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## The Acts of the Apostles

### Chapter 1

<sup>1</sup>I made my previous account, O Theophilus, about all that Jesus began both to do and to teach, <sup>2</sup>up until the day he was taken up, after he had given orders through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen; <sup>3</sup>to whom also he showed himself to be alive, following his suffering, by many convincing proofs (being seen by them over a period of forty days) and telling them things about the kingdom of God.

<sup>4</sup>And convening them around himself, he ordered them: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which you have heard about from me.

<sup>5</sup>For John baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit, not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup>When therefore they were gathered together, they queried him, saying, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

<sup>7</sup>And he said to them, "It is not for you to know the times and the seasons, which the Father has placed within his own authority; <sup>8</sup>but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the farthest part of the earth." <sup>9</sup>And after he had said these things, he was lifted up away while they were watching. And a cloud removed him from their view. <sup>10</sup>And as he was going, they were concentrating intently into the sky, and behold! Two men dressed in white clothing had been standing beside them.

<sup>11</sup>And they said: "Men of Galilee, why are you standing looking into the sky? This same Jesus who was taken up from you into heaven will come in the same manner in which you saw him go into heaven."

<sup>12</sup>At that time they went back into Jerusalem, from the hill called the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's walk away. <sup>13</sup>And when they got back inside *the city*, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Halphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup>These all with one mind were devoting themselves persistently to prayer, along with the women, including Mary the mother of Jesus and his brothers.

<sup>15</sup>And during those days Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren, (altogether the company of persons was about 120). He said, <sup>16</sup>"Brethren, it was necessary for that scripture to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus, <sup>17</sup>because he was numbered among us and obtained one share of this ministry." <sup>18</sup>(This man therefore had bought himself a field out of the payment from unrighteousness, and after falling headlong, he burst open in the middle, and all his intestines spilled out. <sup>19</sup>And it became known to everyone living in Jerusalem, so that the field is called in their language, "Hakeldama." This means "Field of Blood.") <sup>20</sup>"For it is written in the book of Psalms: 'Let his settlement be desolate, and be in it no inhabitant,' and, 'Let his position be taken by someone else.' <sup>21</sup>So then, it must be out of the men who have been with us during the

whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup>beginning from the baptism of John all the way until the day he was taken up from us; one of those who were witnesses of his resurrection with us.”

<sup>23</sup>And they nominated two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was surnamed Justus; and Matthias.

<sup>24</sup>And getting down in prayer, they said, “You, Lord, are knower of all hearts. Reveal which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup>to receive this place of ministry and apostleship, from which Judas turned aside to go to his own proper place.”

<sup>26</sup>And they cast lots over them, and the lot fell to Matthias. And he was added in with the eleven apostles.

## Chapter 2

<sup>1</sup>And when it was time for the Day of Pentecost, they were all together in one place, <sup>2</sup>and suddenly there came the sound of words from heaven as if being carried by a swirling wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>And there appeared to them tongues of flame, dividing apart, just as if a fire, and it came to rest on each one of them, <sup>4</sup>and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were Jews staying in Jerusalem who were devout men from all the nations under heaven. <sup>6</sup>And as the sound of this was produced, a crowd gathered on, and they were captivated, because each one was hearing them speaking in their own particular language. <sup>7</sup>And they were astonished, and marveling, saying, “Behold, these people who are speaking, are they not all Galileans? <sup>8</sup>So how are we each hearing *them* in our own particular language in which we were born? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia; Jews also from Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia; <sup>10</sup>both Phrygia and Pamphylia; Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; and Romans who are visiting, <sup>11</sup>both Jews and proselytes; Cretans and Arabs; we hear them telling the mighty deeds of God in our own languages!” <sup>12</sup>And they were all stunned and struggling. Some were saying to each other, “What does this mean?”

<sup>13</sup>But others were saying with scorn, “They are full of new wine.”

<sup>14</sup>But Peter stood forward, along with the Eleven, and he lifted up his voice, and spoke out boldly to them: “Men of Judea, and all you living in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and take heed to my words. <sup>15</sup>For these people are not drunk, as you are thinking, since it is the third hour of the day. <sup>16</sup>But rather this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> ‘And it will be, in the last days,’ God says,  
‘I will pour out of my spirit onto all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters will prophesy,  
and your young will see visions,  
and your older will dream dreams;

<sup>18</sup>and onto both my male servants and my female servants  
will I pour out from my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.

<sup>19</sup>And I will provide wonders in the heaven above,  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and atmosphere of smoke;

<sup>20</sup>the sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before that great and terrible Day of the Lord is come.

<sup>21</sup>And it will be, that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

<sup>22</sup>"Men of Israel, listen to these words. Jesus of Nazareth, a man commended to you from God by powerful deeds and wonders and signs, which God performed through him in your midst, as you yourselves know, <sup>23</sup>this man, who was handed over according to the established plan and foreknowledge of God, you lifted up, to be nailed by the hand of Torah-less men, <sup>24</sup>him God has raised again, breaking the bonds of death, since it was never possible for him to be held by it.

<sup>25</sup>For David says regarding him,

'I have foreseen the Lord going before me through it all.

Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>For this reason my heart was cheered,

and my tongue did rejoice,

and my flesh also now will dwell in hope,

<sup>27</sup>because you will not abandon my soul in Hades,

nor will you assign your holy one to see decay.

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

You will fill me with joy with your company.'

<sup>29</sup>Brothers, I venture to say with certainty to you about the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb remains among us to this day. <sup>30</sup>But because of being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn to him with an oath that fruit of his loins would sit on his throne, <sup>31</sup>it was in reference to the resurrection of the Messiah he spoke, with foresight, that He was not abandoned in Hades, nor did His flesh see decay. <sup>32</sup>This man Jesus, God raised to life, to which we all are witnesses. <sup>33</sup>Having been exalted then to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this which you are seeing and hearing. <sup>34</sup>For David did not ascend to heaven, yet he says, 'The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand, <sup>35</sup>until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.' <sup>36</sup>Therefore let all the house of Israel know for a certainty, that the one whom you crucified, God has made that same Jesus both Lord and Messiah."

<sup>37</sup>And when they heard this, they were shocked. And they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

<sup>38</sup>And Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized each one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. And you will receive for yourselves the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is to you, and to your children, and also to everyone far off, however many the Lord our God will call."

<sup>40</sup>With many other words also, he was solemnly testifying to them, saying, "You must be saved from this perverse generation." <sup>41</sup>The ones therefore who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand souls were added during that day.

<sup>42</sup>And they were devoting themselves continually to the teaching of the apostles, and to the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread, and to the prayers. <sup>43</sup>And fear came into every soul, and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all the believers were together, and possessing everything in common. <sup>45</sup>And they were selling their property and possessions, and distributing the proceeds to everyone,

according to whomever had the need. <sup>46</sup>And every day they were as one mind, devoting themselves constantly in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, sharing food with gladness and simplicity of heart, <sup>47</sup>praising God, and having favor in the eyes of all the people. And the Lord was adding to the assembly daily, those who were being saved.

## Chapter 3

<sup>1</sup>Now Peter and John went up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer, <sup>2</sup>and a man lame from his mother's womb was being carried, whom they would place daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so he could ask for charity from those going into the temple; <sup>3</sup>who when he saw Peter and John about to enter the temple, he asked to receive charity. <sup>4</sup>And Peter, after studying him together with John, said, "Look at us."

<sup>5</sup>So he was holding his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them.

<sup>6</sup>And Peter said, "Silver and gold, I have none. But what I do have, this I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" <sup>7</sup>And he gripped him by the right hand and lifted him. And his feet and ankles were instantly strengthened, <sup>8</sup>and springing up, he stood, and started walking around. And he went into the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. <sup>9</sup>And all the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup>and they recognized him, that this was the man usually sitting at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to ask for charity, and they were filled with amazement and wonder over what had happened to him. <sup>11</sup>And as he was holding on to Peter and John, all the people ran together toward them in admiration, at the gate called Solomon's Gate.

<sup>12</sup>But when Peter saw this, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why are you marveling over this, and why are you looking upon us as if our own power or godliness caused him to walk again? <sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over to and disowned before the face of Pilate. He had made the judgement to release him, <sup>14</sup>but you rejected the holy and righteous one, and asked that a murderer be released on pardon to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the architect of life, whom God has raised from the dead, to which we all are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And it is on the basis of faith in his name, Jesus' name, that this man whom you see and know has been made firm, and this faith, which is through that Jesus, has given this man complete healing in front of you all. <sup>17</sup>So now, brothers, I realize it was because you were unaware, that you acted so, and likewise your leaders. <sup>18</sup>But in this way were fulfilled the things God had foretold through the mouths of all the prophets: that his Anointed had to suffer. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn yourselves around, so that your sins be wiped away, <sup>20</sup>so that times of refreshing may come from having access to the Lord, and he send the pre-appointed Messiah to you, Jesus, <sup>21</sup>whom heaven must take in until the time of the restoration of all things, about which God has spoken through the mouths of his holy prophets since long ago.

<sup>22</sup>For indeed Moses said to our fathers, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren. To him you must take heed, in accordance with everything he says to you, <sup>23</sup>and it will be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet will be utterly cut off from among the people.' <sup>24</sup>And indeed all the prophets from Samuel and those in succession, as many as have spoken, have also predicted these days. <sup>25</sup>You are the heirs of the prophets, and of the covenant which God set in place with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And through your seed will all the families of the earth be blessed.'

<sup>26</sup>God, having now raised up his servant, has sent him to you, blessing you first, in order to turn each of you from your wicked ways.”

## Chapter 4

<sup>1</sup>And as they were talking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees pressed upon them, <sup>2</sup>all worked up because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead, <sup>3</sup>and they put their hands on them and placed them under guard until morning (for by then it was evening). <sup>4</sup>But many of those who heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to be about 5,000.

<sup>5</sup>And the next morning an assembly of the leaders and elders and Torah scholars was convened in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>including Hananiah the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and all the ones who were relatives of the high priest, <sup>7</sup>and after they had stood them in their midst, they were inquiring, “By what power or what name did you do this?”

<sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Leaders of the people, and elders of Israel, <sup>9</sup>If we are on trial for a good deed done to a lame man, as to by what means he was healed, <sup>10</sup>be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that in this name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God has raised from the dead, in that *name* this man is presented before you healthy. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is ‘the stone that you builders rejected; he has become the cornerstone.’ <sup>12</sup>And salvation is not in anyone else, for there is not even another name under heaven given among man by which we must be saved.”

<sup>13</sup>Now when they observed the confident speech of Peter and John, and considered the fact they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed. And they recognized them, that they had been with Jesus. <sup>14</sup>And as they saw that the man who was with them was standing, the one who had been healed, they had nothing to say in rebuttal. <sup>15</sup>And after ordering them to go out of the Sanhedrin, they were conferring with one another, <sup>16</sup>saying, “What shall we do with these men? For to be sure, a notable sign has happened through them, well known to everyone living in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. <sup>17</sup>But, so it does not spread to the people any further, let us threaten them to speak no longer in this name to anyone.” <sup>18</sup>And after summoning them, they gave them orders not to utter at all nor to teach in the name of Jesus.

<sup>19</sup>But in response Peter and John said to them, “Whether it is right in God’s eyes to obey you rather than obey God, you decide. <sup>20</sup>Because for us, it impossible to not tell the things we have seen and heard.”

<sup>21</sup>But they threatened them further, and then released them, having found no way to punish them, because of the people. For they were all praising God over what had happened. <sup>22</sup>For the man on whom this sign of healing had happened was over forty years old. <sup>23</sup>So being released they went to their own people and reported what things the chief priests and elders had said to them.

