

Studying the
Bible by Paragraphs

***The
ACTS of the Apostles***

subtitled
***The Militant Church on the Move
or
The Acts of the Holy Spirit***

31 sessions

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13 Blogs found in Acts
in order of appearance

Kingdom of Heaven is not Heaven
Dispensations Made Simple
211 Salvation Verses, faith & believe
God's Two Favorite Salvation Words
Repentance: for unsaved & for saved
Separation: from whom? and why?
Paul's 28 Prayers for His Churches
Laying on Hands
I Quit! Determining God's Will
30 Angels' Duties
22 Paul's Traveling Companions
Doc's Discovery Books
7 Wonders of the Ancient World

ACTS: EXEGESIS

*Drawing out what is in the text
paragraph by paragraph*

APPLICATIONS

Examples to follow
Sins to avoid
Praise & worship

Repeated words
Decisions to make
Seeking the lost
Cautions & warnings
Ways to pray

Attitudes to correct
Questions to answer
Promises to claim
A teaching to study
Praying better

Acts: Intro**Four Outlines**

McGee

- 1-7 Work of the Apostles in Jerusalem
- 8-12 Work of the Apostles in Judea & Samaria
- 13-28 Work of the Apostles to the uttermost part of the earth

Greg Herrick

- 1 Beginning of the Church
- 2-7 The Church in Jerusalem
- 8-12 The Church Scattered into Palestine & Syria
- 13-28 The Church Advancing to the End of the Earth

Unknown

- 1-5 Early Days of Church
- 6-9 Persecution & Expansion
- 10-12 Peter's Ministry
- 13,14 Paul's First Ministry Tour
- 15 Jerusalem Council
- 16-18 Paul's Second Tour
- 18-21 Paul's Third Tour
- 21-28 Paul's Arrest & Trip to Rome
- 29 . . .the next 2,000 years of the Church

Myers' Outline: **ACTS: THE MILITANT CHURCH ON THE MOVE**

- 1 Start of the Church, First Apostolic Council
 - * to Jerusalem
 - * to Judea
- 8 To the Samaritans
- 9 Saul
 - Peter
- 10 To the Gentiles
- 13 To the Uttermost
 - * 1st Missionary Tour
 - * Barnabas & Saul
 - * Paul
- 15 Second Apostolic Council
- 16 Paul 2nd Missionary Tour
- 18 Paul 3rd Missionary Tour
- 21 Paul To Jerusalem, then Rome

One More

- Ch 1 Jesus Up
- Ch 2 Holy Spirit Down
- Ch 8 Church Out, Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria
- Ch 13 Church Out, uttermost part

1. Background: book of Acts covers about 30 years,
Paul's Church-planting ministry lasted about 21 years [AD 38-59]
2. Authorship: Luke, *see Acts 1.1*
3. Saved people [in order of appearance]
Peter & Matthias, John, Ananias & Saphira, 7 deacons, Stephen, Saul, Philip, Cornelius, Barnabas, Paul

chap 1 3 5 6 7 8 9 10 12 13

8 KEYS to

Unlock Your Bible

1. Non-contradiction
2. Context
3. Compare Scripture with Scripture
4. Literal, Historical, Grammatical
5. Only One Interpret
6. Same Author
7. Unclear ⇒ Clear
8. T.B.D.S.

et al

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Unsaved people who trusted in Jesus as Savior *[in order of appearance]*

2.41 3,000 *[Peter]*
2.47 Jerusalem church, many
3.7 lame man
4.4 5,000 *[Peter]*
6.1 more disciples
6.7 more disciples
8.12 Samaritans *[Philip]*
8.13 Simon *[Philip]*
8.35 more *[Philip]*
8.37 one eunuch *[Philip]*
9.8 Saul/Paul
9.31 Galilee
9.35 Lydda & Sharon
9.42 Joppa

10.43 Cornelius, et al
11.21 Antioch
11.24 more at Antioch
13.12 Cyprus, proconsul
13.42 Pisidian?
13.48 Pisidian Gentiles
14.1 Iconium
14.8 Lystra, lame man
14.21 Lystra, many
16.14 Philippi, Lydia
16.18 demon possessed girl?
16.34 jailer & family
17.4 Thessalonika

17.12 Berea
17.34 Athens, Dionesus & Damaris
18.8 Corinth, Crispus
18.8 Corinth, many
19.18 Ephesus
21.20 Jerusalem
21.25 Jerusalem, Gentiles
28.8 Malta, Publius?
28.9 many others?
28.24 Rome, jail visitors

12 individuals
20+ groups

- Gospel accepted by some, rejected by others
- Peter's 7 sermon's length: 7, 23, 15, 5, 10, 14, 5 vss
- Paul's 12 sermon's length: 26, 3, 10, 16, 21, 6, 12, 4, 26, 6, 4, 4 vss
- Church action, but not much church teaching and doctrine
- Absence of church trouble, false teachers, discipline, and Pharisees
- At what points in his life does Paul write the different epistles? *see Acts 16.1*
- Fifteen Major and Minor Themes
- Personal evangelism, individuals trust Jesus Christ, lifestyle evangelism *[not a church "program"]*
"Bold witnessing is a prime evidence of the Spirit-filled life." JW MacGorman
- Start of the Church, chap 2
- Relentless prayer
- Church planting—God loves missionary church-planters best.
- Death & Resurrection of Jesus
- To the Jew first chap 13.14, 14.1, 16.13, 17.1, 17.10, 18.4, 18.19 7X
We turn to the Gentiles chap 13.46, 18.6, 19.9, 3X
- Riots chap 13.50, 14.19, 16.19, 17.5, 19.25 21.27 6X
- Persecution: prison, martyrdom, beatings
Persecution is always religious except in Philippi *[16]* & Ephesus *[19]*, there it's \$\$\$.
Nero's persecution had not started with vengeance by Acts 28.
Did Paul's trial *[and the Gospel]* rile up Nero? *pjm, yes*
Peter in prison: *[never in the Gospels]*, Acts 4.3 12.3 + crucified upside down?
Imprisonments: Acts 16 II Cor 6.5 Acts 21 Acts 28 Acts 4.3 Rev 1
Acts 7, stoning 8, Saul's rampage 9, over-the-wall-in-a-basket II Cor 6
- Paul changes direction 39X. A couple times the Spirit dictates. Sometimes personal preference trumps.
Sometimes circumstances demand it.
- The Great Jerusalem Council chap 15
- Tentmaking, bi-vocational pastors *[a lesser theme, always temporary]* 3X
Acts 18.3 *Corinth*, II Thes 3.8 *Thessalonika*, Acts 20.34 *Ephesus*
- Importance of a personal testimony in evangelism *[Paul's in particular]* chap 9,22,26
- Satanic forces: 8 Simon, 16 girl, 13 Elymas, 19 Artemis *[Diana of the Ephesians]*, 19 exorcisms,
- Paul's 3 sins *[arguing with Barnabas wasn't one of them—nobody sinned]*
ch 16 circ. Timothy 21.4 *"[Spirit says] don't go"* 21.24-26 "so that they know you keep the Law"
- The "mystery of the Church" not revealed until Acts 2.
A mystery = a brand new truth! **8Keys MYSTERIES**
= "a truth revealed for the first time"
or
= "a truth not revealed until the proper time" Dr. Mark Cambron
The biblical definition of a mystery.
Eph 3:9 "The mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God."
Rom 16.25 "The mystery, which was kept secret since the world began."

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Acts

THE MILITANT CHURCH ON THE MOVE
Jerusalem / Judea / Samaria / Uttermost
START OF THE CHURCH

- 1.1 Hello Theophilus
6 Promise of the Holy Spirit
12 Prayer in a second story room
15 Minutes of the First Apostolic Council
21 Choosing Matthias
- 2.1 The Holy Spirit falls
5 Evangelism by tongues
14 Peter's 1st evangelistic sermon
22 Sermon topic: Jesus
37 5,000 believe and begin growing
43 One mind / one heart
- 3.1 Peter & John healing the lame beggar
11 Peter's 2nd sermon
17 Sermon topic: Jesus
- 4.1 Peter & John in jail
5 Peter speaks to Sanhedrin
13 "We cannot stop speaking about Jesus."
23 Prayer for boldness
32 Unified generosity
- 5.1 Ananias lies
7 Saphira lies/ great fear falls
12 Peter's shadow heals
17 Apostles arrested & then delivered from prison
27 We must obey God first
33 Gamaliel's counsel
40 Flogged but undaunted
- 6.1 Seven deacons appointed to meals-on-wheels
8 Stephen accused
- 7.1 Stephen's defense: a history lesson
51 Stephen accuses Jews
54 Stephen stoned
- TO THE SAMARITANS**
- 8.1 Persecution begins in earnest
4 Philip in Samaria
9 Simon believes
14 Covetous Simon immediately repents
26 Philip & Ethiopian eunuch
- SAUL**
- 9.1 Saul on Damascus highway
10 Ananias sent to Saul
19 Saul's escapes after 1st sermon
31 Peace for the church
26 Saul sent packing home after causing a riot in Jerus
- PETER**
- 32 Aeneas healed
36 Dorcas healed
- TO THE GENTILES**
- 10.1 Cornelius' vision
9 Peter's vision
17 Peter joins Gentiles
23 Jew/Gentile distinction dropped
44 Gentiles filled with Holy Spirit
- 11.1 Peter tells Jews about vision & Gentile evangelism
19 Diaspora missionaries in Antioch
27 Fund raising for Judean poverty
- 12.1 Peter arrested after James' martyrdom
6 Angel springs Peter
12 Midnight prayer vigil for Peter
20 Herod eaten by worms
- TO THE UTTERMOST**
1st MISSIONARY TRIP
BARNABAS & SAUL
- 13.1 Barnabas & Saul: first cross-cultural missionaries
6 The magician at Cyprus
13 John Mark deserts
- PAUL**
- 16 Paul's 1st missionary sermon
26 Sermon topic: Jesus
42 Many believe

