

The Acts of the Apostles

Introduction

1 The first account I made, O Theophilus, concerning all that Jesus began both to do and to teach² until the day in which he was taken up, he having given *the* commandments *he received* through holy spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.³ To whom he also showed himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them over *a period* of forty days and speaking things concerning the kingdom of God.⁴ And being assembled together with them, he commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, *he said*, “you heard from me,⁵ because John baptized with water, but you will be baptized in holy spirit not many days from now.”

⁶Therefore, when they had come together, they asked him, saying, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”⁷ And he said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has set within His own authority.⁸ But you will receive power when the holy spirit has come upon you and you will be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in

all Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost part of the earth.”

The Ascension

⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking he was taken up and a cloud received him out of their sight.¹⁰ And while they were looking steadfastly into heaven as he went, Look!, two men stood by them in white apparel,¹¹ who said, “You men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as you saw him going into heaven.”

Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away.¹³ And when they had entered, they went up into the upper chamber where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James *the son of* Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas *the son of* James.¹⁴ These all with one accord continued steadfastly in prayer, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

¹⁵And in these days Peter stood up in the midst of the brothers and said (and there was a multitude of names *gathered* together, about a

hundred and twenty), ¹⁶“Men *and* brothers, it was necessary that the Scripture be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who took Jesus, ¹⁷because he had been counted as one of us and received a portion in this ministry. ¹⁸(Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his iniquity, and falling down prone, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹And it became known to all those who were living in Jerusalem, so that in their language that field was called Akeldama, that is, the field of blood.) ²⁰For it is written in the book of Psalms, **Let his habitation be made desolate and let no man dwell in it, and, Let another take his place of leadership.** ²¹Therefore, of the men who have accompanied us the entire time that the Lord Jesus went in and went out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John to the day that he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.” ²³And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, (who was also called Justus), and Matthias. ²⁴And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas fell away, that he might go to his own place.” ²⁶And they cast lots

for them, and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Pentecost: Start of the Church

2 And when the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven came a sound like a strong rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which being divided came to rest upon each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with holy spirit, and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them to utterance.

⁵Now there were Jews staying in Jerusalem, *deeply* religious men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were bewildered, because every man heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷And they were all amazed, and marveled, saying, “Look!, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own language in which we were born?” ⁹Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and those who live in Mesopotamia, in Judea and Cappadocia, in Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰in Phrygia and Pamphylia, in Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene, and visitors from Rome (both Jews and proselytes), ¹¹Cretans and

Arabians, we hear them speaking in our tongues the mighty works of God.

¹²And they were all amazed, and were perplexed, saying one to another, "What does this mean?"

¹³But others mocking said, "They are filled with sweet new wine."

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and spoke to them, *saying*, "Fellow Jews, and all you who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and pay close attention to my words. ¹⁵For these are not drunk, as you suppose, seeing it is *but* the third hour of the day. ¹⁶But this is that which has been spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷**And it will be in the last days, says God, I will pour out from the reservoir of my spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy, and your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸And even on my male servants and on my female servants will I pour out my spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show wonders in the heavens above, and signs on the earth beneath: blood, and fire, and a cloud of smoke. ²⁰The sun will be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes. ²¹And it will be that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**

²²"You men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man pointed out to you by God by mighty works and wonders and signs, which God did through him in the midst of you, even as you yourselves know, ²³this man, delivered up by the decreed plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hand of lawless men. ²⁴God raised him up, having freed him from the agony of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵For David says concerning him, **I saw the Lord always before me, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved. ²⁶Therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced, moreover my flesh also will abide in hope ²⁷because you will not abandon my soul to the grave, neither will you allow your Holy One to see corruption. ²⁸You made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.**

²⁹"Men *and* brothers, I can say to you with confidence about the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, and knowing that **God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his body he would seat *one* of his descendants upon his throne,** ³¹he, foreseeing *this*, spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, **that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his flesh see corruption.** ³²This Jesus God raised, of which we all are

witnesses. ³³Then being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the holy spirit, he has poured out this that you see and hear. ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, **The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand, ³⁵untill I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.’**

³⁶Therefore, let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men *and* brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸And Peter *said* to them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the holy spirit. ³⁹For the promise is to you, and to your children, and to all who are far off, *even* to as many as the Lord our God will call.” ⁴⁰And with many other words he testified, and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.”

The Fellowship of the Believers

⁴¹Then those who received his word were baptized, and in that day there were added to *their number* about three thousand souls. ⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and

fellowship, in the breaking of bread and prayers. ⁴³And fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

⁴⁴And all *those* who believed were together, and had all things *in* common, ⁴⁵and they began selling their property and possessions, and were dividing them among all, as anyone had need. ⁴⁶And day after day, continuing with one accord in the Temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were receiving their food with jubilation and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷praising God, and having favor with all the people. And day after day the Lord was adding to them those who were being saved.

Healing of a Lame Man

3 Now Peter and John were going up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth *hour*. ²And a certain man who was lame from his mother’s womb was being carried, (whom they placed daily at the gate of the temple that is called *the Beautiful Gate*, to ask for charitable gifts from those who entered into the temple), ³who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, was asking to receive a gift. ⁴And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him, with John, said, “Look at us.” ⁵And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I have I

give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.”⁷ And he took him by the right hand, and raised him up, and immediately his feet and his ankle-bones received strength.⁸ And leaping up, he stood, and began to walk. And he entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God,¹⁰ and they recognized him, that it was he who sat for charitable gifts at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened to him.

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹¹And as he held Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon’s, greatly wondering.¹² And when Peter saw it, he answered the people, “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this man? Or why do you fasten your eyes on us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made him to walk?¹³ The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up, and denied before the face of Pilate, when he had determined to release him.¹⁴ But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,¹⁵ and killed the Prince of Life, whom God raised out from among *the* dead, of which we

are witnesses.¹⁶ And by faith in his name, his *very* name has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith that is through his *name* has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

¹⁷And now, brothers, I know that in ignorance you did it, as did also your rulers.¹⁸ But the things that God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ should suffer, he thus fulfilled.

¹⁹Repent therefore, and return *to God*, that your sins may be blotted out, so that there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord,²⁰ and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you, *even* Jesus,²¹ whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets that have been from of old.

²²Indeed, Moses said, **The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. To him you will listen in all things, whatever he says to you.**²³ **And it will be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet,** will be utterly destroyed from among the people.

²⁴Yes, and all the prophets from Samuel and those who followed after, as many as have spoken, they also told of these days.²⁵ You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, **and in your seed will all the families of the earth be blessed.**²⁶ To you first, God,

having raised up his Servant, sent him to bless you by turning away every one of you from your iniquities.”

Taken Before the Sanhedrin

4 And as they spoke to the people, the priests and the commander of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²being greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection out from among *the* dead. ³And they laid hands on them, and put them in prison until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.

⁵And it came to pass on the next day that their rulers and elders and experts in the law were gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶and Annas the high priest *was there*, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, all who were of the high priest’s family. ⁷And when they had placed them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power, or in what name, have you done this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with holy spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people, and elders, ⁹if we this day are examined concerning a good deed done to a disabled man, by what means he was made whole, ¹⁰be it known to you all and to all the people of Israel that in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised out from

among *the* dead, *even* by him does this man stand here before you whole. ¹¹He is the **stone that was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.** ¹²And in no one else is there salvation, for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.”

¹³Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and had perceived that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed, and they were becoming keenly aware of them, that they had been with Jesus. ¹⁴And seeing the man who was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. ¹⁵But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the Sanhedrin, they conferred among themselves, ¹⁶saying, “What shall we do to these men? For that a notable sign has been done by them is obvious to all who live in Jerusalem, and we are not able to deny it. ¹⁷But in order that it spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.” ¹⁸And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all, nor teach, in the name of Jesus.

¹⁹But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you judge, ²⁰for we are unable to not speak about the things which we saw and heard.”

²¹And they, when they had further

threatened them, released, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for everyone glorified God for what had happened, ²²for the man on whom this miracle of healing had been done was more than forty years old.

Prayer for Boldness

²³And when they were released, they came to their own *people* and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴And when they heard it they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, “O Lord, you who made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them, ²⁵who, *by* the mouth of our father David your servant, said through holy spirit, **Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples imagine worthless things?** ²⁶**The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against his Christ.** ²⁷For truly in this city, against your holy Servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together ²⁸to do whatever your hand and your council marked out beforehand to come to pass. ²⁹And now, Lord, look upon their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness, ³⁰while you stretch forth your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the

name of your holy Servant Jesus.”

³¹And when they had implored *God*, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the holy spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Sharing Among Believers

³²And the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and not one *of them* said that any of the things that he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. ³³And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴For there was not a needy person among them, for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them and brought the price of the things that were sold ³⁵and laid them at the apostles’ feet, and distribution was made to each one, according as anyone had need. ³⁶And Joseph, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas (which translated means, “Son of Encouragement”), a Levite, a man of Cyprus by race, ³⁷having a field, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.

Ananias and Sapphira

5 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, ²and kept back *part* of the price (his wife also

having known *about it*), and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. ³But Peter said, "Ananias, why has the Adversary filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land? ⁴While it remained *unsold*, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your authority? How is it that you have contrived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God." ⁵And Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed out *his last breath*. And great fear came upon all who heard it. ⁶And the young men arose and wrapped him up, and they carried him out and buried him.

⁷And it was about an interval of three hours later, when his wife, not knowing what had been done, came in. ⁸And Peter responded to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." ⁹But Peter *said* to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Look!, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." ¹⁰And she fell down immediately at his feet, and breathed out *her last breath*, and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her by her husband. ¹¹And great fear came upon the whole congregation, and upon all who heard these things.

Miracles Done – Disciples Added

¹²And by the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people, and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. ¹³But of the rest, no man dared join himself to them, nevertheless, the people magnified them. ¹⁴Now more believers were being added to the Lord, multitudes of them, both men and women, ¹⁵so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on mats and pallets, that, as Peter came by, at the least his shadow might overshadow some of them. ¹⁶And the multitudes from the cities around Jerusalem also came together, bringing people who were sick, and those who were afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.

Apostles Arrested, Beaten, Released

¹⁷But the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy, ¹⁸and laid hands on the apostles and put them in *the* public jail. ¹⁹But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, and brought them out and said, ²⁰"Go, and stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this Life." ²¹And when they heard *this*, they entered into the temple about daybreak, and taught.

But the high priest came, and those who were with him, and called the Sanhedrin together, and all the senate of the sons of Israel, and sent to the prison-house to have them brought. ²²But the *Temple* police that came did not find them in the prison, and they returned and reported, ²³saying, “The prison-house we found shut in all safety, and the guards standing at the doors, but when we had opened *them*, we found no man inside.” ²⁴Now when the commander of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were very perplexed concerning them *and* what might become of this. ²⁵And one came and told them, “Look!, the men whom you put in the prison are in the temple, standing and teaching the people.” ²⁶Then the commander went, with the *temple* police, and brought them, *but* without violence, for they were afraid of the people, lest they should be stoned.

