED

<sup>16</sup> One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl with a spirit of divination, who earned a large income for her masters by fortune-telling.

<sup>17</sup> This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation!"

<sup>18</sup> She continued this for many days. Eventually Paul grew so aggravated that he turned and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" And the spirit left her at that very moment.

<sup>19</sup> When the girl's owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities in the marketplace.

<sup>20</sup> They brought them to the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews and are throwing our city into turmoil <sup>21</sup>by promoting customs that are unlawful for us Romans to adopt or practice."

<sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered that they be stripped and beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> And after striking them with many blows, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to guard them securely. <sup>24</sup> On receiving this order, he placed them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

■ ACTS 16:14 [HEART] The Lord opened Lydia's heart to respond to Paul's message.

■ ACTS 16:16 [DEMONIC] Slave girl with python spirit delivered by Paul

## THE CONVERSION OF THE JAILER

<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

<sup>26</sup> Suddenly a strong earthquake shook the foundations of the prison. At once all the doors flew open and everyone's chains came loose.

<sup>27</sup> When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, presuming that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul called out in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself! We are all here!"

<sup>29</sup> Calling for lights, the jailer rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

<sup>31</sup> They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup> Then Paul and Silas spoke the word of the Lord to him and to everyone in his house. <sup>33</sup> At that hour of the night, the jailer took them and washed their wounds. And without delay, he and all his household were baptized. <sup>34</sup> Then he brought them into his home and set a meal before them. So he and all his household rejoiced that they had come to believe in God.

## AN OFFICIAL APOLOGY

<sup>35</sup> When daylight came, the magistrates sent their officers with the order: "Release those men."

<sup>36</sup> The jailer informed Paul: "The magistrates have sent orders to release you. Now you may go on your way in peace."

<sup>37</sup> But Paul said to the officers, "They beat us publicly without a trial and threw us into prison, even though we are Roman citizens. And now do they want to send us away secretly? Absolutely not! Let them come themselves and escort us out!"

<sup>38</sup> So the officers relayed this message to the magistrates, who were alarmed to hear that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens. <sup>39</sup> They came to appease them and led them out, requesting that they leave

■ ACTS 16:25 [MIRACLE] Earthquake opens prison doors at Paul/Silas' singing

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE    ARCHAEOLOGY

the city.<sup>40</sup> After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house to see the brothers and encourage them. Then they left the city.

17

CHAPTER 17 IN 30 SECONDS

*In Thessalonica a mob says these men have turned the world upside down. In Athens Paul sees a city full of idols and an altar To an Unknown God. On Mars Hill he tells the thinkers of Athens who that unknown God is. Some laugh, some want to hear more, and some believe.*

THE UPROAR IN THESSALONICA

<sup>1</sup>When they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. <sup>2</sup>As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbaths he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ," he declared. <sup>4</sup>Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few leading women.

<sup>5</sup>The Jews, however, became jealous. So they brought in some troublemakers from the marketplace, formed a mob, and sent the city into an uproar. They raided Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas, hoping to bring them out to the people. <sup>6</sup>But when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some other brothers before the city officials, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have now come here, <sup>7</sup>and Jason has welcomed them into his home. They are all defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, named Jesus!"

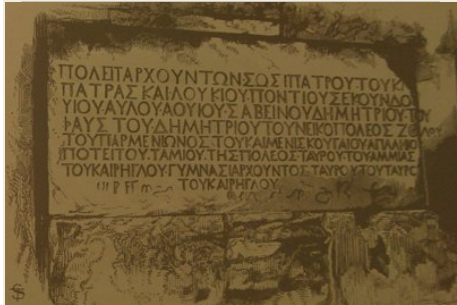
■ ACTS 17:5 [FULFILLS] Paul warned the believers in Thessalonica that they would suffer persecution ← 1TH 3:4

■ ACTS 17:6 [ARCHAEOLOGY] Politarch Inscription of Thessalonica → FIELD NOTES p.32

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH

THE POLITARCH INSCRIPTION

ACTS 17:5 TO 9



An old drawing of the Politarch Inscription from the Vardar Gate in Thessalonica. The first word is politarchs.

WHAT IT IS

A carved stone that lists the city rulers of Thessalonica and calls them politarchs. That is the same rare Greek word Luke uses in 17:6 and 17:8 for the city officials who heard the case against Paul's friends.

HOW OLD IT IS

Most experts date it to the first or second century AD, around Paul's time or a little after. Other stones with the same title go back to the 100s BC.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

It was carved on a Roman arch called the Vardar Gate at the west entrance of Thessalonica, Greece. When the gate was torn down in 1876, the British consul saved the stone.

WHERE IT IS TODAY

In the British Museum in London.

WHAT IT CONFIRMS

Some critics once said Luke made up the word politarch, because no other ancient book used it. Now more than 30 inscriptions use it, most of them from Macedonia and many from Thessalonica itself. Luke used the exact local title.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

It does not name anyone from Acts. It shows Luke knew how this city was run.

<sup>8</sup> On hearing this, the crowd and city officials were greatly disturbed. <sup>9</sup> And they collected bond from Jason and the others and then released them.

ARCHAEOLOGY DEMONIC NOTABLE

## THE CHARACTER OF THE BEREANS

<sup>10</sup> As soon as night had fallen, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went into the Jewish synagogue. <sup>11</sup> Now the Bereans were more noble-minded than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if these teachings were true. <sup>12</sup> As a result, many of them believed, along with quite a few prominent Greek women and men.

<sup>13</sup> But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that Paul was also proclaiming the word of God in Berea, they went there themselves to incite and agitate the crowds. <sup>14</sup> The brothers immediately sent Paul to the coast, but Silas and Timothy remained in Berea. <sup>15</sup> Those who escorted Paul brought him to Athens and then returned with instructions for Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible.

## PAUL IN ATHENS

<sup>16</sup> While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply disturbed in his spirit to see that the city was full of idols.

<sup>17</sup> So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and God-fearing Gentiles, and in the marketplace with those he met each day.

<sup>18</sup> Some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others said, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was proclaiming the good news of Jesus and the resurrection.

<sup>19</sup> So they took Paul and brought him to the Areopagus, where they asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" <sup>20</sup> For you are bringing some strange notions to our ears, and we want to know what they mean."

<sup>21</sup> Now all the Athenians and foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing more than hearing and articulating new ideas.

## PAUL'S ADDRESS IN THE AREOPAGUS

<sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I see that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I walked around and examined your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription:

TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.

Therefore what you worship as something unknown, I now proclaim to you.

<sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples made by human hands. <sup>25</sup> Nor is He served by human hands, as if He needed anything, because He Himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. <sup>26</sup> From one man He made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their lands.

<sup>27</sup> God intended that they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> 'For in Him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are His offspring.' <sup>29</sup>

Therefore, being offspring of God, we should not think that the Divine Being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by man's skill and imagination.

■ ACTS 17:16 [DEMONIC] Paul is upset to see Athens full of idols

■ ACTS 17:22 [DEMONIC] Paul finds an altar to an unknown god in Athens

■ ACTS 17:23 [ARCHAEOLOGY] Pausanias and other ancient sources confirm altars to 'unknown gods' in Athens → FIELD NOTES p.34

■ ACTS 17:28 [NOTABLE] Paul quotes a Greek poem, most likely by Epimenides of Crete, from about 600 BC. He uses the Greeks' own writers to point them to the true God.

■ ACTS 17:28 [NOTABLE] Paul quotes the Greek poet Aratus, from his poem *Phaenomena*, written about 270 BC. The Stoic writer Cleanthes wrote almost the same line.

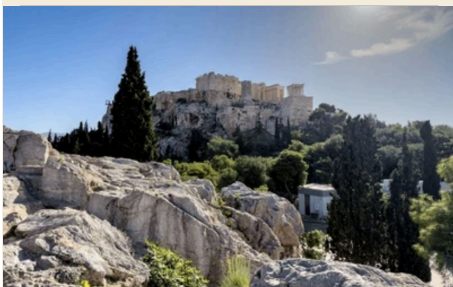
■ ACTS 17:29 [DEMONIC] God is not like an image of gold, silver, or stone

## END TIMES PROPHECIES

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: MEDIUM

## THE UNKNOWN GOD AND MARS HILL

ACTS 17:16 TO 34



The rocks of the Areopagus, or Mars Hill, with the Acropolis and the Parthenon rising behind it in Athens.

**WHAT IT IS**

The Areopagus is the rock hill where the city council of Athens met, and the council itself carried the same name. Ancient writers say Athens had altars to unknown gods, like the one Paul saw. An altar to unknown gods was also dug up at Pergamon in Turkey.

**HOW OLD IT IS**

The writer Pausanias saw altars of gods called unknown near Athens about AD 150. The Pergamon altar is from the second century AD. Diogenes Laertius, writing in the 200s AD, says that about 600 BC Epimenides of Crete stopped a plague in Athens by setting up altars to no named god.

**WHERE AND WHEN FOUND**

German archaeologists found the Pergamon altar in 1909 in a sacred area of the goddess Demeter. The Areopagus hill was never lost. It stands just northwest of the Acropolis.