<sup>24</sup>And who when they heard, they with one mind lifted their voice to God, and said, “Master, you who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all things in them, <sup>25</sup>who said by the mouth of our father David your servant, through the Holy Spirit, ‘Why have the nations raged, and the peoples devised vain things? <sup>26</sup>The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers assemble together against the Lord and against his Anointed.’ <sup>27</sup>For in fact they have assembled in this city against your holy servant Jesus whom you anointed,

both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the nations and the peoples of Israel, <sup>28</sup>to do those things which your hand and your design have fore-ordained to happen. <sup>29</sup>And now, Lord, look upon their threats, and give to all your servants the ability to speak your word with boldness, <sup>30</sup>by stretching forth your hand so that curing and signs and wonders will happen through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

<sup>31</sup>And as they were making this request, the place in which they were assembled was shaken, and they all were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. <sup>32</sup>Now the hearts and souls of the multitude of those who had believed were one, and not one person said any of the possessions belonging to him were his own, but instead were held in common for every one of them. <sup>33</sup>And with great power the apostles gave the testimony about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>For not even one among them was needy. Because whoever of them were owners of lands or houses, they were selling, and they would bring the proceeds of the things that were sold, <sup>35</sup>and donate it at the feet of the apostles. Then it was distributed to each person, according as anyone had the need.

<sup>36</sup>Thus it was that Joseph, who was nicknamed Barnabas by the apostles (which when translated is Son of Encouragement), a Levite, Cypriot by birth, <sup>37</sup>who was the owner of a field, he sold it and brought the proceeds and donated it at the feet of the apostles.

## Chapter 5

<sup>1</sup>Then a man named Hananiah, together with his wife Saphira, sold some property, <sup>2</sup>and part of the proceeds he secretly set aside for himself (his wife also aware) and part he brought to the feet of the apostles and donated.

<sup>3</sup>And Peter said, “Hananiah, why has Satan emboldened your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and secretly set aside for yourself part of the proceeds from the field? <sup>4</sup>Was not the field yours, and after it was sold, the proceeds still within your rights *to keep*? What happened, that put this issue in your heart? It was not to people that you lied, but to God.”

<sup>5</sup>And after Hananiah heard these words, he fell down dead. And great fear gripped all those who were listening. <sup>6</sup>And the young men got up, and when they had wrapped him, they carried him out and buried him. <sup>7</sup>And there was an interval of about three hours, and then his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. <sup>8</sup>And Peter responded to her, “Tell me, was this how much you sold the land for?”

And she said, “Yes, this much.”

<sup>9</sup>And Peter said to her, “What happened, that you *two* were united to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who buried your husband are at the door. They will also carry you out.” <sup>10</sup>And she immediately dropped near his feet and died. And when the young men came in, they found her dead, and they carried her out, and buried her next to her husband. <sup>11</sup>And great fear came over the whole assembly, and over all those who heard these things. <sup>12</sup>And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were happening among the people, and they were regularly at the Portico of Solomon with one accord. <sup>13</sup>But none of the rest dared to be seen with them. (Though the people thought highly of them.)

<sup>14</sup>Even so, more believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women; <sup>15</sup>with the result that they also brought out their sick into the streets and placed them on pallets and mats, in case if Peter came by even his shadow might pass over one

of them. <sup>16</sup>And the multitude from the cities surrounding Jerusalem also collected there, carrying the sick and those being tormented by unclean spirits, who were healed, all of them.

<sup>17</sup>But the high priest rose up, and all those with him, which was the sect of the Sadducees. They were filled with jealousy, <sup>18</sup>and they put their hands on the apostles and placed them in custody publicly. <sup>19</sup>But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison, and led them out, and said, <sup>20</sup>“Go, stand in the temple, and speak to the people all the words of this life.”

<sup>21</sup>They took heed, and at about dawn they went into the temple, and were teaching. And when the high priest and those with him had opened for business, they called together the Sanhedrin and all the senate of the sons of Israel, and sent *men* to the jail to have them brought. <sup>22</sup>But when the attendants got there, they found they were not in the prison, and went back and reported, <sup>23</sup>saying, “We found the jail locked up securely and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened it, we found no one inside.”

<sup>24</sup>And as the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests heard these words, they were completely at a loss as to what might become of it all. <sup>25</sup>Then someone came and reported to them, “Behold, the men you had put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.” <sup>26</sup>At that time the captain went out, along with the attendants, and brought them, not with force, because they were afraid of the people, not wanting to be stoned.

<sup>27</sup>And they brought them and stood them in the Sanhedrin. And the high priest interrogated them, <sup>28</sup>saying, “We very strictly charged you not to teach in this name, and behold you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching. And you intend to bring upon us this man’s blood.”

<sup>29</sup>And in answer Peter and the apostles said, “We ought to obey God rather than humans. <sup>30</sup>The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him to a tree. <sup>31</sup>This man God has exalted to his right hand as a Ruler and a Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses of these matters, as is also the Holy Spirit, which God gave to those who obey him.”

<sup>33</sup>And those hearing this were enraged, and began planning to kill him. <sup>34</sup>But a certain man in the council stood up, a Pharisee by the name of Gamaliel, a teacher of the law respected by all the people. And he ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. <sup>35</sup>And he said to them, “Men, Israelites, take heed to yourselves over these men, what you intend to do. <sup>36</sup>For prior to these days, Theudas had risen up, declaring himself to be someone, to whom a number of men attached themselves, about four hundred. He was killed, and all who obeyed him were dispersed and came to nothing. <sup>37</sup>After that, during the days of the registration, Judas the Galilean rose up and drew away people after him. That man also perished, and all who obeyed him were scattered. <sup>38</sup>And the ones now, I am telling you, stand back from these men, and leave them alone. Because if this argument is of man, or this effort, it will come to an end. <sup>39</sup>On the other hand, if it is of God, you will not be able to stop them. And no good you are found being opponents of God.”

With that they obeyed him. <sup>40</sup>And they called for the apostles, and beat them, and ordered them not to speak on the name of Jesus, and released them. <sup>41</sup>They as a result were proceeding from the presence of the Sanhedrin rejoicing that they were considered worthy to be despised for the sake of that name. <sup>42</sup>And every day, in the temple, and from house to house, they never ceased teaching and preaching the Messiah Jesus.

## Chapter 6

<sup>1</sup>Now during those days, with the number of disciples having multiplied greatly, there arose some grumbling from the Greek speakers toward the Hebrew speakers, that their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup>Then the Twelve called the multitude of the disciples to them, and said, "It is not fitting that we abandon the word of God to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup>So, brothers, search out seven men of you who are witnessed to be full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint over this office; <sup>4</sup>whereas we will be devoted to prayer and service of the word."

<sup>5</sup>And this word was pleasing before all the multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte from Antioch. <sup>6</sup>Whom they set before the apostles. And they prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup>And the word of God grew, and the number of disciples in Jerusalem multiplied greatly. A large crowd of the priests also was coming to obey the faith. <sup>8</sup>And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great signs and wonders among the people.

<sup>9</sup>But some men stood up, debating with Stephen, men from what was called the Synagogue of the Freedmen, including Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia, <sup>10</sup>and they were not able to withstand the wisdom and the spirit with which he was speaking. <sup>11</sup>Then they secretly instigated some men to say, "We have heard him speaking blasphemous things against Moses and against God." <sup>12</sup>And that stirred up the people, and the elders, and the Torah scholars. And having stood ready nearby, they seized him and took him to the Sanhedrin. <sup>13</sup>They also had arranged false witnesses, who were now saying, "This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law. <sup>14</sup>For we have heard him saying that this Jesus the Nazarene will destroy this place and change the customs that Moses handed down to us." <sup>15</sup>And everyone sitting in the Sanhedrin who watched him saw his face was like the face of an angel.

## Chapter 7

<sup>1</sup>But the high priest said, "Are these things true?"

<sup>2</sup>And he said, "Men, brothers, and fathers, listen: The glorious God appeared to our father Abraham while he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, <sup>3</sup>and He said to him, 'Leave your country and your relatives, and go to whatever country I will show you.'

<sup>4</sup>At that time he left Chaldea, and lived in Haran. And then, after his father died, God removed him to this country in which you now live. <sup>5</sup>Yet he did not give him tenure in this country, not even a foothold, yet promised to give it for a possession to his seed after him, this while he had no child. <sup>6</sup>But God spoke this: 'Your seed will be aliens in the country of others, who will enslave them and treat them badly for 400 years. <sup>7</sup>And whatever nation enslaves them, I will judge,' said God, 'and after those things they will come out, and will worship me in this place.'

<sup>8</sup>And He gave him the covenant of circumcision; and thus Abraham begat Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day, and Isaac Jacob, and Jacob the twelve patriarchs. <sup>9</sup>And the patriarchs, out of envy, sold Joseph off to Egypt. Yet God was with him. <sup>10</sup>And He rescued him from all his troubles, and gave him favor and wisdom in the eyes of



Pharaoh king of Egypt, who made him ruler over Egypt, and over his entire household.

<sup>11</sup>But a famine came over all of Egypt and Canaan, and great suffering, and our fathers were not finding food. <sup>12</sup>So when Jacob heard there was bread in Egypt, he sent our fathers out the first time. <sup>13</sup>And during the second time, Joseph allowed himself to be recognized by his brothers, and his race became evident to Pharaoh.

<sup>14</sup>So Joseph sent word inviting his father to come, Jacob and the whole clan, 75 souls in all, <sup>15</sup>and Jacob went down to Egypt. And he and our fathers died, <sup>16</sup>and were transferred to Shechem and laid in the tomb which Abraham had bought with a payment in silver from the sons of Hamor in Shechem.

<sup>17</sup>Now just as the time was drawing near for the promise which God had declared to Abraham, the people grew in strength and were multiplied in Egypt, <sup>18</sup>until such time another king arose who did not know Joseph. <sup>19</sup>This man dealt shrewdly with our race. He mistreated our fathers, causing their newborn babies to be thrown out, so they would not survive.

<sup>20</sup>At which time Moses was born, and he was very good looking. For three months he was nurtured in the house of his father. <sup>21</sup>Then when he was put out, the daughter of Pharaoh took him as a son for herself. <sup>22</sup>And Moses was trained in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was powerful in his words and his deeds.

<sup>23</sup>But when he reached 40 years old, it came upon his heart to go check on his brothers the sons of Israel. <sup>24</sup>And when he saw one being injured he defended him, and he got vengeance for the one getting the worse, by striking the Egyptian. <sup>25</sup>Now he thought his brothers would understand that God would give salvation to them through his hand. But they did not understand. <sup>26</sup>And on the following day he appeared to some of them, who were fighting, and he attempted to reconcile them in peace saying, "Men, you are brothers. Why are you injuring each other?"

<sup>27</sup>But the one injuring his neighbor pushed him away, saying, "Who appointed you ruler and judge over us? <sup>28</sup>Do you intend to kill me the same way you killed that Egyptian yesterday?"

<sup>29</sup>And with this said, Moses fled. And he became an alien camping out in Midian, where he begat two sons. <sup>30</sup>And when he was forty years old, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the desert of Mount Sinai, in the flame of a burning thorn bush.

<sup>31</sup>And Moses saw it and marvelled at the vision. As he approached it therefore to investigate, there came the voice of the Lord: <sup>32</sup> 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.' But Moses started to tremble and dared not to look.

<sup>33</sup>And the Lord said to him, 'Remove the sandals from your feet; because the place on which you are standing is holy ground. <sup>34</sup>I have looked, I have seen the ill treatment of my people in Egypt, and I have heard their groans, and I have come down to rescue them. And now, you come; I will send you to Egypt.'

<sup>35</sup>This Moses, the one they had denied saying, 'Who appointed you ruler and judge;' this man God sent as ruler and redeemer by means of the angel appearing to him in the bush. <sup>36</sup>This man led them forth, performing wonders and signs, in Egypt and in the Red Sea, and in the desert for forty years. <sup>37</sup>This is the Moses who said to the sons of Israel, 'God will raise up a prophet for you like me out of your brothers.' <sup>38</sup>This is the one who was present in the congregation in the desert, who was with the angel speaking to him in Mount Sinai, and who was with our fathers. He who received living oracles to give to us. <sup>39</sup>To whom our fathers refused to be obedient, but pushed him away, and turned their hearts toward Egypt, <sup>40</sup>saying to Aaron, 'Make gods for us that will go before us. Because this Moses who led us out of Egypt, we do not know what happened to him.'

<sup>41</sup>And they molded a calf in those days, and led a sacrifice up to the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.