²⁷And when they had brought them, they set them before the Sanhedrin. And the high priest asked them, ²⁸saying, “Did we not command you with a command not to teach in this name? But look! You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered and said, “We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you slew, hanging him

on a tree. ³¹Him did God exalt with his right hand *to be* a Prince and a Savior, to give repentance to Israel, and remission of sins. ³²And we are witnesses of these things, and *so is* the holy spirit, which God has given to those who obey him.”

³³But they, when they heard this, were cut to the heart, and were intending to put them to death. ³⁴But a Pharisee named Gamaliel stood up in the Sanhedrin, a doctor of the law, held in honor by all the people, and he commanded to put the men outside a little while. ³⁵And he said to them, “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶For before these days rose up Theudas, claiming to be somebody, *and* a number of men, about four hundred, joined him, he was killed, and all, as many as were persuaded by him, were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the enrolment, and drew away *some* people after him. He also perished, and all, as many as were persuaded by him, were scattered abroad. ³⁸And now I say to you, refrain from these men, and let them alone. For if this counsel or this work be of men, it will be overthrown, ³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. Perhaps you may even find yourselves fighting against God.” ⁴⁰So they were persuaded by him, and having called in the apostles,

they beat them and commanded them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹Therefore, they departed from the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the Name. ⁴²And every day, in the temple and at home, they did not cease to teach and to tell the good news—Jesus *is* the Christ.

Seven Chosen to Serve

6 Now in these days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, it came about that the Grecian *Jews* grumbled against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution of *food*. ²And the twelve called the multitude of the disciples to them, and said, “It is not fitting that we should forsake the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. ⁴But we will continue steadfastly in prayer, and in the ministry of the word.” ⁵And the statement pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of holy spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they had stand before the apostles, and when they had prayed, they laid their hands upon them. ⁷And the word of God

increased, and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a large multitude of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Stephen Accused of Blasphemy

⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹But some of those who were of the synagogue called *the synagogue* of the Libertines, and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those of Cilicia and Asia, rose up and *began* disputing with Stephen. ¹⁰And they could not withstand the wisdom and the spirit by which he spoke. ¹¹Then they secretly persuaded men, who said, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and *against* God.” ¹²And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the experts in the law, and came upon him, and seized him, and brought him to the Sanhedrin, ¹³and set up false witnesses who said, “This man does not cease to speak words against this Holy Place, and the law, ¹⁴for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this Place, and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us.” ¹⁵And all who sat in the Sanhedrin, fastening their eyes on him, saw his face like the face of an angel.

Stephen’s Speech to the Sanhedrin

7 And the high priest said, “Are these things so?”² And he said, “Men, brothers, and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia before he lived in Haran,³ and said to him, **Get out of your land, and away from your relatives, and come into the land that I will show you.**⁴ Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, *God* removed him into this land, in which you now live,⁵ and he gave him no inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on, and *yet*, when he had no child, he promised that **he would give it to him as a possession, and to his seed after him.**⁶ And God spoke this way; that his **seed should be foreigners in a strange land (and that they should bring them into bondage, and treat them ill) four hundred years.**⁷ **‘And I will judge the nation in which they will serve as slaves,’ said God, ‘and after that they will come out, and serve me in this place.’**⁸ And he gave him the covenant of circumcision. And so *Abraham* fathered Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day, and Isaac *fathered* Jacob, and Jacob the twelve patriarchs.

⁹“And the patriarchs, moved with jealousy against Joseph, sold him into Egypt. And God was with him,¹⁰ and delivered him out of all his afflictions and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of

Egypt, and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.¹¹ Now a famine came over all Egypt and Canaan, and great affliction, and our fathers could find no food.¹² But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent forth our fathers the first time.¹³ And at the second time Joseph was made known to his brothers, and Joseph’s race was revealed to Pharaoh.¹⁴ And Joseph sent, and called to him Jacob his father, and all his relatives, seventy-five souls.¹⁵ And Jacob went down into Egypt, and he died, he and our fathers,¹⁶ and they were carried over to Shechem, and laid in the tomb that Abraham bought for a price in silver from the sons of Hamor in Shechem.¹⁷ But as the time of the promise drew near which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt,¹⁸ until there arose another king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.¹⁹ The same dealt craftily with our race, and mistreated our fathers, making their babies abandoned so that they would die.²⁰ At which time Moses was born, and *he* was beautiful to God, and he was nourished three months in his father’s house.²¹ And after he had been exposed, Pharaoh’s daughter took him up and brought him up as her own son.²² And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and works.

²³“But when he was fully forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the sons of Israel. ²⁴And seeing one *of them* suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him who was oppressed, smiting the Egyptian. ²⁵He assumed that his brothers understood that God was giving them deliverance by his hand, but they did not understand.

²⁶“And the day following he appeared to them as they fought, and was reconciling them to peace, having said, ‘Men, you are brothers. Why do you wrong one another?’

²⁷But he who did his neighbor wrong thrust him away, saying, **Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?** ²⁸**Do you want to kill me, as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?** ²⁹And Moses fled at this saying, and became a foreigner in the land of Midian, where he fathered two sons. ³⁰And when forty years were fulfilled, an angel appeared to him in the desert of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. ³¹And when Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight. And as he drew near to look more closely, a voice of the Lord came, ³²**I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob.** And Moses trembled, and did not dare to look. ³³**And the Lord said to him, ‘Loosen the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you stand is holy ground.’** ³⁴**I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their groaning, and I have come down to**

deliver them. And now come, I will send you into Egypt.’

³⁵“This Moses whom they refused, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge,’ him has God sent *to be* both a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel that appeared to him in the bush. ³⁶This man led them forth, having done wonders and signs in Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the desert forty years.

³⁷This is that Moses, who said to the sons of Israel, **A prophet like me shall God raise up to you from among your brothers.** ³⁸This is he who was with the congregation in the desert with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, who received living oracles to give to us, ³⁹to whom our fathers would not be obedient, but thrust him from them, and in their hearts turned back to Egypt, ⁴⁰**saying to Aaron, ‘Make us gods that shall go before us, for as for this Moses, who led us forth out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what is become of him.’** ⁴¹And they made a calf in those days, and brought a sacrifice to the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their hands. ⁴²But God turned, and gave them up to serve the army of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets, **Did you offer to me slain animals and sacrifices forty years in the desert, O house of Israel?** ⁴³**And you took along the tent of Moloch, and the star of the god Rephan, the images that you made to worship them. So I will carry you away beyond Babylon.**

⁴⁴“Our fathers had the Tent of Testimony in the desert, even as he who spoke to Moses appointed, that he should make it according to the pattern that he had seen. ⁴⁵And our fathers, in their turn, brought it in with Joshua when they entered into the possession of the nations that God thrust out before the face of our fathers, to the days of David, ⁴⁶who found favor in the sight of God, and asked to find a habitation for the God of Jacob. ⁴⁷But Solomon built him a house.

⁴⁸“But the Most High does not dwell in *houses* made with hands, as says the prophet, ⁴⁹**Heaven is my throne, and the earth the footstool of my feet. What manner of house will you build me, says the Lord. Or what is the place of my rest?** ⁵⁰**Did not my hand make all these things?**

⁵¹“You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become, ⁵³you who received the law as it was ordained by angels, and did not keep it.”

The Stoning of Stephen

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they *began* gnashing their teeth at

him. ⁵⁵But he, being full of holy spirit, looked up steadfastly into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, ⁵⁶and said, “Look!, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing on the right *hand* of God.”

⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears and with one accord rushed upon him.

⁵⁸And they threw him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹And they stoned Stephen, as he was calling upon *the Lord* and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

8 And Saul was fully approving of his death.

Church Persecuted and Scattered

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the congregation that was in Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the region of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ²And *deeply* religious men buried Stephen, and made great lamentation over him. ³But Saul laid waste the congregation, entering into every house and dragging off men and women, committed them to prison.

Philip in Samaria

⁴Therefore, those who had been scattered went around telling the Good News of the word. ⁵And Philip went down to a city of Samaria, and proclaimed to them the Christ. ⁶And the multitudes, with one accord, were paying attention to the things that were spoken by Philip when they heard and saw the signs that he did. ⁷For *out of* many of the ones who had unclean spirits, *the demons* were coming out, crying with a loud voice, and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. ⁸And there was much joy in that city.

Simon the Sorcerer

⁹But there was a certain man, Simon by name, who before that time used sorcery in the city, and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that *he* himself was someone great, ¹⁰to whom they all paid attention, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is that power of God which is called Great.” ¹¹And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his sorceries. ¹²But when they believed Philip, *who was* telling Good News about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. ¹³And Simon also himself believed, and being baptized, he continued with Philip.

And seeing signs and great miracles being done, he was amazed.

¹⁴Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, ¹⁵who, when they had come down, prayed for them in order that they might receive holy spirit *into manifestation*, ¹⁶for as yet it was fallen upon none of them, they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷Then they laid their hands on them, and they received holy spirit *into manifestation*.

¹⁸Now when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the spirit was given, he offered them money, ¹⁹saying, “Give me also this power, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands, he may receive holy spirit.” ²⁰But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you assumed the gift of God could be purchased with money. ²¹You have no part or share in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. ²²Therefore, repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. ²³For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of unrighteousness.” ²⁴And Simon answered and said, “Implore the Lord for me, that none of the things of which you have spoken may come upon me.”

²⁵They therefore, when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, telling the Good News to many villages of the Samaritans.

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

²⁶But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise, and go south on the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert *road*). ²⁷And he arose and went. And Look!, *there was* a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was over all her treasure, who had come to Jerusalem to worship. ²⁸And he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near, and join this chariot.” ³⁰And Philip ran to him, and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹And he said, “How am I able to, unless someone will guide me?” And he entreated Philip to come up and sit with him.

³²Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: **He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation his *just* judgment was taken away. Who will describe his descendents? For his life is taken from the earth.**

³⁴And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, “I implore you, of

whom does the prophet say this? About himself, or about some other *person*?” ³⁵And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture, told him the Good News about Jesus. ³⁶And as they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch says, “Look! Water! What hinders me from being baptized?” ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stand still, and they both went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they stepped up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, and the eunuch saw him no more, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip was found at Azotus, and as he was passing through *the region* he was telling the Good News to all the cities, until he came to Caesarea.