**WHERE IT IS TODAY**

You can climb Mars Hill today. A bronze plaque at its foot shows Paul's sermon from Acts 17:22 to 31 in Greek.

**WHAT IT CONFIRMS**

Athens really did honor gods it could not name, just in case it had missed one. Paul starts right there: the God you worship without knowing, I am going to tell you about. Epimenides, the same man tied to the unknown altars, is likely the poet Paul quotes in 17:28.

**WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE**

No altar reading to an unknown god, just one god, has been found in Athens. Part of the Pergamon altar's words are broken off, so its exact reading is debated.

<sup>30</sup> Although God overlooked the ignorance of earlier times, He now commands all people everywhere to repent. <sup>31</sup> 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."

<sup>32</sup> When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some began to mock him, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this topic." <sup>33</sup> At that, Paul left the Areopagus. <sup>34</sup> But some joined him and believed, including Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others who were with them.

## 18

**CHAPTER 18 IN 30 SECONDS**

*In Corinth Paul makes tents with Aquila and Priscilla, a couple Emperor Claudius had thrown out of Rome. The Lord tells Paul in a vision, Do not be afraid, and he stays a year and a half. The Jewish leaders drag Paul before the governor Gallio, who refuses to hear the case.*

**PAUL MINISTERS IN CORINTH** // 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-3; 2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-2

<sup>1</sup> After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. <sup>2</sup> There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to visit them, <sup>3</sup> and he stayed and worked with them because they were tentmakers by trade, just as he was.

<sup>4</sup> Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks alike. <sup>5</sup> And when Silas and Timo-

■ **ACTS 17:31 [PROPHECY]** He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead → STILL TO COME

■ **ACTS 18:2 [FIELD NOTES]** A Roman writer mentions this order too. See the Claudius Throws the Jews Out of Rome Field Notes page.

ARCHAEOLOGY   MIRACLES   JESUS SPEAKING

FIELD NOTES • ARCHAEOLOGY • CONFIDENCE: MEDIUM

## CLAUDIUS THROWS THE JEWS OUT OF ROME

ACTS 18:1 TO 3



Marble head of Emperor Claudius in the Vatican Museums.

## WHAT IT IS

One sentence by the Roman writer Suetonius in his life of Emperor Claudius. In plain English: Because the Jews kept making trouble stirred up by Chrestus, he threw them out of Rome.

## HOW OLD IT IS

Suetonius wrote it about AD 121. Orosius, a Christian writer in AD 417, says it happened in Claudius' ninth year, AD 49. Paul likely reached Corinth about AD 50, so Aquila and Priscilla had recently come from Italy, just as Luke says.

## WHAT IT CONFIRMS

A real Roman writer says Claudius ordered Jews out of Rome, matching Acts 18:2. Many scholars think Chrestus is a misspelling of Christus, Christ, and that arguments in Rome's synagogues over Jesus led to the order. Aquila and Priscilla may have been Jewish believers caught up in it.

## THE HONEST SIDE

Chrestus was also a common name, so Suetonius may mean some other troublemaker. Another Roman writer, Dio Cassius, says Claudius did not throw the Jews out but stopped their meetings, maybe in AD 41. That may be a different, earlier event.

## SEE ALSO

Suetonius is one of the witnesses in Exhibit A, Jesus in History, p.~.

thy came down from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself fully to the word, testifying to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. <sup>6</sup> But when they opposed and insulted him, he shook out his garments and told them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

<sup>7</sup> So Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titus Justus, a worshiper of God. <sup>8</sup> Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his whole household believed in the Lord. And many of the Corinthians who heard the message believed and were baptized.

<sup>9</sup> One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking; do not be silent. <sup>10</sup> For I am with you and

no one will lay a hand on you, because I have many people in this city." <sup>11</sup> So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching the word of God among the Corinthians.

## PAUL BEFORE GALLIO

<sup>12</sup> While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews coordinated an attack on Paul and brought him before the judgment seat. <sup>13</sup> "This man is persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law," they said.

<sup>14</sup> But just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio told the Jews, "If this matter involved a wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, it would be reasonable for me to hear your complaint. <sup>15</sup> But since it is a dispute about words and names and your own law, settle it yourselves. I refuse to be

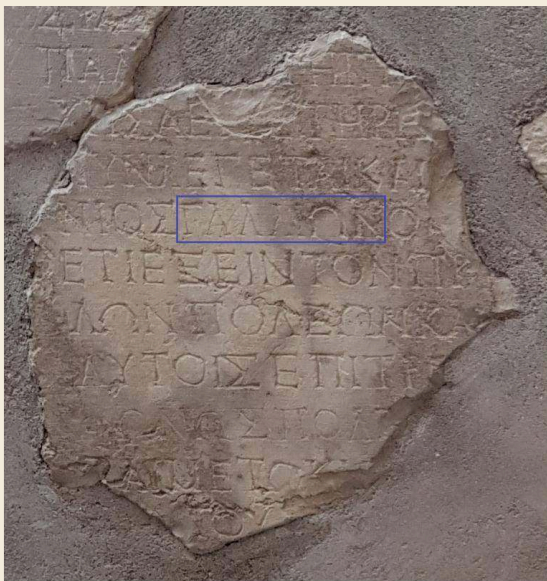
■ ACTS 18:9 [MIRACLE] The Lord tells Paul in a vision not to be afraid

■ ACTS 18:12 [ARCHAEOLOGY] Stone letter dating Gallio's time as governor of Achaia to about AD 51 to 52 → FIELD NOTES p.37

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH

## THE GALLIO INSCRIPTION

ACTS 18:12 TO 17



One of the pieces of the Gallio Inscription at Delphi. The blue box marks Gallio's name. Photo by Gérard, CC BY SA 4.0.

### WHAT IT IS

Pieces of a stone letter from Emperor Claudius to the city of Delphi in Greece. It names Lucius Junius Gallio, my friend and proconsul. That is the governor who threw out the case against Paul in Corinth.

### HOW OLD IT IS

The letter is dated by the number of times Claudius had been hailed as a victorious general, which puts it in AD 52. Governors served one year starting in summer, so Gallio ruled Achaia about AD 51 to 52.

### WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

Found in pieces at Delphi. The first ones were published in 1905, and more pieces were added in 1970.

### WHERE IT IS TODAY

In the Delphi Archaeological Museum in Greece.

### WHY IT MATTERS

This is one of the most important dates in the New Testament. Since Paul stood before Gallio, he was in Corinth about AD 50 to 52. Scholars count forward and backward from here to date Paul's other trips

and letters. Gallio was the brother of the famous Roman writer Seneca.

### WHO GALLIO WAS

He was born Annaeus Novatus and took the name Lucius Junius Gallio when a friend of his father adopted him. His younger brother Seneca was Rome's famous thinker and Nero's teacher. Seneca wrote that no one was as sweet to anyone as Gallio was to everyone.

### SICK IN GREECE

Seneca also wrote that Gallio caught a fever while he was in Achaia and took a ship away, saying the sickness came from the place, not from his body, Letters 104.1.

### THE JUDGMENT SEAT

The judgment seat in 18:12 is the bema. A large stone speaking platform still stands in the middle of the old forum at Corinth, and many think Paul stood before Gallio there.

### WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

It does not mention Paul. It shows Luke had the right governor in the right city at the right time.

## MIRACLES

a judge of such things.”<sup>16</sup> And he drove them away from the judgment seat.

<sup>17</sup> At this, the crowd seized Sosthenes the synagogue leader and beat him in front of the judgment seat. But none of this was of concern to Gallio.

## PAUL RETURNS TO ANTIOCH

<sup>18</sup> Paul remained in Corinth for quite some time before saying goodbye to the brothers. He had his head shaved in Cenchrea to keep a vow he had made, and then he sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila.

<sup>19</sup> When they reached Ephesus, Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue there and reasoned with the Jews. <sup>20</sup> When they asked him to stay for a while longer, he declined. <sup>21</sup> But as he left, he said, “I will come back to you if God is willing.” And he set sail from Ephesus.

<sup>22</sup> When Paul had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church at Jerusalem. Then he went down to Antioch.

## PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY BEGINS // ACTS 13:1–3; ACTS 15:36–41

<sup>23</sup> After Paul had spent some time in Antioch, he traveled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

<sup>24</sup> Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, well versed in the Scriptures. <sup>25</sup> He had been instructed in the way of the Lord and was fervent in spirit. He spoke and taught accurately about Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. <sup>26</sup> And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

<sup>27</sup> When Apollos resolved to cross over to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. On his arrival, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. <sup>28</sup> For he powerfully refuted the Jews in public

debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

## 19

## CHAPTER 19 IN 30 SECONDS

*In Ephesus God does unusual miracles through Paul. Seven sons of Sceva try to cast out a demon in Jesus' name, and the demon says, I know Jesus and I know Paul, but who are you? Then the silversmiths start a riot, and the crowd shouts Great is Artemis for two hours.*

## THE HOLY SPIRIT RECEIVED AT EPHESUS // ACTS 10:44–48

<sup>1</sup> While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the interior and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples <sup>2</sup> and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” “No,” they answered, “we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

<sup>3</sup> “Into what, then, were you baptized?” Paul asked.