<sup>42</sup>And God turned away, and gave them up to worship the heavenly bodies, just as it is written in the scroll of the prophets: 'Have you presented Me slaughtered animals and sacrifices for forty years in the desert, O house of Israel? <sup>43</sup>Yet you carried around the booth of Moloch, and the star of your god Saturn. The images which you made, you worshiped them. I therefore will deport you beyond Babylon.' <sup>44</sup>The tent of testimony was there for our fathers in the desert, just as the one speaking had directed Moses to make it according to the model which he had seen. <sup>45</sup>Which then our fathers had passed on to them, and they with Joshua, took it into the land possessed by the nations whom God drove away from the face of our fathers until the days of David. <sup>46</sup>Who found favor before God and asked to find a tent for the God of Jacob.

<sup>47</sup>But Solomon built a house for him. <sup>48</sup>But the Most High does not dwell in hand-made things. As the prophet says, <sup>49</sup>'Heaven is my throne, and Earth is my foot-stool. What kind of house will you build for me?' says the Lord, 'or what place for my rest? <sup>50</sup>Has not my hand created all these things?'

<sup>51</sup>O you stiff-necked people, and uncircumcised in hearts and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. Just as your fathers were, so are you. <sup>52</sup>Which of the prophets have your fathers not persecuted? And they killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One, of whom you now are become the betrayers and murderers. <sup>53</sup>Who have received the law by the direction of angels, and not kept it."

<sup>54</sup>Now those hearing these things had been seething inside, and were grinding their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup>But he, being filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed intently into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>And he said, "Look! I can see heaven open, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

<sup>57</sup>But they howled loudly while plugging their ears, and with one accord charged upon him, <sup>58</sup>and when they had cast him outside the city, they proceeded to stone him. And the witnesses laid their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>And as they stoned Stephen, he was calling out, and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup>Then he dropped to his knees, and he cried out with a loud voice: "Lord, do not hold these sins against them." And after he said these things, he died.

## Chapter 8

<sup>1</sup>And Saul was in agreement with his killing. Then there occurred at that time a great persecution against the congregation at Jerusalem, and they all became scattered over the territories of Judea and Samaria, except for the apostles. <sup>2</sup>But some devout men recovered *the body of Stephen*, and made a great lamentation over him.

<sup>3</sup>Meanwhile Saul was ravaging the church, entering house to house, dragging off both men and women and handing them over to prison. <sup>4</sup>But those who were scattered consequently passed through preaching the word. <sup>5</sup>Thus Philip, having gone down to a city of Samaria, preached Christ to those people. <sup>6</sup>And those crowds, when they heard, and saw the signs he was performing, with one mind took heed to the things that were spoken by Philip. <sup>7</sup>For many had unclean spirits, which came out with loud shrieks, and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. <sup>8</sup>And so there was great joy in that city.

<sup>9</sup>Now there was a man in that city named Simon who had been practicing sorcery and astonishing the nation of Samaria, declaring himself to be someone great. <sup>10</sup>To whom all

would pay attention, from the small to the great, saying, "This is what you call the great power of God." <sup>11</sup>And they were paying attention to him because it was for quite a while he had been astonishing them with his sorceries. <sup>12</sup>But when they believed what Philip had preached about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were getting baptized, both men and women. <sup>13</sup>And Simon himself also believed, and after he was baptized, he was staying close to Philip, and when he saw the great signs and miracles that were happening, he was astonished.

<sup>14</sup>And when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had welcomed the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, <sup>15</sup>who went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>16</sup>For He had not yet fallen on even one of them. They were baptized ones, but baptized only in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>17</sup>Then at that time, they laid their hands on them, and they did receive the Holy Spirit.

<sup>18</sup>Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given by the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, <sup>19</sup>saying, "Give me this authority also, so that whoever I lay my hands on receives the Holy Spirit."

<sup>20</sup>But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you presumed to buy the gift of God with money! <sup>21</sup>There is no part or place for you in this thing, because your heart is not pure before God. <sup>22</sup>Repent therefore of this evil of yours, and ask of the Lord if the intent of your heart will be forgiven. <sup>23</sup>For I see you being with bitter poison and the bondage of unrighteousness."

<sup>24</sup>And in response Simon said, "Pray to the Lord on my behalf so that nothing you said will befall me."

<sup>25</sup>When therefore they had given solemn testimony, they also returned to Jerusalem speaking the word of the Lord, evangelizing even more Samaritan villages.

<sup>26</sup>Then an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying: "Get up, and go down southward on the road that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is desert.)

<sup>27</sup>And he got up and went, and behold, an Ethiopian man, who was an official eunuch of the Kentakee (queen of the Ethiopians) in charge of all her finance. He had come to worship at Jerusalem. <sup>28</sup>And he was going back home, and was sitting on his chariot and reading the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and meet this chariot."

<sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to him. And he heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and said to him, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

<sup>31</sup>And he said, "How would I truly be able to, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip up, to sit with him.

<sup>32</sup>And the passage of scripture he was reading was,

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter.

And as a lamb before the shearer is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his meekness his right was taken away.

Who will describe his generation?

For his life is being removed from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>So in response the eunuch said to Philip, "I ask you please, about whom is the prophet saying this? About himself? Or about someone else?"

<sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with that very scripture, he told him all the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>And as they were proceeding along the road, they came

upon some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, water. Is there anything forbidding me to be baptized?"<sup>1</sup>

<sup>38</sup>And he ordered the chariot to stop, and the two went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>And when they had come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip up, and the eunuch saw him no more. He sure was rejoicing as he went on his way.

<sup>40</sup>Then Philip was found in Azotus, and he preached the gospel to all the towns as he passed through, until he arrived at Caesarea.

## Chapter 9

<sup>1</sup>Now Saul was still breathing threats of murder against the disciples of the Lord. And he approached the high priest, <sup>2</sup>and obtained letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, to the effect that anyone he found belonging to The Way, both men and women, he could bind them and bring them to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>When therefore he was on his way, it came about, that as he was getting close to Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven shone all around him, <sup>4</sup>and he fell to the ground. He heard a voice. It was saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

<sup>5</sup>And he said, "Who are you, Lord?"

And He said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."

<sup>6</sup>Then, trembling and awe-struck, he said, "Lord, what do you want me to do?"

And the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and it will be told you what you are to do."

<sup>7</sup>Now the men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice, but not seeing anyone. <sup>8</sup>Then Saul got up off the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing. So leading him by the hand, they took him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup>And he went three days without seeing, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup>Now there was a disciple in Damascus by the name of Hananiah, and the Lord spoke to him in a dream, "Hananiah."

And he said, "Here I am, Lord."

<sup>11</sup>And the Lord said to him, "Get up, go to the street called Straight Street, and inquire in the house of Judas for a man named Saul of Tarsus. For behold, he is praying, <sup>12</sup>and in a vision he has seen a man named Hananiah come in and lay hands on him so that he would see again."

<sup>13</sup>But Hananiah answered, "Lord, I have heard from many people about this man, what bad things he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup>and he has authority here from the high priest to bind all those who are called by your name."

<sup>15</sup>And the Lord said to him, "Go. For this man is to me a choice vessel to bear my name before the Gentiles, and even before kings, and before the sons of Israel as well.

<sup>16</sup>Indeed I will show him what things he himself is destined to suffer for the sake of my

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<sup>1</sup> **Acts 8:37:** "And Philip said, If you believe with all your heart, it is permissible. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." This verse was added later, after early church fathers added many unbiblical traditions to the rite of baptism, such as, there being a waiting period or probationary period before baptism, to make sure the convert was genuine, and such as the baptism only being carried out under the direct supervision of "the bishop."

name.”

<sup>17</sup>So Hananiah went, and came into the house. And he placed his hands on him and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord has sent me—Jesus, who appeared to you in the road on which you came—so that you may see again, and so you may be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>18</sup>And immediately there fell off of him something like scales from his eyes, and he saw again, and he rose up and was baptized. <sup>19</sup>And after receiving food, he gained strength. And he was with the disciples in Damascus a few days, <sup>20</sup>and then immediately began preaching Jesus in the synagogues, saying “This is the Son of God.”

<sup>21</sup>And those hearing were amazed, and saying, “Is this not the man who ravaged those in Jerusalem connected to this name? Was this not also the reason he had come here, to take them chained up before the high priests?”

<sup>22</sup>And Saul was getting stronger and stronger, and confounding the Jews who lived in Damascus, proving that this man was the Messiah. <sup>23</sup>And after many days *of this* had gone by, the Jews conspired to kill him. <sup>24</sup>But their plan was made known to Saul. Now they were also keeping close watch on the gates, both by day and by night, so as to kill him. <sup>25</sup>So the disciples took him away at night by way of the wall instead. They lowered him down in a basket.

<sup>26</sup>And when he arrived in Jerusalem, he kept trying to join with the disciples, and everyone was afraid of him, not believing he was a disciple. <sup>27</sup>But Barnabas came beside him, and led him to the apostles, and recounted to them how the Lord had appeared to Saul on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how in Damascus Saul had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus.

<sup>28</sup>So he was with them at Jerusalem going in and out, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord, <sup>29</sup>both speaking to and debating with the Greek-speaking Jews. They however were taking steps to kill him. <sup>30</sup>And when the brethren found out, they took him to Caesarea, and assigned him out to Tarsus.

<sup>31</sup>Then the church throughout all of Judea, Galilee and Samaria had peace, and it was strengthened. And proceeding in the fear of the Lord and the assurance of the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers.

<sup>32</sup>Now it came about that as Peter was going through all those areas, he went to be with the saints that were living in Lydda. <sup>33</sup>And he found there a man by the name of Aeneas, who was paralyzed, lying in bed for eight years. <sup>34</sup>And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ is healing you. Get up and make your bed.” And he got up immediately. <sup>35</sup>And everyone living in Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

<sup>36</sup>And in Joppa there was a disciple by the name of Tabitha, which when translated means Dorkas. This woman was wholly occupied with the good works and charitable giving that she was doing. <sup>37</sup>And it came about that during those days she became ill, and died. And after they washed her, they placed her in the upper room. <sup>38</sup>And since Lydda was close to Joppa, and the disciples heard that Peter was in that town, they sent two men to him, begging him, “Please come to our town without delay.”

<sup>39</sup>So Peter got up and went with them. When he arrived, they led him up into the upper room. And all the widows came forward, weeping, showing him the coats and garments that Dorkas had made when she was with them. <sup>40</sup>But Peter put everyone outside, and he got down on his knees, and prayed. Then he turned toward the body, and said, “Tabitha, get up.” And she opened her eyes. And when she saw Peter, she sat

up. <sup>41</sup>And lending her a hand, he lifted her up, and called the saints and widows, and presented her to them alive. <sup>42</sup>And this became known throughout all of Joppa, and many believed on the Lord. <sup>43</sup>And it came about that Peter stayed on for a considerable number of days in Joppa, with a tanner, Simon.

## Chapter 10

<sup>1</sup>Now a man in Caesarea by the name of Cornelius, the centurion of the cohort called The Italian Cohort, <sup>2</sup>a devout and God-fearing man along with his whole household, who was doing many charitable deeds for the Jewish people, and praying to God continually, <sup>3</sup>saw distinctly at about the ninth hour of the day in a vision, that an angel of God had come in to him, and who said to him, "Cornelius."

<sup>4</sup>And Cornelius looked upon him, and became very afraid, and said, "What is it, Lord?"

And he said to him, "Your prayers and your deeds of charity have gone up as a memorial before God. <sup>5</sup>And now, send men to Joppa, and invite a Simon to come to you who is nicknamed Peter. <sup>6</sup>This man is staying as a guest with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea."

<sup>7</sup>So when the angel speaking to him had left, he called two of his house servants from among those who attended him, and a devout soldier, <sup>8</sup>and after recounting it to each one of them, he sent them to Joppa.

<sup>9</sup>The next day, as those men were walking the road and getting close to the city, Peter went up onto the roof to pray, around the sixth hour. <sup>10</sup>Then he became very hungry, and wanted to eat. And while they were preparing it, a trance came over him, <sup>11</sup>and he sees heaven being opened, and then a container coming down, something like a giant bedsheet tied at the four corners, being lowered to the earth. <sup>12</sup>In it were all the four-footed animals, and all the things that creep on the ground, and all the birds of the sky.

