

NOON BIBLE STUDY: ACTS 16

ACTS 16:1-5 - BEGINNING OF 2ND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

V. 1-3 - DERBE & LYSTRA - DISCIPLES ALREADY MADE THERE (CP. ACTS 14:8-22), TIMOTHY JOINS, IS CIRCUMCISED.

PAUL DID THIS NOT BECAUSE CIRCUMCISION MADE TIMOTHY RIGHT WITH GOD (PAUL HAS ALREADY EXPLAINED HIS VIEW ON CIRCUMCISION & SALVATION LETTER TO GALATIANS) BUT BECAUSE IT WOULD MAKE TIMOTHY "RIGHT" WITH THE JEWS WHOM HE WOULD BE PREACHING TO. REMEMBER ALSO THAT PAUL IS PASSING ON THE INFO DECIDED UPON IN ACTS 15 WHICH WAS A RESPONSE TO CONTRADICTING TEACHING OF SOME ON CIRCUMCISION. TIMOTHY, BECAUSE OF HIS HERITAGE (BELIEVING JEWISH MOM, GREEK FATHER) WOULD HAVE BEEN A UNIQUE SPOKESPERSON FOR THE GOSPEL TO JEWS AND GENTILES. TIMOTHY WILL BECOME THE CLOSEST COMPANION TO PAUL AND A LEADER IN THE 1ST CENTURY CHURCH. TWO LETTERS OF PAUL WRITTEN TO TIMOTHY INCLUDED IN SCRIPTURE.

ACTS 16:6-10 - HOLY SPIRIT DID NOT ALLOW THEM TO SPEAK IN "ASIA"

V. 9-10 - "MAN OF MACEDONIA" SEEN IN VISION SAYING "COME OVER TO MACEDONIA & HELP US", WILL OF GOD BECOMES CLEAR.

V. 10 - "WE" - LUKE AT THIS POINT NOW WITH PAUL, SILAS, TIMOTHY & OTHERS.



ACTS 16:11-15 - PHILIPPI

V. 12 - ANCIENT CITY OF PHILIPPI, ROMAN COLONY

AFTER THEIR VICTORY AT THE BATTLE OF PHILIPPI IN 42 B.C., ANTONY AND (LATER) AUGUSTUS RE-FOUNDED THIS MACEDONIAN CITY WITH ARMY VETERANS. ITS SPECIAL STATUS AS AN AUGUSTAN COLONY EXEMPTED THE CITY FROM SIGNIFICANT FORMS OF TAXATION AND GAVE IT ADDITIONAL PRIVILEGES OF LAND OWNERSHIP. THE CITY ENCOMPASSED GOOD AGRICULTURAL LAND, AND IT WAS ON THE EGNATIAN WAY, AN IMPORTANT ROMAN COMMERCIAL ROAD (BUILT MID-2ND CENTURY B.C.). THE ROMAN ETHOS OF THE COLONY IS EVIDENT IN PHILIPPI'S LATIN CIVIC INSCRIPTIONS AND IN THE WORSHIP OF ROMAN GODS. EXTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS FROM PAUL'S DAY TESTIFY TO THE PRESENCE OF A THEATER, A LARGE FORUM (BENEATH THE LATER 2ND-CENTURY-A.D. FORUM), SHOPS, AND TWO CITY GATES (DESIGNATED KRENIDES TO THE WEST AND NEAPOLIS TO THE EAST). THERE IS A SPEAKER'S PLATFORM (GK. BĒMA) IN THE EXISTING SECOND-CENTURY FORUM BETWEEN A PAIR OF LARGE FOUNTAINS. ONE SMALL STONE CRYPT (BUILT OVER A CISTERN) NEAR THE FORUM WAS DESIGNATED IN LATER CHURCH TRADITION AS THE PRISON SITE OF PAUL AND SILAS (ACTS 16:23—34). OTHER STRUCTURES DATING FROM NT TIMES AND THE EARLY CENTURIES OF THE CHURCH (E.G., A SPORTS FACILITY, PAGAN TEMPLES, OCTAGONAL AND BASILICA STYLE CHURCHES) CAN STILL BE SEEN IN PHILIPPI. (ESV STUDY BIBLE, INTRODUCTION TO PHILIPPIANS)