“The baptism of John,” they replied.

<sup>4</sup> Paul explained: “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the One coming after him, that is, in Jesus.”

<sup>5</sup> On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> And when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. <sup>7</sup> There were about twelve men in all.

## PAUL MINISTERS IN EPHESUS // EPHESIANS 1:1–2; REVELATION 2:1–7

<sup>8</sup> Then Paul went into the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. <sup>9</sup> But when some of them stubbornly refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way, Paul took his disciples and left the synagogue to conduct daily discussions in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. <sup>10</sup> This continued for two years, so that everyone who lived in the province of Asia, Jews and Greeks alike, heard the word of the Lord.

■ ACTS 19:6 [MIRACLE] The Holy Spirit comes on the Ephesian disciples

ARCHAEOLOGY   MIRACLES   DEMONIC

<sup>11</sup> God did extraordinary miracles through the hands of Paul, <sup>12</sup> so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and the diseases and evil spirits left them.

SEVEN SONS OF SCEVA

<sup>13</sup> Now there were some itinerant Jewish exorcists who tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those with evil spirits. They would say, "I command you by Jesus, whom Paul proclaims." <sup>14</sup> Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.

<sup>15</sup> But one day the evil spirit responded, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" <sup>16</sup> Then the man with the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. The attack was so violent that they ran out of the house naked and wounded.

<sup>17</sup> This became known to all the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, and fear came over all of them. So the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. <sup>18</sup> Many who had believed now came forward, confessing and disclosing their deeds. <sup>19</sup> And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books and burned them in front of everyone. When the value of the books was calculated, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. <sup>20</sup> So the word of the Lord powerfully continued to spread and prevail.

THE RIOT IN EPHEBUS

<sup>21</sup> After these things had happened, Paul resolved in the Spirit to go to Jerusalem, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. "After I have been there," he said, "I must see Rome as well." <sup>22</sup> He sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, while he stayed for a time in the province of Asia.

<sup>23</sup> About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way. <sup>24</sup> It began with a

silversmith named Demetrius who made silver shrines of Artemis, bringing much business to the craftsmen.

<sup>25</sup> Demetrius assembled the craftsmen, along with the workmen in related trades. "Men," he said, "you know that this business is our source of prosperity. <sup>26</sup> And you can see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in nearly the whole province of Asia, this Paul has persuaded a great number of people to turn away. He says that man-made gods are no gods at all. <sup>27</sup> There is danger not only that our business will fall into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited and her majesty deposed—she who is worshiped by all the province of Asia and the whole world."

<sup>28</sup> When the men heard this, they were enraged and began shouting, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" <sup>29</sup> Soon the whole city was in disarray. They rushed together into the theatre, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia.

<sup>30</sup> Paul wanted to go before the assembly, but the disciples would not allow him. <sup>31</sup> Even some of Paul's friends who were officials of the province of Asia sent word to him, begging him not to venture into the theatre.

<sup>32</sup> Meanwhile the assembly was in turmoil. Some were shouting one thing and some another, and most of them did not even know why they were there. <sup>33</sup> The Jews in the crowd pushed Alexander forward to explain himself, and he motioned for silence so he could make his defense to the people. <sup>34</sup> But when they realized that he was a Jew, they all shouted in unison for about two hours: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

■ ACTS 19:11 [MIRACLE] Unusual miracles through Paul — handkerchiefs and aprons healed  
■ ACTS 19:13 [DEMONIC] Seven sons of Sceva try to use Jesus' name and the evil spirit overpowers them  
■ ACTS 19:18 [DEMONIC] Ephesians burned 50,000 silver pieces' worth of magic books  
■ ACTS 19:22 [FIELD NOTES] A stone in Corinth names an Erastus. See The Erastus Inscription Field Notes page.

■ ACTS 19:23 [DEMONIC] Idol makers riot when Paul threatens the Artemis business  
■ ACTS 19:27 [ARCHAEOLOGY] Huge theater that held about 24,000 people dug up, plus the foundations of the giant Temple of Artemis → FIELD NOTES p.40  
■ ACTS 19:34 [DEMONIC] The Ephesus crowd shouts Great is Artemis for two hours

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: MEDIUM

## THE ERASTUS INSCRIPTION

ACTS 19:22 · ROMANS 16:23 · 2 TIMOTHY 4:20



The Erastus Inscription near the theater of Corinth. Photo by Rduncan2, CC BY SA 4.0.

### WHAT IT IS

Big Latin letters cut into a stone pavement in Corinth. They say Erastus, in return for his office as aedile, laid this pavement at his own expense. An aedile was a city official in charge of public works.

### HOW OLD IT IS

Most date it to the middle of the first century AD, Paul's time. In 2010 the scholar Steven Friesen argued it is from the second century, and others have answered that it still fits the first. The date is debated.

### WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

Found in 1929 by American archaeologists next to the theater of ancient Corinth. Corinth is the city where Paul wrote Romans.

### WHERE IT IS TODAY

Still in place at the site of ancient Corinth, Greece.

### WHAT IT CONFIRMS

Paul names an Erastus three times. In Romans 16:23, written from Corinth, Erastus is the city treasurer. In Acts 19:22 he travels with Paul's team, and 2 Timothy 4:20

says he stayed in Corinth. A rich, important Erastus did live in Corinth.

### BRONZE LETTERS

The letters were cut deep into the stone because they once held letters of bronze, now gone, so the name would shine in the street.

### CORINTH IN PAUL'S DAY

Rome destroyed the old Greek city in 146 BC. Julius Caesar founded it again as a Roman colony in 44 BC. So in Paul's day its official language was Latin, like this stone, even though most people on the street spoke Greek.

### CITY TREASURER

Romans 16:23 calls Erastus the *oikonomos* of the city, a manager of its money. Some think that was the same job as aedile. Others think Erastus held one office and later the other, since men in Roman cities often moved up from job to job.

### WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

Erastus was a common name. Romans uses a Greek title that may not mean the same job as aedile. Many think it is the same man, but no one can be sure.

## DEMONIC

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH

## EPHESUS: THE THEATER AND THE TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS

ACTS 19:23 TO 41



The great theater of Ephesus, where the crowd shouted Great is Artemis for two hours.

### WHAT IT IS

The huge stone theater of Ephesus, which held about 24,000 people, and the ruins of the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Acts 19 says the riot crowd rushed into the theater.

### HOW OLD IT IS

The theater was first built in the 200s BC and made bigger by the Romans in the first century AD, around Paul's time. The temple Paul knew was rebuilt after a fire in 356 BC. Goths damaged it in AD 262.

### WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

Austrian archaeologists have dug at Ephesus since 1895, and the theater is fully uncovered. John Turtle Wood found the temple in 1869 after six years of searching. Only one rebuilt column stands there today.

### WHERE IT IS TODAY

At Ephesus, near Selçuk in Turkey. Pieces of the temple are in the British Museum in London.

### WHAT IT CONFIRMS

Inscriptions from Ephesus use Luke's exact titles: the city clerk who calmed the crowd, the Asiarchs who were Paul's friends, and the title temple keeper of Artemis in 19:35. An inscription from AD 104 tells of silver statues of Artemis being carried into this same theater, the

kind of business the silversmiths were afraid to lose.

### WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

Nothing found names Paul or Demetrius the silversmith. It shows Luke knew Ephesus well.

<sup>35</sup> Finally the city clerk quieted the crowd and declared, "Men of Ephesus, doesn't everyone know that the city of Ephesus is guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven? <sup>36</sup> Since these things are undeniable, you ought to be calm and not do anything rash. <sup>37</sup> For you have brought these men here, though they have neither robbed our temple nor blasphemed our goddess.

<sup>38</sup> So if Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open and proconsuls are available. Let them bring charges against one another there. <sup>39</sup> But if you are seeking anything beyond this, it must be settled in a legal assembly. <sup>40</sup> For we are in jeopardy of being charged with rioting for today's events, and we have no justification to account for this commotion."

<sup>41</sup> After he had said this, he dismissed the assembly.

## 20

### CHAPTER 20 IN 30 SECONDS

*Paul preaches until midnight, and a young man named Eutychus falls asleep and falls out of a third story window. Paul raises him up, then keeps talking until dawn. At Miletus Paul says goodbye to the leaders from Ephesus.*

### PAUL IN MACEDONIA AND GREECE

<sup>1</sup> When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples. And after encouraging them, he said goodbye to them and left for Macedonia. <sup>2</sup> After traveling through that area and speaking many words of encouragement, he arrived in Greece, <sup>3</sup> where he stayed three months. And when the Jews formed a plot against him as he was about to sail for Syria, he decided to go back through Macedonia.

## PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE

## PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN HISTORY

## MIRACLES

<sup>4</sup> Paul was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia. <sup>5</sup> These men went on ahead and waited for us in Troas. <sup>6</sup> And after the Feast of Unleavened Bread, we sailed from Philippi, and five days later we rejoined them in Troas, where we stayed seven days.