Saul Meets the Lord Jesus

9 Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues of Damascus, that if he found anyone belonging to the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now while he was going along, it came to pass that he approached Damascus, *and* suddenly a light from heaven shined around him, ⁴and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul,

why are you persecuting me?”⁵ And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he *said*, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.”⁶ But rise and enter into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”⁷ And the men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the *sound of the voice*, but seeing no one.⁸ And Saul arose from the ground, but when his eyes were opened, he saw nothing, so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.⁹ And for three days he was without sight, and did not eat or drink.

Ananias Heals Saul

¹⁰Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias, and in a vision the Lord said to him, “Ananias.” And he said, “Look!, I *am here*, Lord.”¹¹ And the Lord *said* to him, “Arise, and go to the street that is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one named Saul, a man of Tarsus, for Look!, he is praying,¹² and he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and laying his hands on him in order that he might receive his sight.”¹³ But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your holy *ones* at Jerusalem,¹⁴ and he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call upon your name here.”¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for this man is a chosen vessel to me, to carry my

name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the sons of Israel,¹⁶ for I will show him how many things he must suffer for my name’s sake.”

¹⁷And Ananias departed, and entered into the house, and laying his hands on him said, “Brother Saul, the Lord has sent me, Jesus who appeared to you on the road on which you came, so that you may receive your sight and be filled with holy spirit.”¹⁸ And immediately *something* like scales fell from his eyes, and he received his sight. And he arose and was baptized,¹⁹ and he took food and was strengthened.

Saul Boldly Preaches Christ

And for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus.²⁰ And immediately in the synagogues he proclaimed Jesus, that he is the Son of God.²¹ And all who heard him were amazed, and said, “Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name, and he *who* had come here for this *reason*, that he might bring them bound before the chief priests?”²² But Saul grew more powerful, and was confounding the Jews who lived in Damascus, proving that this *Jesus* is the Christ.

²³And when many days had gone by, the Jews took counsel together to kill him,²⁴ but their plot became known to Saul. And they also watched the gates day and night that they might kill him,²⁵ but his

disciples took him by night and let him down through *an opening in the wall*, lowering him in a basket.

²⁶And when he had come to Jerusalem, he was trying to join the disciples, and they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. ²⁷But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles, and declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸And he was with them going in and going out at Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹And he was talking and disputing with the Hellenistic Jews, but they were attempting to put him to death.

³⁰And when the brothers knew it, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him away to Tarsus.

³¹So the congregation throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace, being built up, and walking in the fear of the Lord and in the encouragement of the holy spirit, continued to grow in number.

Peter Heals Aeneas and Tabitha

³²And it came to pass as Peter went throughout all *that area*, he also came down to the holy *ones* who lived at Lydda. ³³And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been laid on his bed for eight years, *because* he was paralyzed. ³⁴And Peter said to him,

“Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed.” And immediately he arose. ³⁵And all who lived at Lydda and in Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

³⁶Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is called Dorcas). She was abounding in good works and acts of charity which she did continuously. ³⁷And it came to pass in those days that she became sick, and died. And when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. ³⁸And since Lydda was close to Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, entreating him, “Do not delay to come to us.” ³⁹And Peter arose and went with them. And when he had come, they brought him into the upper room, and all the widows stood by him crying, and showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas made while she was with them. ⁴⁰But Peter sent them all out, and kneeled down and prayed, and turning to the body, he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹And he gave her his hand, and raised her up, and calling the holy *ones* and widows, he presented her alive. ⁴²And this became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord. ⁴³And it came to pass, that he remained many days in Joppa with one Simon, a tanner.

Cornelius the Centurion's Vision

10 Now *there was* a certain man in Caesarea, Cornelius by name, a centurion of what is called the Italian the cohort, ²a godly man, and one who feared God along with all his house, who did many acts of charity for the *Jewish* people, and implored God continually. ³About the ninth hour of the day, he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God coming in to him and saying to him, "Cornelius." ⁴And he, fastening his eyes upon him, and being afraid, said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your acts of charity have come up as a memorial before God." ⁵And now send men to Joppa, and send for one Simon, who is also called Peter; ⁶he is staying with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside." ⁷And when the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his household servants, and a godly soldier of those who faithfully attended him, ⁸and when he had related all *these things* to them, he sent them to Joppa.

Peter's Vision

⁹Now on the next day about the sixth hour, as they were on their journey and drew near to the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray. ¹⁰And he became hungry, and desired to eat, but while they were preparing *the meal*, a state of suspended consciousness fell upon

him, ¹¹and he sees the heavens opened, and an object descending, something like a large linen cloth, being let down by four corners upon the earth, ¹²in which were all the four-footed beasts and reptiles of the earth, and birds of heaven. ¹³And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter. Kill and eat." ¹⁴But Peter said, "Surely not, Lord, for I have never eaten anything that is common and unclean." ¹⁵And a voice *came* to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed, do not consider unclean." ¹⁶And this was done three times, and immediately the object was taken up into heaven.

Peter Teaches Gentiles Good News

¹⁷Now while Peter was greatly perplexed in himself as to what the vision that he had seen might mean, Look!, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having found Simon's house by asking *directions*, stood at the gate ¹⁸and called and asked whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there. ¹⁹While Peter was thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Look!, three men are looking for you. ²⁰So arise and get down, and go with them without hesitation, for I have sent them." ²¹So Peter went down to the men, and said, "Look, I am the one whom you are seeking. What is the reason for your coming?" ²²And they said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous

and God-fearing man *who is* well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to send for you *to come* to his house, and to hear words from you.”²³ So he called them in and received them as guests. And on the next day he arose and went off with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him.

²⁴And on the next day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, having called together his relatives and his close friends. ²⁵Now it came to pass that when Peter entered, Cornelius met him, fell at *his* feet, *and* bowed down before *him*. ²⁶But Peter raised him up, saying, “Stand up. I myself also am a man.” ²⁷And as he talked with him, he went in and found many assembled together, ²⁸and he said to them, “You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a man who is a Jew to associate with or visit a foreigner, and *yet* God has showed me that I should not call any man common or unclean, ²⁹and therefore when I was sent for I came without arguing. So I ask for what reason you sent for me.”

³⁰And Cornelius said, “Four days ago, about this hour, I was praying in my house at the ninth hour, and Look!, a man stood before me in bright clothing ³¹and said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your acts of charity have been remembered before God.

³²Therefore send *men* to Joppa, and call for Simon, who is called Peter. He is staying in the house of Simon a tanner, by the sea.’ ³³Therefore I sent to you immediately, and you did well in that you have come. Now therefore we are all here present before God, to hear all the things that you have been commanded by the Lord.

³⁴And Peter opened his mouth and said, “Truly now I realize that God is not a respecter of persons, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the word that he sent to the sons of Israel, telling good news of peace through Jesus Christ, he is Lord of all. ³⁷You yourselves know the thing that took place throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee, after the baptism that John preached, ³⁸that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with holy spirit and with power, who went around doing good and healing all those who were being oppressed by the Slanderer, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all *the* things which he did, both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom also they killed, having hung him on a tree. ⁴⁰*But* God raised him up the third day, and granted that he should be seen, ⁴¹not by all the people, but by witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, *even* to us who ate and drank with him after he rose out from

among *the* dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to proclaim to the people and to solemnly testify that he is the one who has been appointed by God *to be* the Judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him, that through his name everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins.”

Gentiles Receive Gift of Holy Spirit

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking these words, the holy spirit fell on all those who were listening to the word. ⁴⁵And the believers from the circumcision were amazed, all those who came with Peter, because on the Gentiles also the gift of the holy spirit was poured out. ⁴⁶For they heard them speaking in tongues and exalting God. Then answered Peter, ⁴⁷“*Surely* no one is able to refuse water, *insisting* that these should not be baptized, who have received the holy spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain a few days.

Peter’s Report in Jerusalem

11 Now the apostles and the brothers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, those who were of the circumcision criticized him, ³saying, “You went

into *the house of* uncircumcised men and ate with them.” ⁴But Peter began, and explained *the matter* to them in order, saying,

⁵“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a state of suspended consciousness I saw a vision: an object descending something like a large linen cloth, being let down from heaven by the four corners, and it came down to me, ⁶*and* when I had fixed my gaze *upon it* and was observing it, I saw the four-footed animals of the earth and wild beasts and reptiles and birds of heaven.

⁷And I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter. Kill and eat.’ ⁸But I said, ‘Surely not, Lord, for nothing common or unclean has ever entered into my mouth.’ ⁹But a voice answered the second time out of heaven, ‘What God has cleansed, do not consider unclean.’ ¹⁰And this happened three times, and *then* everything was drawn up into heaven again. ¹¹And take notice!, immediately three men stood in front of the house in which we were *staying*, having been sent from Caesarea to me. ¹²And the Spirit told me to go with them without hesitation. And these six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered into the man’s house, ¹³and he told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, ‘Send *men* to Joppa, and send for Simon, who is also called Peter, ¹⁴who will speak words to you by

which you will be saved, you and all your house.’¹⁵ Now as I began to speak, the holy spirit fell on them, even as *it* also *did* on us at the beginning.¹⁶ Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how he used to say, “John baptized with water, but you will be baptized in holy spirit.”

¹⁷ If then God gave to them the same gift as *he* also *gave* to us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, I, who was I, to be able to stand in God’s way?”

¹⁸ And when they heard these things, they calmed down, and glorified God, saying, “Then God has granted the repentance to *everlasting* life to the Gentiles also.”

Antioch Church: Jews and Greeks

¹⁹ Now those who were scattered because of the tribulation that arose in connection with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, and Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews only.²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they came to Antioch, spoke to the Greeks also, telling the Good News about the Lord Jesus.²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number, having believed, turned to the Lord.

²² And the report about them came to the ears of the congregation that was in Jerusalem. And they sent Barnabas to Antioch,²³ who, when he came and saw the grace of God,

was glad, and was exhorting them all to remain *faithful* to the Lord in the purposes of their hearts,²⁴ for he was a good man, and full of holy spirit and faith. And many people were added to the Lord.

Saul and “Christians” in Antioch

²⁵ Then he went to Tarsus to diligently search for Saul,²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And so it came to pass that for a whole year they met with the congregation and taught a great number of people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

²⁷ Now in those days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.²⁸ And one of them, named Agabus, stood up and clearly indicated through the spirit that there would be a great famine over the whole inhabited world, which came to pass during *the reign* of Claudius.

Barnabas and Saul to Judea

²⁹ And the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brothers who lived in Judea,³⁰ and this they did, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

Herod Kills James, Arrests Peter

12 Now about that time Herod the king put forth his hands to harm some of the congregation.

² And he killed James the brother of

John with the sword. ³And when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. And *those* were the days of Unleavened Bread. ⁴And when he had taken him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of four soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. ⁵So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer to God for him was fervently being made by the congregation.