V. 13 - NOT A SIGNIFICANT JEWISH POPULATION. 10 MEN REQUIRED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF SYNAGOGUE

V. 14-15 - LYDIA & HOUSEHOLD BELIEVES AND BAPTIZED.

ACTS 16:16-24 - SLAVE GIRL WITH DEMON AND ARREST

V. 16-18 - SLAVE GIRL, TORMENTED BY DEMON FOLLOWS PAUL & DISCIPLES. ANNOYING AND CRYING OUT. PAUL DELIVERS GIRL.

V. 19-24 - PAUL & SILAS ARRESTED AFTER SLAVE GIRL'S MASTERS REALIZE THEIR PROFIT MAKER IS NO MORE.

V. 22 - "RESPONDING TO THE UNRULY CROWD, THE MAGISTRATES HAD PAUL & SILAS STRIPPED & GAVE ORDERS TO BEAT THEM WITH RODS. THE MAGISTRATES IN ROMAN CITIES WERE SERVED BY ATTENDANTS WHO CARRIED BUNDLES OF WOODEN RODS BOUND TOGETHER AS SYMBOLS OF THE MAGISTRATES' AUTHORITY & THEIR RIGHT TO INFLECT CORPORAL PUNISHMENT. PAUL & SILAS WERE SEVERELY BEATEN WITH THESE WOODEN RODS (V. 23.). THE ENTIRE PROCESS WAS A MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE, SINCE THERE WAS NO FAIR HEARING TO ASCERTAIN THE FACTS OR TO ALLOW PAUL & SILAS TO SPEAK IN THEIR OWN DEFENSE. (ESV STUDY BIBLE)

ACTS 16:25-34 - PAUL & SILAS IN PRISON. JAILER CONVERTED

V. 25 - PAUL & SILAS PRAYING AND SINGING HYMNS OF PRAISE TO GOD

V. 26 - EARTHQUAKE CAUSES ALL DOORS TO OPEN & EVERYONE'S CHAINS TO UNFASTEN

V. 27 - JAILER MOVES TO KILL HIMSELF (CP. ACTS 12:18-19 - GUARDS KILLED WHEN PETER NOT FOUND IN PRISON)

V. 30 - "WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?"

V. 31-32 - "SPOKE THE WORD OF THE LORD" = GOSPEL. MORE COMMUNICATED THAN JUST "BELIEVE IN JESUS". ALSO, WE KNOW THAT THE "PRISONERS WERE LISTENING TO THEM...(V. 25)"

V. 34 - BOTH PHILIPPIAN JAILER AND LYDIA WELCOME PAUL & SILAS BACK TO THEIR HOMES (ALSO IN V. 40). THIS BEHAVIOR IS QUITE THE CONTRAST TO OTHER CITIES AND HOW IT IS REPORTED THAT THEY RECEIVED PAUL. THESE GESTURES ILLUSTRATE WHY PAUL HAD SUCH A FONDNESS FOR THE PHILIPPIAN CHURCH.

PHILIPPIANS 1:1-8 - PAUL AND TIMOTHY, BOND-SERVANTS OF CHRIST JESUS, TO ALL THE SAINTS IN CHRIST JESUS WHO ARE IN PHILIPPI, INCLUDING THE OVERSEERS AND DEACONS: 2 GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE FROM GOD OUR FATHER AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. 3 I THANK MY GOD IN ALL MY REMEMBRANCE OF YOU, 4 ALWAYS OFFERING PRAYER WITH JOY IN MY EVERY PRAYER FOR YOU ALL, 5 IN VIEW OF YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE GOSPEL FROM THE FIRST DAY UNTIL NOW. 6 FOR I AM CONFIDENT OF THIS VERY THING, THAT HE WHO BEGAN A GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL PERFECT IT UNTIL THE DAY OF CHRIST JESUS. 7 FOR IT IS ONLY RIGHT FOR ME TO FEEL THIS WAY ABOUT YOU ALL, BECAUSE I HAVE YOU IN MY HEART, SINCE BOTH IN MY IMPRISONMENT AND IN THE DEFENSE AND CONFIRMATION OF THE GOSPEL, YOU ALL ARE PARTAKERS OF GRACE WITH ME. 8 FOR GOD IS MY WITNESS, HOW I LONG FOR YOU ALL WITH THE AFFECTION OF CHRIST JESUS.