**EUTYCHUS REVIVED AT TROAS** // 2 KINGS 4:18-37

<sup>7</sup> On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Since Paul was ready to leave the next day, he talked to them and kept on speaking until midnight.

<sup>8</sup> Now there were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered. <sup>9</sup> And a certain young man named Eutychus, seated in the window, was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell from the third story and was picked up dead. <sup>10</sup> But Paul went down, threw himself on the young man, and embraced him. "Do not be alarmed!" he said. "He is still alive!"

<sup>11</sup> Then Paul went back upstairs, broke bread, and ate. And after speaking until daybreak, he departed. <sup>12</sup> And the people were greatly relieved to take the boy home alive.

## FROM TROAS TO MILETUS

<sup>13</sup> We went on ahead to the ship and sailed to Assos, where we were to take Paul aboard. He had arranged this because he was going there on foot. <sup>14</sup> And when he met us at Assos, we took him aboard and went on to Mitylene. <sup>15</sup> Sailing on from there, we arrived the next day opposite Chios. The day after that we arrived at Samos, and on the following day we came to Miletus.

<sup>16</sup> Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time in the province of Asia, because he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost.

## PAUL'S FAREWELL TO THE EPHESIANS

<sup>17</sup> From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church.

<sup>18</sup> When they came to him, he said, "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I arrived in the province of Asia. <sup>19</sup> I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, especially in the trials that came upon me through the plots of the Jews. <sup>20</sup> I did not shrink back from declaring anything that was helpful to you as I taught you publicly and from house to house, <sup>21</sup> testifying to Jews and Greeks alike about repentance to God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>22</sup> And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. <sup>23</sup> I only know that in town after town the Holy Spirit warns me that chains and afflictions await me. <sup>24</sup> But I consider my life of no value to me, if only I may finish my course and complete the ministry I have received from the Lord Jesus—the ministry of testifying to the good news of God's grace.

<sup>25</sup> Now I know that none of you among whom I have preached the kingdom will see my face again. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. <sup>27</sup> For I did not shrink back from declaring to you the whole will of God.

<sup>28</sup> Keep watch over yourselves and the entire flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which He purchased with His own blood. <sup>29</sup> I know that after my departure, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. <sup>30</sup> Even from your own number, men will rise up and distort the truth to draw away disciples after them. <sup>31</sup> Therefore be alert and

■ **ACTS 20:7 [NOTE]** THE FIRST DAY. See Saturday or Sunday?

■ **ACTS 20:9 [MIRACLE]** Paul raises Eutychus after he fell from the third floor

■ **ACTS 20:22 [PROPHECY]** 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 that chains and tribulations await me... I know that you all will see my face no more → Fulfilled · MEDIUM p. -

■ **ACTS 20:29 [PROPHECY]** 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 (Paul to Ephesian elders) → HISTORY: Fulfilled in the rise of Gnostic and other heresies in the Ephesian and Asia Minor churches within decades (see 2 Tim

JESUS SPEAKING

remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

<sup>32</sup> And 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 who are sanctified.

<sup>33</sup> I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. <sup>34</sup> You yourselves know that these hands of mine have ministered to my own needs and those of my companions. <sup>35</sup> In everything, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus Himself: **'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'**"

<sup>36</sup> When Paul had said this, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. <sup>37</sup> They all wept openly as they embraced Paul and kissed him. <sup>38</sup> They were especially grieved by his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

**SATURDAY OR SUNDAY?**

*The First Day of the Week*  
ACTS 20:7 · 15:28 TO 29 · 1 CORINTHIANS 16:2 · REVELATION 1:10 · COLOSSIANS 2:16 TO 17

**WHAT ACTS SAYS**  
On the first day of the week we came together to break bread, 20:7. Paul tells the Corinthians to set money aside on the first day of every week, 1 Corinthians 16:2. John was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, Revelation 1:10. Jesus rose on the first day of the week, Luke 24:1. Paul also went to the synagogue on the Sabbath, 13:14 and 17:2, because that is where the Jews gathered.

**THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL**  
In Acts 15 the apostles decided Gentile believers did not have to be circumcised or keep the law of Moses. They asked only four things, 15:29. The Sabbath was not one of them. Paul later wrote, do not let anyone judge you about a Sabbath day, Colossians 2:16 to 17, and one person regards one day above another, Romans 14:5.

**THE EARLY CHURCH**  
The Didache, about AD 100, says to gather on the Lord's own day to break bread (14). About AD 110 Ignatius wrote of believers no longer keeping the Sabbath but living by the Lord's day (Magenesians 9). About AD 155 Justin Martyr said Christians meet on Sunday because God began creation and Jesus rose on that day (First Apology 67).

**DID CONSTANTINE CHANGE IT?**  
On March 7, AD 321, Emperor Constantine made Sunday a day of rest for city workers, though farmers could still work. Christians had already been meeting on Sunday for well over 200 years. About AD 363 the Council of Laodicea told Christians not to rest on Saturday like the Jews, but to honor the Lord's day (canon 29). Some Sabbath keepers say that is when the church changed God's day.

*The Sabbath and the Lord's Day*  
EXODUS 20:8 TO 11 · 31:13 · MARK 2:27 · HEBREWS 4:9 TO 10 · 10:25 · ROMANS 14:5 TO 6

**KEEP THE SEVENTH DAY**  
The fourth commandment was never canceled, Exodus 20:8 to 11. Jesus kept the Sabbath, Luke 4:16, and said it was made for man, Mark 2:27. Seventh Day Baptists began in England in the 1650s and had a church in Rhode Island by 1671. The Seventh-day Adventists, organized in 1863 with Ellen G. White, are the largest Sabbath keeping church today. Many Messianic Jews keep it too.

**SUNDAY IS THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH**  
The Sabbath moved to the day Jesus rose, and the whole commandment still applies. The Westminster Confession of 1646 calls Sunday the Christian Sabbath (21.7). The Puritans kept it strictly, with no work or play.

**THE LORD'S DAY, NOT THE SABBATH**  
The Sabbath was a sign between God and Israel, Exodus 31:13, and it points to the rest we find in Christ, Hebrews 4:9 to 10. Christians meet on Sunday by custom and to honor the resurrection, not as a law. Luther wrote in his Large Catechism, 1529, that the Saturday law was for the Jews, and Christians set

## PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE

aside a day for the sake of good order and to hear God's word. Most evangelicals and Lutherans hold this view.

**EVERY DAY IS THE LORD'S**

One person regards one day above another, and another regards every day alike; each should be fully convinced in his own mind, Romans 14:5 to 6.

**WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON**

Rest is a gift from God. Do not give up meeting together, Hebrews 10:25. And do not judge each other over days, Colossians 2:16.

## 21

**CHAPTER 21 IN 30 SECONDS**

*A prophet named Agabus ties his own hands and feet with Paul's belt and says this will happen to Paul in Jerusalem. Paul goes anyway. In the temple some men from Asia claim he brought a Gentile inside, and the whole city riots.*

**PAUL'S JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM**

<sup>1</sup>After we had torn ourselves away from them, we sailed directly to Cos, and the next day on to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. <sup>2</sup>Finding a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, we boarded it and set sail. <sup>3</sup>After sighting Cyprus and passing south of it, we sailed on to Syria and landed at Tyre, where the ship was to unload its cargo.

<sup>4</sup>We sought out the disciples in Tyre and stayed with them seven days. Through the Spirit they kept telling Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup>But when our time there had ended, we set out on our journey. All the disciples, with their wives and children, accompanied us out of the city and knelt down on the beach to pray with us. <sup>6</sup>And after we had said our farewells, we went aboard the ship, and they returned home. <sup>7</sup>When we had finished our voyage from Tyre, we landed at Ptolemais, where we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for a day.

**PAUL VISITS PHILIP THE EVANGELIST**

<sup>8</sup>Leaving the next day, we went on to Caesarea and stayed at the home of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the Seven.

<sup>9</sup>He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.

<sup>10</sup>After we had been there several days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. <sup>11</sup>Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own feet and hands, and said, "The Holy Spirit says: 'In this way the Jews of Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and hand him over to the Gentiles.'" <sup>12</sup>When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.

<sup>13</sup>Then Paul answered, "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." <sup>14</sup>When he would not be dissuaded, we quieted down and said, "The Lord's will be done."

<sup>15</sup>After these days, we packed up and went on to Jerusalem. <sup>16</sup>Some of the disciples from Caesarea accompanied us, and they took us to stay at the home of Mnason the Cypriot, an early disciple.

**PAUL'S ARRIVAL AT JERUSALEM**

<sup>17</sup>When we arrived in Jerusalem, the brothers welcomed us joyfully. <sup>18</sup>The next day Paul went in with us to see James, and all the elders were present. <sup>19</sup>Paul greeted them and recounted one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.