- 44 Jewish resistance - ministry to Gentiles
49 Jewish women resist
- 14.1 Attempted stoning at Iconium
8 Cripple healed at Lystra
19 Paul stoned
23 Elders appointed for Lystra church
- JERUSALEM COUNCIL**
- 15.1 Jerusalem Council convenes
6 Peter's comments: belief, grace, faith
13 James' comments: cautions for new believers
22 The Second Council's first edict
30 Judas & Silas stay in Jerusalem
36 Paul & Barnabas split, Barnabas goes home
40 Elders sanction efforts of Paul & Silas [not Barnabas]
- PAUL [from here to the end of the book]**
2nd MISSIONARY TRIP
- 16.1 Timothy joins the mission
6 Macedonian vision in Turkey [at Bosphorus]
11 Lydia in Philippi
16 Girl exorcised
19 P & S in prison
25 "What must I do to be saved?"
35 P & S released
- 17.1 P's sermon in Thessalonica
10 Noble Bereans
16 Speech on Mars Hill
32 Philosophers mock the resurrection at Athens
- 18.1 P lives with Aquila & Priscilla
5 We go to the Gentiles
12 Gallio dismisses accusation against P
18 P drops in to see church at Ephesus
- 3rd MISSIONARY TRIP**
- 22 Paul leaves: goes to Antioch & central Turkey
24 A & P disciple Apollos
- 19.1 Believers baptized at Ephesus
8 Miracles & teaching at Tyrannus' school
21 Trouble w/ Demetrius
28 Mob at the theatre
35 Town clerk dismisses the mob
- 20.1 Seven friends + Luke
7 Eutychus drops off to sleep
13 Good-bye to Troas
17 Good-bye to Ephesian elders
- 21.1 Good-bye on beach at Tyre
7 Stays with Deacon Philip, the evangelist
- JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM THEN ROME**
- 10 Agabus' warning to Paul
17 Paul pressured into legalistic sacrifices & vows
27 Jews drag Paul out of the Temple
31 Rescued by military
- 22.1 Paul's defense & testimony
22 Almost flogged by Roman police
- 23.1 Paul finishes yesterday's speech [to council]
6 He sides with the Pharisees
12 Solemn pact to kill Paul
16 Paul smuggled by police to Caesarea at night
26 Sent to Felix
- 24.1 Accusation by Tertullus, the lawyer
10 P defends the resurrection
22 Felix is frightened
- 25.1 Festus hears P in Caesarea
10 Paul appeals to Nero's court
13 Felix explains dilemma to Herod Agrippa II
23 Paul's defense of his innocence
- 26.1 Paul's explanation: the resurrection is credible
12 P's salvation testimony
24 Agrippa is almost persuaded
- 27.1 Voyage from Caesarea to Crete
9 Storm on way to Malta
- 28.1 Paul bitten by snake, unhurt
11 Paul encourages Italian saints
30 Rented quarters for 2 years

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Session
1

ch. 1.1

ACTS: “The Militant Church on the Move”

in 121 paragraphs

Subtitled: The Acts of the Holy Spirit

A tale of 3 cities: Jerusalem, Antioch [the missionary sending church], and Rome

* Editor’s note: words written the following font—

bold, italics, underlined, “quotation marks”

are taken directly from the text in Acts from the KJV, NKJV, NASB, or ESV.

* ✚

This little icon at the beginning of any paragraph indicates the verse where someone or some group was saved in that paragraph.

It’s one of the great themes in Acts.

* *pjm* -

When you see my initials I’m giving my opinion. Usually it a widely held bias, but not always. I just don’t think there is enough biblical evidence to be adamant.

Acts 1.1-7

title: _____

1.1 Author = Luke, *written about 60 AD: Paul still in prison, later tried, released, goes to Spain, re-arrested, beheaded [66 AD]*

- More than 50 words are shared by Acts & Gospel of Luke which are found nowhere else in the NT
- Luke is Paul’s physician, *Col 4.14*
- Luke is Paul’s constant traveling companion on both 2nd & 3rd tours *pjm*,
- Luke wrote more words than Paul or John.

Luke = 38,000 words Paul = 32,000 words John = 28,000 words

Recipient, ***“Theophilus”***, *only mentioned by Luke*

Luke 1.4 & Acts 1.1-4: both letters written to Theophilus, **8Keys # 3, COMPARE**

- Meaning of “Theophilus” = “loved by God” or “lover of God”
- Who is he? We don’t know.
2 options *[both are unprovable, but popular opinions]*
 - a. a specific unknown follower of Christ
 - b. any godly group of believers
 - c. someone even thought he was an unsaved “seeker” *Take your pick *[it doesn’t mean you’re correct. God didn’t intend for us to know. 8Keys T.B.D.S.]*

• My opinion: Theophilus was Luke’s friend *pjm*

• Acts 20.4-6 author uses words “we” and “us” Acts 16.9-12 & 20.5-2831

* Luke travels with Paul. II Tim 4.10,11, Col 4.14, & Philemon 24

* Paul’s has 26_ traveling companions *[see blog 26+ Traveling Companions, Paul*

1.2 ***“apostles”*** = “one who is sent” *on a mission*

- First called “The Twelve” *Matt 10.2 [the Twelve Disciples, Matt 20.17]*
- Called “The Eleven” after Judas’ death *see Acts 1.26 Matt 28.16 Mark 16.14 Luke 24.9,33*
* Renamed “The Twelve” after Matthias’ ordination, *[Acts 6.2] 8Keys # 3, COMPARE*
- There are 9 more apostles named in the New Testament not including Matthias or Paul:
Andronicus, & Junias, Rom 16 Barnabas, I Cor 9 Silas, Acts 15
James, Gal 1 Apollos, I Cor 4 Sylvanus & Timothy, I
Thes 1,2
Aphroditus, Phil 1

1.3 Jesus ascended 40 days after the Rez, on a Thursday

In the next ten days the Eleven:

- meet for prayer in the disciples’ dormitory
- throw lots for Matthias
- receive the Holy Spirit on Pentecost
- speak in new languages
- preach in the streets to a multi-cultural audience

These notes are basically the kind I use in the Bible college where I teach. For each session their homework is 9-fold:

- To read the upcoming passage of Scripture 3 times prior to class and be ready to discuss it.
- To read the next 2 pages of these notes thoroughly.
- Give titles to each paragraph.
- Make personal applications to their lives.
- Look up any interesting Bible references which I include in the notes.
- Weekly quizzes, of course, mid-term, and final,
- Memorize 2 verses each week from the list I’ve included as an appendix here.
- Write a research paper on one of a half dozen topics.
- Read all the blogs.
- Give an opinion *[or best guess]* when asked for about 7x.
- Raise questions in class and *[politely]* challenge anything I say if they have Bible verses to support their idea.

This would be a 2-hour course which meets 32 times in the semester.

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29 AD

- 1.4 **“gathered/assembled. . . commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem”**, and they didn’t, even though Jerusalem might not be the easiest place for out-of-town fishermen to start a movement. . .but they did stay.
Where were the apostles **“gathered”** together?
[see Matt 28.10] “Go tell My brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see Me.”
Yes, they did meet in Galilee [60 miles north of Jerusalem, Matt 28.16], but in this verse they met only a “Sabbath’s day journey” away from Jerusalem, [1.12] **Keys8 # , COMPARE**
“they returned to Jerusalem from Olivet.” 1.12
“Wait for what the Father had promised” the paraclete [*παρακλητος, Gr. paracletos*] in John 14
para = beside cletos = to call therefore: “to call alongside”
John 7.39 “the Spirit was not yet given because Jesus was not yet glorified”
- Jesus promised that the “Comforter, the Holy Ghost. . .shall teach. . .bring things to mind”
 - Now Jesus identifies the Comforter as the Holy Spirit [*πνευμα, πνευμα: also translated as breath, ghost, air, or wind*]
* *paraclete may also be correctly translated as: advocate, counselor, or helper.*
 - Neither the disciples [nor Jews] had an accurate or complete picture of the Holy Spirit in the OT.
8Keys # 3, COMPARE
 - * Gen 1.2 the Spirit of God moved *on the water*
 - * Judges 13.25, Samson, “Spirit of the Lord came upon him”
 - * I Sam 10.9,10 Saul, “Spirit came upon him”
 - * II Sam 16.13 David, “Spirit came upon him” *permanently*
- 1.5 Jesus’ promise: **“You will be baptized by the Holy Spirit”** was the fulfillment of John the Baptist’s promise [Matt 3.11] “He [Jesus] will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”
* We generally call this event [2.4 when the Spirit came down] the **official start of the Church.**
- 1.6 **“When will You restore the Kingdom?”**, Wrong Question? Should have just asked, “What’s next?”
- The Jewish nation’s Kingdom was suspended in 605 BC with the capture of Jerusalem by Babylon. [Nebuchadnezzar, Iraq], II Kings 24.1. **8Keys # 3, COMPARE**
 - All that was left were the ethnic Jews. The Hebrews had no functioning government. The land was occupied by Nebuchadnezzar’s soldiers.
 - The OT view of the future was for a Messiah-king to set up a Kingdom with Jerusalem as the capital. David would rule with the Messiah. II Sam 7, I Chron 17, Jer 30.9 “they will serve the Lord their God and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.”
Psa 23.6 “I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”
 - The Church’s present view of the future is eternal life in heaven. I John 5.13, “that you may know that you have eternal life.”
see my blog PhilMyersBlog.com Kingdom of Heaven is NOT Heaven
 - These disciples expected Jesus to stay even though they had seen Him in His glorified body after He rose from the dead. I Cor 15.43, “raised in glory”
* Glorified bodies can go through locked doors. “the doors being shut. . .Jesus appeared.”
John 20.19
- 1.7 **“it is not for you to know the times or the seasons”**, Nobody knows, Matt 24.36 Mark 13.32

You’re standing on Olivet looking at the Temple area in Jerusalem.