Peter Rescued by an Angel

⁶Now when Herod was about to bring him forth, that same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and guards in front of the door were watching over the prison. ⁷And look!, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared, and a light shined in the cell, and he struck Peter on the side and woke him up, saying, "Get up quickly." And his chains fell off his hands. ⁸And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself, and tie on your sandals." And he did so. And he says to him, "Wrap your cloak around you, and follow me." ⁹And he went out, and followed, and he did not know that what was being done by the angel was true, but thought he saw a vision.

¹⁰And when they were past the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city, which opened to them on its

own. And having gone out they went along one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. ¹¹And when Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I truly know that the Lord has sent his angel and delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the people, the Jews."

¹²And when he realized *this*, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, who is *also* called Mark, where many had gathered together and were praying. ¹³And when he knocked at the door of the gate, a servant-girl came to answer, named Rhoda. ¹⁴And when she recognized Peter's voice, because of her joy she did not open the gate, but ran in, and said that Peter stood at the gate. ¹⁵But they said to her, "You are raving mad." Nevertheless she kept insisting that it was so. But they kept saying, "It is his angel."

¹⁶But Peter continued knocking, and when they opened *the door*, they saw him, and were amazed. ¹⁷But he, motioning to them with his hand to be silent, told them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Tell these things to James, and to the brothers." And he departed, and went to another place.

¹⁸Now as soon as it was day, there was no small commotion among the soldiers, as to what had become of Peter. ¹⁹And when Herod had searched for him, and did not find him, he cross-examined the

guards, and commanded that they be led away *and put to death*.

Death of Herod Agrippa

And he went down from Judea to Caesarea, and spent some time there. ²⁰Now he was very angry with the *people* of Tyre and Sidon, so they came to him with one accord and, having made Blastus, the one in charge of the king's bedroom, their friend, they asked for peace, because their country was fed from the king's country. ²¹Now on an appointed day Herod clothed himself in royal apparel, and sat on the judgment seat, and began addressing them. ²²But the people began to cry out, "*It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.*" ²³And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms, and breathed out *his last breath*. ²⁴And the word of God continued to grow and spread.

Barnabas and Saul Back to Antioch

²⁵Now Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, having fulfilled their service, taking with them John, who is *also* called Mark.

13 Now there were prophets and teachers in the congregation at Antioch, *namely* Barnabas, and Symeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the

tetrarch, and Saul. ²And while they were serving the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Paul on Island of Cyprus

⁴So they, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. ⁵And when they were at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews, and they also had John as their attendant. ⁶And when they had gone through the whole island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-jesus, ⁷who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence. He, having summoned Barnabas and Saul, sought to hear the word of God. ⁸But Elymas the sorcerer (for thus his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. ⁹But Saul, who is also *called* Paul, filled with holy spirit, fixed his gaze on him ¹⁰and said, "O you son of the Slanderer, full of all deceit and wickedness, you enemy of all righteousness, will you never stop making crooked the straight roads of

the Lord? ¹¹And now, Look!, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind, not seeing the sun for a time.” And immediately there fell on him a mist and darkness, and he went around seeking people to lead him by the hand. ¹²Then the proconsul, when he saw what had happened, believed, being amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

Paul to Pamphylia; John Departs

¹³Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos, and came to Perga in Pamphylia, but John departed from them and returned to Jerusalem.

Paul to Antioch in Pisidia

¹⁴But they, passing through Perga, came to Antioch of Pisidia and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down. ¹⁵And after the reading of the law and the prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, “Men *and* brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say it.”

¹⁶And Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said, “Men of Israel, and you *Gentiles* who fear God, listen. ¹⁷The God of this people, Israel, chose our fathers, and exalted the people during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with a high arm he led them out of it. ¹⁸And for about the time of forty years he endured their conduct in the desert. ¹⁹And when he had destroyed seven

nations in the land of Canaan, he gave *them* the land as an inheritance.

²⁰And after these things he gave *them* judges until Samuel the prophet—all this took about four hundred fifty years.

²¹And afterward they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. ²²And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom also he testified and said, **I have found David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.** ²³From this man’s seed God has, according to *his* promise, brought to Israel a Savior—Jesus.

²⁴Before his coming, John had proclaimed to all the people of Israel a baptism that symbolized *their* repentance. ²⁵Now while John was fulfilling his course, he kept saying, ‘Who do you suppose I am? I am not *he*. But take notice!, one is coming after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to loosen.’

²⁶Men *and* brothers, sons of the race of Abraham, and those *Gentiles* among you who fear God, the word of this salvation was sent out to us. ²⁷For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know him, nor the voices of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled *them* by condemning *him*. ²⁸And without having found a reason to *put him to* death, they *nevertheless* asked Pilate

that he be executed. ²⁹And when they had carried out all the things that were written about him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a tomb. ³⁰But God raised him out from among *the* dead, ³¹and for many days he was seen by those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. ³²And to you we are telling Good News of the promise made to the fathers, ³³that God has fulfilled these *promises* to us, *that is*, to their children, in that he raised Jesus, even as it is written in the second psalm, **You are my son, this day have I given birth to you.**

³⁴Now concerning *the fact* that he raised him out from among *the* dead, never again destined to return to *death and* corruption, he has spoken in this way: **I will give you the trustworthy, sacred promises of David.** ³⁵Therefore he says also in another *psalm*, **You will not allow your Holy One to see corruption.**

³⁶“For David, after he had served God’s purpose in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid among his fathers and saw corruption, ³⁷but he whom God raised did not see corruption.

³⁸Therefore let it be known among you, men *and* brothers, that through him *the* remission of sins is proclaimed to you. ³⁹And from all the things which you were not able to be declared righteous under the law of Moses, by this *man* everyone

who believes is declared righteous.

⁴⁰Be careful, therefore, that the thing that was spoken by the prophets does not happen to you: ⁴¹**Look, you despisers, and be amazed, and perish, for I work a work in your days, a work which you will never believe, even if someone told you in detail.”**

⁴²And as they were going out, they were entreating *Paul and Barnabas* that these words might be spoken to them the next Sabbath.

⁴³Now when the synagogue *meeting* had broken up, many of the Jews and of the God-fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, were persuading them to continue in the grace of God.

⁴⁴And the next Sabbath almost the whole city was gathered together to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with jealousy, and contradicted the things that were spoken by Paul, speaking defaming words. ⁴⁶And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, and said, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first. Seeing you thrust it away from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of life *in the Age to come*, look, we are turning to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷For thus has the Lord commanded us, *saying*, **I have placed you as a light for the Gentiles, in order that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”**

⁴⁸Now when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing, and

glorified the word of the Lord, and as many as appointed themselves to life *in the Age to come*, believed. ⁴⁹And the word of the Lord spread through the whole region. ⁵⁰But the Jews stirred up the God-fearing women of prominence, and the leading men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their region.

Paul in Iconium in Galatia

⁵¹But they shook off the dust of their feet *as a symbol* against them, and came to Iconium. ⁵²And the disciples were filled with joy and holy spirit.

14 And it came to pass in Iconium that they entered together into the synagogue of the Jews and spoke in such a way that a great multitude of both Jews and of Greeks believed. ²But the Jews who were defiant stirred up the souls of the Gentiles, and poisoned their minds against the brothers. ³Therefore they spent a long time *there*, speaking boldly for the Lord, who testified to the word of his grace *by* granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. ⁴But the multitude of the city was divided, and some were with the Jews, and some with the apostles. ⁵And when an attempt was made to mistreat and to stone them, both by the Gentiles and the Jews, with their rulers, ⁶*they*,

having become aware *of it*, fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra and Derbe, and the surrounding area, ⁷and they told the Good News there.

Paul in Lystra

⁸And in Lystra a certain man was sitting, without strength in his feet, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. ⁹This *man* heard Paul speaking, who, fixing his eyes upon him and seeing that he had faith to be made whole, ¹⁰said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he leaped up and was walking around. ¹¹And when the crowd saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voice in the Lycaonian *language*, saying, "The gods, having been made like men, have come down to us." ¹²And they called Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. ¹³And the priest of Zeus, whose *temple* was before the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the multitudes. ¹⁴But when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of it, they tore their garments, and sprang forth among the multitude, crying out ¹⁵and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men of the same nature as you, and are telling you Good News in order that you should turn from these worthless *things* to a living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them, ¹⁶who in the

generations gone by allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. ¹⁷And yet he did not leave himself without witness, in that he did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts with food and gladness.” ¹⁸And saying these things, with difficulty they restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.

¹⁹But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the multitudes and having stoned Paul, dragged *him* out of the city, assuming that he was dead. ²⁰But when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and entered into the city.

Paul Travels the Area, Then Home

And on the next day he went out with Barnabas to Derbe. ²¹And when they had told the Good News to that city, and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, and to Iconium, and to Antioch, ²²strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and *saying* that through many tribulations we must enter into the kingdom of God. ²³And when they had appointed elders for them in every congregation, and had prayed with fasting, they committed them to the Lord, on whom they had believed. ²⁴And having passed through Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia. ²⁵And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went

down to Attalia ²⁶and from there they sailed to Antioch, *the city* from which they had been entrusted to the grace of God for the work which they had fulfilled.

END OF PAUL’S FIRST JOURNEY

Dispute Over Circumcision

²⁷And having come *to Antioch*, and having gathered the congregation together, they reported everything that God had done with them, and that he had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles. ²⁸And they spent no little time with the disciples.

15 And certain *men* came down from Judea and taught the brothers, *saying*, “If you are not circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you are not able to be saved.” ²Now when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, *the brothers* appointed that Paul, and Barnabas, and certain others of them, should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this question.

FROM ANTIOCH TO JERUSALEM FOR A COUNCIL OF ELDERS

The Council at Jerusalem

³They therefore, being sent on their way by the congregation, passed through both Phoenicia and

Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and they brought great joy to all the brothers. ⁴And having come to Jerusalem, they were received by the congregation, and the apostles, and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. ⁵But some from the sect of the Pharisees, who had believed, rose up, saying, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to command them to keep the law of Moses.”

⁶Both the apostles and the elders were gathered together to see about this matter. ⁷And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said to them, “Men *and* brothers, you know that a good while ago God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the Good News and believe. ⁸And God, who knows the heart, testified on their behalf, *by* giving them the holy spirit, just as he did to us, ⁹and he made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith. ¹⁰Now then, why do you test God by putting a yoke upon the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we could carry? ¹¹But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also *are*.”

¹²And the entire multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they were recounting all the signs and wonders God had done

among the Gentiles through them.

¹³And after they had stopped speaking, James answered, saying, “Men *and* brothers, listen to me.

¹⁴Simeon has related how God first showed his concern by taking out from the Gentiles a people for his name. ¹⁵And to this the words of the prophets agree, as it is written,

¹⁶After these things I will return, and I will build again the tent of David, which is fallen. And I will build again the parts of it that have been torn down, and I will set it up, ¹⁷that the rest of mankind may seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called, *even* over them—says the Lord, who does these things.