<sup>20</sup>When they heard this, they glorified God. Then they said to Paul, "You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law. <sup>21</sup>But they are under the impression that you teach all the Jews who live among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or observe our customs. <sup>22</sup>What then

■ **ACTS 21:3 [FULFILLS]** Tyre will be forgotten seventy years; after that she will return to her hire ← IS 23:15-18 · MEDIUM p. 22

■ **ACTS 21:10 [PROPHECY]** Agabus took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles' → Fulfilled days later in ACTS 21:27-36 when Paul was arrested by Jews in the temple and handed to Romans p. 22

## ARCHAEOLOGY DEMONIC

should we do? They will certainly hear that you have come.

<sup>23</sup> Therefore do what we advise you. There are four men with us who have taken a vow. <sup>24</sup> Take these men, purify yourself along with them, and pay their expenses so they can have their heads shaved. Then everyone will know that there is no truth to these rumors about you, but that you also live in obedience to the law.

<sup>25</sup> As for the Gentile believers, we have written to them our decision that they must abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals, and from sexual immorality."

<sup>26</sup> So the next day Paul took the men and purified himself along with them. Then he entered the temple to give notice of the date when their purification would be complete and the offering would be made for each of them.

## PAUL SEIZED AT THE TEMPLE

<sup>27</sup> When the seven days were almost over, some Jews from the province of Asia saw Paul at the temple. They stirred up the whole crowd and seized him, <sup>28</sup> crying out, "Men of Israel, help us! This is the man who teaches everyone everywhere against our people and against our law and against this place. Furthermore, he has brought Greeks into the temple and defiled this holy place." <sup>29</sup> For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, and they assumed that Paul had brought him into the temple.

<sup>30</sup> The whole city was stirred up, and the people rushed together. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple, and at once the gates were shut. <sup>31</sup> While they were trying to kill him, the commander of the Roman regiment received a report that all Jerusalem was in turmoil. <sup>32</sup> Immediately he took some soldiers and centurions and ran down to the crowd. When the people saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.

<sup>33</sup> The commander came up and arrested Paul, ordering that he be bound with two chains. Then he asked who he was and what he had done.

<sup>34</sup> Some in the crowd were shouting one thing, and some another. And since the commander could not get at the truth because of the uproar, he ordered that Paul be brought into the barracks. <sup>35</sup> When Paul reached the steps, he had to be carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the mob. <sup>36</sup> For the crowd that followed him kept shouting, "Away with him!"

## PAUL ADDRESSES THE CROWD

<sup>37</sup> As they were about to take Paul into the barracks, he asked the commander, "May I say something to you?"

"Do you speak Greek?" he replied. <sup>38</sup> "Aren't you the Egyptian who incited a rebellion some time ago and led four thousand members of the Assassins into the wilderness?"

<sup>39</sup> But Paul answered, "I am a Jew from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no ordinary city. Now I beg you to allow me to speak to the people."

<sup>40</sup> Having received permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned to the crowd. A great hush came over the crowd, and he addressed them in Hebrew:

## 22

## CHAPTER 22 IN 30 SECONDS

*From the barracks steps Paul tells the crowd how Jesus met him on the Damascus road. They listen quietly until he says God sent him to the Gentiles. Then they riot. The commander orders Paul whipped, until Paul asks if it is legal to flog a Roman citizen without a trial. It is not.*

## PAUL'S DEFENSE TO THE CROWD // ACTS 9:1–19; ACTS 26:1–23

<sup>1</sup> "Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense before you." <sup>2</sup> When they heard him speak to them in Hebrew, they became even more quiet.

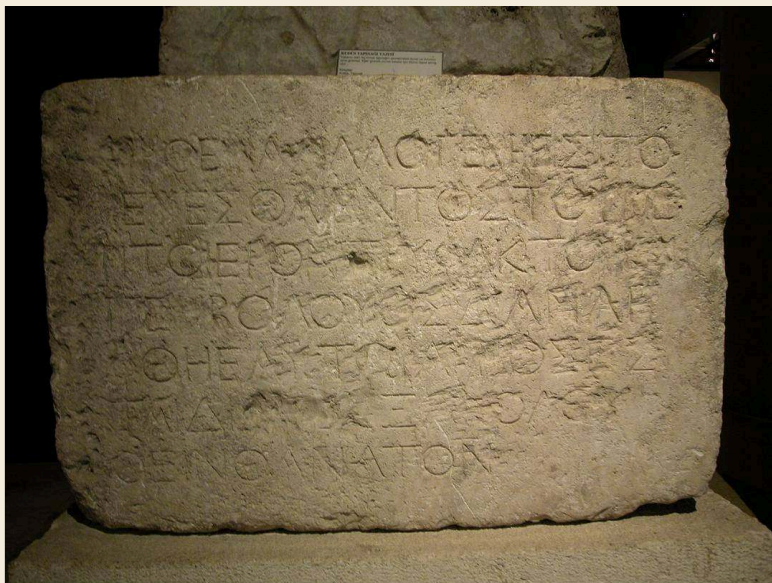
Then Paul declared, <sup>3</sup> "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but raised in this city. I was educated at the feet of Gamaliel in strict conformity to the law of our fathers.

■ ACTS 21:25 [DEMONIC] Gentile believers are reminded to abstain from food offered to idols  
■ ACTS 21:28 [ARCHAEOLOGY] Temple Warning Inscription → FIELD NOTES p.44

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH

## THE TEMPLE WARNING INSCRIPTION

ACTS 21:27 TO 36 · EPHESIANS 2:14



The complete Temple Warning Inscription in the Istanbul Archaeology Museums.

### WHAT IT IS

A stone sign in Greek that hung on the low wall around the inner temple courts in Jerusalem. In plain English it says: No foreigner may go past the fence around the temple. Whoever is caught will have himself to blame for the death that follows.

### HOW OLD IT IS

It comes from Herod's temple, which was built starting about 20 BC and destroyed by the Romans in AD 70. That is exactly the temple Paul walked into. The Jewish historian Josephus also wrote that these warning signs stood there, in Greek and in Latin.

### WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

The French scholar Charles Clermont Ganneau found the complete sign in Jerusalem in 1871. A broken second copy, with red paint still in its letters, was found in 1935.

### WHERE IT IS TODAY

The complete sign is in the Istanbul Archaeology Museums in Turkey. The broken one is in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

### WHAT IT CONFIRMS

It explains why one rumor started a riot. In Acts 21:28 to 29 the crowd thought Paul had taken Trophimus, a Greek, past this very sign. The penalty was death. It also helps picture the dividing wall between Jews and Gentiles that Ephesians 2:14 says Jesus tore down.

### THE DIVIDING WALL

Josephus says a stone fence about four and a half feet high ran around the inner courts, with signs like this one set along it at equal distances, some in Greek and some in Latin, Jewish War 5.5.2.

### A DEATH PENALTY ROME ALLOWED

Rome usually kept the power of death for itself. But Josephus says the Romans let the Jews put to death even a Roman citizen who went past this line, Jewish War 6.2.4.

### WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

It does not mention Paul. It shows the rule Luke describes was real and deadly serious.

## MIRACLES JESUS SPEAKING

I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today.

<sup>4</sup> I persecuted this Way even to the death, detaining both men and women and throwing them into prison, <sup>5</sup> as the high priest and the whole Council can testify about me. I even obtained letters from them to their brothers in Damascus, and I was on my way to apprehend these people and bring them to Jerusalem to be punished.

<sup>6</sup> About noon as I was approaching Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. <sup>7</sup> I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?'

<sup>8</sup> 'Who are You, Lord?' I asked.

'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,' He replied. <sup>9</sup> My companions saw the light, but they could not understand the voice of the One speaking to me.

<sup>10</sup> Then I asked, 'What should I do, Lord?'

'Get up and go into Damascus,' He told me. 'There you will be told all that you have been appointed to do.'

<sup>11</sup> Because the brilliance of the light had blinded me, my companions led me by the hand into Damascus. <sup>12</sup> There a man named Ananias, a devout observer of the law who was highly regarded by all the Jews living there, <sup>13</sup> came and stood beside me. 'Brother Saul,' he said, 'receive your sight.' And at that moment I could see him.

<sup>14</sup> Then he said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear His voice. <sup>15</sup> You will be His witness to everyone of what you have seen and heard. <sup>16</sup> And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized, and wash your sins away, calling on His name.'

<sup>17</sup> Later, when I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance <sup>18</sup> and saw the Lord saying to me,

'Hurry! Leave Jerusalem quickly, because the people here will not accept your testimony about Me.'

<sup>19</sup> 'Lord,' I answered, 'they know very well that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in You. <sup>20</sup> And when the blood of Your witness Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval and watching over the garments of those who killed him.'

<sup>21</sup> Then He said to me, 'Go! I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'

## PAUL THE ROMAN CITIZEN

<sup>22</sup> The crowd listened to Paul until he made this statement. Then they lifted up their voices and shouted, "Rid the earth of him! He is not fit to live!"

<sup>23</sup> As they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and tossing dust into the air, <sup>24</sup> the commander ordered that Paul be brought into the barracks. He directed that Paul be flogged and interrogated to determine the reason for this outcry against him.

<sup>25</sup> But as they stretched him out to strap him down, Paul said to the centurion standing there, "Is it lawful for you to flog a Roman citizen without a trial?"

<sup>26</sup> On hearing this, the centurion went and reported it to the commander. "What are you going to do?" he said. "This man is a Roman citizen."