My paragraph title: 1.1-6, Hello, Theophilus

An APPLICATION I can use: A whole book is dedicated to church planting. If it is that important to Jesus, it should be pretty important to me. I will pray for church planters around the world—more!

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Acts 1.7-11 title: _____

- 1.8 The Great Commission—the task [opportunity] of world evangelism
 - 5 Observations from verse 8
 - * promise of Spirit’s “coming upon”
 - * promise of power to witness
 - * instructions to preach message specifically about Jesus [rather than about the Kingdom which they had asked about, 1.6]
 - * instructions for reaching: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, uttermost part [suggests a broad outline]
 - * instruction to wait in Jerusalem [although most of the 11 disciples were from Galilee]
 - Six things that 1.8 **does not say**: [but we notice that these did happen] **8Keys # 8, T.B.D.S.**
 - * how long it would take to reach the **“uttermost part”**
 - * that the Church would replace Israel as God’s primary tool for reaching the world
 - * that’s the **“power”** of the **“Holy Spirit”** would indwell and never leave the believers
 - * that this [Jeru, Judea, Samaria, uttermost] was the chronological strategy and the world would be reached in that order.
 - * It also doesn’t say that everyone on earth would hear the good news before dying. It is certainly probable that mankind had reached all parts of Africa, Europe, and China, as well as “the New World.”
 - * Nor did Jesus state that the every tribe would hear before He returned.
 - St Patrick, a true believer, thought that Ireland [400 AD] was the **“uttermost part of the earth”** and that Jesus would return as soon as Ireland had been brought to salvation. He and a gang of 30 church planters established 300 Bible-believing churches in Ireland.
 - It is incredible how many places the Gospel did reach before the end of the first century. Paul’s overstatement that “the Gospel. . . which was preached to every creature which is under heaven,” [Col 1.23] was no doubt, hyperbole. However, by the end of Paul’s lifetime it seems that the major part of the Roman Empire was fully aware that Christianity was in full bloom. And that it was a different entity than Judaism.
- 1.9 **“a cloud received Him out of the sight”**, opinion of many, cloud = Shekinah glory [a term which is not found in the Bible but was coined by rabbis during the inter-testamental period. *pjm, no opinion*
 - No mention of speed of ascent or height of cloud. **8Keys # 8, T.B.D.S.**
 - Slow enough so they could see Him rising. Didn’t disappear in “twinkling of an eye.”
- 1.10,11 **“two men. . .ye men of Galilee”** - Two men in white are assumed to be angels. “Ye men” are **all** addressed as though from Galilee.
 - Gave promise of Jesus’ return. The apostles considered this “return” as the one which would establish the Messianic Kingdom. It seems the angels affirm the start of the Millennium when Jesus indeed will return [Rev 19] on a white horse, a sword in His mouth, and myriads of believers behind Him also riding white horses, that is.
 - **The Church has not yet started until chapter two.** Jesus’ “return” for the Rapture of the Church will not clearly be explained until Paul writes I Thessalonians, which won’t be written for a dozen years or so later.
 - Since the Church had not officially begun, I believe this verse [1.10] refers to the Millennial return of the Messiah.
 - I Thes 4.13-18 gives new info about a Rapture “in a twinkling.”
 - 8Keys FOUR PRINCIPLES OF DISPENSATIONAL THEOLOGY**
 - see PhilMyersBlog.com Dispensationalism**
 - * shout by archangel, [Michael, Jude 9]
 - * trumpet, [trumpeter unknown], anecdotal from Negro Spirituals
 - * dead Church members return with Christ
 - * dead Church members bodies exhumed “in the twinkling of an eye” I Cor 15.52

My paragraph title: 1.7-11, Jesus’ Promise of the Holy Spirit

An APPLICATION I can use: God has given me the “power” to speak on His behalf. Others in my community will not hear [will never hear] if I don’t speak up. I will continue to be diligent in carrying tracts and looking for opportunities to engage neighbors in conversations about their salvation.

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Acts 1.12-14

title: _____

- 1.12 The Ascension [see notes at 1.6] took place somewhere on the Mt. of **Olives** [a small ridge of low hills on the east side of Jerusalem about 2 miles long.] **8Keys** # 4, common **HISTORICAL** view of the city. **“Sabbath day’s journey”**, 3,000’, Olivet is a little less, *but this is Thurs, not Saturday.*
- 1.13 **“Upper Room”** tour guides will take you to a site in south Jerusalem which Helena [Constantine’s mum] arbitrarily chose as this **“gathering”** spot. She identified dozens of spots [325 AD] on which she built shrines & churches. **8Keys** # 8, **T.B.D.S.**
- The Bible does not indicate which part of the city the 120 believers gathered in. The **“upper room”** evidently served as a dormitory for [all 11?] **“disciples”** when they were in town. * These newly named apostles, became the **elders** of the new Jerusalem church [soon to have many thousands of members].
- Conclusion drawn by extrapolation, since Peter later identifies himself as an elder, I Peter 5.1 **8Keys** # 3, **COMPARE**, **EXTRAPOLATE** [a scary principle which is often abused]
- No indication that this was the same site as the Last Supper which was also held in a second story room, [Luke 22.12]. Nor does it negate that possibility. **8Keys** # 2, **CONTEXT** **8Keys** # 8, **T.B.D.S.**
- 1.14 **“Prayer”** Central
Impassioned **“prayer”**: this is a major theme in Acts.
The church will soon be praying for James who was arrested [soon after, killed by the sword, 12.2] and right afterwards they were praying more intensely when Peter was arrested and jailed [12.12].
- We will take note of prayer throughout this book, 13X.
1.24 Matthias, ⇔ 2.42 corporate prayer ⇔ 3.1 Temple ritual ⇔ 4.23-31 corporate prayer
6.4-6 elders’ duty 7.60 Stephen’s 8.15 Peter @ Samaria 9.40 Dorcas’ death
10.9 Peter prior to Cornelius 12.5 Peter, prison 13.3 ordain B & S
16.16 corporate prayer 16.25 P & S sing in prison
 - n.b. Jonah’s prayer: he just quoted Scripture from 11 Psalms. *Can we quote that much OT?*
 - At this time Jesus’ brothers seem to be staunch believers, embedded in the core group.

My paragraph title:

1.12-14, Prayer Meeting Upstairs

An APPLICATION I can use:

- Can I list 20 different ways to pray for my pastor? or do I just pray the generic prayer of “bless him, Lord”?
- How would I ever know that God has answered my request?
- How much passion [of any kind] usually accompanies my prayer time?
- Do I ever laugh or cry or plead earnestly?

Acts 1.15-20

title: _____

- 1.15 The disciples felt Judas’ absence. As soon as the Lord gave them responsibility to reach the **“uttermost part”** they prayed earnestly and Peter became aware that Scripture spoke of Judas’ vacancy in Psalms, and that God wanted them to fill Judas’ spot among “the eleven.”
- * Seems a little surprising to me that God takes 11 verses to talk about Matthias.
- 1.20 God gives no hint that Peter spoke inappropriately about Judas or his replacement by Matthias when he quoted from Psalm 69.25 & 109.8. God evidently revealed to Peter that this was the way to interpret those Psalms.
- [To be honest, this interpretation method doesn’t fit with our current principles of hermeneutics, today. This was a case of divine hermeneutics with the correct interpretation given by Jesus.]
 - Peter explains an obtuse OT passage by direct exegesis from Jesus and it is recorded in Scripture forever.
 - Peter’s unusual hermeneutics were never adopted by the orthodox Church Fathers.**
 - Heresies arose due to ignoring the **8Keys** which we follow in this class, especially allegory which embedded itself in R.C. church theology—**forever.**
- The soonest aberration of “strange” hermeneutics occurred with the adoption by the Roman Church adopted allegorical interpretation. This allowed different Bible readers to develop contradictory interpretations. No one could state with assurance that his understanding was “correct” nor prove

1.20

In some Bibles you might be able to see a change in the font used in verse 20. In my Bible the whole verse is written in capital letters bec. this is a direct quote from the OT, Psalm 69 & 109.

Go buy a Bible with many thousands of Cross refs.

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PhilMyersBlog.com [blog topics]
DocMyers3@gmail.com [e-mail]

These are 18 easiest-to-recognize letters
in the 24-letter Greek alphabet.

α β δ ε γ ι κ λ μ ν ο ω π ρ σ τ υ ς
a b d e g i k l m n o o p r s t u s

ACTS: EXEGESIS
Drawing out what is in the text paragraph by paragraph

APPLICATIONS
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 Sins to avoid
 Praise & worship

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 Seeking the lost
 Cautions & warnings
 Ways to pray

Attitudes to correct
 Questions to answer
 Promises to claim
 A teaching to study
 Praying better

29 AD

that others were “wrong.” dispensation teaching rejects allegory in interpreting prophecy.