<sup>13</sup>And there came a voice to him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."

<sup>14</sup>But Peter said, "Certainly not, Lord. Because never have I ever eaten anything common or unclean."

<sup>15</sup>And the voice spoke again to him a second time: "What God has made clean you must not call unclean."

<sup>16</sup>And this happened three times; then the container was immediately taken up into heaven. <sup>17</sup>Then, as Peter was puzzling inside himself as to what might be the meaning of the vision he had seen, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius had ascertained the house of Simon and stood at the gate. <sup>18</sup>And they called out, asking if Simon who was nicknamed Peter was staying as a guest there. <sup>19</sup>And as Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. <sup>20</sup>Get up instead, and go downstairs, and leave with them, not questioning anything, since I have sent them."

<sup>21</sup>So Peter went down and said to the men, "Here I am, the one you are looking for. What is the reason you are here?"

<sup>22</sup>And they said, "Cornelius the centurion, a righteous man and fearing God, and vouched for by the whole Jewish nation, he has been directed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you."

<sup>23</sup>He invited them inside therefore as his guests. And the next day he rose up and left with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him. <sup>24</sup>And the following

day he came into Caesarea. And since Cornelius was expecting him, he had called together his relatives and his close friends. <sup>25</sup>And it came about that as Peter was entering, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet and worshipped him.

<sup>26</sup>But Peter lifted him up saying, "Stand up. I myself am also a human being."

<sup>27</sup>And as he was talking with him he went inside, and finds many people gathered.

<sup>28</sup>And he said to them, "You know full well how it is unlawful for a Jewish man to join with or visit someone of another race. Yet God has shown me to call no human being common or unclean. <sup>29</sup>This then is the reason I came without objection to the summons. I ask therefore, what is the reason you have summoned me?"

<sup>30</sup>And Cornelius said, "Four days ago to this hour, I was in my house praying, at the ninth hour, and behold, a man in radiant clothing stood before me. <sup>31</sup>And he said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been answered, and your deeds of charity have gone up as a memorial before God. <sup>32</sup>Send therefore to Joppa and call for Simon who is nicknamed Peter. This man is staying as a guest in the house of Simon the tanner, by the sea.' <sup>33</sup>Right away then I sent men to you, and you on your part did well getting here. Now therefore, we all are present before God, to hear all the things told to you by the Lord."

<sup>34</sup>Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, "I truly understand now, that God is not a discriminator of faces, <sup>35</sup>but that a person of any nation who fears him and works at righteousness is acceptable to Him. <sup>36</sup>This is the word which He sent to the sons of Israel, that announces peace through Jesus Christ: This man is the Lord of everyone.

<sup>37</sup>You know the thing that happened throughout the whole land of the Jews, beginning from Galilee after the baptism which John preached, <sup>38</sup>the man from Nazareth, Jesus, how God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and power, who traveled around doing good and healing all those oppressed by the Devil, because God was with him. <sup>39</sup>And we are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and Jerusalem; whom then they killed by hanging him to a tree. <sup>40</sup>This man God raised up on the third day, and granted him to be visible; <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to witnesses chosen beforehand by God; to us, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>And he commanded us to preach to the people and to solemnly testify that this man is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify: that all who believe on him are to receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon everyone who was listening to the word. <sup>45</sup>And those believers who were of the Circumcision, who had come with Peter, were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon Gentiles also. <sup>46</sup>For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and glorifying God.

Then Peter responded: <sup>47</sup>"Can anyone forbid water baptism to these people, who received the Holy Spirit just as we did?" <sup>48</sup>And so he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for several days.

## Chapter 11

<sup>1</sup>Now those apostles and brothers who were living throughout Judea, they heard that Gentiles had also received the word of God. <sup>2</sup>And when Peter went up to Jerusalem, they began to argue against him, those who were of the Circumcision.

<sup>3</sup>They were saying, "You have gone indoors with uncircumcised men, and you ate with them!"

<sup>4</sup>So Peter began explaining to them step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup>"I was in the city of Joppa,

praying, and in a trance, I saw a vision: a container, something like a giant bedsheet, being let down out of heaven by its four corners, and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup>When I looked inside, I recognized and saw the four-footed animals of the earth, and the wild beasts, and the creeping things, and the birds of the sky. <sup>7</sup>And then I heard a voice saying, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.'

<sup>8</sup>But I said, 'Certainly not, Lord. Because never has anything common or unclean ever gone into my mouth.'

<sup>9</sup>The voice came back a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean you must not call unclean.'

<sup>10</sup>And this happened three times, then it was all pulled back into heaven. <sup>11</sup>And behold, right then three men stood at the house in which I was staying, sent from Caesarea to me. <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit said to me, 'Go with them, not questioning anything. And these six brothers went with me also, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup>Then he related to us how he saw an angel who had stood in his house and had said, 'Send to Joppa and summon Simon who is knick-named Peter, <sup>14</sup>who will speak words to you by which you and all your household will be saved.' <sup>15</sup>And so, as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>Then I remembered the statement of the Lord. As he said, 'John baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup>If therefore God has given them the same gift as to us when we also believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to have been able to hold back God?"

<sup>18</sup>And after they heard these things they calmed down, and they glorified God, saying, "So, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance unto life."

<sup>19</sup>Those then who had been scattered as a result of the persecution in connection to Stephen, they had gone as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, generally speaking the word to no one except Jews only. <sup>20</sup>But there were a few of them, Cypriot and Cyrenian men, who had gone into Antioch speaking to Greeks as well, preaching the good news about the Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup>And the hand of the Lord was with them, and the number of those who believed and turned to the Lord was large.

<sup>22</sup>And the report about them was heard as far as the ears of the congregation that was in Jerusalem, and they assigned Barnabas out to Antioch. <sup>23</sup>Who, when he arrived and saw the blessedness that is from God, was glad, and exhorted them all to continue in the Lord with determination in their hearts. <sup>24</sup>For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and faith. And a great number of people were brought to the Lord. <sup>25</sup>Then he went away to Tarsus, to look for Saul, <sup>26</sup>and when he found him he brought him to Antioch. And so it came about that, for a whole year they joined forces to work with that congregation, and to teach a considerable throng of people. It was also in Antioch the disciples were first called "Christians."

<sup>27</sup>And during those same days some prophets came down to Antioch from Jerusalem. <sup>28</sup>And one of them by the name of Agabus indicated through the Spirit that a great famine was going to take place over the whole inhabited earth. Which did take place during the reign of Claudius Caesar. <sup>29</sup>Then the disciples determined, according to the extent each of them was prospering, to send money in support to the brethren living in Judea. <sup>30</sup>And this they did, sending it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

## Chapter 12

<sup>1</sup>Now around that time, King Herod arrested some from the church, and mistreated them. <sup>2</sup>And James the brother of John he put to death by the sword. <sup>3</sup>And when he saw



that this was pleasing to the Jews, he went on to hunt down Peter also (and it was during the days of Unleavened Bread), <sup>4</sup>whom he then arrested and put in prison, delivering him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each, intending after Passover to bring him out before the people.

<sup>5</sup>While Peter was being kept in prison, prayer was earnestly being made by the church on his behalf to God. <sup>6</sup>And when Herod was just about to bring him up, that very night before, Peter was sleeping chained between two soldiers by two chains, with guards also in front of the door watching the prison. <sup>7</sup>And behold, an angel of the Lord stood over, and light shone in the room. And he tapped on the side of Peter's body and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his wrists.

<sup>8</sup>Then the angel said to him, "Get dressed and put on your sandals." And Peter did so. And the angel says to him, "Throw your cloak on and follow me."

<sup>9</sup>And Peter was following him outside, not knowing, that what was happening through the angel was real. He thought he was seeing a dream. <sup>10</sup>So after passing by the first guards, then the second, they were at the iron gate that leads to the city. Which opened for them by itself. And they got outside, and when they had gone one block, the angel pulled away from him.

<sup>11</sup>And Peter came to himself, and said, "Now I truly know, that the Lord has sent out his angel, and plucked me out of Herod's hand and from all that the Jewish people were expecting." <sup>12</sup>And once he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of the John whose other name was Mark, which was where a lot of those convened and praying were. <sup>13</sup>And he knocked on the door of the courtyard, and a maidservant by the name of Rhoda came out to answer, <sup>14</sup>and when she recognized Peter's voice, from her joy she did not open the gate but ran inside and reported Peter to be standing at the gate.

<sup>15</sup>And they said to her, "You're crazy." But she kept insisting it was true. So then they were saying, "It's his angel."

<sup>16</sup>But Peter kept knocking. And when they opened the gate they saw him, and were astounded. <sup>17</sup>And he waved his hand downward for silence, and recounted to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. Then he said, "Report these things to James and the brothers." And he left and went to another location.

<sup>18</sup>Now when morning came, there was no small anxiety among the soldiers as to what had happened to Peter. <sup>19</sup>And Herod conducted a search for him, and when he did not find him he interrogated the guards, then ordered them off to be executed, and went down to Caesarea, spending some time away from Judea.

<sup>20</sup>Now Herod had become angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon. So they made a joint appearance before him, and after they had first won Blastus over to their cause, the man in charge of the king's bedroom, they sued for peace. This was because their region was dependent upon the food crops from the royal farms. <sup>21</sup>And on the day appointed, Herod dressed in the royal robes and sat at the tribunal, and delivered a speech before them. <sup>22</sup>And the crowd began raising a cheer: "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" <sup>23</sup>But an angel of the Lord struck him on the spot, because he did not give the glory to God. And he was eaten by worms, and died.

<sup>24</sup>Now the word of God was spreading, and winning over more and more people. <sup>25</sup>And Barnabas and Saul returned, having fulfilled their mission at Jerusalem, and they brought with them John whose other name was Mark.

## Chapter 13

<sup>1</sup>Now among that congregation in Antioch there were prophets and teachers: both Barnabas and Simeon—the one called the black Simeon; and also Lucius the Cyrenian; Manaen the foster brother of Herod the Tetrarch; and Saul. <sup>2</sup>And while they were devoting themselves to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Now set apart Barnabas and Saul to me, for the work to which I have called them.”

<sup>3</sup>Then, after fasting and praying and laying their hands on them, they released them. <sup>4</sup>Those two therefore, sent out by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus, <sup>5</sup>and once they were in Salamis, were proclaiming the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. Now they also had John along as an assistant.

<sup>6</sup>And when they had traveled through the whole island as far as Paphos, they encountered a man who was a magician and Jewish false prophet, whose name was Bar-Jesus, <sup>7</sup>who was with the proconsul Sergius Paulus. This latter was an intelligent man, and he summoned Barnabas and Saul, desiring to hear the word of God. <sup>8</sup>But Elymas the magician (for that is how his name is translated) kept working against them, always trying to steer the proconsul away from the faith.

<sup>9</sup>Then Saul, the one also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze straight at him, <sup>10</sup>and said, “O you, full of all spincraft and every kind of fraud, you son of the devil, you opponent of all that is righteous, are you never going to stop distorting the right ways of the Lord? <sup>11</sup>And now behold, the hand of the Lord is against you, and you will be blind, not seeing the sun for a time.”

And immediately there fell upon him a mist, and darkness, and he was going around looking for a guiding hand. <sup>12</sup>At that time the proconsul believed, when he saw what had happened, completely amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

<sup>13</sup>Then, setting sail from Paphos, Paul and his companions came to Perga of Pamphylia; except for John, who parted from them and returned to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>And they passed on through from Perga and arrived in Antioch of Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. <sup>15</sup>And after the reading of the law and the prophets, the synagogue rulers sent word to them, saying, “Men, brothers, if there is among you any word of exhortation to the people, you may speak.”

<sup>16</sup>So Paul stood up, and waving his hand downward for silence, he said, Men, Israelites, and those who fear God, please listen. <sup>17</sup>The God of this people Israel chose our fathers, and he exalted the people during their sojourning in Egypt, and with a mighty arm led them out of it, <sup>18</sup>and, for about forty years time he bore them in the desert, <sup>19</sup>then after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he divided their land out to them as an inheritance, <sup>20</sup>all this over a period of about 450 years. And after those things, he gave them the judges, until Samuel the prophet.