<sup>27</sup> The commander went to Paul and asked, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?" "Yes," he answered.

<sup>28</sup> "I paid a high price for my citizenship," said the commander.

"But I was born a citizen," Paul replied.

<sup>29</sup> At once those who were about to interrogate Paul stepped back, and the commander himself was alarmed when he realized that he had put a Roman citizen in chains.

<sup>30</sup> The next day the commander, wanting to learn the real reason Paul was accused by the Jews, released him and ordered the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin

■ ACTS 22:6 [MIRACLE] Paul retells the light from heaven on the Damascus road

■ ACTS 22:17 [MIRACLE] Paul falls into a trance in the temple and sees the Lord

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW JESUS SPEAKING

to assemble. Then he brought Paul down and had him stand before them.

## 23

### CHAPTER 23 IN 30 SECONDS

*Paul stands before the council and starts an argument between the Pharisees and the Sadducees about the resurrection. The Lord tells Paul he will testify in Rome. More than forty men swear not to eat until they kill him.*

#### PAUL BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN

<sup>1</sup>Paul looked directly at the Sanhedrin and said, "Brothers, I have conducted myself before God in all good conscience to this day."

<sup>2</sup>At this, the high priest Ananias ordered those standing near Paul to strike him on the mouth.

<sup>3</sup>Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! You sit here to judge me according to the law, yet you yourself violate the law by commanding that I be struck."

<sup>4</sup>But those standing nearby said, "How dare you insult the high priest of God!"

<sup>5</sup>"Brothers," Paul replied, "I was not aware that he was the high priest, for it is written: *'Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people.'*"

<sup>6</sup>Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, called out in the Sanhedrin, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee. It is because of my hope in the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial."

<sup>7</sup>As soon as he had said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. <sup>8</sup>For the Sadducees say that there is neither a resurrection nor angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.

<sup>9</sup>A great clamor arose, and some scribes from the party of the Pharisees got up and contended sharply, "We find nothing wrong with this man. What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?" <sup>10</sup>The dispute grew so violent that the commander was

afraid they would tear Paul to pieces. He ordered the soldiers to go down and remove him by force and bring him into the barracks.

<sup>11</sup>The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, "Take courage! As you have testified about Me in Jerusalem, so also you must testify in Rome."

THE PLOT TO KILL PAUL // JOHN 16:1-4

<sup>12</sup>When daylight came, the Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul. <sup>13</sup>More than forty of them were involved in this plot. <sup>14</sup>They went to the chief priests and elders and said, "We have bound ourselves with a solemn oath not to eat anything until we have killed Paul. <sup>15</sup>Now then, you and the Sanhedrin petition the commander to bring him down to you on the pretext of examining his case more carefully. We are ready to kill him on the way."

<sup>16</sup>But when the son of Paul's sister heard about the plot, he went into the barracks and told Paul. <sup>17</sup>Then Paul called one of the centurions and said, "Take this young man to the commander; he has something to tell him."

<sup>18</sup>So the centurion took him to the commander and said, "Paul the prisoner sent and asked me to bring this young man to you. He has something to tell you."

<sup>19</sup>The commander took the young man by the hand, drew him aside, and asked, "What do you need to tell me?"

<sup>20</sup>He answered, "The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul to the Sanhedrin tomorrow on the pretext of acquiring more information about him. <sup>21</sup>Do not let them persuade you, because more than forty men are waiting to ambush him. They have bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink until they have killed him; they are ready now, awaiting your consent."

■ ACTS 23:11 [PROPHECY] The following night the Lord stood by him and said, 'Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome' → Fulfilled in ACTS 28:16-31 when Paul reached Rome and preached there p.--

## ARCHAEOLOGY

<sup>22</sup> So the commander dismissed the young man and instructed him, "Do not tell anyone that you have reported this to me."

## PAUL SENT TO FELIX

<sup>23</sup> Then he called two of his centurions and said, "Prepare two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea in the third hour of the night. <sup>24</sup> Provide mounts for Paul to take him safely to Governor Felix."

<sup>25</sup> And he wrote the following letter:

<sup>26</sup> Claudius Lysias,

To His Excellency, Governor Felix:

Greetings.

<sup>27</sup> This man was seized by the Jews, and they were about to kill him when I came with my troops to rescue him. For I had learned that he is a Roman citizen, <sup>28</sup> and since I wanted to understand their charges against him, I brought him down to their Sanhedrin. <sup>29</sup> I found that the accusation involved questions about their own law, but there was no charge worthy of death or imprisonment.

<sup>30</sup> When I was informed that there was a plot against the man, I sent him to you at once. I also instructed his accusers to present their case against him before you.

<sup>31</sup> So the soldiers followed their orders and brought Paul by night to Antipatris. <sup>32</sup> The next day they returned to the barracks and let the horsemen go on with him. <sup>33</sup>

When the horsemen arrived in Caesarea, they delivered the letter to the governor and presented Paul to him.

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH

## CAESAREA: HEROD'S HARBOR

ACTS 23:23 TO 35 · ACTS 24:27 · ACTS 27:1 TO 2



Caesarea from the air. Herod's great harbor lies mostly underwater, in and beyond the small harbor seen here. Photo by Meronim, CC BY SA 3.0.

### WHAT IT IS

The remains of the harbor King Herod the Great built at Caesarea, the Roman capital of Judea, plus his seaside palace. Acts 24:27 says Paul was held here for two years, and from here he sailed for Rome.

### HOW OLD IT IS

Herod built the harbor and city from about 22 to 10 BC and named it after Caesar Augustus. Earthquakes and soft sand on the sea floor slowly sank parts of the breakwaters over the next few centuries.

### HOW HE BUILT IT

Josephus says the harbor was bigger than the great port of Athens. Divers found that Herod's builders poured concrete into wooden frames underwater, using volcanic ash shipped all the way from Italy. It was one of the first harbors ever built in the open sea.

### WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

Underwater work began in 1960, and the big Caesarea harbor dig started in 1980 under Avner Raban and Robert Hohlfelder. Herod's palace on a point of land by the sea has also been dug up. The Pilate Stone was found in Caesarea's theater in 1961.

### WHAT IT CONFIRMS

Acts 23:35 says Felix kept Paul under guard in Herod's palace. The palace by the sea was the governor's home in

ACTS 23:33 [ARCHAEOLOGY] Herod's harbor at Caesarea, Roman roads like the Via Egnatia and other finds confirm the travel details of Acts → FIELD NOTES p.48

Paul's day, so this is very likely where Paul spent those two years.

#### SEE ALSO

The Pilate Stone Field Notes page in Luke, p.~, and Herod Agrippa's death in this same city, Acts 12.

<sup>34</sup> The governor read the letter and asked what province Paul was from. Learning that he was from Cilicia, <sup>35</sup> he said, "I will hear your case when your accusers arrive." Then he ordered that Paul be kept under guard in Herod's Praetorium.

## 24

### CHAPTER 24 IN 30 SECONDS

*A lawyer named Tertullus flatters Governor Felix and accuses Paul. When Paul talks about self control and the judgment to come, Felix gets scared and sends him away. Felix keeps hoping for a bribe and leaves Paul in custody for two years.*

#### TERTULLUS PROSECUTES PAUL

<sup>1</sup> Five days later the high priest Ananias came down with some elders and a lawyer named Tertullus, who presented to the governor their case against Paul.

<sup>2</sup> When Paul had been called in, Tertullus opened the prosecution: "Because of you, we have enjoyed a lasting peace, and your foresight has brought improvements to this nation. <sup>3</sup> In every way and everywhere, most excellent Felix, we acknowledge this with all gratitude. <sup>4</sup> But in order not to delay you any further, I beg your indulgence to hear us briefly.

<sup>5</sup> We have found this man to be a pestilence, stirring up dissension among the Jews all over the world. He is a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes, <sup>6</sup> and he even tried to desecrate the temple; so we seized him. [and we would have judged him according to our law.] <sup>7</sup> [But Lysias the commander came with great force and took him out of our hands, ordering his accusers to come before you.] <sup>8</sup> By examining him yourself, you will be able to

learn the truth about all our charges against him."

<sup>9</sup> The Jews concurred, asserting that these charges were true.

#### PAUL'S DEFENSE TO FELIX

<sup>10</sup> When the governor motioned for Paul to speak, he began his response: "Knowing that you have been a judge over this nation for many years, I gladly make my defense. <sup>11</sup> You can verify for yourself that no more than twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship. <sup>12</sup> Yet my accusers did not find me debating with anyone in the temple or riling up a crowd in the synagogues or in the city. <sup>13</sup> Nor can they prove to you any of their charges against me.

<sup>14</sup> I do confess to you, however, that I worship the God of our fathers according to the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that is laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, <sup>15</sup> and I have the same hope in God that they themselves cherish, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. <sup>16</sup> In this hope, I strive always to maintain a clear conscience before God and man.