My paragraph title: 1.15-20 Minutes of the First Apostolic Council
An APPLICATION I can use: Thank You for those who taught my wife and me to ask the Lord of the Harvest to send missionaries into the uttermost part as an every day request.

Acts 1.21-26 title: _____

- 1.21 Peter looked for two “*necessary*” similarities between Matthias and the other apostles:
- Apostles all saw Jesus’ “*baptism of John.*”
 - Apostles all were witnesses of the “*resurrection.*”
 - * Matthias fulfilled both of the above and now “the Eleven” [Matt 28.16] once again came to be called “the Twelve” [Acts 6.2].
 - * Whether or not these were qualifications or not, we just don’t know. 8Keys # 8, T.B.D.S.
 - * Paul was at neither of the two events mentioned above and we don’t know about the other 9 apostles [see list at 1.2].
- 1.26 Drawing lots = Names picked out of a turban? Long straw? Black stone/Red stone? Dice or chip?
- Matthias never mentioned again, nor were eight of the original 12. Only Peter, James, and John are named among the original Eleven in Acts or the epistles.
 - The 12 apostles will sit on 12 thrones in the Kingdom. [Rev 21.14]. 8Keys # 3, LITERAL
 - * This doesn’t include Paul or any of the other 9 [see list, 1.2] apostles mentioned in the book of Acts. pjm
 - * n.b. When James died, there was no talk of replacing him. [12.2]

Summary
My paragraph title: 1.21-26 Choosing Matthias
An APPLICATION I can use: Obscure Matthias was appointed to a task in his local church. I will be careful to fulfill the duties which my pastoral staff has given me.

Please, bring a **3-ring notebook and pen** to each session. Write down anything you see, especially things you notice which I don’t mention!
 Print out the notes from:
BibleByParagraphs.com

I’d like you to try writing your name in Greek letters from Greek letters that look similar to English letters.
 My name is “Phil.”
 In Greek it would be $\pi \iota \lambda$
 pi iota lambda
 Try yours here.

BibleByParagraphs.com [video session]
PhilMyersBlog.com [blog topics]
DocMyers3@gmail.com [e-mail]

The other Greek letters, lower case
 $\theta \psi \phi \varphi \zeta \xi \chi$

These are 18 easiest-to-recognize letters in the 24-letter Greek alphabet.
 $\alpha \beta \delta \epsilon \gamma \iota \kappa \lambda \mu \nu \omicron \omega \rho \sigma \tau \upsilon \varsigma$
a b d e g i k l m n o o p r s t u s

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Acts 2.1-4

title: _____

2.1 **“Pentecost”** was celebrated by Moses as the 50th day after Passover. Christians think of it as the 50th day after Easter. **8Keys # 3, COMPARE**

It is also called the Feast of Weeks [*one of the 5 feasts of Israel*] after the 7 weeks of harvest season. *Lev 23.15,16*

Present day Jews refer to Pentecost in connection with the giving of the 10 Commandments.

“they [twelve disciples] were all” - This seems to refer only to the “12 disciples” in the previous sentence [*1.26*]. **8Keys # 4, GRAMMAR** *pjm*

My initials, *pjm*, indicate my opinion, but don't think I have decided this on a whim. I have spent tens of thousands of hours studying God's Word and my [*humble*] “opinion” isn't a casual, off-hand comment which I just feel good about. It is based on much cogitation. ☺

We can read this verse as a though it were a continuation of the previous chapter and simply says, “*[1.26] he [Matthias] was numbered with the eleven. . .and [2.1] they [the Eleven, now Twelve] were all in one accord in one place.*”

- If I'm correct, the Holy Spirit fell on all the believers but only the apostles preached. The grammar doesn't indicate otherwise. **8Keys # 4, GRAMMAR**

pjm, My observation & opinion is not widely held.

2.3,4 **“filled with the Holy Ghost”** = the Holy Spirit descends in fulfillment of Jesus' “promise of the Father” [Acts 1.4 Luke 24.49 John 14.16,26 15.26 16.23-28] **8Keys # 3, COMPARE**

* Jesus' “promise of the Spirit” was in the same phrase as becoming witnesses to the “utmost part.” [*1.8*] **8Keys # 2, CONTEXT**

“began to speak in other languages”,

8Keys # 4, LITERAL

* “The most common result of “filling” was to preach and share the Gospel.”

Wayne Weaver

“rushing wind”, **πνεῦμα, pneuma, wind, breath, spirit, air**

From this Greek word we get both pneumatic and pneumonia.

Our focus is to be on the “power” [*1.8*] of the Holy Spirit rather than the miraculous voices. The power was later identified in bringing others to faith in Christ [*I Cor 14.22*].

8Keys # 3, COMPARE, LITERAL

* Never mentioned again. No wind, just sound.

“tongues of fire. . .rested [sat on]” This never happens again.

8Keys # 4, LITERAL

2.4 **“they were all filled with the Holy Spirit”** There are at least 3 major ministries of the H.S.

A. Indwelling: an act of Holy Spirit at the moment of our salvation

I Cor 6.19 Rom 8.9 John 7.37-39 I Cor 12 II Cor 5.5

* Anointing [*subset of indwelling?*] Acts 4.27 10.38 II Cor 1.21 I John 2.20,27

* Sealing [*subset of indwelling?*] II Cor 1.22 Eph 1.13 4.30

B. Baptism: an act of the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation

Acts 1.5 [2.4] 2.4 I Cor 12.13 Rom 6.1-10 Col 2.12

Baptism places the new believer into the Body of Christ. The believer cannot remove himself from the Body [*implied*]. “Having been buried with Him in baptism.” [*Col 2.12*] Physical water baptism is not context.

8Keys # 2, CONTEXT

C. Filling: this is a command to obey resulting in control by the Spirit

Definition for Acts 2.4:

“The endowment by the Spirit to preach with incredible power.”

Common definition:

Eph 5.18 “be filled with the Spirit” - a direct command to be controlled by the Spirit

Acts 2.4 4.8,31 6.3 7.55 9.17 11.24 13.9,52

I Cor 2.9-34 Col 1.10 Gal 5.16 I Thes 5.19

All 3 of the above seem to be in view here.

* 1.8 **“Holy Spirit will come upon you”** A. indwelling

* 1.5 **“ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.”** B. baptizing

* 2.4 **“filled with the Spirit”**, C. filling

This seems to be the only time when filling did not particularly follow specific obedience, but rather occurred as a result of an act of God. All other times it was simply a product of a holy life.

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- * I do not yet understand what God meant when Jesus was “full of the Spirit.” *Luke 4.1*
- * God uses **πλεθω [pletho]** = consistently as the word for “filling” in the book of Acts.

My paragraph title: 2.1-4 The Holy Spirit Falls

An APPLICATION I can use: Filling and yieldedness are joined at the hip. I will consciously practice depending on the Holy Spirit as I teach as well as prepare to teach.

Acts 2.5-13 title: _____

2.6 **“glossolalia/ tongues” γλωσσα [glossa]**, primary usage = “How many languages do you speak?”
8Keys # 4, GRAMMAR
 Also refers to the chewing instrument in our mouths.
 New Testament usage = 26X “gift of languages” = 26X organ in mouth = 0 X
 The word “languages” may be used consistently every time the strange translation “tongues” was used by the 16th century translators of the King James.

2.7 **“Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?”**, not all were from Galilee [*Jesus was*].
 • It seems as if the ones who were speaking in tongues were only the apostles. **8Keys** # 4, GRAMMAR
 • Of the 120 who gathered in Jerusalem, most of [*my opinion*] them were bound to be from Jerusalem, not Galilee. **8Keys** # 4, GRAMMAR

2.8 **“we hear them in our own διαλεκτος [διαλεκτος] language/tongue”** It seems that Galileans and 16 ethnic groups hear & understand in their own **διαλεκτος**, “dialect”.
8Keys #4, LITERAL

* [*see I Cor 14.2 KJV*] The addition of the word “unknown” [*in italics*] is most unfortunate in the KJV. These languages were never unknown to the hearers.
 *All italicized words in the KJV and other versions indicate words which were added by the translators but were not in the original Greek. The translators hoped that the added words would improve understanding, and to be honest, they almost always are helpful. But here, the word *unknown* [*I Cor 14, KJV*] has confused a great number of Bible readers. Many have the mistaken impression that the words “unknown tongues” mean unintelligible languages.
 Big mistake. Let me suggest replacing “tongues” with “foreign languages.” [*here as well as in I Cor 14*]

2.9-11 16 nationalities: a map study is most revealing. We find, Africa, Asia, Europe, and islands.
 2.11 The first time the “gift of languages” occurs, the speakers immediately sought out citizens from 16 ethnic groups and spoke **“the wonderful works of God.”** [2.11] **8Keys** # 2, CONTEXT
 * These miraculous languages are given to strong believers here [2.4] and at the moment of salvation of Gentiles [10.46 & 19.6] only twice [*out of 30+ times when unbelievers came to faith in Christ in Acts*]. **8Keys** # 6, SAME AUTHOR.
 * “Glossolalia” is not normative in Acts.
 * Why do modern day translators call it tongues [*1611 nomenclature*] instead of languages?
 * Last mention of the gift of languages was in the Corinthian church in 55AD. [*rebuke for misuse*]
 • I Cor 14.22 “languages/tongues [*glossolalia*] are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers.” It can’t be much clearer than that.

