

## **Acts 18 The conclusion of Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey. (28 verses)**

### **1) Paul goes to Corinth and meets Aquila and Priscilla.**

v. 1 After this, **Paul left Athens and went to Corinth**. 2 There he met a Jew named **Aquila**, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife **Priscilla**, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome....v. 3 - 22

### **2) Acts 18:23 - 21:17 records Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey (53 - 57AD).**

v. 23 After spending some time in Antioch, **Paul set out from there and traveled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia (central Turkey)**, strengthening all the disciples.

### **3) Apollos appears in Ephesus.**

v. 24 Meanwhile a **Jew named Apollos**, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. 25 He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and **taught about Jesus accurately**, though **he knew only the baptism of John**. 26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue.

### **4) Mentoring/teaching of Apollos by Priscilla and Aquila.**

v. 26b. When **Priscilla and Aquila** heard him, **they** invited him to their home and **explained to him the way of God more adequately**. 27 When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers and sisters encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. When he arrived, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. 28 **For he vigorously refuted his Jewish opponents in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.**

## **Acts 19 Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey (41 verses)**

### **1) The Baptism of John vs. Baptism into Jesus.**

v. 1 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at **Ephesus**. There he found some disciples 2 and asked them, **"Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"** They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." 3 So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. 4 Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 On hearing this, **they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus**.

### **2) The Baptism of Holy Spirit and the doctrine of Initial Evidence.**

v. 6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the **Holy Spirit** came on them, and **they spoke in tongues and prophesied**. 7 **There were about twelve men** in all.

**1Co 14:29 Two or three prophets should speak**, and the others should weigh carefully what is said.

v. 8 Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. 9 But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned **the Way**. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. 10 **This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.**

**3) Prayer cloths that Paul provided actually had healing virtue.**

v. 11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, 12 so that even **handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured** and the evil spirits left them.

**4) They would be exorcists, the Sons of Sceva.**

v. 13 Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. **They would say, "In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out."** 14 **Seven sons of Sceva**, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15 **One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?"** 16 Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. 17 When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, **they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor.**

**5) Artemis (Diana) of the Ephesians was their business and their religion.**

v. 23 About that time there arose a great disturbance about **the Way**. 24 A silversmith named Demetrius, who made **silver shrines of Artemis**, brought in a lot of business for the craftsmen there. 25 He called them together, along with the workers in related trades, and said: **"You know, my friends, that we receive a good income from this business.** 26 And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. He says that gods made by human hands are no gods at all. 27 There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, but also that **the temple of the great goddess Artemis** will be discredited; and the goddess herself, who is worshiped throughout the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty." 28 When they heard this, they were furious and began shouting: **"Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"** 29 Soon the whole city was in an uproar. **The people seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia**, and all of them rushed into the theater together. 30 Paul wanted to appear before the crowd, but the disciples would not let him.

**6) The people initially rioted but the final results were in Paul's favor.**

v. 33 The Jews in the crowd pushed **Alexander** to the front, and they shouted instructions to him. He motioned for silence in order to make a defense before the

people. 34 But **when they realized he was a Jew, they all shouted in unison for about two hours: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"** 35 The city clerk quieted the crowd and said: "Fellow Ephesians, doesn't all the world know that the city of Ephesus is the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven? 36 Therefore, since these facts are undeniable, you ought to calm down and not do anything rash. 37 **You have brought these men here, though they have neither robbed temples nor blasphemed our goddess.** 38 If, then, Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a grievance against anybody, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. They can press charges. 39 If there is anything further you want to bring up, it must be settled in a legal assembly. 40 **As it is, we are in danger of being charged with rioting because of what happened today.** In that case we would not be able to account for this commotion, since there is no reason for it." 41 **After he had said this, he dismissed the assembly.**

## **Acts 20 Paul raises the dead (38 verses)**

### **1) Words of comfort to believers from Paul.**

v. 1 When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples and, after encouraging them, said goodbye and set out for Macedonia. 2 He traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece, 3 where he stayed three months. Because **some Jews had plotted against him** just as he was about to sail for Syria, he decided to go back through Macedonia.

