

NOON BIBLE STUDY: ACTS 21

ACTS 21:1-3 - TRAVEL DETAILS

COS → RHODES → PATARA → PHOENICIA →
(PASSING CYPRUS ON LEFT) → TOWARDS SYRIA → TYRE

ACTS 21:4-7 - A WEEK IN TYRE, THEN PTOLEMAIS WITH DISCIPLES.

V. 4 - THEY KEPT TELLING PAUL, THROUGH THE SPIRIT,
NOT TO SET FOOT IN JERUSALEM.

THEY MAY HAVE ENCOURAGED HIM TO NOT GO BECAUSE OF WHAT
AWAITED HIM IN JERUSALEM, BUT WHAT AWAITED HIM WAS NOT NECESSARILY OPPOSED TO GOD'S WILL/PLAN.



ACTS 21:8-14 - PAUL IN CAESAREA

V. 8-9 - PAUL STAYS WITH PHILIP THE EVANGELIST (THIS IS SAME PHILIP OF ACTS 8)

- ACTS 8:40 TELLS US THAT PHILIP WENT ON TO CAESAREA AFTER ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH'S BAPTISM. THIS IS PERHAPS 20+ YEARS LATER. PHILIP, WHO WE HAVEN'T HEARD OF SINCE ACTS 8 HAS REMAINED FAITHFUL AND CONTINUES TO SPEAK THE GOSPEL. HE ALSO HAS 4 VIRGIN DAUGHTERS, PROPHETESSES. DOING SO IN THE INCREDIBLY PAGAN CITY OF CAESAREA SPEAKS HIGHLY OF PHILIP'S CHARACTER.

V. 10-12 - AGABUS'S PROPHECY (CP. AGABUS IN ACTS 11:28)

- AGABUS' PROPHECY WILL END UP BEING CORRECT. THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE WAS TO BEG HIM NOT TO GO,

V. 12 - EVEN PAUL'S COMPANIONS BEGAN BEGGING HIM NOT TO GO. (INCLUDING LUKE)

- WHAT DO YOU DO IN A CASE LIKE THIS? (1) BE HUMBLE, ASK GOD FOR CLARITY, (2) DON'T DETERMINE YOUR ACTIONS BASED ON CIRCUMSTANCES, (3) OBEY GOD

V. 13-14 - PAUL'S REPLY

ROMANS 8:35-39 - WHO WILL SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF CHRIST? WILL TRIBULATION, OR DISTRESS, OR PERSECUTION, OR FAMINE, OR NAKEDNESS, OR PERIL, OR SWORD? 36 JUST AS IT IS WRITTEN, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." 37 BUT IN ALL THESE THINGS WE OVERWHELMINGLY CONQUER THROUGH HIM WHO LOVED US. 38 FOR I AM CONVINCED THAT NEITHER DEATH, NOR LIFE, NOR ANGELS, NOR PRINCIPALITIES, NOR THINGS PRESENT, NOR THINGS TO COME, NOR POWERS, 39 NOR HEIGHT, NOR DEPTH, NOR ANY OTHER CREATED THING, WILL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD, WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.

ACTS 20:22-23, ACTS 9:15-16 - PAUL WAS CALLED TO SUFFER FOR CHRIST.

ACTS 21:15-17 - FINAL APPROACH AND ARRIVAL AT JERUSALEM

ACTS 21:18-26 - PAUL WITH JAMES & JERUSALEM ELDERS

V. 19-21A - JERUSALEM LEADERS REJOICE BECAUSE OF THE GOSPEL WORK

- **ESV STUDY NOTE** - PAUL PARTICIPATES IN A NAZIRITE CEREMONY. - WHEN PAUL ARRIVED IN JERUSALEM, THE CHRISTIANS REJOICED OVER THE SUCCESS OF HIS GENTILE MISSION BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER RUMORS THAT HE WAS TEACHING JEWS TO ABANDON THEIR ANCESTRAL LAWS AND CUSTOMS. TO DISPROVE THE RUMORS, THEY ASKED PAUL TO PARTICIPATE PUBLICLY IN A NAZIRITE VOW, AS SPECIFIED IN OT LAW (NUM. 6:1-21)