2.8 Some of you have wondered whether this should be called “the gift of ears” rather than the gift of “tongues.” Perhaps you are right.
 This is after all, not the gift of the mouth. It is the “gift of languages.” We know that 16 nations heard in their own languages when the apostles spoke with this supernatural gift of the Spirit.

Session 3

ch. 2.5

My paragraph title: 2.5 Evangelism by gift of languages

An APPLICATION I can use: I am indwelt by the Spirit. Do I often seek to tell the “wonderful works of God?”

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 PhilMyersBlog.com [*blog topics*]
 DocMyers3@gmail.com [*e-mail*]

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Acts 2.14-21

title: _____

2.15-21 Whole passage is an OT quote, Joel 2.28-32

Joel is a prophet to Judah, the southern Kingdom in Palestine. He spoke about the Day of the Lord, and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit in the future: visions, dreams, prophecies, and miracles. All of these things occurred in the beginning days of the new Church. [8Keys](#) # 3, COMPARE

- *If you happen to have a newer translation, you may notice that these verses appear in ALL CAPS. That indicates that they are quotations from the Old Testament. Often a superscript letter or number [like this ^{1 2 or a b}] within the verse will take you to a cross reference in the margin. The verse in the margin indicates the reference in the OT. Not all cross-references are from the OT. Some simply indicate that a similar word or topic is mentioned in another verse. Sometimes from the same book you are in, and often from other books. The cross references which are often most valuable are those from the same author who wrote the book you are presently reading.*
- Old Testament quotations in the book of Acts are found in chapters #1,2,3,4,7,8,13,14,15,23, and 28. I count 35 different chapters from the OT which are quoted by Luke in Acts.

2.17 **“last days”**, This refers to the last days of the nation of Israel as God’s primary instrument. It is not referring to the last days when the Messiah returns as a king on a white horse to begin the Millennial Kingdom. [8Keys](#) OT PROPHETS

[see my blog PhilMyersBlog.com Kingdom of Heaven is NOT Heaven](#)

2.19 What happened here in Acts was clearly a **“sign”** to the Jews [*1 Cor 14.22*], as well as to the visitors from the various ethnic groups [*2.9-11*] and also to Peter and the rest of the apostles. Israel as a nation was in the throes of it’s last days and it was a sign that the Holy Spirit will have a major role in this new organism, the Church. The nation would soon be scattered by persecution [*70 AD by General Titus, and later by Emperor Titus*].

2.21 **“whosoever shall call on the Name”**, salvation is somehow by faith in Jesus’ Name, JHVH-Yasha, God is the Savior

- Matt 1.21 “You shall call His Name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins.”
- Phil 2.9 “a Name which is above every name”
- Acts 4.12 “There is none other Name. . .whereby we must be saved.”
* Similar OT names: Joshua, Hosea, and Isaiah, all mean “God is Salvation”
- Rom 10.13 “Whosoever shall call on the Name of the Lord shall be saved.”
- “Jesus” is not a magical word to be used as a mantra, but the very name of the Son, the second member of the godhead.
* In the next chapter [*Acts 3.6*], a miracle is done in His Name.

My paragraph title:**2.14 Peter's 1st evangelistic sermon****An APPLICATION I can use:** I must remember that the OT is applicable for today.

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Session
4

ch. 2.22

Chapters added
OT 900 AD
NT 1448 AD
Verses added
OT 1227 AD
NT 1553 AD

Acts 2.22-28 title: _____

- Look for repeated words and phrases
- 2.22 **“Jesus”**, His deity as God was clearly affirmed by **“miracles. . . signs”**.
“nailed to the Cross by the hands of godless men”. Here the ones responsible are not identified, but in the book of Acts Luke tells us 7X that it was the Jews who crucified Jesus.
2.36 3.13 4.10 5.30 7.52 10.39 13.38.
- 2.23 **“nailed to a Cross. . . slain/death”** = **Best day** in history. He **bought** my salvation. **“agony of death.”**
- 2.24 **“raised”**, resurrection = **Second best day** in history. He **proved** He paid for my sin. He kept His promise that He would rise. [Matt 9.31]
“God raised Him [Jesus] up” from the dead. Joel 2.27 promised no decay.
- Father raised Jesus, Rom 6.4 Gal 1.1
 - Son raised Himself, John 2.18,19 10.18
 - Holy Spirit raised Jesus, Rom 8.11 I Pet 3.18
- 2.27 **“hades/hell”** **“decay/corruption”**
- 2.25-28 “David spoke” clearly about Jesus. Psalm 16
* A fascinating study could come out of this paragraph comparing and contrasting David and Jesus: death, resurrection, kingship, future reign, burial, grave [hades]. **8Keys** # 3, CONTRAST
David’s tomb would have been 1,000 years old in Jesus’ day.

My paragraph title: **2.22 Sermon topic: Jesus**
An APPLICATION I can use: Every single one of my sins was enough reason for Him to die as my substitute. They are not “character flaws” they are heinous crimes for which my Savior took a bullet for me.

Acts 2.29-36 title: _____

- 2.30,31 **“He would raise up Christ to sit on his throne. . . nor did His flesh suffer decay [corruption]”**
- Psalm 16.10 “You will not allow your holy One to undergo decay” **8Keys** # 3, COMPARE
David taught about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, 1,000 years prior.
 - 2.27 Jewish tradition held that “decay” started on the 4th day [so I’m told].
 - Jesus was a direct descendant of David.
- 2.33 **“the promise of the Holy Spirit”**: This is the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise of the Spirit in 1.8 as well as, the fulfillment of Joel’s prediction of the Spirit [Joel 2.29]. **8Keys** # 3, COMPARE
- Gen 12.1 promise made to Abraham 2,000 years before Jesus’ birth
 - Gal 3.14 This promise is connected to the “the blessing of Abraham.”

My paragraph title: **2.37 5,000 believe and begin growing**
An APPLICATION I can use: It is neat to have a faith based on solid facts from thousands of years ago. Someday my Friend, Jesus, will rule the world!

†††††††† v.41, 3,000 saved
Acts 2.37-42 title: _____

- 2.37 **“pierced to the heart.”** What a great response to the preaching of the Word, especially about the resurrection of our Lord even though Peter had just accused them of crucifying Jesus.
John 16.8 Conviction is one of the beautiful ministries of the Holy Spirit.
- 2.38 **“repent. . . for forgiveness.”**
- Repentance grants forgiveness—yup, same as faith grants forgiveness = “belief.”
see PhilMyersBlog.com Two Kinds of Repentance & Two Kinds of Forgiveness
* Acts 3.19 “repent. . . that your sins may be blotted out”
* *Repentance which saves is not the cessation of sinning nor sorrow for sin. Not one person in my church has been able to cease every mental sin, yet. Repentance is the turning to Christ and turning away from dependence on good works. Repentance means change your idea. Lots of religions tell people to stop sinning.*

Session
5

ch. 2.37

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- Only salvation [redemption] grants forgiveness, Eph 1.7 - “redemption = the forgiveness of sins”
- Faith alone grants eternal life [salvation, new birth], There are 211 instances in the NT where the sole requirement for salvation is FAITH. Fourteen of those specifically say that it is by faith without works.

see PhilMyersBlog.com Salvation by Faith Alone, 211 places

see PhilMyersBlog.com God's Two Favorite Words: faith & belief

- * **“repent.”** **metaneo, μετανοεο** = “change the mind” meta = change neo = mind
 - * Repentance for the **unbeliever** = change mind, stop depending on good works for salvation
 - * Repentance for the **believer** = a change mind about your sinful life style which results in daily cleansing. It is the regular confession of sin straight to God that keeps us “in fellowship” with Him [I John 1.9]. It should have the attitude of, **“and I don't want to do it ever again!”** [8Keys](#) # 4, GRAMMAR/VOCAB

Repentance in Acts, 9X

- 3.19, 5.31, 8.22, 11.18, 13.24, 17.30, 19.4, 20.21, & 26.20

Forgiveness in Acts, 4X

- 2.38 5.31 13.39 26.18 [each time refers to salvation, **not** daily cleansing through confession]
- “believe” and “faith” are mentioned 43x in the book of Acts referring to salvation.

[8Keys](#) # 3, COMPARE

“...and be baptized”, baptism mentioned 8X in Acts, always after faith.

- **“be baptized every one of you in the Name of Jesus”** seems to be parenthetical, simply explaining that this is a first step for a new believer.
- Not a requirement in addition to faith or God would have repeated it again, at least once. *pjm*

- Acts 9.37, faith first, then baptism
Example: “If you [the eunuch] believe,” you may be baptized.
- Water baptism occurred 8 times in Acts, each time following belief:
[chapters] 2,8,9,10,16,18,19, & 22
- Baptisms were at first outdoor events declaring openly one's faith in Jesus.

2.41 **“they received His Word.”** and 3,000 [brand new believers] were added to the church in Jerusalem.

- * This doesn't say all baptisms occurred the same day. [8Keys](#) # 8, T.B.D.S. All 3,000 were technically added to the universal Church [the invisible Church] **“the same day.”**

2.42 Baby believers begin to grow.

- Unity. This is an answer to Jesus' prayer for unity, John 17.23
[8Keys](#) # 3, COMPARING CHAPTERS WITH CHAPTERS
- Apostles' Bible classes
- Making Christian friends [fellowship]
- Communion, we don't know how often
- Prayer: confession, thanksgiving, asking, worshipping, praying for laborers to go into the harvest, intercession for others' needs, and for the unsaved
* 2.42 Note the words **“continually devoting themselves to...prayer”**, Is this characteristic of your life or the life of your church?