<sup>21</sup>And from then on they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish for 40 years, a man of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>22</sup>And after removing him, he raised up David for them as king, about whom he also testified and said, ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will perform all my wishes.’ <sup>23</sup>From the seed of that man, according to the promise, God brought to Israel a savior, Jesus, <sup>24</sup>with John having announced ahead of His appearance a baptism of repentance to all the people Israel.

<sup>25</sup>And as John was completing his run, he was saying, ‘What are you surmising me to be? I am not the one. But behold, there is coming after me someone whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.’

<sup>26</sup>Men and brothers, sons of the race of Abraham, and those among you who fear God,

the message of this salvation has been assigned over to us, <sup>27</sup>since those living in Jerusalem and their rulers, being ignorant of this and of the voices of the prophets which are read on every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning Him. <sup>28</sup>And even though they found no case for the death penalty, they asked Pilate to execute Him. <sup>29</sup>And when they had fulfilled all those things written about him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb.

<sup>30</sup>But God raised him up from the dead. <sup>31</sup>Over a period of many days he appeared to those who had come up to Jerusalem with him from Galilee, those who are now witnesses of him to the people. <sup>32</sup>And we are announcing to you this good news: that the promise made to the fathers, <sup>33</sup>God has fulfilled that promise to us their children by raising up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm about him: 'You are my son. Today I have begotten you.'

<sup>34</sup>And that he raised him from the dead, to revert no more to decay, this is spoken: 'I will grant to you the sure blessings of David.'

<sup>35</sup>Pertaining to which also it says in another place, 'You will grant that your blessed one not see decay.'

<sup>36</sup>Now certainly: David fell asleep, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, and he was laid to rest with his fathers, and he saw decay. <sup>37</sup>But the one whom God has raised, he did not see decay. <sup>38</sup>Be it known to you therefore, men and brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is being announced to you. <sup>39</sup>And of everything from which it was not possible to be justified through the Law of Moses, he who believes is being justified.

<sup>40</sup>Take heed therefore, so that this which was spoken in the prophets may not apply:

<sup>41</sup>'Watch, O scornful ones, and marvel, and perish.  
Because I am accomplishing a feat in your days,  
a feat which you would not believe  
if someone were explaining it to you.' "

<sup>42</sup>And when they went outside, they were being invited to the next Sabbath, to speak these same words to them. <sup>43</sup>Then after the synagogue meeting had broken up many of the Jews and devout proselytes accompanied Paul and Barnabas, who, as they continued to speak to them, were prevailing upon them to continue with this grace of God. <sup>44</sup>Consequently on the following Sabbath, almost the entire city gathered to hear the word about the Lord.

<sup>45</sup>But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy, and they were rebutting the arguments of Paul by denigrating him. <sup>46</sup>So Paul and Barnabas bluntly said, "It was mandatory that the word of God be spoken to you first. But since you are pushing it away and convicting yourselves not worthy of eternal life, behold: we turn to the Gentiles. <sup>47</sup>For the Lord has commanded us this: 'I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles, salvation reaching the farthest part of the earth.'" <sup>48</sup>And the Gentiles listening were cheering, and praising the message about the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

<sup>49</sup>So the message about the Lord was being carried throughout that whole region. <sup>50</sup>But the Jews stirred up the influential of the pious proselyte women along with the chief men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas. And they expelled them out of their borders. <sup>51</sup>So they, after shaking the dust off their feet against them, were on their way to Iconium, <sup>52</sup>while the disciples were filled with joy and the

Holy Spirit.

## Chapter 14

<sup>1</sup>And the same thing happened in Iconium. They went into the synagogue of the Jews and spoke in this same manner, with the result that a large number of both Jews and Greeks believed. <sup>2</sup>As for those who did not believe, the Jews stirred up and embittered the souls of the Gentiles against the brothers.

<sup>3</sup>They then stayed though quite a while, speaking boldly on the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of his grace by granting signs and wonders to happen through their hands. <sup>4</sup>But the multitude of the city became divided, and some were with the Jews and some were with the apostles. <sup>5</sup>And when a campaign arose on the part of both the Gentiles and Jews with their leaders to assault and stone them, <sup>6</sup>they heard about it, and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and the surrounding country, <sup>7</sup>and started evangelizing there.

<sup>8</sup>And a man was sitting in Lystra who was disabled in his feet, lame from his mother's womb, who never at any time had walked. <sup>9</sup>He was listening to the preaching of Paul, who studied him, and knew that he had the faith to be healed. <sup>10</sup>Paul said in a loud voice, "Stand up straight, on your feet!" And he jumped up, and was walking.

<sup>11</sup>And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices in Lycaonian, saying, "The gods have come down to us, made like humans." <sup>12</sup>And they were calling Barnabas Zeus, and Paul Hermes, since Hermes was the ruler of speech. <sup>13</sup>And the priest of Zeus, who dwelt before the city, brought bulls and garlands to the gates, intending to join with the crowds to offer sacrifice.

<sup>14</sup>But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they ripped their clothing and rushed in among the crowd, crying out <sup>15</sup>and saying, "Men, why are you doing this? We also are humans with the same frailties as you, preaching that you should turn from these worthless things to the God that is alive, the one who made the heaven, and the earth, and the sea, and everything that is in them; <sup>16</sup>who in the ages gone by has allowed all nations to go in their own paths; <sup>17</sup>though he did not leave himself without evidence, acting good toward you, providing rain from the heaven and seasons bearing fruit, satisfying your hearts with food and good cheer."

<sup>18</sup>And saying these things just barely dissuaded the crowds from sacrificing to them. <sup>19</sup>But some Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium, and after winning over the crowds and stoning Paul, they dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead.

<sup>20</sup>But the disciples circled around him, and carried him into the city. And the following day, he left for Derbe with Barnabas. <sup>21</sup>And after evangelizing that city and making many disciples, they reversed their tracks through Lystra and through Iconium and through Antioch, <sup>22</sup>confirming the hearts of the disciples, exhorting them to persevere in the faith, seeing as how we must go through much tribulation into the kingdom of God. <sup>23</sup>And after appointing elders for them in each congregation, and praying for them with fasting, they handed them over to the Lord in whom they had placed their trust.

<sup>24</sup>And when they had passed all the way through Pisidia they came into Pamphylia, <sup>25</sup>and after speaking the word in Perga they went down to Attalia, <sup>26</sup>and from there set sail for Antioch, for that is where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work they had completed. <sup>27</sup>So they presented themselves. When they had brought the congregation together, they were reporting what things God had done through them,

and how He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. <sup>28</sup>And it was no small amount of time they were spending with those disciples.

## Chapter 15

<sup>1</sup>And some who had come down from Judea had been teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." <sup>2</sup>So after there arose no small division and debate between those men versus Paul and Barnabas, they appointed Paul and Barnabas plus some others among them to go up to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem about this question.

<sup>3</sup>They therefore were sent forth now by the assembly, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they were telling all about the conversion of the Gentiles, and causing great joy among the brethren. <sup>4</sup>And when they arrived in Jerusalem they were welcomed by the congregation and the apostles and the elders, and they reported the things God had done through them.

<sup>5</sup>But some from the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying it was necessary to circumcise them and to command them to keep the law of Moses. <sup>6</sup>And the apostles and elders gathered together to deliberate about this issue.

<sup>7</sup>But after an intense debate occurred, Peter stood up, and he said to them, "Men and brothers, you know full well from the early days, that God chose in your presence Gentiles to hear by my mouth the word of the gospel and to believe, <sup>8</sup>and God, the knower of hearts, has testified, in that he gave the Holy Spirit to them also, just as to us, <sup>9</sup>and he made no distinction between us and them, cleansing both of our hearts by means of faith. <sup>10</sup>So why tempt God now to place a yoke upon the necks of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? <sup>11</sup>But rather we believe to be saved by the grace of the Lord Jesus, the same way also as they."

<sup>12</sup>Then the whole multitude was quiet and listening to Barnabas and Paul recounting at length what signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them.

<sup>13</sup>And after they had held their peace, James responded, saying, "Men, brothers, listen to me. <sup>14</sup>Simeon has described how it was that God first turned his attention to obtain from the Gentiles a people called by his name. <sup>15</sup>And this is in harmony with the words of the prophets, just as it is written:

<sup>16</sup>'After these things I will turn back around,  
and raise again the fallen tent of David,  
and rebuild the ruins of it and set it up aright.

<sup>17</sup>so the rest of humanity may seek the Lord,  
even all the Gentiles upon whom my name is applied,  
says the Lord, the one doing these things,

<sup>18</sup>known since long ago.'

<sup>19</sup>Therefore it is my judgment not to further dismay those from the Gentiles who are turning to God, <sup>20</sup>but to write to them to abstain from the pollutions of idols and sexual sins and strangled animals and blood. <sup>21</sup>After all, Moses since ancient times has had people proclaiming him in every city, reading him aloud in the synagogues on every Sabbath."

<sup>22</sup>At that time, it seemed good to them, the apostles and elders, together with the whole church, to send select men from among them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas:

Judas the one called Barsabbas, and Silas; leading men among the brothers, <sup>23</sup>having sent a letter by their hand: "The apostles and elders and brethren, to the brethren of the Gentiles of Antioch and Syria and Cilicia: Greetings. <sup>24</sup>Because we have heard that some men have troubled you with words, upending your souls, who came from among us but to whom we had given no such direction, <sup>25</sup>it seemed good to us, after coming to one accord, to send select men to you together with our beloved brothers Barnabas and Paul, <sup>26</sup>people who have dedicated their lives to the cause of the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>27</sup>We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, and they will be telling you by speech these same things: <sup>28</sup>for it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to place no burden upon you beyond these essentials: <sup>29</sup>to abstain from things sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from strangled animals, and from sexual sins. Keeping yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell."

<sup>30</sup>Those men therefore when they were dismissed went down to Antioch, and after gathering the congregation together, they delivered the letter. <sup>31</sup>And when they had read it, they rejoiced over its encouragement. <sup>32</sup>And Judas and Silas, both being prophets also themselves, encouraged the brethren with much speaking, and they strengthened them as well. <sup>33</sup>And after they had spent some time, they were released back from those brethren with a "Peace *be with you*" to the ones who sent them. <sup>35</sup>Paul and Barnabas, however, stayed in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word about the Lord, along with many others.

<sup>36</sup>Then some days later, Paul said to Barnabas, "Now let us go back and check on our brethren in all the cities in which we have announced the word of the Lord, to see how they are doing." <sup>37</sup>So, Barnabas was wanting to take John with them, also called Mark. <sup>38</sup>But Paul thought it better not to take this man along with them, who had withdrawn from them, and from Pamphylia onward had not continued with them in the work.

<sup>39</sup>There was a disagreement therefore, so sharp, that they parted ways from each other. And Barnabas took Mark, to sail to Cyprus. <sup>40</sup>Paul however chose Silas, and went forth, committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord. <sup>41</sup>And he was traveling through Syria and Cilicia, confirming those congregations.

## Chapter 16

<sup>1</sup>Then he went over to Derbe and to Lystra. And behold, there was a disciple there by the name of Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who believed, but whose father was a Gentile. <sup>2</sup>He was well spoken of by the brethren in Lystra and Iconium. <sup>3</sup>Paul wanted this man to journey with him, and he took him and circumcised him, because of the Jews living in those places. For they all knew that his father was a Gentile.

<sup>4</sup>So as they were going through the cities, they were delivering the decrees that had been decided for them to keep by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup>Those congregations were thus indeed being strengthened in the faith; and they were growing in number daily. <sup>6</sup>And when they passed through the Phrygian and Galatian territory, they were prevented from speaking the word in Asia by the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so they went along the border of Mysia, trying to go into Bithynia— and the Spirit would not let them. <sup>8</sup>So they passed all the way through Mysia and went down to Troy.