¹⁸*This has been* known from of old. ¹⁹Therefore, my judgment is that we do not trouble those who from among the Gentiles turn to God, ²⁰but that we write to them that they abstain from the pollutions of idols, and from sexual immorality, and from what is strangled, and from blood. ²¹For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.”

The Letter to Gentile Believers

²²Then the apostles and the elders, with the whole congregation, decided to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, *namely*, Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, *who*

were leading men among the brothers. ²³They wrote through them:

“The apostles and the elders, brothers, to the brothers who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, and Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings. ²⁴Since we have heard that certain *men who* have gone out from us, to whom we gave no instruction, have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, ²⁵we, having come to one accord, decided to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷Therefore, we have sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will also tell you the same things by word *of mouth*. ²⁸For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things, ²⁹that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these things, you will do well. Farewell.”

RETURN TO ANTIOCH FROM JERUSALEM

Encouraged by the Council's Letter

³⁰So when they were sent off, they came down to Antioch, and having gathered the multitude together, they delivered the letter. ³¹And when they had read it, they

rejoiced over its encouragement.

³²And Judas and Silas, who were also prophets themselves, encouraged the brothers with many words, and strengthened them. ³³And after they had spent some time *there*, they were sent off in peace from the brothers to those who had sent them out. ³⁵But Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch, teaching and telling the good news—the word of the Lord—with many others also.

Paul and Barnabas Part Company

³⁶And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, *and see* how they are.” ³⁷Now Barnabas was intending to take John (who was called Mark) with them also. ³⁸But Paul was thinking it was not appropriate to take with them him who withdrew from them in Pamphylia, and did not go with them to the work. ³⁹And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus.

PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Through Syria and Cilicia

⁴⁰But Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹And he went through Syria and

Cilicia, strengthening the congregations.

Derbe and Lystra: Timothy Joins

16 And he came also to Derbe and to Lystra, and Look!, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman *who was* a believer, but his father was a Greek. ²He was well spoken of by the brothers who were at Lystra and Iconium. ³Paul wanted this man to go with him, and he took and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

⁴Now while they were passing through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which had been decided upon by the apostles and elders who were at Jerusalem. ⁵So the congregations were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.

Vision of a Man of Macedonia

⁶And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia, ⁷and when they had come opposite Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them *to go*. ⁸Now passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. ⁹And a vision appeared to Paul during the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and entreating him, and saying, “Come

over into Macedonia, and help us.”

¹⁰And when he saw the vision, immediately we sought to go forth into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to tell the Good News to them.

Lydia's Conversion in Philippi

¹¹So, setting sail from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and the day following to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of that part of Macedonia, a *Roman* colony, and we were staying in this city some days. ¹³And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by a riverside, to a place habitually used for prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. ¹⁴And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, one who was a worshiper of God, heard us, whose heart the Lord opened to pay attention to the things that were spoken by Paul. ¹⁵And when she was baptized, and her household, she entreated us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and stay *there*.” And she constrained us.

Paul and Silas Imprisoned

¹⁶And it came to pass as we were going to the place of prayer, a certain slave-girl, who had a spirit of divination, met us, who was bringing her owners much profit by fortune-

telling. ¹⁷Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” ¹⁸And she did this for many days. But Paul, being greatly disturbed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹But when her masters saw that the hope of their gain had gone out, they laid hold on Paul and Silas, and dragged them into the agora before the rulers, ²⁰and when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, “These men, being Jews, are seriously disturbing our city, ²¹and are setting forth customs that are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or to observe.” ²²And the multitude rose up together against them, and the magistrates tore their garments off them, and gave orders for them to be beaten with rods. ²³And when they had laid many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely, ²⁴who, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison, and he fastened their feet in the stocks.

Philippian Jailer Gets Saved

²⁵But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, ²⁶and suddenly there was a great

earthquake so that the foundations of the prison-house were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one’s chains were unfastened. ²⁷And the jailor, being roused out of sleep and seeing the prison doors open, drew his sword and was about to kill himself, assuming that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” ²⁹And he asked for lights and sprang in, and, trembling with fear, fell down before Paul and Silas, ³⁰and brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹And they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your house.” ³²And they spoke the word of the Lord to him, with all who were in his house. ³³And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds. And immediately he was baptized, he and all his *household*. ³⁴And he brought them up into his house, and set a table before them, and rejoiced greatly, with all his house, having believed in God.

Paul Refuses to Leave Secretly

³⁵But when it was day, the magistrates sent their policemen, saying, “Release those men.” ³⁶And the jailor reported the words to Paul, *saying*, “The magistrates have sent to release you. Now therefore come out and go in peace.” ³⁷But Paul said

to them, “They have beaten us publicly, uncondemned, men who are Romans, and have thrown us into prison, and do they now throw us out secretly? No indeed! But let them come themselves and bring us out.”

³⁸And the police told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans, ³⁹and they came and entreated them, and when they had brought them out, they asked them to go away from the city. ⁴⁰And they went out of the prison, and entered into *the house* of Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them, and departed.

Paul and Silas in Thessalonica

17 Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews, ²And according to Paul’s custom, he went in to them, and for three Sabbath days reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³explaining and setting before *them* that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise out from among *the* dead, and that this Jesus, whom, “I proclaim to you, is the Christ.” ⁴And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, and a great multitude of the God-fearing Greeks, and not a few of the prominent women.

⁵But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some

wicked men from among those who loitered at the agora, formed a mob and were setting the city in an uproar. And assaulting the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people. ⁶And when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and certain brothers before the rulers of the city, shouting, “These who have turned the inhabited world upside down have come here also, ⁷whom Jason has received. And these all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.” ⁸And they troubled the multitude and the rulers of the city, who heard these things. ⁹And when they had taken money as a security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

Paul and Silas in Berea

¹⁰And the brothers immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night to Berea, *and* when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with great willingness, examining the Scriptures daily, *to see* whether these things were so. ¹²Therefore, many of them believed, also, of the Greek women of high standing and of *Greek* men, not a few. ¹³But when the Jews of Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there also, stirring up and troubling

the multitudes. ¹⁴And then immediately the brothers sent Paul away to go as far as to the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there still. ¹⁵But those who escorted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and receiving a commandment for Silas and Timothy that they should come to him with all speed, they departed.

Paul in Athens

¹⁶Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw the city full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with Jews and the God-fearing *Greeks*, and in the agora every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸And some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also debated with him. And some said, “What would this babblers say?” Others, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities,” because he preached the Good News about Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we learn what this new teaching is that you are speaking?” ²⁰For you bring certain strange things to our ears, therefore, we want to know what these things mean.” ²¹(Now all the Athenians and the strangers sojourning there spent their time doing nothing else, but either to tell or to hear something new.) ²²And Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus, and said,

“You men of Athens, I perceive that you are very religious in every way. ²³For as I passed along and observed the objects of your devotion, I even found an altar with this inscription, TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, to what you show reverence without knowledge, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and all things in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made with hands, ²⁵neither is he served by men’s hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he himself gives to all *people* life, and breath, and all things. ²⁶And he made from one *man*, every nation of mankind to dwell on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed seasons, and the bounds of their habitation, ²⁷that they should seek God, if perhaps they might feel around for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For it is in *connection with* him we live, and move, and have our being, as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are also his offspring.” ²⁹Since we are the offspring of God, we have an obligation not to assume that the Divine One is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by art and thought of man. ³⁰God overlooked the times of ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has set a day in which he is about to justly judge the

inhabited world by the man whom he has appointed, having given proof to all people by raising him out from among *the* dead.”

³²Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, but others said, “We will hear you again about this.” ³³So Paul went out from among them. ³⁴But some men joined him, and believed, among whom also was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

Paul in Corinth

18 After these things he departed from Athens, and came to Corinth. ²And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome. And he came to them, ³and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them, and they were working *together*, for they were tentmakers by trade. ⁴And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, trying to persuade both Jews and Greeks.

⁵But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was wholly occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. ⁶And when they opposed and spoke defaming words, he shook out his garment and said to them, “Your blood *be* upon your own heads. I am clean. From now on I

will go to the Gentiles.” ⁷And he departed from there, and went into the house of a certain man named Titus Justus, a God-fearing *Greek*, whose house was next to the synagogue. ⁸And Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized. ⁹And the Lord said to Paul by a vision at night, “Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent, ¹⁰for I am with you and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many people in this city.”

¹¹And he stayed *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Paul Taken Before Gallio

¹²But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, with one accord the Jews rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, ¹³saying, “This man is persuading the people to show devotion to God contrary to the law.” ¹⁴But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If indeed it were a matter of injury or evil crime, O you Jews, reason would dictate that I should put up with you, ¹⁵but if they are questions about words and names and your own law, look to it yourselves. I do not intend to be a judge of these matters.” ¹⁶And he drove them from the judgment seat.

¹⁷And they all laid hold on Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat. Yet none of these things were a concern for Gallio.

Paul Returns to Antioch and Syria

¹⁸But Paul, still having stayed many days after this, said goodbye to the brothers, and sailed from there to Syria (and with him were Priscilla and Aquila). In Cenchreae he shaved his head, for he had *taken* a vow. ¹⁹And they came to Ephesus, and he left them there, but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews. ²⁰And when they asked him to stay a longer time, he did not consent, ²¹but having said goodbye to them and having said, "I will return again to you if God wills," he set sail from Ephesus. ²²And when he had landed at Caesarea, he went up to *Jerusalem* and greeted the congregation, and went down to Antioch.

PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Paul in Galatia and Phrygia

²³And having spent some time *in Antioch*, he departed, and went from one place to the next through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

Apollos in Ephesus

²⁴Now a certain Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus, and he was mighty in the scriptures. ²⁵He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, knowing only the baptism of John. ²⁶And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and expounded to him the way of God more accurately. ²⁷And when he intended to go across into Achaia, the brothers encouraged him, and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. And when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, ²⁸for he powerfully refuted the Jews, *and that* publicly, showing through the scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

Paul in Ephesus

19 And it came to pass that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul, having passed through the interior region, came to Ephesus and found some disciples. ²And he said to them, "Did you receive holy spirit when you believed?" And they *said* to him, "No, we have not heard that there is holy spirit." ³And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism." ⁴And Paul said, "John baptized with a baptism that

symbolized *people's* repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on him who was coming after him, that is, on Jesus.”⁵ And when they heard this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.⁶ And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the holy spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues, and prophesied.⁷ And there were about twelve men in all.