(PAUL WRITES LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIAN CHURCH APPROX. 10 YEARS AFTER (C.60-62) HIS FIRST VISIT IN ACTS 16.)

ACTS 16:35-40 - RELEASED FROM PRISON. ROMAN CITIZENS

V. 35-36 - MAGISTRATES DETERMINE TO RELEASE PAUL & SILAS.

V. 37 - PAUL CALLS MAGISTRATES OUT AND REFERENCES HIS (& SILAS') ROMAN CITIZENSHIP.

ROMAN CITIZENSHIP BENEFITS/RIGHTS:

- ROMAN CITIZENS, WHO WERE GRANTED SPECIFIC RIGHTS, AMONG WHICH WERE: THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN THE TRIBAL ASSEMBLY (IUS SUFFRAGII); THE RIGHT TO MAKE LEGAL CONTRACTS, AND TO HOLD PROPERTY, AS A ROMAN CITIZEN (IUS COMMERCII); THE RIGHT TO SUE IN THE COURTS; THE RIGHT TO APPEAL FROM THE DECISIONS OF MAGISTRATES; THE RIGHT TO HAVE A TRIAL (TO APPEAR BEFORE A PROPER COURT AND TO DEFEND ONESELF); THE RIGHT NOT TO BE SUBJECTED TO TORTURE OR SCOURGING; AND THE RIGHT OF IMMUNITY FROM SOME TAXES AND OTHER LEGAL OBLIGATIONS, ESPECIALLY LOCAL RULES AND REGULATIONS. - SEAN A. ADAMS "PAUL THE ROMAN CITIZEN..." PG. 313

V. 38-39 - MAGISTRATES COME AND APPEAL TO THEM, RELEASE THEM, AND BEG THEM TO LEAVE THE CITY.

"THIS WAS NOT ONLY ILLEGAL, DUE TO THEIR CLAIM OF ROMAN CITIZENSHIP, BUT ALSO CARRIED THE POSSIBILITY OF STRONG CENSURE, NOT ONLY TOWARDS THE SOLDIERS, BUT TOWARDS THE CITY IN WHICH THE EVENT TOOK PLACE." - ADAMS, PG 313

V. 40 - RETURN TO LYDIA'S HOUSE. ENCOURAGE BRETHREN AND DEPART.

THEY WILL NOT CONTINUE ON TO THESSALONICA VIA AMPHIPOLIS & APOLLONIA (ACTS 17:1)

1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-2 - YOU YOURSELVES KNOW, BRETHREN, THAT OUR COMING TO YOU WAS NOT IN VAIN, BUT AFTER WE HAD ALREADY SUFFERED AND BEEN MISTREATED IN PHILIPPI, AS YOU KNOW, WE HAD THE BOLDNESS IN OUR GOD TO SPEAK TO YOU THE GOSPEL OF GOD AMID MUCH OPPOSITION.

LESSONS FROM ACTS 16:

1 - WE DON'T ALWAYS KNOW THE SPECIFICS ABOUT WHY CERTAIN THINGS HAPPEN/DON'T HAPPEN OR APPEAR TO "NOT GO OUR WAY." FOR PAUL & CO. DOORS CLOSED IN ASIA AND BITHYNIA. BUT WE LEARN IT WAS LIKE THIS SO THEY WOULD GO TO MACEDONIA & PHILIPPI. THERE IS A BIGGER PICTURE THAT GOD SEES.

2 - JOY AND PRAISE, EVEN WHEN BEING TRIED OR SUFFERING. PAUL AND SILAS ARE "SINGING IN PRISON" WITH NO PROMISE OF RELEASE. YET THEIR EYES AND HEARTS ARE FOCUSED ON THE LORD AND AS A RESULT, OTHERS SEE AND HEAR (EX: PRISONERS & JAILER). IMAGINE IF THEY QUIT OR COMPLAINED INSTEAD?