<sup>9</sup>And during the night a vision appeared to Paul. It was a man of Macedonia standing, and he was pleading with him and saying, "Cross over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup>So since he had seen that vision, we worked on leaving for Macedonia immediately, because we gathered that God had called us to evangelize them. <sup>11</sup>We set

sail therefore from Troy, and made a straight run to Samothraiki, and the next day on to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup>and from there to Philippi, which was the first city in the region of Macedonia, a Roman colony. And we continued in that city, spending some days.

<sup>13</sup>And on the Sabbath, we went outside the gate by the river, where we were expecting prayer usually to take place. And after sitting down, we were talking to the women who had gathered. <sup>14</sup>And a woman of the city of Thyatira was listening, by the name of Lydia, a merchant dealing in purple cloth, who worshiped God. Whose heart the Lord opened so that she would take heed to the things being said by Paul. <sup>15</sup>And after she and her household were baptized, she made an appeal as follows, "If you really have judged me to be a believer in the Lord, come stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

<sup>16</sup>And it came about that once when we were heading to the place of prayer, a slave girl who had an oracle spirit came across us, who generated much income for her owners by her fortune telling. <sup>17</sup>She continued to follow close after Paul and us, yelling and saying, "These men are servants of the most high God, who are announcing to you the way of salvation!" <sup>18</sup>She kept doing this over a period of many days. And Paul was fed up, and he turned to the spirit and said, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out of her that very instant.

<sup>19</sup>Then when her owners saw that their hope of income was gone, they grabbed Paul and Silas, and dragged them into the public square before the authorities. <sup>20</sup>And when they moved them up to the magistrates, they said, "These men, who are Jews, are agitating our city, <sup>21</sup>and they are proclaiming customs which are not permissible for us, being Romans, to either accept or to practice." <sup>22</sup>And the crowd rushed together onto them, and then the magistrates ripped off the clothes and ordered them to be beaten. <sup>23</sup>And after imposing many blows, they threw them in prison, and ordered the warden to keep them in high security; <sup>24</sup>who when he got such orders, put them in the inner cell, and secured their legs in stocks.

<sup>25</sup>And around midnight, Paul and Silas were singing hymns to God, and the guards were listening with interest. <sup>26</sup>And suddenly there was an earthquake, so big, that it caused the foundation of the prison to shift, and all the doors to instantly open. All the chains were released as well. <sup>27</sup>And when the warden woke up and saw that the doors of the prison were open, he drew his dagger, and was about to kill himself, figuring the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup>But Paul called out in a loud voice, and said, "Do not harm yourself. We are all here." <sup>29</sup>So he ordered lights, and rushed inside. And he was trembling, and threw himself down before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup>Then he led them outside, and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

<sup>31</sup>And they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup>And they spoke to him the word about the Lord, together with all those in his household. <sup>33</sup>Then he took Paul and Silas, washed *them* of their wounds, and got baptized on the spot, he and all his *household*, at that hour of the night. <sup>34</sup>And after leading them back into the house, he set out a table for them. And he and all his household were rejoicing, having believed in God.

<sup>35</sup>And when it was daytime, the magistrates sent the sheriffs, saying, "Release those men." <sup>36</sup>So the prison warden declared these words to Paul, as follows: "The magistrates have sent orders that you be released. Now therefore, you may go in peace."

<sup>37</sup>But Paul said to them, "They gave us a beating in public without due process of law, though we men are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison. And now they are pushing us away quietly? Certainly not! On the contrary they shall come personally and escort us out." <sup>38</sup>So the sheriffs reported these statements to the magistrates. And when

they heard that they were Roman citizens, they were afraid. <sup>39</sup>And they came and apologized to them. And they escorted them out, and asked them to go away from the city.

<sup>40</sup>Now after getting out of prison, they went and stayed with Lydia. And they saw those brethren, and exhorted them, and moved on.

## Chapter 17

<sup>1</sup>And when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>And as was Paul's custom, he went in to them, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the scriptures, <sup>3</sup>explaining and pointing out that the Messiah had to suffer, and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This man Jesus who I am telling you about, he is the Messiah." <sup>4</sup>And some of them were persuaded, and attached themselves to Paul and Silas, including a great many of the Greek proselytes, and of the leading women not a few.

<sup>5</sup>And the Jews were jealous, and recruited some worthless men off the streets, and when they had formed a mob, they were putting the city in an uproar. And they assaulted the house of Jason, intending to bring them out to the mob. <sup>6</sup>But when they did not find them, they proceeded to drag Jason and some other brothers up before the magistrates, crying, "Those men who have overturned the whole inhabited earth, they have arrived here also; <sup>7</sup>whom Jason has taken under his roof. And they all are acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, declaring someone else to be king, Jesus." <sup>8</sup>Thus they riled up the crowd and the magistrates who were hearing these words. <sup>9</sup>And after taking a bail bond from Jason and the others, they released them.

<sup>10</sup>Then the brethren sent Paul and Silas immediately away during the night to Berea. When they arrived they went into the synagogue of the Jews. <sup>11</sup>And these people were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with a completely open mind, each day examining the scriptures to see if they were there as described. <sup>12</sup>Consequently many of them believed, including some Greek women of high standing, and of the Greek men not a few.

<sup>13</sup>But when the Jews from Thessalonica found out that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul in Berea also, they came over there as well, and they stirred up the crowd. <sup>14</sup>So immediately at that time the brethren sent Paul away, to journey to the sea coast, while both Silas and Timothy remained there. <sup>15</sup>And those escorting Paul took him as far as Athens, and after receiving orders for Silas and Timothy that they should come join him with all speed, they left.

<sup>16</sup>Now while Paul was waiting for them in Athens, his spirit was getting stirred up within him, when he saw the city was rife with idols. <sup>17</sup>He therefore every day was holding discussions with the Jews and devout proselytes in the synagogues, and also in the public square with anyone who happened to be nearby. <sup>18</sup>Thus some also of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began joining him. And some were saying, "Whatever is this blowhard trying to say?" And others *said*, "He seems to be a herald for foreign deities." (For he was announcing Jesus and the resurrection.) <sup>19</sup>And they took hold of him and led him to the Hill of Aries, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is, the one being spoken by you? <sup>20</sup>For you are announcing some things that are strange to our ears. Therefore we wish to know what these things mean." <sup>21</sup>For you see, all the Athenians, and also non-citizens visiting, would devote their spare time to nothing else



than to speak or to hear anything that was new.

<sup>22</sup>So Paul stood at the center of the Hill of Aries, and he said, "Men of Athens, I notice that you are thoroughly religious. <sup>23</sup>For, as I was passing along and reviewing your objects of worship, I even found an altar on which had been inscribed, 'TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.' Now then, the one you venerate without knowing, that God I am proclaiming to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who created the world and everything in it, being Master of both heaven and earth, he does not settle in shrines made with hands. <sup>25</sup>Nor is he served by human hands as though he needed anything— he is the one who gives to all, life and breath, and everything else. <sup>26</sup>And he has made of one blood all nations of people, to dwell over the face of the whole earth, having marked off the predetermined time periods and boundaries for their habitation, <sup>27</sup>to seek after God, if perhaps they will grope for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For in Him we live, and move, and have our being. As even one of your own prophets has said, 'We are his offspring.' <sup>29</sup>We ourselves being offspring of God, we ought not therefore to think that the divine nature is anything like gold or silver or stone, like an engraved work of art and of human conception. <sup>30</sup>Though God indeed forbore the times of such ignorance, he now commands all people of all places to repent. <sup>31</sup>Because he has set a day on which he is about to judge the world with righteousness by the man whom he appointed, giving assurance to everyone by raising him from the dead."

<sup>32</sup>But some, when they heard resurrection from the dead, were scoffing, while others said, "We will hear from you on this again." <sup>32</sup>And with that Paul went out from their midst. <sup>33</sup>But some men joined up with him and believed; among whom was Dionysius— a member of the Hill of Aries; and a woman also, by the name of Damaris, plus others with them.

## Chapter 18

<sup>1</sup>After these things, Paul departed from Athens, and went to Corinth. <sup>2</sup>And he encountered a Jew by the name of Aquila, Pontic by birth, who had recently come from Italy along with his wife Priscilla since Claudius had ordered all Jews to go away from Rome. Paul approached them, <sup>3</sup>and because of being in the same trade, he stayed with them, and they were doing the work together, for they were tentmakers by trade. <sup>4</sup>Except every Sabbath he would have a discussion in the synagogue, persuading both Jews and Greeks. <sup>5</sup>But once both Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began restricting himself to the word, testifying solemnly to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. <sup>6</sup>But when they set themselves against him and were reviling him, Paul shook out his garments toward them, and said, "Your blood is on your own heads. I am clean. From now on, I am going to the Gentiles."

<sup>7</sup>And he left there, and entered the home of someone by the name of Titus Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house abutted the synagogue. <sup>8</sup>Then Crispus, a leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his whole house, and many of the Corinthians hearing this were believing and getting baptized.

<sup>9</sup>And the Lord said to Paul during the night in a dream: "Do not be afraid, but speak, and not be silent. <sup>10</sup>Because I am with you, and no one will lay hands on you to harm you, for in this city the crowd that is mine is large." <sup>11</sup>So he stayed put for a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

<sup>12</sup>But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one mind rose up against

Paul. And they were leading him to the tribunal, <sup>13</sup>saying, "This man misleads the people, to worship God apart from the Law."

<sup>14</sup>And when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "O you Jews, if it were a case of intentional crime or a harmful misdeed, I would admit you; <sup>15</sup>but if a dispute about a word or a term or a law specific to you all, you take care of that. I am not willing to be judge of those things." <sup>16</sup>And he expelled them from the tribunal. <sup>17</sup>Then all the Greeks seized Sosthenes, the chief ruler of the synagogue, and were beating him right in front of the tribunal. And that mattered to Gallio not one bit.

<sup>18</sup>But Paul after remaining several more days with those brethren, bid them farewell, got his head shaved in Kengkreaia, keeping a vow, and then sailed away for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. <sup>19</sup>But when they made landfall at Ephesus, Paul left them behind, and went rather by himself into the synagogue, reasoning with the Jews. <sup>20</sup>And when they asked him to stay with them additional time, he did not agree, <sup>21</sup>but bid them farewell, and said, "I will swing back to you again if God wills." And he sailed away from Ephesus.

<sup>22</sup>And he arrived over at Caesarea, disembarked and greeted that church, then went down to Antioch, <sup>23</sup>and after spending some time, he left, and went through one place after another in the Galatian and Phrygian territory, strengthening all the disciples.

<sup>24</sup>And a Jew by the name of Apollos, Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus, who was powerful in the scriptures. <sup>25</sup>This man was orally instructed in the way of the Lord, and burning with spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things about Jesus, knowing only the baptism of John; <sup>26</sup>and he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. And when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him and explained to him more accurately the way of God.

<sup>27</sup>And when he wanted to go into Achaia, he was encouraged by the brethren, who wrote to those disciples to welcome him. When he was there, he was contributing much to those who through grace had believed; <sup>28</sup>for he was thoroughly refuting the Jews in view of all, proving by the scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.

## Chapter 19

<sup>1</sup>And it came about that while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the inland districts and arrived in Ephesus. And he found some disciples, <sup>2</sup>and posed this question to them, "When you believed, did you receive the Holy Spirit?"

But they answered, "We have not even heard there is a Holy Spirit."

<sup>3</sup>And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?"

And they said, "Into John's baptism."

<sup>4</sup>And Paul said, "John baptized a baptism of repentance, telling the people they should believe the one coming after him. That 'one' is Jesus."

<sup>5</sup>So those who heard this were baptized into the name of Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>And when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they were speaking in languages and prophesying. <sup>7</sup>And they were about 12 men in all.

<sup>8</sup>And Paul was speaking boldly when he went into the synagogue, reasoning and persuading about the kingdom of God, for a period of three months. <sup>9</sup>But when some became hardened and were disobeying, and speaking ill of the Way before the multitude, Paul withdrew from them, and separated the disciples, and began daily lecturing in the school of Tyrannus. <sup>10</sup>And this went on for two years, with the result that everyone who

lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

<sup>11</sup>Through the hands of Paul as well, God was doing powerful, extraordinary things. <sup>12</sup>Even such that handkerchiefs or aprons were conducted from his skin onto those who were sick and the diseases would be removed from them, and any evil spirits would come out from them.