<sup>17</sup> After several years, then, I returned to Jerusalem to bring alms to my people and to present offerings. <sup>18</sup> At the time they found me in the temple, I was ceremonially clean and was not inciting a crowd or an uproar. But there are some Jews from the province of Asia <sup>19</sup> who ought to appear before you and bring charges, if they have anything against me. <sup>20</sup> Otherwise, let these men state for themselves any crime they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin, <sup>21</sup> unless it was this one thing I called out as I stood in their presence: 'It is concerning the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you today.'"

#### THE VERDICT POSTPONED

<sup>22</sup> Then Felix, who was well informed about the Way, adjourned the hearing and said, "When Lysias the commander comes, I will decide your case." <sup>23</sup> He ordered the centurion to keep Paul under

■ **ACTS 24:6 [TEXT]** The words in brackets in verses 6 to 8 are not in the oldest manuscripts. Later copies and the KJV have them.

guard, but to allow him some freedom and permit his friends to minister to his needs.

<sup>24</sup> After several days, Felix returned with his wife Drusilla, who was a Jewess. He sent for Paul and listened to him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup> As Paul expounded on righteousness, self-control, and the coming judgment, Felix became frightened and said, "You may go for now. When I find the time, I will call for you." <sup>26</sup> At the same time, he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe. So he sent for Paul frequently and talked with him.

<sup>27</sup> After two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And wishing to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison.

## 25

### CHAPTER 25 IN 30 SECONDS

*A new governor, Festus, takes over. The leaders want Paul brought to Jerusalem so they can ambush him. Paul says, I appeal to Caesar, and Festus answers, To Caesar you will go. Then King Agrippa and Bernice arrive with great pomp.*

#### PAUL'S TRIAL BEFORE FESTUS

<sup>1</sup> Three days after his arrival in the province, Festus went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> where the chief priests and Jewish leaders presented their case against Paul. They urged Festus <sup>3</sup> to grant them a concession against Paul by summoning him to Jerusalem, because they were preparing an ambush to kill him along the way.

<sup>4</sup> But Festus replied, "Paul is being held in Caesarea, and I myself am going there soon. <sup>5</sup> So if this man has done anything wrong, let some of your leaders come down with me and accuse him there."

<sup>6</sup> After spending no more than eight or ten days with them, Festus went down to Caesarea. The next day he sat on the judgment seat and ordered that Paul be brought in. <sup>7</sup> When Paul arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many serious charges that they could not prove.

<sup>8</sup> Then Paul made his defense: "I have committed no offense against the law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar."

<sup>9</sup> But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, "Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem to stand trial before me on these charges?"

#### PAUL APPEALS TO CAESAR

<sup>10</sup> Paul replied, "I am standing before the judgment seat of Caesar, where I ought to be tried. I have done nothing wrong to the Jews, as you yourself know very well. <sup>11</sup> If, however, I am guilty of anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die. But if there is no truth to their accusations against me, no one has the right to hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar!"

<sup>12</sup> Then Festus conferred with his council and replied, "You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you will go!"

#### FESTUS CONSULTS AGRIPPA

<sup>13</sup> After several days had passed, King Agrippa and Bernice came down to Caesarea to pay their respects to Festus. <sup>14</sup> Since they were staying several days, Festus laid out Paul's case before the king: "There is a certain man whom Felix left in prison. <sup>15</sup> While I was in Jerusalem, the chief priests and elders of the Jews presented their case and requested a judgment against him. <sup>16</sup> I told them that it is not the Roman custom to hand a man over before he has had an opportunity to face his accusers and defend himself against their charges.

<sup>17</sup> So when they came here with me, I did not delay. The next day I sat on the judgment seat and ordered that the man be brought in. <sup>18</sup> But when his accusers rose to speak, they did not charge him with any of the crimes I had expected. <sup>19</sup> They only had some contentions with him regarding their own religion and a certain Jesus who had died, but whom Paul affirmed to be alive.

<sup>20</sup> Since I was at a loss as to how to investigate these matters, I asked if he was willing to go to Jerusalem and be tried

## MIRACLES JESUS SPEAKING

there on these charges. <sup>21</sup>But when Paul appealed to be held over for the decision of the Emperor, I ordered that he be held until I could send him to Caesar."

<sup>22</sup> Then Agrippa said to Festus, "I would like to hear this man myself."

"Tomorrow you will hear him," Festus declared.

## PAUL BEFORE AGRIPPA AND BERNICE

<sup>23</sup> The next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp and entered the auditorium, along with the commanders and leading men of the city. And Festus ordered that Paul be brought in.

<sup>24</sup> Then Festus said, "King Agrippa and all who are present with us, you see this man. The whole Jewish community has petitioned me about him, both here and in Jerusalem, crying out that he ought not to live any longer. <sup>25</sup> But I found he had done nothing worthy of death, and since he has now appealed to the Emperor, I decided to send him.

<sup>26</sup> I have nothing definite to write to our sovereign about him. Therefore I have brought him before all of you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after this inquiry I may have something to write. <sup>27</sup> For it seems unreasonable to me to send on a prisoner without specifying the charges against him."

## 26

## CHAPTER 26 IN 30 SECONDS

*Paul tells King Agrippa how he went from hunting Christians to meeting Jesus in a blinding light. Festus calls him crazy. Agrippa asks if Paul thinks he can make him a Christian so fast. Paul wishes they all were, except for the chains.*

**PAUL'S TESTIMONY TO AGRIPPA** // ACTS 9:1-19; ACTS 22:1-21

<sup>1</sup> Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself."

Then Paul stretched out his hand and began his defense: <sup>2</sup> "King Agrippa, I consider myself fortunate to stand before you today to defend myself against all the accusations of the Jews, <sup>3</sup> especially since you are acquainted with all the Jewish

customs and controversies. I beg you, therefore, to listen to me patiently.

<sup>4</sup> Surely all the Jews know how I have lived from my earliest childhood among my own people, and also in Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup> They have known me for a long time and can testify, if they are willing, that I lived as a Pharisee, adhering to the strictest sect of our religion.

<sup>6</sup> And now I stand on trial because of my hope in the promise that God made to our fathers, <sup>7</sup> the promise our twelve tribes are hoping to see fulfilled as they earnestly serve God day and night. It is because of this hope, O king, that I am accused by the Jews. <sup>8</sup> Why would any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?

<sup>9</sup> So then, I too was convinced that I ought to do all I could to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. <sup>10</sup> And that is what I did in Jerusalem. With authority from the chief priests I put many of the saints in prison, and when they were condemned to death, I cast my vote against them. <sup>11</sup> I frequently had them punished in the synagogues, and I tried to make them blaspheme. In my raging fury against them, I even went to foreign cities to persecute them.

<sup>12</sup> In this pursuit I was on my way to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. <sup>13</sup> About noon, O king, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions. <sup>14</sup> We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice say to me in Hebrew, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'

<sup>15</sup> 'Who are You, Lord?' I asked.

'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the Lord replied. <sup>16</sup> 'But get up and stand on your feet. For I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen from Me and what I will show you. <sup>17</sup> I will rescue you

■ ACTS 26:13 [MIRACLE] Paul tells Agrippa about the light brighter than the sun

■ ACTS 26:14 [NOTABLE] Jesus uses a saying Greek readers knew from plays like Euripides' *Bacchae*. An ox that kicks against the farmer's pointed stick only hurts itself.

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES DEMONIC JESUS SPEAKING

from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them <sup>18</sup>to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those sanctified by faith in Me.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>19</sup> So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision. <sup>20</sup> First to those in Damascus and Jerusalem, then to everyone in the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I declared that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds worthy of their repentance. <sup>21</sup> For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple courts and tried to kill me.

<sup>22</sup> But I have had God's help to this day, and I stand here to testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen: <sup>23</sup> that the Christ would suffer, and as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to our people and to the Gentiles."

#### FESTUS INTERRUPTS PAUL'S DEFENSE

<sup>24</sup> At this stage of Paul's defense, Festus exclaimed in a loud voice, "You are insane, Paul! Your great learning is driving you to madness!"

<sup>25</sup> But Paul answered, "I am not insane, most excellent Festus; I am speaking words of truth and sobriety. <sup>26</sup> For the king knows about these matters, and I can speak freely to him. I am confident that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner. <sup>27</sup> King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do."

<sup>28</sup> Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Can you persuade me in such a short time to become a Christian?"

<sup>29</sup> "Short time or long," Paul replied, "I wish to God that not only you but all who hear me this day may become what I am, except for these chains."

<sup>30</sup> Then the king and the governor rose, along with Bernice and those seated with them. <sup>31</sup> On their way out, they said to one another, "This man has done nothing worthy of death or imprisonment."

<sup>32</sup> And Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been released if he had not appealed to Caesar."

## 27

### CHAPTER 27 IN 30 SECONDS

*Paul sails for Rome as a prisoner. He warns them not to sail, and nobody listens. A hurricane force wind hits. An angel tells Paul everyone will live.*

*The ship breaks apart, but all 276 people make it to shore.*

#### PAUL SAILS FOR ROME

<sup>1</sup> When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, Paul and some other prisoners were handed over to a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Imperial Regiment. <sup>2</sup> We boarded an Adramyttian ship about to sail for ports along the coast of Asia, and we put out to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was with us.