My paragraph title:

2.37 3,000 believe and begin growing

An APPLICATION I can use: I want my own heart to be pierced by the reading and preaching of God's Word.

I note the words **“continually devoting themselves to...prayer”** [2.42] Is this characteristic of my life?

Don't forget to write **APPLICATIONS** for your own life.

*13 suggestions above.

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✚ v.47, saved added daily

Acts 2.43-47

title: _____

2.43 “wonders and signs. . .through the apostles”, only the apostles at first

- Later we know 2 deacons performed signs: Stephen, 6.8 Philip, 8.6 That’s it!

2.44 “had all things in common”, A sense of godly awe, sharing possessions with less fortunate believers, eating meals together, seeing friends saved.

My paragraph title:

2.43 One mind / one heart

An APPLICATION I can use: It has been so nice to have been in 8 churches [in 8 states] and to find each one has been characterized by unity of the Spirit. May it never be said that I caused strife.

✚ v.7, lame man saved?

Acts 3.1-10

3.1 “Temple.” the Temple area in Jesus’ day could hold 100,000 people.

Miracles resume in scattered corners for the next 30+ years.

8Keys, ANCIENT HISTORY

Healing of the “lame” man.

- There were no long periods of miracles [at the hands of man] in the OT or NT in 4,000+ years.
* Elijah & Elisha [40 yrs], Samson [20 yrs], Moses [40 yrs] are the exceptions, early Church [25] And Jesus did hundreds of miracles during his short 3-year ministry.
- Virtually all miracles were performed by God, all by Himself: flood, special births, burning bush, sun stand still, lions with closed mouths, talking donkey, military catastrophes, earth swallows bad guys, ram stuck in a thicket, and of course, famines and the weather.
* Few other OT miracle workers come to mind. Joshua was involved in a couple: Jericho and crossing Jordan. There were also some healings as well as deaths.
- Jesus said that God had taught the Jews to expect signs [John 4.48] in the OT, though hardly any Jews saw a sign even in NT times [considering the hundreds of cities and millions of Jews].

3.2 “gate. . .Beautiful.” no record of a specific gate known as the “Beautiful” one in 1st century.

Many have assumed it might be the eastern gate of the Temple Mount. I do, *pjm*

8Keys # 8, T.B.D.S.

3.8 Lame man “leaping” caught the attention of a hundred people and set the stage for many miracles in the days of the book of Acts.

- Moses’ 12 miracles convinced 4 to 5 million Jews that God was inaugurating the Law.
- The shift from Moses-as-spokesman to Kingship was less dramatic, but the people accepted the change willingly without miracles.
- The apostles’ miracles convinced the Jewish believers that the “Church” was a legitimate shift from the OT Mosaic laws and from Temple worship.

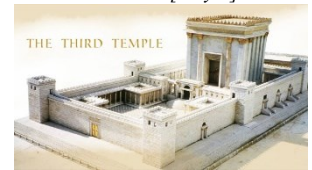
3.6 Do you remember the importance of “salvation in His Name” [2.21]? Well, now we come to a another miracle [lame man] “in His Name.” A fascinating side road we’re not going to explore.

My paragraph title:

3.1 Peter & John healing the lame beggar

An APPLICATION I can use: I wonder if, in heaven, the Lord will point out any miracles that I didn’t recognize as His gifts to me. Safety? Meeting certain people? Witnessing opportunities?

Herod’s Temple
It was under construction from
17 BC to 62 AD [79 yrs]



ACTS: EXEGESIS
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A teaching to study
Praying better

30 AD

Session **6**

ch. 3.12

Acts 3.11-26 title: _____
3.12 "Languages" led to Peter's first sermon. Healing the **"lame"** man led to Peter's second sermon.

- Second sermon also directed to the Jews.
- Key points in sermon [11-26]:
 - * 3.13 God glorifies Jesus
 - * 3.14 Jews killed Jesus
 - * 3.16 faith in Jesus' Name heals the lame man
 - * 3.19 repent and return = sins will be wiped away
 - * 3.20 God will send the Messiah back [3.22 *Moses spoke of a "prophet like me"*]
 - * 3.26 Jesus blesses **"you by turning away every one of you from his iniquities."**

3.15 **"killed the Prince of Life"**, new name for Jesus.

- Peter gives Jesus 3 titles in this sermon:
 Holy & righteous One, v.14
 Prophet like unto Moses, v.22

3.16 saved by **"faith in His Name"**,

- **JHVH-Rapha** = "The God Who Heals" [Ex 15.26], Hebrew language
- see notes @ 2.21, about His Name, 33X in Acts

3.19 **"repent...and be converted/turn."**

The Jewish nation had rejected Jesus summarily. Many, but not most, had believed. But the offer was being extended one more time, individually. Thousands did believe by the end of the book.

3.22 Moses had predicted **"a prophet like me [will come]"**

My paragraph title: **3.11 Peter's 2nd sermon**

An APPLICATION I can use: I repented at such a young age that I wasn't aware of any changes it made in my life [ask my folks]. However, I knew for certain from that day forward that Jesus was my Savior and I had His promise of eternal life. Never doubted.

Don't forget to give each P a title.

+++++ **4, 5,000 saved**

Acts 4.1-4 title: _____

4.1,2 Priests, Temple guards, Sadducees: **"greatly disturbed/grieved"**, because of the mention of the resurrection.

- There were 3 main groups of Jewish leaders: Sadducees, Pharisees, and Essenes. The Essenes were the smallest group and were cloistered [*like monks*] so they didn't show up to follow Jesus and argue. [*They were the fatalists who wrote the Qumran scrolls.*]
- Sadducees denied the afterlife as well as any Rez.
 Rez in Acts: 2.24 3.26 5.30 10.40 13.34-37 24.21 26.3, 8 [7X]
 Crucifixion in Acts, [12X]
- Sadducees seem to have descended from the priestly line, [Mark 12.18].
- They claimed only Moses' 5 books as their guide; therefore they were heavy on Law [*today's Jews are not in this camp*]. **8Keys, JEWISH WRITINGS**
- Peter emphasized the resurrection which led to his arrest. [*sermons in ch 2, 3, 10*]
- Question: Why did the Rez anger the Sadds? They didn't get angry and violent because the Pharisees believed in the resurrection of both body and soul.
 * People don't usually get angry because others disagree with us politically or culturally.

4.4 **"5,000 [males] believed"**, the threat of losing influence [power], see comments at 1.7 **8Keys # 4, LITERAL**

* Population of Jerusalem estimated about 80,000. A million showed up at 3 feasts a year.

My paragraph title: **4.1 Peter & John in jail / 5.000 saved**

An APPLICATION I can use: The worst situation I can imagine is still an opportunity to make my God look good.

ACTS: EXEGESIS

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Acts 4.5-12

title: _____

- 4.5 **“rulers, elders, and scribes”**: a triumvirate of enemies
- Sanhedrin [*Jewish supreme court*] was composed of 72 men: 24 priests, 24, elders, and 24 scribes, [*some say 71 members*] **8Keys** JEWISH HISTORY
Several times the apostles were dragged before the Sanhedrin: 5.27 6.12 22.30
8Keys #3, COMPARE
- 4.7 **“by what POWER or in what Name?”**: Power was exceedingly important to Jewish leaders.
- Whose name might be accepted by Peter’s accusers?
Hillel? Shammai? Rabbi’s? Sanhedrin members? High Priest?
John or Alexander? [4.6]
 - Rabbis rested their own authority based on whom they quoted.
- 4.8 **“Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit”**, another common theme in Acts
- “Filled” in Acts: 2.4 4.8 4.31 9.17 13.9 13.52
Other NT examples: Luke 1.15, JB 1.41 Elizabeth 1.67 Zechariah 2.48 JB again
- 4.8-12 Peter’s 3rd sermon
- 4.10 He asserts power in a Name
 - 4.10 He accuses his accusers of crucifying Jesus
 - 4.11 He quotes Psa 118.22, “rejected. . .became chief cornerstone.”
 - 4.12 He asserts that salvation is only through Jesus’ Name.
 - “Saved”** is not a common expression in the OT. This must have rankled the priests present.
Used 8X in Acts.

My paragraph title:**4.5 Peter speaks to Sanhedrin****An APPLICATION I can use:**

Lord, I have taken an oath that I will always do my best to yield to Your will.
Keep me close to Your side. Please don’t let me drift.

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Acts 4.13-22

title: _____

4.13 **“unlearned/uneducated”**,

- Peter & John combined to write 7 of the 27 [30%] books of the NT, the best selling book of all time.