⁸And he entered into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading *them* about the kingdom of God.⁹ But when some were becoming hardened and defiant, speaking evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and separated the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.¹⁰ And this continued for two years, so that all those who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.¹¹ And God was doing special miracles by the hands of Paul,¹² so that handkerchiefs or aprons were carried away from his body to the sick, and the evil spirits came out *of them*.

The Sons of Sceva

¹³But also some of the Jews, exorcists, who traveled from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, “I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.”

¹⁴And there were seven sons of one

Sceva, a Jew, a chief priest, who did this.¹⁵ And the evil spirit answered and said to them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?”¹⁶ And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overpowered all of them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.¹⁷ And this became known to everyone who lived at Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks, and fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.¹⁸ Many also of those who had believed were coming, confessing and divulging their practices.¹⁹ And a number of those who practiced the magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all, and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.²⁰ In this mighty way the word of the Lord continued to grow and prevail.

Paul Makes Future Plans

²¹Now after these things had ended, Paul resolved in the spirit, after he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, “After I have been there, I must also see Rome.”²² And having sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

The Riot in Ephesus

²³And about that time there arose no small stir concerning the Way. ²⁴For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen.

²⁵These he gathered together with the workmen of similar occupation, and said, "Men, you know that by this business we get our wealth.

²⁶And you see and hear, that not only at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that things that are made with hands are not gods. ²⁷And *thus* not only is there danger that this trade of ours come into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis be counted as nothing, and that she should even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the inhabited world shows devotion."

²⁸And when they heard this they were filled with anger, and began crying out, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians." ²⁹And the city was filled with confusion, and having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theater.

³⁰And when Paul was planning to enter in to the people, the disciples did not allow him *to go*. ³¹And certain also of the Asiarchs, being his friends, sent to him and urged him not to venture into the theater.

³²Meanwhile, some cried one thing, and some another, for the congregation was in confusion, and most of them did not know the reason that they had come together.

³³And they brought Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander motioned with his hand, wanting to make a defense to the people. ³⁴But when they realized that he was a Jew, for about two hours everyone was crying out with one voice, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

³⁵Now when the Town-clerk had quieted the multitude, he says, "Men, Ephesians, who indeed is there among people who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple-keeper of the great Artemis, and of the *image* that fell down from Zeus? ³⁶Seeing then that these things cannot be denied, you must quiet down, and to do nothing rash. ³⁷For you have brought *here* these men, who are neither robbers of temples nor defamers of our goddess. ³⁸Therefore, if Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a matter against anyone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls *available*, let them bring charges against one another. ³⁹But if you seek anything about other matters, it shall be settled in the regular assembly. ⁴⁰For indeed we are in danger of being charged with rioting for *what happened* today, since there is no cause for it, we will

not be able to give an account for this commotion.”⁴¹ And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

To Macedonia, Greece, and Back

20 And after the uproar ceased, Paul, having sent for the disciples and having encouraged them, said farewell, and departed to go into Macedonia.² And when he had gone through those parts, and had given them much encouragement, he came into Greece.³ And when he had spent three months *there*, and a plot was formed against him by Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.⁴ And he was accompanied by Sopater of Berea, *the son* of Pyrrhus, and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus.⁵ But these had gone ahead, and were waiting for us at Troas.⁶ And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of the *feast of Unleavened Bread*, and in five days we came to them to Troas, where we stayed seven days.

Raising Eutychus in Troas

⁷And on the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul was having a discussion with them, intending to depart on the next day,

and extended his speech until midnight.⁸ And there were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were gathered together.⁹ And a certain young man named Eutychus sat in the window, sinking into a deep sleep, and as Paul lectured still longer, having been overcome by his sleep he fell down from the third story, and was taken up dead.¹⁰ And Paul went down and threw himself on him, and embracing him said, “Do not be troubled, for his life is in him.”¹¹ And when he had gone up, and had broken bread and eaten, and had talked with them a long while, even until daybreak, and so departed.¹² And they took the young man away alive, and were not a little comforted.

Paul Travels to Miletus

¹³But we, going ahead to the ship, set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul on board there, for so he had arranged, intending himself to go *there* by land.¹⁴ And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board, and came to Mitylene.¹⁵ And sailing from there, the following day we came opposite Chios, and the next day we touched at Samos, and the day after we came to Miletus.¹⁶ For Paul had determined to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost.

Speaking to Elders From Ephesus

¹⁷And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called to him the elders of the congregation. ¹⁸And when they had come to him, he said to them, “You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you all the time, ¹⁹servicing the Lord with all humility, and with tears, and with trials that happened to me by the plots of the Jews, ²⁰how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, ²¹testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. ²²And now, look, I am going to Jerusalem, bound in the spirit, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, ²³except that the Holy Spirit warns me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. ²⁴But I consider my life worth nothing to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to bear witness to the Good News of the grace of God.

²⁵“And now, look, I know that you all, among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom, will see my face no more.

²⁶Therefore I testify to you this day that I am pure from the blood of all men. ²⁷For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose

of God. ²⁸Pay attention to yourselves, and to all the flock in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to feed the congregation of the Lord that he purchased with the blood of his own *son*. ²⁹I know that after my departure grievous wolves will enter in among you, not sparing the flock, ³⁰and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking twisted things to draw away the disciples after them.

³¹Therefore watch, remembering that for three years I did not cease to admonish everyone night and day with tears.

³²“And now I commit you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build *you* up and to give *you* the inheritance among all those who have been sanctified. ³³I have coveted no one’s silver, or gold, or clothing. ³⁴You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my needs and to those who were with me. ³⁵In all things I showed you that working hard in this way we must help the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

³⁶And when he had said these things, he kneeled down and prayed with them all. ³⁷And there was much sobbing among them all, and they fell on Paul’s neck and kissed him, ³⁸sorrowing most of all for the word that he had spoken, that they should

see his face no more. And they brought him on his way to the ship.

Onward to Jerusalem

21 And it came to pass that when we tore ourselves away from them and had set sail, we came with a straight course to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara, ²and having found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard, and set sail. ³And when we had come in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left hand, we sailed to Syria, and landed at Tyre, for the ship was to unload her cargo there. ⁴And having found the disciples, we stayed there seven days. And through the spirit they repeatedly told Paul that he should not set foot in Jerusalem. ⁵And when it came to pass that we had accomplished the days, we departed and went on our journey, and they all, with wives and children, brought us on our way until we were out of the city. And kneeling down on the shore, we prayed and said farewell to each other. ⁶And we went on board the ship, but they returned home again.

⁷And when we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais, and we greeted the brothers and stayed with them one day.

Paul, Philip, and Agabus

⁸And on the next day we departed, and came to Caesarea, and entering

into the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, we stayed with him. ⁹Now this man had four virgin daughters, who prophesied. ¹⁰And as we stayed there some days, a certain prophet came down from Judea, named Agabus. ¹¹And coming to us, and taking Paul's belt, he bound his own feet and hands, and said, "This is what the Holy Spirit says: 'In this way the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man that owns this belt, and will deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" ¹²And when we heard these things, both we and they of that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, crying and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." ¹⁴And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, *and* said, "The will of the Lord be done."

¹⁵And after these days we got ready and went up to Jerusalem.

¹⁶And also *some* of the disciples from Caesarea went with us, bringing *with them* Mnason of Cyprus, one of the earliest disciples, with whom we were to lodge.

PAUL IN JERUSALEM

Paul Meets With James

¹⁷And when we had come to Jerusalem the brothers received us

gladly. ¹⁸And on the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present. ¹⁹And when he had greeted them, he related, one by one, the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. ²⁰And when they heard it, they glorified God, and they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law. ²¹And they have been informed about you, that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs. ²²What, then, is *to be done*? They will certainly hear that you have come. ²³Therefore, do what we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow. ²⁴Take them, and purify yourself along with them, and pay their expenses in order that they may shave their heads, and everyone will know that there is no truth in the things of which they have been informed about you, but that you yourself also walk orderly, keeping the law. ²⁵But concerning the Gentiles who have believed, we wrote a letter, with our judgment that they should keep themselves from things sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what is strangled, and from sexual immorality." ²⁶Then Paul took the men, and the next day, purifying

himself along with them, went into the temple, announcing the fulfillment of the days of purification, until the offering was offered for every one of them.

Paul Arrested in the Temple

²⁷And when the seven days were almost completed, the Jews from Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up the whole multitude and laid hands on him, ²⁸crying out, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against the People, and the Law, and this Place. And in addition he even brought Greeks into the temple, and has defiled this Holy Place" ²⁹(for they had earlier seen him in the city with Trophimus the Ephesian, whom they assumed that Paul had brought into the temple).

³⁰And the whole city was moved, and the people ran together; and they laid hold on Paul, and dragged him out of the temple, and immediately the doors were shut.

³¹And as they were seeking to kill him, a report went up to the commander of the *Roman* cohort, that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.

³²And immediately he took soldiers and centurions, and ran down upon them, and they, when they saw the commander and the soldiers, stopped beating Paul. ³³Then the commander came near and laid hold on him, and commanded him to be bound with two chains, and inquired who he was

and what he had done. ³⁴And some among the crowd shouted one thing, some another. And when he was not able to learn the facts because of the uproar, he commanded him to be brought into the barracks. ³⁵And when he came to the stairs, it came to pass that he was carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the crowd, ³⁶for the multitude of the people followed after *them*, crying out, “Away with him.”

Paul Speaks to the People

³⁷And as Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he says to the commander, “May I say something to you?” And he said, “Do you know Greek? ³⁸Then you are not the Egyptian, who before these days stirred up a revolt and led out into the desert the four thousand men of the Assassins?” ³⁹But Paul said, “I am a Jew, of Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no insignificant city, and I implore you, allow me to speak to the people.” ⁴⁰And having allowed it, Paul, standing on the stairs, motioned with his hand to the people, and when there was a great hush, he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, saying,

22 “Men, brothers, and fathers, hear my defense that I now *make* to you.” ²And when they heard that he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet, and he says, ³“I am a Jew,

born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, at the feet of Gamaliel, instructed according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God, even as you all are this day. ⁴I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering both men and women into prisons, ⁵as also the high priest and all the council of the elders can testify. From whom also I received letters to the brothers, and traveled to Damascus to even bring those who were there as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

⁶“And it came to pass while traveling and drawing close to Damascus, about noon, suddenly a bright light from heaven shined around me. ⁷And I fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’ ⁸And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’ ⁹Now those who were with me saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who spoke to me. ¹⁰And I said, ‘What should I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Arise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told about everything that has been appointed for you to do.’ ¹¹And when I could not see because of the glory of that light, I came into Damascus being led by the hand of those who were with me.