<sup>3</sup> The next day we landed at Sidon, and Julius treated Paul with consideration, allowing him to visit his friends and receive their care. <sup>4</sup> After putting out from there, we sailed to the lee of Cyprus because the winds were against us. <sup>5</sup> And when we had sailed across the open sea off the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra in Lycia. <sup>6</sup> There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy and put us on board.

<sup>7</sup> After sailing slowly for many days, we arrived off Cnidus. When the wind impeded us, we sailed to the lee of Crete, opposite Salmone. <sup>8</sup> After we had moved along the coast with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near the town of Lasea.

<sup>9</sup> By now much time had passed, and the voyage had already become dangerous because it was after the Fast. So Paul advised them, <sup>10</sup> "Men, I can see that our voyage will be filled with disaster and

■ ACTS 26:18 [DEMONIC] Turn them from the power of Satan to God

■ ACTS 26:23 [FULFILLS] He would bring light to the Gentiles ← IS 60:1-3 p.---

## PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE

great loss, not only to ship and cargo, but to our own lives as well."

<sup>11</sup> But contrary to Paul's advice, the centurion was persuaded by the pilot and by the owner of the ship. <sup>12</sup> Since the harbor was unsuitable to winter in, the majority decided to sail on, hoping that somehow they could reach Phoenix to winter there. Phoenix was a harbor in Crete facing both southwest and northwest.

## THE STORM AT SEA // JONAH 1:4-10

<sup>13</sup> When a gentle south wind began to blow, they thought they had their opportunity. So they weighed anchor and sailed along, hugging the coast of Crete. <sup>14</sup> But it was not long before a cyclone called the Northeaster swept down across the island. <sup>15</sup> Unable to head into the wind, the ship was caught up. So we gave way and let ourselves be driven along.

<sup>16</sup> Passing to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we barely managed to secure the lifeboat. <sup>17</sup> After hoisting it up, the crew used ropes to undergird the ship. And fearing that they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and were driven along.

<sup>18</sup> We were tossed so violently that the next day the men began to jettison the cargo. <sup>19</sup> On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. <sup>20</sup> When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the great storm continued to batter us, we abandoned all hope of being saved.

<sup>21</sup> After the men had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up among them and said, "Men, you should have followed my advice not to sail from Crete. Then you would have averted this disaster and loss.

<sup>22</sup> But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because you will not experience any loss of life, but only of the ship. <sup>23</sup> For just last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me <sup>24</sup> and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And

look, God has granted you the lives of all who sail with you.'

<sup>25</sup> So take courage, men, for I believe God that it will happen just as He told me. <sup>26</sup> However, we must run aground on some island."

## THE SHIPWRECK

<sup>27</sup> On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic Sea. About midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land. <sup>28</sup> They took soundings and found that the water was twenty fathoms deep. Going a little farther, they took another set of soundings that read fifteen fathoms. <sup>29</sup> Fearing that we would run aground on the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daybreak.

<sup>30</sup> Meanwhile, the sailors attempted to escape from the ship. Pretending to lower anchors from the bow, they let the lifeboat down into the sea. <sup>31</sup> But Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men remain with the ship, you cannot be saved." <sup>32</sup> So the soldiers cut the ropes to the lifeboat and set it adrift.

<sup>33</sup> Right up to daybreak, Paul kept urging them all to eat: "Today is your fourteenth day in constant suspense, without taking any food. <sup>34</sup> So for your own preservation, I urge you to eat something, because not a single hair of your head will be lost."

<sup>35</sup> After he had said this, Paul took bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat. <sup>36</sup> They were all encouraged and took some food themselves. <sup>37</sup> In all, there were 276 of us on board. <sup>38</sup> After the men had eaten their fill, they lightened the ship by throwing the grain into the sea.

<sup>39</sup> When daylight came, they did not recognize the land, but they sighted a bay with a sandy beach, where they decided to run the ship aground if they could. <sup>40</sup> Cutting away the anchors, they left them in the sea as they loosened the ropes that held the rudders. Then they hoisted the foresail to the wind and made for the

■ ACTS 27:22 [PROPHECY] There will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship... you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you → Fulfilled exactly p.-

■ ACTS 27:23 [MIRACLE] Angel stands by Paul on the storm-tossed ship

## MIRACLES DEMONIC

beach. <sup>41</sup> But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern was being broken up by the pounding of the waves.

<sup>42</sup> The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners so none of them could swim to freedom. <sup>43</sup> But the centurion, wanting to spare Paul's life, thwarted their plan. He commanded those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land. <sup>44</sup> The rest were to follow on planks and various parts of the ship. In this way everyone was brought safely to land.

## 28

## CHAPTER 28 IN 30 SECONDS

*On Malta a snake bites Paul. When he does not drop dead, the locals decide he is a god. At last Paul reaches Rome, lives under guard in a rented house for two years, and preaches boldly with no one stopping him.*

## ASHORE ON MALTA

<sup>1</sup> Once we were safely ashore, we learned that the island was called Malta. <sup>2</sup> The islanders showed us extraordinary kindness. They kindled a fire and welcomed all of us because it was raining and cold.

<sup>3</sup> Paul gathered a bundle of sticks, and as he laid them on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself to his hand. <sup>4</sup> When the islanders saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "Surely this man is a murderer. Although he was saved from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live." <sup>5</sup> But Paul shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no ill effects. <sup>6</sup> The islanders were expecting him to swell up or suddenly drop dead. But after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god.

<sup>7</sup> Nearby stood an estate belonging to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us and entertained us hospitably for three days. <sup>8</sup> The father of Publius was sick in bed, suffering from fever

and dysentery. Paul went in to see him, and after praying and placing his hands on him, he healed the man. <sup>9</sup> After this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured as well.

<sup>10</sup> The islanders honored us in many ways and supplied our needs when we were ready to sail.

## PAUL ARRIVES IN ITALY

<sup>11</sup> After three months we set sail in an Alexandrian ship that had wintered in the island. It had the Twin Brothers as a figurehead. <sup>12</sup> Putting in at Syracuse, we stayed there three days. <sup>13</sup> From there we weighed anchor and came to Rhegium. After one day, a south wind came up, and on the second day we arrived at Puteoli. <sup>14</sup> There we found some brothers who invited us to spend the week with them. And so we came to Rome.

<sup>15</sup> The brothers there had heard about us and traveled as far as the Forum of Appius and the Three Taverns to meet us. When Paul saw them, he was encouraged and gave thanks to God.

## PAUL PREACHES AT ROME // ISAIAH 6:1–13

<sup>16</sup> When we arrived in Rome, Paul was permitted to stay by himself, with a soldier to guard him.

<sup>17</sup> After three days, he called together the leaders of the Jews. When they had gathered, he said to them, "Brothers, although I have done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, I was taken prisoner in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans. <sup>18</sup> They examined me and wanted to release me, because there was no basis for a death sentence against me. <sup>19</sup> But when the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar, even though I have no charge to bring against my nation. <sup>20</sup> So for this reason I have called to see you and speak with you. It is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain."

<sup>21</sup> The leaders replied, "We have not received any letters about you from Judea,

■ ACTS 28:3 [MIRACLE] Paul shakes off the viper at Malta — no harm  
 ■ ACTS 28:6 [DEMONIC] Islanders on Malta decide Paul must be a god

■ ACTS 28:8 [MIRACLE] Publius' father healed; all sick on the island healed  
 ■ ACTS 28:11 [DEMONIC] Paul sails on a ship with the Twin Brothers as its figurehead

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES    PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE    OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

nor have any of the brothers from there reported or even mentioned anything bad about you. <sup>22</sup> But we consider your views worth hearing, because we know that people everywhere are speaking against this sect."

<sup>23</sup> So they set a day to meet with Paul, and many people came to the place he was staying. He expounded to them from morning to evening, testifying about the kingdom of God and persuading them about Jesus from the Law of Moses and the Prophets.

<sup>24</sup> Some of them were convinced by what he said, but others refused to believe. <sup>25</sup> They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: "The Holy Spirit was right when He spoke to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet:

<sup>26</sup> *"Go to this people and say,  
"You will be ever hearing but never understanding;  
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving."  
<sup>27</sup> For this people's heart has grown callous;  
they hardly hear with their ears,  
and they have closed their eyes.  
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their hearts,  
and turn, and I would heal them."*

<sup>28</sup> Be advised, therefore, that God's salvation has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen!" <sup>29</sup> [When he had said this, the Jews went away, disputing sharply among themselves.]

<sup>30</sup> Paul stayed there two full years in his own rented house, welcoming all who came to visit him. <sup>31</sup> Boldly and freely he proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

■ ACTS 28:25 [FULFILLS] His parables would fall on deaf ears ← IS 6:9-10 p.-

■ ACTS 28:26 [QUOTES] Direct ← IS 6:9-10 p.-

■ ACTS 28:29 [TEXT] Not in the oldest manuscripts. Later copies and the KJV have it.

■ ACTS 28:30 [FULFILLS] The witnesses would carry the gospel to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth ← ACTS 1:8 p.-