8Keys JEWISH HISTORY

- Though we don't have a record of P & J's specific education, Jewish boys in some homes were expected to memorize the 300 pages of the Torah, plus read much of the Talmud, and be conversant in the Mishna, as well as sit and listen to the elders in the synagogue from age 13 onward.
- Jesus, a carpenter, would not have had all the training available to the richer Sanhedrin member's kids, but He was fluent in every language on the face of the earth and had memorized the entire Bible [since He wrote it].
- **“they had been with Jesus”**,
* Jesus had specifically chosen these disciples, “THAT THEY MIGHT BE **WITH** HIM.”
[Mark 3.14] It worked!
- Paul spent perhaps years in the **S.A.D.**, (Seminary of the Arabian Desert). *Gal 1.16,17* [37-39 AD?]
- **“saw the boldness/confidence”**, **παρρησια [parresia]** = courage
* a theme in Acts: 2.29 4.13,29,31 28.31
also “to speak boldly” 9.27,28 13.46 14.3 18.26 19.8 26.6

4.16 **“we cannot deny it [healing lame man]”**, but I'm sure they would deny it if they could get away with it.4.17,18 command: **“not to speak or teach. . . in the Name of Jesus”**,

- 5.28 “not to continue teaching in this Name”
 - Don't quote Jesus
 - Don't give Him credit for promises made
 - Don't depart from pharisaical or Talmudic rules

4.19,20 **“right in the sight of God”**,

- Civil obedience
* “submit to every ordinance of man. . . king. . .” *I Pet 2.19*
- Civil disobedience
* **“whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God. . .”** 4.19
* “we cannot stop speaking” 4.20
* “Woe to me if I preach not the Gospel” *I Cor 9.16*
- “flogged. . . rejoiced that they were considered worthy to suffer shame.” 5.40
* *Americans are not flogged but sometimes they are:
disenfranchised, denied business licenses, permits revoked, promotions denied, mailboxes
smashed, cars “keyed,” slandered, burned in effigy, fired, graffitied, et al. None of this should
make us scared to be bold in our witness at work or in the community.*
- The principle: Always obey your government's laws unless they disagree with God's laws.
see PhilMyersBlog.com, Separation: from whom and why?

4.17,18

I appreciate
public prayers
which close in
Jesus' name.

My paragraph title:**4.13 “We cannot stop speaking about Jesus.”**

An APPLICATION I can use: It is my desire to know Him, to obey Him, and to be like Him. To that end I will
renew my efforts to spend every waking hour WITH Him, to live consciously in His presence.

Acts 4.23-31

title: _____

4.24 prayer for boldness;

- v.24, praise
- v.25-27, mocked their persecutors
- v.29, prayed for boldness
* answered 2 verses later
* **“began to speak the word of God with boldness”**, v.31
see PhilMyersBlog.com, Paul's 28 Prayers for His Churches
- * v. 30 please do some miracle in your Name
* answered 2 chapters later:
* Stephen's miracles, 6.8 * Philip's miracles, 8.6

Session

7

ch. 4.23

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- 4.25 **“rulers were gathered together against the Lord”**, [Psa 2.1,2], a ref to the Tribulation period yet to come, and also partly fulfilled in the early Church as the Jews opposed the Messiah, Jesus.

8Keys NEAR / FAR PROPHECIES This refers to a partial fulfillment of prophecy which happens immediately after [near] the prophecy is given, and another more distant fulfillment [far] which completes the prophecy completely.

EX: Abraham’s statement, “God will provide, **Himself**, a lamb. . .” spoken to Isaac was fulfilled by a ram caught in the thicket [near fulfillment]. But was completed when God provided [far fulfillment] the “Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.”

- 4.29 **“Lord, take note of their threats and grant that your servants may speak your words with confidence/boldness”**

- 4.31 Threats are like hot air. Sometimes uncomfortable but never providing real danger. Death is no danger.
* mini-earthquake soon followed

My paragraph title: 4.23 Prayer for boldness. . . answered!

An APPLICATION I can use: I have had a tiny sign in my office for 40 years, “Phil, you gotta pray better!”
Lord, keep being patient with my prayer growth.”

Acts 4.32-35

title: _____

- 4.32 Trouble created **“unity”** and generosity

- 4.33 **“power”**, **δυναμις [dunamis]**, - from the Holy Spirit [We get our word dynamite from it.]
see also: Acts 3.12 & 4.7 “dunamis”

- 4.34 generosity brought **“great grace. . .there was not a needy person”**, they were fulfilling an OT command/promise for feeding the poor and homeless:

Deut 15.11 Prov 22.9 Isa 58.7 Matt 25.35ff

This communal response has been practiced by many groups over the years with varying degrees of success. It is simply a response to a societal need sometimes. This incidence [4.34] evidently did not last long and was never commented on again.

Since the normal first century home was a multi-generational household, communal living was adapted to the infant church where new believers might find themselves out in the cold. It clearly was not commanded by God.

My paragraph title: 4.32 Unified generosity

An APPLICATION I can use: I need to open my eyes to other people’s needs.

Acts 4.36 to 5.1-6

title: _____

- 4.36 **“Barnabas. . .son of encouragement”**,

A comment on the meaning of people’s names in the Bible.

Perhaps a “nickname” may be related to a characteristic in some Bible person’s life [i.e. “Sons of Thunder” may be associated with James’ and John’s Thunder-Mom who had the audacity to ask that her boys get to sit at the head of the table]. I don’t observe that many OT or NT individual’s names had anything to do with anything significant!

pjm

Half of the kings of the nation of Israel had names containing “el” [from **Elohim**] or “ah” [**Jehovah**] yet were as ungodly as can be. Parents in those days didn’t divinely choose a path of life for their baby by selecting a particular name any more than we do today.

8Keys #4, grammar

I am, however, glad my parents chose my name to be Philip. I always wanted to be like the godly deacon I was named after. My godly brother is Steve. And I have a godly sister, Ruth.

- 4.37 A publicly known cash gift gone twisted.

- “Let not your left hand know what your right hand does.” Matt 6.3
- Barnabas’ gift not ostentatious but perhaps too public.

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DocMyers3@gmail.com [e-mail]

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- Five reasons for not making giving public.
 - * pride
 - * envy
 - * one-uppance
 - * “It none of yo’ beeswax!”
 - * “practicing your righteousness before men” *Matt 6.1*

5.1 **“Ananias. . .sold a possession/property”**, **8Keys #3 CONTRAST TO BARNABAS**

5.2 **“laid it at the apostles’ feet”**, obviously an ostentatious public presentation
* “every good gift. . .comes down from the Father” *James 1.17*

5.3,4 **“lied to the Holy Spirit. . .lied to God”**, an affirmation that the Holy Spirit is God.

8Keys REPEATED PHRASES

- “How could I. . .sin against God” *even though Joseph’s sin would be hidden from all men, Gen 39.9*
 - “Give glory to the Lord. . .what have you done?” *Achan’s sin at Jericho, Josh 7.19*
- 5.5 **“Great fear came on all”**, I guess so! [*see also 5.11*]

5.6 **“they buried him [the same day]”**, This is the common practice of many societies worldwide throughout history.

One man can dig a 6’ grave in sand in 4 hours, clay = 8 hrs,
frozen earth [*charcoal fire on surface*] 3 days.

- Did Peter know Ananias was going to die? **8Keys, #8 T.B.D.S.**
But we’re sure that he knew Sapphira would die, [*5.9*].
- I John 5.16 “There is a sin unto death.” *It is important to remember that Jesus died for every sin, even for that mythical “unforgivable sin.”* **8Keys, UNBIBLICAL MYTHOLOGY**

My paragraph title:

5.1 Ananias lies

An APPLICATION I can use: Lord, let me never think, “How much can I get away with before I consider my behavior to be punishable?”

Acts 5.7-11

title: _____

5.9 **“put the Spirit of the Lord to the test [tempt]?”**,

- “Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God” [*Matt 4.7 Deut 6.16*]
- Nor does God tempt us to sin. *Jas 1.13*

My paragraph title:

5.7 Sapphira lies/ great fear falls

An APPLICATION I can use: Lord, You’ve put me in a public ministry almost all my life. Please keep me from trying to look important in other people’s opinions.

Acts 5.12-16

title: _____

5.12 Miracles: signs and wonders, **“at the hands of the apostles [only]”**, **8Keys # 3, COMPARE**

- Soon 2 deacons would do miracles, but never anyone else,
Stephen, 6.8 Philip 8.6
- the “Seventy” excepted, *Luke 10.17. in the Gospels*

“all with one accord in Solomon’s portico”, evidently their regular meeting place was on the Temple Mount

8Keys #2, CONTEXT

5.13 **“none of the rest dared associate”**, 2 possibilities:

- The Roman Catholic Church has exploited the idea of a clergy/laity similar to the priesthood in the OT. Bad idea. Clergy-laity distinctions do not exist in the church.
 - * The Elders are the under-shepherds but they are also sheep.
 - * Elders may be first-among-equals, but there is no hierarchy
 - * Never to be rebuked in public
 - * Responsibilities: a. **Pray** b. Teach the **Word** *Acts 6.4*

see PhilMyersBlog.com Elders’ Duties

Session

8

ch. 5.7

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- * People are to esteem their leaders, but the leaders are not to esteem themselves. *Phil 2.3 Rom 12.3*
- * Paul's "thorn" was to keep him from being esteemed too highly by others. *II Cor 12.7*

* Elders are special people. I've known hundreds. A hundred of them are my former Bible college students. They are **not** "ordinary Christians like the rest of us." True, they have the same temptations, difficulties, and circumstances, but the ones I've known live at a pretty high spiritual plateau. They are to be very highly esteemed, "of whom the world is not worthy." *Heb 11.38* All of us should live like those elders.

- Some think this refers to the fact that hypocrites and unbelievers were hesitant to associate with the apostles, but context doesn't support this idea. Elders were to be "lovers of hospitality" [*Tit 1.8*]. I take that to mean they should have unbelievers in their homes.

8Keys # 2, CONTEXT

- Unfortunately, it seems regular believers started to shy away from close friendships with the apostles. Healthy pastors have good friends among the congregation.

5.14 Result: ***"multitudes of men and women were constantly added"***. The church grew. Fear produced godliness and growth. Comments about church growth seem to be followed by good reasons.