### **2) Note: Luke is still with Paul on his mission trip.**

v. 6 But **we** sailed from Philippi after the Festival of Unleavened Bread, and five days later joined the others at Troas, where **we** stayed seven days.

### **3) Sunday Worship and the Sabbath Day.**

v. 7 **On the first day of the week** we came together to break bread. **Paul spoke to the people** and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. 8 There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting.

### **4) Eutychus is raised from the dead.**

v. 9 **Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus**, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was **picked up dead**. 10 Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "He's alive!" 11 Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left. 12 **The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.**

### **5) Paul's Holy Spirit leading is to go to Jerusalem, be arrested and on to Rome.**

v. 17 From Miletus, **Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church**. 18 When they arrived, he said to them: "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the

first day I came into the province of Asia. 19 **I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing** by the plots of my Jewish opponents. 20 You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. 21 **I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.** 22 "And now, **compelled by the Spirit**, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. 23 **I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.** 24 However, **I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.** 25 "Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again.

#### 6) Instructions for the Ephesian elders and all elders.

v. 26 Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. 27 **For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.** 28 **Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.** 29 I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. 30 Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. 31 **So be on your guard!** Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. 32 "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. 33 **I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing.** 34 You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions.

#### 7) Words of Jesus that are not found in any Gospel.

v. 35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering **the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."** 36 When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. 37 They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. 38 What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

### Acts 21 The conclusion of Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey (40 verses)

#### 1) Paul and Luke set out for Jerusalem.

v. 1 After **we** had torn ourselves away from them, **we** put out to sea and sailed straight to Kos. The next day **we** went to Rhodes and from there to Patara. 2 **We** found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, went on board and set sail. 3 After sighting Cyprus and passing to the south of it, **we** sailed on to Syria. **We** landed at Tyre, where **our** ship was to unload its cargo. 4 **We** sought out the disciples there and stayed with them seven days.

**Through the Spirit they urged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.** 5 When it was time to leave, **we** left and continued on **our** way. All of them, including wives and children, accompanied **us** out of the city, and there on the beach **we** knelt to pray. 6 After saying goodbye to each other, **we** went aboard the ship, and they returned home. 7 **We** continued **our** voyage from Tyre and landed at Ptolemais, where **we** greeted the brothers and sisters and stayed with them for a day.

**2) Phillip had four notably prophetic daughters.**

v. 8 Leaving the next day, we reached **Caesarea** and stayed at the house of **Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven**. 9 He had four unmarried **daughters who prophesied**.

**3) Agabus the prophet predicted Paul's arrest with a prophetic act.**

v. 10 After we had been there a number of days, a **prophet named Agabus** came down from Judea. 11 Coming over to us, **he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it** and said, "**The Holy Spirit says, 'In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'**" 12 When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. 13 Then Paul answered, "Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

**4) Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey ends in Jerusalem (53 - 57AD).**

v. 17 When we arrived at Jerusalem, the brothers and sisters received us warmly. 18 **The next day Paul and the rest of us went to see James**, and all the elders were present. 19 Paul greeted them and reported in detail what God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. 20 When they heard this, they praised God.

**5) Paul clearly makes a religious vow. Was it a Nazarite vow?**

v. 20b. Then they said to Paul: "You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law. 21 They have been informed that you teach all the Jews who live among the Gentiles to turn away from Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or live according to our customs. 22 What shall we do? They will certainly hear that you have come, 23 so do what we tell you. **There are four men with us who have made a vow**. 24 Take these men, **join in their purification rites and pay their expenses, so that they can have their heads shaved**. Then everyone will know there is no truth in these reports about you, but that **you yourself are living in obedience to the law**. 25 As for the Gentile believers, **we have written to them our decision that they should abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality**." 26 The next day **Paul took the men and purified himself along with them. Then he went to the temple to give notice of the date when the days of purification would end** and the offering would be made for each of them.