<sup>13</sup>Then some itinerant Jewish exorcists decided to try their hand also at invoking the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits. They would be saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul proclaims." <sup>14</sup>Now they were the seven sons of Skeva, a Jewish high priest, doing this. <sup>15</sup>But in response the evil spirit said to them, "Jesus I know and Paul I know, but who are you?" <sup>16</sup>And the man in whom the evil spirit was, he sprang up onto them and owned all of them put together, and beat them, and the result was they fled that house naked and wounded.

<sup>17</sup>And this became known to everyone living in Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks, and fear fell over them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was getting magnified. <sup>18</sup>And many of them after they believed were coming forward confessing and publicising their practices. <sup>19</sup>And a considerable number of the ones who had been practicing magic, they collected the sacred scrolls together in a pile, and burnt them in view of everyone. And they added up the prices of them, and found it to be 5,000 pieces of silver. <sup>20</sup>With power like that, the word of the Lord was growing in influence, and prevailing.

<sup>21</sup>And after these things were completed, Paul resolved in his spirit<sup>2</sup> that after passing through Macedonia and Achaia, he would go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I am there, I must see Rome as well." <sup>22</sup>Then he sent two of those who were helping him, Timothy and Erastus, on into Macedonia. He himself remained some more time in Asia.

<sup>23</sup>Now about that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way. <sup>24</sup>For someone by the name of Demetrius, a silversmith, who manufactured silver shrines of Artemis and provided the artisans no little business, <sup>25</sup>he convened the tradesmen who worked at such things, and he said, "Men, you know, that from this trade, a comfortable income is ours, <sup>26</sup>and you see and hear, that this Paul, who states that gods made by hands are not gods, he has won over and led astray a considerable crowd from not only Ephesus, but from almost all of Asia. <sup>27</sup>Now not only does this put our profession in danger of coming into disrepute, but it also risks the temple of the great goddess Artemis being counted as nothing, and even she herself, whom all Asia and the inhabited earth worships, is about to be deposed from her greatness."

<sup>28</sup>And after hearing this, they were filled with anger. They began to shout, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" <sup>29</sup>And the city was filled with confusion, and they rushed as with one mind into the theater, keeping a firm grip on Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonian traveling companions of Paul. <sup>30</sup>And when Paul tried to enter the mob, the disciples would not let him. <sup>31</sup>And some of the Asiarchs also, who were friends with him, sent word to him urging him not to present himself in the theater.

<sup>32</sup>Then, others began shouting something different. For the assembly was confused, and most had no idea why they were gathered together. <sup>33</sup>Now as the Jews brought Alexander forward, some of the crowd instructed him, and so Alexander signaled with his hand that he wished to defend himself to the mob. <sup>34</sup>But because they knew he was a Jew, there arose the sound of them all shouting in unison, continuously for about two

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<sup>2</sup> 19:21 Acc. to BDF § 392(3) the clause ἔθετο ἐν τῷ πνεύματι is a Hebraism meaning something like "he thought in his heart."

hours: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

<sup>35</sup>But after the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he says: "Men of Ephesus, who indeed is there among humanity that does not know the city of the Ephesians is keeper of the temple of the great Artemis who fell from the sky? <sup>36</sup>Since these things are undeniable, it behoves you to calm down and do nothing rash. <sup>37</sup>For you brought these men who are neither temple robbers, nor blaspheming your goddess. <sup>38</sup>If therefore Demetrius and the artisans with him truly have a case against anyone, court days are observed, and there are proconsuls. They should charge one another. <sup>39</sup>So, if you are seeking anything further, that will be settled in the lawful assembly. <sup>40</sup>For indeed, we are liable to be charged with insurrection because of today, there being no good reason we can give for this *unscheduled* gathering." <sup>41</sup>And after saying these things, he expelled the assembly.

## Chapter 20

<sup>1</sup>Now after the uproar had quieted down, Paul sent for the disciples and exhorted them. And after saying goodbye, he left, to go to Macedonia. <sup>2</sup>Then after he had passed through those parts and exhorted them to a greater degree, he went to Greece. <sup>3</sup>And when he had spent three months *there*, a plot was formed against him by the Jews. As he was about to escape by sea to Syria, the idea came to go back via Macedonia. <sup>4</sup>And traveling with him were: Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, and the Thessalonians Aristarchus and Secundus, and the Derbian Gaius, and Timothy, and the Asians Tychicus and Trophimus; <sup>5</sup>except these men went on ahead, and waited for us in Troy. <sup>6</sup>And after the days of Unleavened Bread we sailed away from Philippi, and at the end of five days came to them in Troy, where we spent seven days.

<sup>7</sup>And on the first day of the week, as we were gathered together to break bread, Paul was preaching to them. It was about to go on into the next day and he was extending the word time to midnight, <sup>8</sup>but there were plenty of lamps on the top floor where we were meeting. <sup>9</sup>And a youth by the name of Eutychus was sitting in the window, gradually sinking down into a deep sleep because of Paul's lecture going extra time. When he was completely sunken by sleep, he fell down from the third floor, and was picked up dead. <sup>10</sup>So Paul went down, and he fell onto him and embraced him, and said, "Do not be troubled, for his life is in him."

<sup>11</sup>And after he had gone upstairs and broken bread and eaten, he also socialized for quite a while, until dawn, thus he departed. <sup>12</sup>And the boy they led away alive, and were comforted not a little. <sup>13</sup>We however proceeded on by ship, and put to sea for Assos, where we were going to pick up Paul, for that is how it was arranged. He wanted to go on foot. <sup>14</sup>So when he met us at Assos, we took him up on board, and we went to Mitylene. <sup>15</sup>Then, sailing away from there the next day, we arrived off Chios, and the day after that went across to Samos, and the following day came to Miletus.

<sup>16</sup>For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so as not to lose time in Asia, because he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if possible, for the Day of Pentecost. <sup>17</sup>So instead, from Miletus he sent to Ephesus a summons for the elders of that church. <sup>18</sup>And when they had joined him he said to them, "You yourselves are familiar with the manner in which I was with you the whole time since the first days I set foot in Asia, <sup>19</sup>-serving the Lord with all lowliness of mind, and tears; and the trials that have befallen me through the plots of the Jews; <sup>20</sup>how I did not withhold anything that was profitable for you, but showed you, and taught you, in public, and from house to house, <sup>21</sup>solemnly bearing witness to both

Jews and Greeks, the repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup>And now behold, constrained by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what things will befall me in there, <sup>23</sup>only that the Holy Spirit in every city testifies to me that chains and afflictions await me. <sup>24</sup>But I make my life on no account precious to myself, so that I may finish my run and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus: to solemnly declare the gospel of the grace of God.

<sup>25</sup>And now behold: I know that none of you among whom I passed through preaching the kingdom will see my face again. <sup>26</sup>Therefore, I am testifying to you on this day: I am innocent of everyone's blood, <sup>27</sup>for I did not shrink back from declaring to you the entire will of God. <sup>28</sup>Take heed to yourselves, and to all the flock among whom the Holy Spirit has placed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood. <sup>29</sup>For I know that after my departure, overbearing wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. <sup>30</sup>Out of your own number also, men will arise, speaking changed up things, to draw away the disciples after them. <sup>31</sup>For this reason you must be vigilant, recalling what over a period of three years I did not cease to warn each one of you night and day with tears. <sup>32</sup>And now, I hand you over to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and establish your inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

<sup>33</sup>I have desired silver or gold or clothing of no one. <sup>34</sup>You yourselves know that these hands of mine have provided the needs of myself and of those with me. <sup>35</sup>I have demonstrated everything to you by example, how with such labor it is necessary to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

<sup>36</sup>And after he had said these things, he got on his knees, together with all of them, and prayed. <sup>37</sup>And there was quite a bit of crying from everyone, and they were hugging onto Paul's neck, and kissing him goodbye. <sup>38</sup>They were especially pained by the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. Then they were escorting him to the ship.

## Chapter 21

<sup>1</sup>And when we had put out to sea and pulled away from them, we ran a straight course, and came to Kos, and then to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. <sup>2</sup>Then we found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, and boarded that and set sail. <sup>3</sup>And when we sighted Cyprus, we left it behind on port side, and sailed toward Syria, and made landfall at Tyre, because that is where the ship was unloading its cargo. <sup>4</sup>And there, we stayed put for seven days, after we had searched out the disciples, who kept telling Paul, by the Spirit, not to go on to Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup>But when we had finished the days, and were leaving and on our way, they were all seeing us off, including the women and children, escorting us to the outside of the city. And we all placed our knees on the beach, and prayed. <sup>6</sup>We said our goodbyes to each other, and we got onto the ship, while they returned to their homes. <sup>7</sup>And we finished the voyage from Tyre, to come to Ptolemais, and we greeted those disciples, and stayed with them one day.

<sup>8</sup>And the following day we departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the Seven, and we stayed with him. <sup>9</sup>Now this man had four virgin daughters, who were prophesying. <sup>10</sup>And during the many days we stayed there, a prophet by the name of Agabus came down from Judea. <sup>11</sup>And he came up next to us, and took off Paul's belt. And he tied up his own feet to his hands. And he

said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit: This is how the Jews in Jerusalem will tie up the man whose belt this is, and they will deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles." <sup>12</sup>And when we heard these things, both we and the ones in that place were pleading with him not to go up to Jerusalem.

<sup>13</sup>Then Paul answered, "What are you doing crying and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be chained in Jerusalem, but to die for the name of the Lord Jesus."

<sup>14</sup>And he would not be persuaded, so we held our peace, and said, "The Lord's will be done."

<sup>15</sup>And after those days, we packed our stuff, and went up to Jerusalem. <sup>16</sup>Now some of the disciples from Caesarea also went with us, to introduce us to an early disciple, Mnason the Cypriot, with whom we would be staying as guests. <sup>17</sup>And when we got to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly.

<sup>18</sup>So the following day, Paul has gone in to James, together with us, plus all the elders present. <sup>19</sup>And after greeting them, Paul was relating in detail everything that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.

<sup>20</sup>Now when they heard it, they were praising God. And they said to him, "Be aware, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews who have believed. And they all remain zealous for the Law. <sup>21</sup>And they have been told about you, that you are teaching all the Jews throughout the nations apostasy from Moses, saying not to circumcise their sons nor to walk according to the traditions. <sup>22</sup>What then is there *to do*? They will certainly hear that you have come. <sup>23</sup>Therefore do this that we tell you. We have four men who have obligated themselves with a vow. <sup>24</sup>Take these men and purify yourself with them, and pay for them to have their heads shaved, and everyone will know that there is nothing to what they were told about you, but in fact you yourself are walking in conformity and keeping the law.

<sup>25</sup>But as for the Gentile believers, we have informed them by letter that we have decided they need observe nothing of that sort, but only keep themselves from food offered to idols and from blood and from anything strangled and from sexual sin."

<sup>26</sup>Then Paul took those men the following day, and when he had purified himself along with them, he went into the temple announcing when the days of their purification would be finished and when the offering would be made for each of them.

<sup>27</sup>But when the seven days were almost finished, the Jews from Asia saw him in the temple, and stirred up all the crowd, and laid their hands on him,

<sup>28</sup>crying out, "Men of Israel, come and help! This is that man who is teaching everyone everywhere against this people and Law and place! And worse yet, he has even brought Greeks into the temple, and profaned this holy place!"

<sup>29</sup>For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with him, whom they assumed Paul had taken into the temple. <sup>30</sup>And the entire city was stirred up, and the people ran and gathered together. And after they had taken hold of Paul, they proceeded to drag him outside the temple, and immediately the doors were locked. <sup>31</sup>Now while they were working on killing him, the report went up to the commander of the Roman cohort that all Jerusalem was in an uproar, <sup>32</sup>who promptly took some soldiers and centurions and ran down toward them. And when the crowd saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. <sup>33</sup>At that time the commander came up to him and seized him and ordered that he be bound with two chains, and then was inquiring who he was and what he had done.