- THOSE UNDER A NAZIRITE VOW WOULD ABSTAIN FROM WINE, STRONG DRINK, GRAPE JUICE, GRAPES, OR RAISINS; WOULD AVOID ANY CONTACT THAT WOULD DEFILE THEM (SUCH AS CONTACT WITH A DEAD BODY); AND WOULD NOT CUT THEIR HAIR (CF. NUM. 6:1-21). WHEN THE TIME OF THE VOW WAS OVER (OFTEN 30 DAYS), THEY WOULD CUT THEIR HAIR AND PRESENT AN OFFERING IN THE TEMPLE (CF. MISHNAH, NAZIR 6.3). IF PAUL WENT WITH THEM AND PERSONALLY PAID FOR THE COST OF THEIR OFFERING, IT WOULD SHOW THAT HE DID NOT OBJECT TO JEWISH CONVERTS FOLLOWING OT CUSTOMS VOLUNTARILY, SO LONG AS THOSE SAME CUSTOMS WERE NOT REQUIRED OF GENTILE BELIEVERS (ESV STUDY BIBLE, ACTS 21:23)

- PAUL PURIFIED HIMSELF ALONG WITH THESE OTHER MEN (V. 26). THIS PROCESS TOOK 7 DAYS. PAUL IS NOT OPPOSED TO JEWS VOLUNTARILY CONTINUING JEWISH LAW, TRADITIONS AND PRACTICES AS LONG AS THEY UNDERSTAND SALVATION AND FORGIVENESS IS BY GRACE, THROUGH FAITH. AND HE ALSO AGREES (AS DO JERUSALEM ELDERS SINCE ACTS 15 COUNCIL) THAT GENTILES NEED NOT CONVERT TO JUDAISM 1ST TO ACCEPT MESSIAH. THIS ACT IN JERUSALEM IS A MOMENT OF PAUL BEING ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN. (CP. TIMOTHY'S CONVERSION)

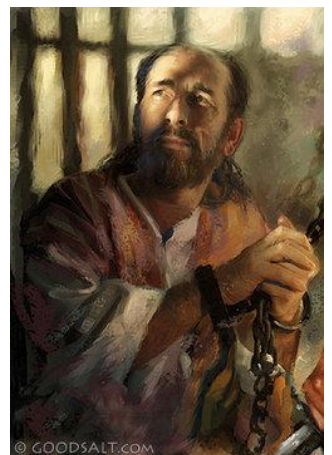
1 CORINTHIANS 9:19-22 - FOR THOUGH I AM FREE FROM ALL MEN, I HAVE MADE MYSELF A SLAVE TO ALL, SO THAT I MAY WIN MORE. 20 TO THE JEWS I BECAME AS A JEW, SO THAT I MIGHT WIN JEWS; TO THOSE WHO ARE UNDER THE LAW, AS UNDER THE LAW THOUGH NOT BEING MYSELF UNDER THE LAW, SO THAT I MIGHT WIN THOSE WHO ARE UNDER THE LAW; 21 TO THOSE WHO ARE WITHOUT LAW, AS WITHOUT LAW, THOUGH NOT BEING WITHOUT THE LAW OF GOD BUT UNDER THE LAW OF CHRIST, SO THAT I MIGHT WIN THOSE WHO ARE WITHOUT LAW. 22 TO THE WEAK I BECAME WEAK, THAT I MIGHT WIN THE WEAK; I HAVE BECOME ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN, SO THAT I MAY BY ALL MEANS SAVE SOME.

ACTS 21:27-36 - PAUL ATTACKED BY MOB

- "JEWS FROM ASIA" PROBABLY FROM EPHESUS WHERE THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN CHRISTIAN/JEWISH TENSION IN GENERAL AND ESPECIALLY AFTER ARTEMIS RIOT.

V. 28-29 - "THEY HAD SEEN TROPHIMUS THE EPHESIAN" ONE OF PAUL'S TRAVELING COMPANIONS (CP. ACTS 20:4) WITH HIM IN THE CITY AND ASSUMED HE HAD BEEN BROUGHT INTO TEMPLE TOO.

- THINGS WERE SO CHAOTIC THAT ROMAN COMMANDED TOOK HIM PRIVATELY (V. 33-34). PAUL IS BOUND WITH TWO CHAINS, JUST AS SPIRIT HAD FORETOLD. V. 34 - PAUL WAS CARRIED BY THE SOLDIERS UP THE STAIRS BECAUSE THE MOB WAS SO INTENSE (AND PERHAPS BECAUSE OF INJURIES HE MIGHT HAVE SUFFERED V. 32)



PHILIPPIANS 1:12-20