## 6) Paul's arrest in the Temple at Jerusalem.

v. 27 When the seven days were nearly over, some Jews from the province of Asia saw Paul at the temple. They stirred up the whole crowd and seized him, 28 shouting, "Fellow Israelites, help us! **This is the man who teaches everyone everywhere against our people and our law and this place.** And besides, **he has brought Greeks into the temple and defiled this holy place.**" 29 (They had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with Paul and assumed that Paul had brought him into the temple.) 30 The whole city was aroused, and the people came running from all directions. **Seizing Paul, they dragged him from the temple, and immediately the gates were shut.** 31 **While they were trying to kill him,** news reached the commander of the Roman troops that the whole city of Jerusalem was in an uproar. 32 He at once took some officers and soldiers and ran down to the crowd. When the rioters saw the commander and his soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. 33 The commander came up and arrested him and ordered him to be bound with two chains... 39 Paul answered, **"I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia,** a citizen of no ordinary city. Please let me speak to the people." 40 After receiving the commander's permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned to the crowd. When they were all silent, he said to them in Aramaic:

## Acts 22 Paul's many legal defenses begin. (30 verses)

### 1) Paul's First Legal Defense.

v. 1 "Brothers and fathers, **listen now to my defense.**" 2 When they heard him speak to them in Aramaic, they became very quiet. Then Paul said: 3 "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. **I studied under Gamaliel** and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today.

### 2) Early Church identified as "this Way" of serving Jesus.

v. 4 I persecuted the followers of **this Way** to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, 5 **as the high priest and all the Council** can themselves testify. I even obtained letters from them to their associates in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

### 3) Paul's Damascus road testimony.

v. 6 "About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. 7 I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, **'Saul! Saul! why do you persecute me?'**" 8 "'Who are you, Lord?' I asked. **'''I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,'** he replied. 9 My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me. 10 "'What shall I do, Lord?' I asked. **'''Get up,' the Lord said, 'and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.'**" 11 My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me. 12 **"A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there.** 13 He stood beside me and said, 'Brother Saul, receive

your sight!' And at that very moment I was able to see him. 14 "Then he said: 'The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see **the Righteous One** and to hear words from his mouth. 15 You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. 16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'

#### 4) Paul's first legal defense continues.

v. 17 "When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, **I fell into a trance** 18 **and saw the Lord** speaking to me. '**Quick!**' he said. '**Leave Jerusalem immediately, because the people here will not accept your testimony about me.**' 19 "'Lord,' I replied, 'these people know that I went from one synagogue to another to imprison and beat those who believe in you. 20 And when the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.' 21 **"Then the Lord said to me, 'Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'**" 22 **The crowd listened to Paul until he said this.** Then they raised their voices and shouted, **"Rid the earth of him! He's not fit to live!"**

#### 5) The issue of preaching to the Gentiles was their biggest problem.

v. 23 As they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, 24 the commander ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks. He directed that he be flogged and interrogated in order to find out why the people were shouting at him like this. 25 **As they stretched him out to flog him, Paul said to the centurion standing there, "Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen who hasn't even been found guilty?"** 26 When the centurion heard this, he went to the commander and reported it. "What are you going to do?" he asked. "This man is a Roman citizen." 27 The commander went to Paul and asked, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?" "Yes, I am," he answered. 28 Then the commander said, "I had to pay a lot of money for my citizenship." "But I was born a citizen," Paul replied. 29 Those who were about to interrogate him withdrew immediately. **The commander himself was alarmed when he realized that he had put Paul, a Roman citizen, in chains.**

#### 5) Paul is then brought before the Sanhedrin.

v. 30 The commander wanted to find out exactly why Paul was being accused by the Jews. So the next day he released him and ordered the chief priests and all the members of **the Sanhedrin to assemble.** Then he brought Paul and had him stand before them.