¹²“And one Ananias, a *deeply* religious man according to the law, well reported of by all the Jews who lived there, ¹³came and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And in that very hour I looked up at him. ¹⁴And he said, ‘The God of our fathers has appointed you to know his will, and to see the Righteous One, and to hear a voice from his mouth. ¹⁵For you will be a witness for him to all people of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶And now what are you waiting for? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’

¹⁷“And it came to pass that when I had returned to Jerusalem, and while I prayed in the temple, I fell into a state of suspended consciousness, ¹⁸and saw him saying to me, ‘Make haste and get quickly out of Jerusalem, because they will not receive your testimony concerning me.’ ¹⁹And I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you, ²⁰and when the blood of Stephen your witness was shed, I also was standing by and fully approving, and keeping the cloaks of those who killed him.’ ²¹And he said to me, ‘Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’”

²²And they were listening to him up to this statement, and *then* they lifted up their voice and said,

“Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he should not have even been allowed to live this long!”

²³And as they were crying out and throwing off their cloaks and throwing dust into the air, ²⁴the commander ordered him to be brought into the barracks, saying that he should be examined by flogging, in order that he might know the reason why they were shouting against him that way. ²⁵And when they stretched him out for the whips, Paul said to the centurion who stood by, “Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman *citizen*, and uncondemned?” ²⁶And when the centurion heard it, he went to the commander and told him, saying, “What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman.” ²⁷And the commander came and said to him, “Tell me, are you a Roman?” And he said, “Yes.” ²⁸And the commander answered, “I acquired this citizenship with a great sum of money.” But Paul said, “But I am *Roman born*.” ²⁹Then they who were about to examine him immediately departed from him, and the commander also was afraid when he knew that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him.

Paul Taken Before the Sanhedrin

³⁰But on the next day, desiring to know for certain why he was accused by the Jews, he set him free and commanded the chief

priests and all the Sanhedrin to come together. And he brought Paul down and set him before them.

23 And Paul, looking steadfastly on the Sanhedrin, said, “Men *and* brothers, I have lived before God in all good conscience up to this day.”² And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth.³ Then Paul said to him, “God is about to strike you, you whitewashed wall, for you sit to judge me according to the law, and command me to be smitten contrary to the law?”⁴ And those who stood by said, “Do you revile God’s high priest?”⁵ And Paul said, “I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written, **You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.**”

⁶But when Paul perceived that one part was Sadducees and the other *part* Pharisees, he cried out in the Sanhedrin, “Men *and* brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. Concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.”⁷ And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided.⁸ For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor an angel, nor a spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all.⁹ And a great clamor arose, and some of the experts in the law of the Pharisees party stood up, and

argued intensely, saying, “We find no evil in this man. And if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him...”

¹⁰And when there arose a great dissension, the commander, afraid that Paul would be torn in pieces by them, ordered the soldiers to go down and take him by force from among them, and bring him into the barracks.

¹¹And that night the Lord stood by him and said, “Be of good cheer, for as you have testified concerning me at Jerusalem, so you must testify at Rome also.”

The Jews Plot to Kill Paul

¹²And when it was day, the Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul.¹³ And there were more than forty *men* who made this conspiracy.¹⁴ And they came to the chief priests and the elders and said, “We have bound ourselves under a great curse, to taste nothing until we have killed Paul.¹⁵ Now therefore you, with the Sanhedrin, signify to the commander that he bring him down to you, as though you were going to determine the things about him more exactly, and we, before he comes near, are ready to kill him.”¹⁶ But Paul’s sister’s son heard of their ambush, and he came and entered into the barracks and told Paul.¹⁷ And Paul called to him one of the centurions,

and said, "Bring this young man to the commander, for he has something to tell him."¹⁸ So he took him and brought him to the commander, and says, "Paul the prisoner called me to him, and asked me to bring this young man to you, who has something to say to you."¹⁹ And the commander took him by the hand, and going aside, asked him privately, "What is it that you have to tell me?"²⁰ And he said, "The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring down Paul tomorrow to the Sanhedrin, as though they were going to inquire somewhat more precisely about him."²¹ So do not be persuaded by them, for more than forty men of them are lying in wait for him, who have bound themselves under a curse not to eat or to drink until they have killed him, and now they are ready, waiting for the promise from you."²² So the commander dismissed the young man, charging him, "Tell no one that you have informed me of this."

The Letter to Governor Felix

²³ And he called to him two of the centurions, and said, "Get ready two hundred soldiers to go to Caesarea, and seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen, at the third hour of the night."²⁴ And *he ordered them to provide animals to ride*, to put Paul on and bring him safely to Felix the governor.²⁵ And he wrote a letter to this effect:

²⁶ "Claudius Lysias to the most excellent governor Felix: Greeting.²⁷ This man was seized by the Jews, and was about to be killed by them when I came upon them with the soldiers and rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman."²⁸ And desiring to know the charge of which they were accusing him, I brought him down to their Sanhedrin.²⁹ I found him to be accused about questions of their law, but to not have an accusation worthy of death or of bonds.³⁰ And when it was shown to me that there would be a plot against the man, I sent him to you immediately, charging his accusers also to speak against him before you."

JERUSALEM TO CAESAREA

Paul Moved to Caesarea

³¹ So the soldiers, as it was commanded them, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris.³² But on the next day they allowed the horsemen to go on with him, *while* they returned to the barracks.³³ And they, when they came to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, also presented Paul before him.³⁴ And when he had read it, he asked what province he was from. And when he understood that he was of Cilicia,³⁵ he said, "I will hear you fully when your accusers have also come," and he commanded him to be kept in Herod's palace.

Paul Before Felix

24 And after five days the high priest Ananias came down with certain elders, and *with* an orator, one Tertullus, and they brought charges to the governor against Paul. ²And when he was called, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying, “Seeing that by you we enjoy much peace, and that by your providence evils are corrected for this nation, ³we accept it in all ways and in all places, most excellent Felix, with all thankfulness. ⁴But, that I be not further tedious to you, I entreat you by your clemency to hear us briefly. ⁵For we have found this man *to be* a public enemy, and stirring up riots among all the Jews throughout the inhabited world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. ⁶Moreover, he tried to profane the temple but we seized him. [And we would have judged him according to our law. ⁷But the commander, Lysias, came, and with great violence took him away out of our hands, ⁸commanding his accusers to come before you.] From whom you will be able, by examining him yourself, to find out exactly about all these things of which we accuse him.” ⁹And the Jews also joined in the attack, affirming that these things were so.

¹⁰And when the governor had nodded to him to speak, Paul answered, “Forasmuch as I know

that you have been a judge over this nation for many years, I cheerfully make my defense. ¹¹You are able to verify that it is not more than twelve days since I went up to worship at Jerusalem, ¹²and they did not find me in the temple disputing with any one, or stirring up a crowd, nor in the synagogues, nor in the city. ¹³Neither are they able to prove to you the things of which they now accuse me. ¹⁴But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I serve the God of our fathers, believing all things that are according to the law and which are written in the prophets, ¹⁵having a hope in God that these *men* also themselves look for, that there is about to be a resurrection of both the righteous and unrighteous. ¹⁶In view of this, I myself also strive to have a conscience void of offence toward God and man always.

¹⁷Now after many years I came to bring charitable gifts to my nation, and offerings. ¹⁸While I was thus engaged, purified in the temple, with no crowd, nor with an uproar, certain Jews from Asia found me—¹⁹who ought to have been here before you and to make an accusation, if they had anything against me. ²⁰Or else let these men themselves say what wrong-doing they found when I stood before the Sanhedrin, ²¹except it be for this one outcry that I shouted standing among them, ‘Concerning the resurrection

of the dead I am called in question before you this day.”

²²But Felix, having a more exact knowledge concerning the Way, adjourned the proceedings, saying, “When Lysias, the commander, comes down, I will decide your case.” ²³And he gave orders to the centurion that he should be kept in custody, but given some freedom, and not to forbid any of his friends from ministering to him.

²⁴But after some days, Felix came with Drusilla, his wife, who was a Jewess, and sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁵And as he reasoned about righteousness, and self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened, and answered, “Go away for now, and when I find time I will call for you.”

²⁶At the same time he hoped that money would be given to him by Paul, and therefore he sent for him quite often and conversed with him.

²⁷But after two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, and desiring to gain favor with the Jews, Felix left Paul in bonds.

Paul Before Governor Festus

25 Now Festus, having come into the province, on the third day went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea. ²And the chief priests and the principal men of the Jews brought charges to him against Paul,

and they urged him, ³asking a favor against him, that he would send for him to Jerusalem (because *they were* preparing an ambush to kill him on the way). ⁴But Festus answered that Paul was being kept in custody at Caesarea, and that he himself was about to go there shortly. ⁵“So,” he said, “let those who are the powerful *men* among you go down with me, and if there is anything wrong about the man, let them accuse him.”

⁶And when he had stayed with them not more than eight or ten days, he went down to Caesarea. And on the next day he sat on the judgment seat and commanded Paul to be brought. ⁷And when he came, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing against him many and serious charges which they could not prove. ⁸Paul kept saying in his defense, “Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar, have I sinned at all.”

⁹But Festus, desiring to gain favor with the Jews, answered Paul and said, “Will you go up to Jerusalem, and be judged about these things before me there?” ¹⁰But Paul said, “I am standing before Caesar’s judgment seat, where I ought to be judged. To the Jews have I done no wrong, as you also very well know.

¹¹If then I am a wrongdoer, and have committed anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die, but if none of those things is *true* of which these

men accuse me, no man is able to give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar.”¹² Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, “You have appealed to Caesar; to Caesar you will go.”

Paul Before Agrippa and Bernice

¹³Now when some days had passed, Agrippa the King and Bernice arrived at Caesarea, and greeted Festus. ¹⁴And when they stayed there many days, Festus laid Paul’s case before the King, saying, “There is a certain man left a prisoner by Felix, ¹⁵about whom, when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews brought charges, asking for sentence against him. ¹⁶I answered them that it is not the custom of the Romans to give up any man, before the accused meet the accusers face to face, and have had an opportunity to make his defense concerning the matter laid against him. ¹⁷Therefore, when they were come together here, I made no delay, but on the next day sat on the judgment seat and commanded the man to be brought. ¹⁸Concerning whom, when the accusers stood up, they brought no charge of such evil things as I supposed, ¹⁹but had certain questions against him about their own religion, and about one who had died, Jesus, whom Paul affirmed to be alive. ²⁰And I, being perplexed how to inquire concerning these things, asked whether he

would go to Jerusalem and there be judged concerning these matters.

²¹But when Paul appealed to be held in custody for the decision of the emperor, I commanded him to be held until I could send him to Caesar.” ²²And Agrippa *said* to Festus, “I would also like to hear the man myself.” “Tomorrow,” he said, “you will hear him.”