<sup>34</sup>But some in the crowd were yelling one thing and some another. Not able to find out for sure through the din, he ordered him brought into the barracks <sup>35</sup>But by the time

he was on the steps, Paul had to be carried high by the soldiers, because of the violence of the crowd. <sup>36</sup>For a large number of the people were following and shouting, "Away with him!"

<sup>37</sup>And when he was just about to be taken inside the barracks, Paul says to the commander, "Is it permissible for me to say something to you?"

And he said, "You know Greek? <sup>38</sup>Then you are that Egyptian aren't you, who prior to these days rebelled and led four thousand terrorists out in the desert."

<sup>39</sup>But Paul said, "I am a Jew, a citizen of a city not insignificant, Tarsus in Cilicia. So I ask you, give me permission to speak to the people."

<sup>40</sup>And after he had given him permission, Paul stood on the steps, and motioned to the people downward with his hand. And when it was largely quiet, he addressed them in the Hebrew language, and said,

## Chapter 22

<sup>1</sup>"Men, brothers and fathers, hear now my defense to you." <sup>2</sup>And when they heard him addressing them in the Hebrew language, they afforded him even more silence.

And he said, <sup>3</sup>"I am a Jewish man, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but raised in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, instructed according to the strictest tradition of the law of the fathers, and I was zealous for God, as you all are being today. <sup>4</sup>I persecuted this group, The Way, even as far as death, binding them, both men and women, and delivering them to prison, <sup>5</sup>to which even the high priest bears witness for me, and all the elders, since from them I took letters of authority to the brothers in Damascus, that I was going to take the members who were there as well, bound, to Jerusalem to be punished.

<sup>6</sup>But it came about that as I was going, and about noon had gotten close to Damascus, that suddenly a great light from heaven flashed all around me, <sup>7</sup>and I fell to the ground. And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'

<sup>8</sup>And I answered, 'Who are you lord?'

And he said to me, "I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting." <sup>9</sup>Now those who were with me saw the light, and were frightened, but they did not hear the voice that was speaking to me.

<sup>10</sup>And I said, "What should I do, Lord?"

And the Lord said to me, "Get up, and go to Damascus, and there you will be instructed about all that is assigned for you to do."

<sup>11</sup>So we proceeded toward Damascus, with me being led by the hand by my companions, as I could not see, because of the brightness of that light. <sup>12</sup>And Hananiah, a devout man in relation to the Torah, of good report by all the Jews who lived there, <sup>13</sup>he came to me and stood over me, and he said, 'Brother Shaul, see again.' And at that very time I looked at him and saw him. <sup>14</sup>And he said, "The God of our fathers pre-assigned you to know his will, and to see the Righteous One, and to hear the voice from out of his mouth. <sup>15</sup>Because you will be a witness for him to all humankind about what you have seen and heard. <sup>16</sup>And now, why delay? Arise and be baptized to wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

<sup>17</sup>And then it happened to me that when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I was put into a trance <sup>18</sup>and saw Him saying to me: 'Hurry, and get away quickly from Jerusalem, for they are not going to accept your testimony about me.'

<sup>19</sup>And I said, 'Lord, they know very well that I myself was imprisoning and binding from each synagogue those who believed in you. <sup>20</sup>And when the blood of Stephen your

witness was being spilled, I also was there and consenting, and guarding the cloaks of those who were killing him."

<sup>21</sup>And he said to me, "Go on your way, for I am assigning you afar off<sup>3</sup> to the Gentiles."

<sup>22</sup>Now the crowd had been listening— until those words. Then they lifted up their voice, saying, "Remove such a man from the earth, for it is not fitting for him to live!"

<sup>23</sup>And as they kept up their shouting, and were tossing off their cloaks, and throwing dust up in the air, <sup>24</sup>the commander ordered him brought inside the barracks, and said to interrogate him by flogging, so that he could find out the reason for all this clamor over him. <sup>25</sup>But as they stretched him out in the straps, Paul said toward the centurion standing there, "Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen without a trial?"

<sup>26</sup>And when the centurion heard this, he approached the commander and informed him, saying, "What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman citizen."

<sup>27</sup>So the commander came up to Paul, and he said to him, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?"

And he said, "Yes."

<sup>28</sup>And the commander responded, "It took me a large sum of money to get that citizenship."

And Paul said, "But I was actually born one."

<sup>29</sup>Then those about to interrogate him immediately withdrew from him. And even the commander was afraid, finding out that Paul was a Roman citizen and he had been strapping him up. <sup>30</sup>And the next day, wanting to find out exactly why he had been charged by the Jews, he unchained him and ordered the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin to assemble, and he brought Paul and stood him before them.

## Chapter 23

<sup>1</sup>And Paul, with an earnest gaze upon the Sanhedrin, said, "Men, brothers, I have conducted myself in all good conscience to this day."

<sup>2</sup>But Hananiah the high priest ordered those standing near him to slap his mouth.

<sup>3</sup>Then toward him, Paul said, "It is God you wish to slap, you whitewashed wall. And you sit judging me by the law, yet you transgress the law ordering me to be slapped."

<sup>4</sup>But those standing near him said, "You insult the high priest?"

<sup>5</sup>And Paul said, "I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest. For it is written, 'You shall not speak ill of the ruler of your people.' "

<sup>6</sup>Now Paul, knowing that one part were Sadducees and the other part Pharisees, cried out to the Sanhedrin, "Men, brothers, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee. It is for hope, namely the resurrection of the dead, that I am being condemned."

<sup>7</sup>And after these words of his, discord arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the whole body was divided. <sup>8</sup>For while the Sadducees say there exists no resurrection, nor an angel, nor a spirit, the Pharisees confess to all three.

<sup>9</sup>Then there was a loud shout, and some of the Torah scholars of the faction of the Pharisees stood up, and began to insist vehemently as follows: "We find nothing wrong in this man. What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?"

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<sup>3</sup> 22:21 Ephesians 2:17



<sup>10</sup>And such a great uproar occurred that the commander was worried they might tear Paul apart. He ordered the troops under him to go down and snatch him out from their midst and into the barracks.

<sup>11</sup>And during that night the Lord appeared to him, and said, "Take courage. For just as you solemnly declared the things about me in Jerusalem, you must in the same way testify in Rome as well."

<sup>12</sup>And when it was day, the Jews made a compact and bound themselves, swearing neither to eat, nor to drink, till they had killed Paul. <sup>13</sup>And there were more than forty who were making this plot. <sup>14</sup>They went to the chief priests and elders and said, "We have bound ourselves with an oath to taste nothing until we have killed Paul. <sup>15</sup>Now therefore, you together with the Sanhedrin should explain to the commander how he should bring Paul down to you, as though you are wanting to find out more accurately the issues concerning him. But we are prepared to kill him before he gets near."

<sup>16</sup>But when the son of Paul's sister heard about the ambush, he paid a visit and went inside the barracks, and told Paul. <sup>17</sup>So Paul called one of the centurions over, and he said, "Take this young man to the commander, for he has something to report to him."

<sup>18</sup>He then did accept him, and he took him to the commander and said, "The prisoner Paul called me over and asked me to bring this young man to you. He has something to tell you."

<sup>19</sup>And the commander took his arm and withdrew to a private place, and began inquiring, "What is it you have to tell me?"

<sup>20</sup>And he said, "The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down tomorrow to the Sanhedrin, as though they want to investigate more accurately concerning him. <sup>21</sup>You therefore should not trust them, because more than forty men of theirs are lying in wait for him, who have bound themselves neither to eat nor to drink until they have killed him. And now they are ready, waiting for a promise from you."

<sup>22</sup>Then the commander dismissed the young man, and ordered everyone not to divulge that he had reported these things to him. <sup>23</sup>And he called over two of his centurions, and said, "Get 200 infantry ready for a move as far as Caesarea, plus 70 horsemen and 200 spearmen, departure three hours after dark. <sup>24</sup>And provide an animal such that mounting Paul on it they can deliver him safely to Felix the governor."

<sup>25</sup>He wrote a letter with this text: <sup>26</sup>"Claudius Lysias, to the most excellent Governor Felix: Greetings. <sup>27</sup>This man had been seized by the Jews and was about to be done away with by them, when I intervened with the army and got him out, after I learned he was a Roman citizen. <sup>28</sup>And wanting to find out for certain the reason they were charging him, I took him down to their Sanhedrin. <sup>29</sup>Which I found out was a charge that concerns things from their law that are disputed. But the charge was nothing deserving of death or imprisonment. <sup>30</sup>Then when it was divulged to me that there would be a plot by them against the man, I immediately transferred him to you, giving orders also to his accusers to charge him before you."

<sup>31</sup>The soldiers therefore mounted him according to their orders, and took him by night to Antipatris. <sup>32</sup>And the next day, they let the horsemen go on with him, and went back to the barracks. <sup>33</sup>Who when they came into Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, also presented Paul to him.

<sup>34</sup>And after the governor had read it, and inquired as to which province he was from, and found out he was from Cilicia, <sup>35</sup>he announced: "I will hear you when your accusers are also present." He ordered him kept under guard at the Praetorium of Herod.

## Chapter 24

<sup>1</sup>And after five days, the high priest Hananiah came down, together with some of the elders and an orator, Tertullus, and they presented charges against Paul before the governor.

<sup>2</sup>And when he was called upon, Tertullus began to prosecute, saying, "Since we have experienced much peace because of you, and public reforms beneficial to this nation instituted through your foresight, <sup>3</sup>both at all times and in all places we receive it with all gratitude, most excellent Felix.

<sup>4</sup>But lest I delay you any longer, I ask you, with your indulgence, to hear us briefly. <sup>5</sup>For we have found this man to be a public menace, and stirring up rebellion among all the Jews throughout the world, and to be the ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes, <sup>6</sup>who was even trying to desecrate the temple, whom we then arrested, <sup>8</sup>from whom you will be able, after examining him yourself, to confirm all these things of which we are accusing him."

<sup>9</sup>Then the Jews also joined in, affirming these things to be so.

<sup>10</sup>And when the governor had signaled for him to speak, Paul said in answer, "Knowing it is for many years you have been judge for this nation, happy am I to answer these things in my defense. <sup>11</sup>You can verify for yourself, that it has not been more than twelve days since I came up to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>12</sup>and they have not found me disputing with anyone, or stirring up a crowd, either in the synagogues or in the city, <sup>13</sup>nor can they bring you proof of the things they are now charging me with.

<sup>14</sup>But I admit this to you, that I do serve our ancestral God in the manner of The Way, which they are calling a sect, believing everything in accordance with what is written in the law and the prophets, <sup>15</sup>having a hope in God which these men themselves also accept, that there is to be a resurrection of the dead, both of the righteous and the unrighteous. <sup>16</sup>It is in that very hope then, that I always strive to maintain an innocent conscience, toward God and toward people.

<sup>17</sup>"And after several years, I have come to my own nation to practice charity and to present offerings. <sup>18</sup>While engaged in that, some Jews from Asia found me, purified in the temple, not with a crowd, nor with a disturbance, <sup>19</sup>who therefore ought to have appeared before you as well to state charges if they have anything against me. <sup>20</sup>Or, these men here should declare what wrongdoing was found by them when I stood before the Sanhedrin.

<sup>21</sup>Or is it about this one thing that I had proclaimed while standing among them: ' For the resurrection of the dead I stand trial before you this day.' "

<sup>22</sup>Then Felix, who knew quite accurately the issues concerning The Way, adjourned them, and said, "When Lysias the commander comes down I will decide your case." <sup>23</sup>And he gave orders to the centurion for Paul to be kept under guard, yet have some freedom, and that no one prevent his *friends* attending him.

<sup>24</sup>And after some days, when Felix arrived with his wife Drusilla, who was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and listened to him about the belief in the Messiah Jesus.

<sup>25</sup>But when Paul spoke about righteousness, and self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened, and responded, "Go your way for now, and when I find the time I will send for you."

<sup>26</sup>At the same time, he was also hoping some cash would be delivered to him from Paul. <sup>27</sup>But after two full years went by, Felix got replaced by a successor, Porcius Festus, and Felix left Paul in chains, wanting to earn favor with the Jews.