### **Acts 23 Paul is taken from Jerusalem to Caesarea (35 verses)**

#### 1) Paul's second legal defense is presented.

v. 1 Paul looked straight at the Sanhedrin and said, **"My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience to this day."** 2 At this **the high priest Ananias** ordered those standing near Paul to strike him on the mouth. 3 Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! You sit there to judge me according to the

law, yet you yourself violate the law by commanding that I be struck!" 4 Those who were standing near Paul said, "How dare you insult God's high priest!" 5 Paul replied, "Brothers, I did not realize that he was the high priest; for it is written: Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people."

## 2) Pharisees and Sadducees and the Resurrection of Jesus.

v. 6 Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, called out in the Sanhedrin, **"My brothers, I am a Pharisee, descended from Pharisees. I stand on trial because of the hope of the resurrection of the dead."** 7

When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. 8 (The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees believe all these things.) 9 There was a great uproar, and **some of the teachers of the law who were Pharisees stood up** and argued vigorously. **"We find nothing wrong with this man,"** they said. "What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?"

## 3) Jesus then appeared to Paul again to encourage him.

v. 10 The dispute became so violent that the commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces by them. He ordered the troops to go down and take him away from them by force and bring him into the barracks. 11 The following night **the Lord stood near Paul and said, "Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome."**

## 4) The plot to kill Paul is exposed by Paul's nephew.

v. 12 The next morning **some Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul.** 13 More than forty men were involved in this plot. 14 They went to the chief priests and the elders and said, "We have taken a solemn oath not to eat anything until we have killed Paul. 15 Now then, you and the Sanhedrin petition the commander to bring him before you on the pretext of wanting more accurate information about his case. We are ready to kill him before he gets here." 16 But when **the son of Paul's sister** heard of this plot, he went into the barracks and told Paul. 17 Then Paul called one of the centurions and said, "Take this young man to the commander; he has something to tell him." 18 So he took him to the commander. The centurion said, "Paul, the prisoner, sent for me and asked me to bring this young man to you because he has something to tell you." 19 The commander took the young man by the hand, drew him aside and asked, "What is it you want to tell me?" 20 He said: **"Some Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul before the Sanhedrin tomorrow on the pretext of wanting more accurate information about him. 21 Don't give in to them, because more than forty of them are waiting in ambush for him. They have taken an oath not to eat or drink until they have killed him. They are ready now, waiting for your consent to their request."** 22 The commander dismissed the young man with this warning: "Don't tell anyone that you have reported this to me."



**5) The Commander responded with plenty of soldiers and a self serving letter.**

v. 23 Then he called two of his centurions and ordered them, "Get ready a detachment of two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at nine tonight. 24 Provide horses for Paul so that he may be taken safely to Governor Felix." 25 He wrote a letter as follows: 26 **Claudius Lysias, To His Excellency, Governor Felix: Greetings. 27 This man was seized by the Jews and they were about to kill him, but I came with my troops and rescued him, for I had learned that he is a Roman citizen. 28 I wanted to know why they were accusing him, so I brought him to their Sanhedrin. 29 I found that the accusation had to do with questions about their law, but there was no charge against him that deserved death or imprisonment. 30 When I was informed of a plot to be carried out against the man, I sent him to you at once. I also ordered his accusers to present to you their case against him. 31 So the soldiers, carrying out their orders, took Paul with them during the night and brought him as far as Antipatris. 32 The next day they let the cavalry go on with him, while they returned to the barracks. 33 When the cavalry arrived in Caesarea, they delivered the letter to the governor and handed Paul over to him.**

**6) The Centurion then sent Paul to the Governor.**

v. 34 The governor read the letter and asked what province he was from. Learning that he was from Cilicia, 35 he said, "**I will hear your case when your accusers get here.**" **Then he ordered that Paul be kept under guard in Herod's palace.**