²³So on the next day, when Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp, and they were entered into the place of hearing with the military commanders and principal men of the city, at the command of Festus, Paul was brought in. ²⁴And Festus says, “King Agrippa, and all men who are here present with us, you see this man, about whom all the multitude of the Jews petitioned me, both at Jerusalem and here, crying out that he ought not to live any longer. ²⁵But I found that he had committed nothing worthy of death. And as he himself appealed to the emperor I determined to send him. ²⁶Yet I have no certain thing to write to my lord about him. Therefore, I have brought him before you all, and especially before you, king Agrippa, so that after the examination, I may have something to write. ²⁷For it seems to me unreasonable, in sending a prisoner, not also to clearly indicate the charges against him.”

Paul’s Defense Before Agrippa

26 And Agrippa said to Paul, “You are permitted to speak for yourself.” Then Paul stretched out his hand, and made his defense: ²“I consider myself blessed, king Agrippa, that I am to make my defense before you this day concerning all the things of which I am accused by the Jews, ³especially because you are an expert in all customs and questions of the Jews. Therefore I implore you to hear me patiently.

⁴“All the Jews know my manner of life from my youth up, which was from the beginning among my own nation and at Jerusalem. ⁵They have known about me from the beginning, if they are willing to testify, that after the strictest sect of our religion I lived as a Pharisee. ⁶And now I stand *here* to be judged for the hope *that is based on* the promise made by God to our fathers, ⁷to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, earnestly serving *God* night and day. And concerning this hope I am accused by the Jews, O king! ⁸Why is it thought unbelievable by *any of* you if God raises the dead?

⁹Indeed, I myself considered that it was necessary to do many hostile things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰And I did this in Jerusalem, and having received authority from the chief priests I both shut up many of the holy *ones* in prisons, and when they were put

to death I gave my vote against them. ¹¹And many times, in all the synagogues, by punishing them I tried to force them to defame *the Lord*, and being extremely furious with them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

¹²In connection with this I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, ¹³at midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, greater than the brightness of the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. ¹⁴And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ ¹⁵And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶But arise, and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose—to appoint you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen, and of the things about which I will appear to you. ¹⁷I will deliver you from the People, and from the Gentiles to whom I send you, ¹⁸to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of the Adversary to God, that they may receive remission of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

¹⁹For this reason, O king Agrippa, I did not defy the heavenly

vision,²⁰ but declared both to them of Damascus first and also at Jerusalem, and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, doing works worthy of repentance.²¹ For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me.²² So to this day, having obtained help from God, I stand testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would happen,²³ that the Christ must suffer *and* that by being first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to the People and to the Gentiles.”

²⁴And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus says with a loud voice, “Paul, you are raving mad, your much learning is turning you to raving madness.”²⁵ But Paul says, “I am not raving mad, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words.²⁶ For the king knows of these things, to whom also I speak freely, for I am persuaded that none of these things is hidden from him, for this has not been done in a corner.²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe.”²⁸ And Agrippa *said* to Paul, “You are *trying* to persuade me to become a Christian very quickly.”²⁹ And Paul *said*, “I would to God, that both in little *time* and with much *conviction*, not only you, but also all

who hear me this day, might become such as I am, except these bonds.”

³⁰And the king rose up, and the governor, and Bernice, and those who sat with them,³¹ and when they had withdrawn, they spoke one to another, saying, “This man does nothing worthy of death or of bonds.”³² And Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

27 And when it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion named Julius, of the Augustan Cohort.

PAUL’S JOURNEY TO ROME

Sailing to Rome

²And embarking in a ship of Adramyttium, which was about to sail to the places on the coast of Asia, we put to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, was with us.³ And the next day we put in at Sidon, and Julius treated Paul kindly and allowed him to go to his friends and receive care.⁴ And putting to sea from there, we sailed under the lee of Cyprus, because the winds were against us.⁵ And when we had sailed across the sea that is off Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra, *a city* of Lycia.

⁶And there the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing

for Italy, and he put us aboard. ⁷And when we had sailed slowly many days, and with difficulty had arrived at Cnidus, *and* as the wind was not allowing us *to go* further, we sailed under the lee of Crete, opposite Salmone. ⁸And sailing along the coast with difficulty, we came to a certain place called Fair Havens, near which was the city of Lasea.

⁹And when much time had passed, and the voyage was now dangerous because even the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, ¹⁰and said to them, “Men, I perceive that the voyage will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives.”

¹¹But the centurion was more persuaded by the captain and by the owner of the ship, than by those things that were spoken by Paul.

¹²And because the harbor was not suitable to winter in, the greater part advised to put to sea from there, if by any means they were able to reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete looking northeast and southeast, and winter *there*.

The Storm at Sea

¹³And when the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, they weighed anchor and sailed along Crete, close to the shore. ¹⁴But after not much time a violent wind, called a “northeaster,” rushed down from it, ¹⁵and when the ship was caught, and

was not able to face the wind, we gave way *to it*, and were driven.

¹⁶And running under the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were able, with difficulty, to secure the *ship's* boat. ¹⁷And when they had hoisted it up, they used supporting *ropes* to undergird the ship; and, fearing that they would run aground on the Syrtis, they lowered the sea-anchor, and in this manner were driven along. ¹⁸And as we labored exceedingly with the storm, the next day they began to throw *the freight* overboard, ¹⁹and the third day they threw out the tackle of the ship with their own hands. ²⁰And when neither sun nor stars shone upon *us* for many days, and no small tempest lay on *us*, all hope that we should be saved was now taken away.

²¹And when they had been a long time without food, Paul stood up in the midst of them, and said, “Men, you should have listened to me, and not have set sail from Crete, and have sustained this injury and loss. ²²And now I exhort you to keep up your courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but *only* of the ship. ²³For an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood by me this night ²⁴saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul, you must stand before Caesar. And look!, God has granted you all those who sail with you.’ ²⁵Therefore, men, keep up your courage, for I believe God, that it will be exactly as I have been told.

²⁶But we must be run aground upon some island.”

²⁷But when the fourteenth night had come, as we were driven about in the Adriatic *Sea*, about midnight the sailors surmised that they were drawing near to some land. ²⁸And they took soundings, and found *it to be* twenty fathoms. And having sailed a little *further*, they sounded again and found *it to be* fifteen fathoms. ²⁹And fearing that we might run aground on a rocky place, they threw four anchors from the stern and prayed for the day.

³⁰And as the sailors were seeking to flee out of the ship, and had lowered the boat into the sea, pretending as though they intended to lay out anchors from the bow, ³¹Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, “Unless these *men* stay in the ship, you are not able to be saved.” ³²Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the boat, and let her fall off.

³³And while the day was coming on, Paul urged them all to take some food, saying, “This day is the fourteenth day that you continued in suspense and without food, having taken nothing.

³⁴Therefore I urge you to take some food, for this is for your safety. For not one of you will lose a hair from your head.” ³⁵And when he had said this and had taken bread, he gave thanks to God in the presence of all. And he broke it and began to eat.

³⁶Then they were all encouraged and

took food themselves. ³⁷And all the souls in the ship were two hundred and seventy six. ³⁸And when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship by throwing the wheat into the sea.

The Shipwreck

³⁹And when it was day, they did not recognize the land, but they perceived a certain bay with a beach, and they planned, if they were able, to drive the ship upon it. ⁴⁰And casting off the anchors, they left them in the sea, at the same time loosing the ropes that tied the rudders and hoisting up the foresail to the wind, they made for the beach.

⁴¹But having struck a place where the two seas met, they ran the vessel aground, and the bow stuck and remained unmovable, but the stern began to break up by the force *of the waves*. ⁴²And the soldiers’ plan was to kill the prisoners, lest *any of them* should swim out and escape. ⁴³But the centurion, wanting to save Paul, stopped them from their plan, and commanded that those who were able to swim should throw themselves overboard first, and get to the land, ⁴⁴and the rest *should follow*, some on planks, and some on *other* things from the ship. And so it came to pass that they all got safely to the land.

Ashore on Malta

28 And when they had been brought safely through, then we learned that the island was called Malta. ²And the foreigners were showing us no ordinary kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all, because it had started to rain, and because of the cold. ³But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand. ⁴And when the natives saw the *venomous* creature hanging from his hand, they said one to another, “No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped from the sea, Justice *herself* has not allowed him to live.”

⁵But he shook off the beast into the fire, and suffered no harm. ⁶But they were expecting him to swell or suddenly fall down dead, but when they waited a long time and saw nothing unusual happening to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god.

⁷Now in the area around that place were lands belonging to the leading man of the island, named Publius, who received us, and for three days treated us kindly as his guests.

⁸And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went to him and after praying laid hands on him *and* healed him. ⁹And after this had happened, the rest *of the people* on the island who also had diseases

came, and were cured. ¹⁰They also honored us with many honors; and when we sailed, they put on *the ship* the things we needed.

Onward to Rome

¹¹And after three months we set sail in a ship of Alexandria that had wintered at the island, whose figurehead was the Twin Sons of Zeus. ¹²And having put in at Syracuse, we stayed there three days. ¹³And from there we sailed along *the coast*, and arrived at Rhegium. And after one day a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli, ¹⁴where we found *some* brothers and were entreated to stay with them seven days. And so we came to Rome.

¹⁵And from there the brothers, when they heard about us, came to meet us as far as The Market of Appius and The Three Taverns, whom when Paul saw, he thanked God and took courage.

PAUL IN ROME

House Arrest in Rome

¹⁶And when we entered into Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself with the soldier that guarded him. ¹⁷And it came to pass, that after three days he called together those who were the leading men of the Jews. And when they had gathered, he said to them, “Men *and* brothers, though I had done nothing against

the People or the customs of our fathers, I was delivered *as* a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans,¹⁸ who, when they had examined me, desired to set me free because there was no reason for death in me.¹⁹ But when the Jews spoke against it, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar—though I did not have any charge to bring against my nation.²⁰ For this reason, therefore, I called to see and to speak with you, for because of the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.”

²¹And they said to him, “We neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor has any of the brothers coming here reported or spoken any evil about you.²² But we consider it suitable to hear from you what you think, for concerning this sect, it is known to us that it is spoken against everywhere.”

²³And when they had appointed a day for him, they came to him into his lodging place in great numbers. From morning until evening he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying to the kingdom of God, and trying to persuade them about Jesus, both from the law of Moses and from the prophets.²⁴ And some were being persuaded by the things that were spoken, but others did not believe.

²⁵And as they began to leave, not being in agreement with one another, Paul made one *final* statement: “The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through

Isaiah the prophet to your fathers,²⁶ when he said, **Go to this people and say, ‘By hearing you will hear, yet absolutely not understand, and seeing you will see, yet absolutely not perceive.’**²⁷ **For the heart of this people has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should perceive with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should turn to God, and I would heal them.**²⁸ Therefore, be it known to you, that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear.”

³⁰And he stayed two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him,³¹ preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching the things about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.