5.15 ***"Peter's shadow"***,

- * Perhaps the hoi-polloi thought that even Peter's shadow would heal. Their "esteem" [*5.13*] for the apostles may have been too high.

- * Evidently his shadow did bring healing.

8Keys # 2, CONTEXT

- * Later, Paul lost the ability to heal. He left co-worker, Trophimus sick at Miletus. [*I Cor 12.30*].

That ability seems to have re-appeared after shipwreck in 28.8,9.

- * Hospital evangelism. The sick were also brought to faith in Christ [*I assume*].

My paragraph title:

5.12 Peter's shadow heals

An APPLICATION I can use: If God can use just a shadow to heal others, I can certainly depend on Him to use my voice as I teach others.

If you haven't been writing out an application for yourself regularly, this is the session to start. Look at the 13 kinds of examples I use. I trust you'll find them helpful.

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Acts 5.17-26

title: _____

- 5.17 **“high priest. . . Saducees. . . filled with jealousy”**, Resistance is no surprise.
5.18 jail again, **“laid hands on [all?] the apostles”**, apparently all 12 apostles, **8Keys # 4, GRAMMAR**
* Seems to me it is the same group who caused trouble in 4.18 “teach no more. . .Name.”

My paragraph title:**5.17 Apostles arrested & then delivered from prison**

An APPLICATION I can use: I will try to be conscious of the power of the Holy Spirit whenever I teach and realize that I must teach “in Jesus’ Name.”

Acts 5.27-32

title: _____

- 5.28 **“Name”**, of Jesus is an early theme in Acts. *10X*
* 2.38 4.7,10,12,17,30 5.28,40,41
5.29 Obey your government unless it is a sin, *[1 Pet 2.13-17 Rom 13.1-7]*
5.31 Jesus is now exalted and seated at the Father’s right hand *[how did Peter know which hand?]*
n.b. Psa 110.1
“repentance. . . forgiveness of sins”, the message of salvation is always at the tip of Luke’s pen.
5.32 **“to them that obey Him”**, Peter backhandedly offends Sanhedrin members by insinuating that they were not obeying God. This bunch of Jews considered themselves absolute experts at obeying Moses’ Laws.

My paragraph title:**5.27 We must obey God first**

An APPLICATION I can use: May the message of salvation & forgiveness always be on the tip of my tongue as I meet people from day to day.

Acts 5.33-39

title: _____

- 5.33 **“cut to the heart”**, These Jews were ready **“to kill”** Peter, illegally. Only Romans could put criminals to death, not Jews.
See note at 7.60, Stephen’s death.
5.34 **“Gamaliel. . . Pharisee”**, defends the apostles’ rights to their own opinion about the Scripture.
• Perhaps this was the same Gamaliel under whom Paul sat. *[22.3]* **8Keys # 8, T.B.D.S. pjm, yes**
5.38 **“if this. . . work be of men it will come to nought”**, A precept of men, not an immutable fact.
• * Although Confucianism, Islam, Hinduism, and Mormonism have not ceased, someday they will no longer exist. Their destruction is not as imminent as Gamaliel made it sound.
8Keys #4, NOT LITERAL, spoken by an unbeliever

My paragraph title:**5.33 Gamaliel's counsel**

An APPLICATION I can use: Lord, help me to be bold.

Acts 5.40-42

title: _____

- 5.40ff **“flogged. . . rejoiced. . . taught. . . preached”**
• II Cor 4.17 “our momentary light affliction”
• II Cor 6.4,5,8-10 “afflictions, necessities, distresses, stripes, imprisonments, fastings, chastened, sorrowful, poor”
• II Cor 11.23-28 “labors, 40 stripes, prison, rods, stoned, shipwrecked, robbers, perils 7X, hunger, thirst, fasting, cold, nakedness”
5.41 **“rejoiced”**, if you are not willing to die for the Savior you believe in - don’t consider being a missionary.

My paragraph title:**5.40 Flogged but undaunted**

An APPLICATION I can use: I’ve never lived where there was a restriction on talking about Jesus. May I continue to exploit this privilege freely in America.

Session

9

ch. 5.32

5.41
Would
you
rejoice?

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31 AD

✠✠ v.7, disciples increasing 7, many priests saved
Acts 6.1-7 title: _____

- 6.1 "disciples were increasing", Luke pays a lot of attention to numbers and the size of the growth of the infant church. Dozens of times.
- You betcha church growth is important! Here's Luke's report about "numbers" 25X: 3,000 saved, added to their number, 5,000, multitudes added, disciples increasing, disciples increased, church built up, everybody in Lydda & Sharon, many believed, all of them which believed, large numbers, much people, many Jews, whole city, spread through whole region, large numbers, increasing in number daily, large numbers of women, many believed, a number of Greeks, many Corinthians, many believed, many thousands!!!
 - I wonder which groups were growing faster? The persecuted churches? The churches most earnestly involved in evangelism? The churches with the best Bible teachers? Those reaching Jews? Or Gentiles?
- "complaint/murmur", no real contention or divisiveness mentioned
"widows neglected", most certainly an oversight, not an exclusion
- "Meals-on-Sandals" project is already underway. *Deacon διακονος, diakonos = servant*
 - * How should new church programs begin? See the need and fill it: disaster, illiteracy, poverty, societal weaknesses, etc.
 - * Do the church leaders fund the need? Hire 7 full-time male employees. *[It seems to me that the 12 apostles were already full-time employees. Jesus, and I presume the disciples, were funded by a group of ladies in the gospels, Luke 8.3. I choose to believe the ladies continued to supply finances after the resurrection. pjm]*
 - * Why men? Doesn't this program of feeding grandmas look like ladies' work? Why wasn't a Deaconess' Committee formed? It wasn't formed. Hm-m-m-m.
 - * What would these 7 guys have to decide? funding, gathering food, storing, list of recipients, delivery schedule, volunteer help, removing self-sufficient ladies from role, replacing deacons eventually, ad infinitum.
 - Eventually the churches would need guidelines for future deacons throughout the realm. *I Tim 3.8-13*
- 6.1-7 True, these 7 were never specifically called deacons [*called "The Seven" 21.8*]. From the early days of the Church they were called deacons.
- 3 requirements: good rep, filled with Spirit, wise [*increased to 8 requirements in I Tim 3.8*]
- 6.3 All 7 deacons had Greek names in order to take care of the Hellenistic [*Greek-like*] ladies.
Ladies probably spoke Greek in their homes instead of Palestinian Aramaic or Hebrew.
- 6.4 Elders declined [*not refused*] to "serve tables" in deference to Prayer & Preaching the Word.
* I happen to attend a church where all the elders teach [*many*] of the Bible classes at several age levels.
- 6.6 Official ordination service with the "laying on of hands of the presbytery" *I Tim 4.14*
- | | |
|--|--|
| * OT = high priest's hands on scapegoat, Lev 6 | * Jacob blessed sons, Gen 48 |
| * Moses on Josh, Num 27 | * Ananias [<i>layman</i>], Paul, Acts 9.17 |
| * deacons by elders, Acts 6 | * Paul on Timothy, I Tim 4.14 |
| * Peter & John at Samaria, Acts 8 | * appointing elders? Acts 14.23,26 |
| * ordain B & P, Acts 13.2,3 | |
- 6.7 * Smoothing race relations resulted in "Word of God spread. . . number of disciples multiplied. . . great many of the priests. . . [were saved]",
Growth is expected in a healthy church. Is your church growing?

My paragraph title: **6.1 Seven deacons appointed to meals-on-wheels**
An APPLICATION I can use: Oh, that I would be a better servant!

ACTS: EXEGESIS

*Drawing out what is in the text
paragraph by paragraph*

APPLICATIONS

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Promises to claim
A teaching to study
Praying better

Acts 6.8-15

title: _____

- 6.8 **“Stephen. . . [a deacon]. . . great wonders and miracles”**,
 • Miracles:
 * ratified the speaker’s message
 * hardened many unbelievers
 * softened a few unbelievers’ hearts and brought them to faith, not many
- 6.9 **“Stephen”**, in charge of pizza delivery program, gained a reputation for **“arguing/disputing”**, theology
 • **“synagogue [members]. . . from Cyrene [Libya], Alexandria [Egypt], and Cilicia [Turkey]”**, could not refute what Stephen said.
 • So they **“stirred up”** the people by introducing false charges against Stephen: blasphemy against **“Moses, Law, Temple, [and Jewish] customs [Talmud]”** **8Keys # 8, T.B.D.S**
 * Stephen addresses each accusation.
- 6.12 **“brought/dragged”**, him before the **“Council”**, 72-member Sanhedrin.
- 6.15 Stephen first martyr, James will be the second

My paragraph title:**6.8 Stephen accused****An APPLICATION I can use:** Lord, when I’m accused [again] help me not to snap back.**Acts 7.1-50**

title: _____

- 7.1 **“Are these things so?”** 4-word question by the **“high priest”**, [probably Caiaphas, **8Keys # 3, COMPARE, [cf Matt 26.57]** gets a 1,200-word answer by Stephen.
- 7.2-50 longest recorded message in Acts. A record of God’s dealings with those who reject His Law.
 • Some might have even been nodding their heads.
 • 96.5% of his speech was condemning, but acceptable to the hypocrites; however, the last 3 verses put stoning in Stephen’s future.
- 7.19 **“expose/cast out”** = to set an unwanted child outside and allow it to die—common practice many societies throughout history, universally disallowed today but abortion laws are changing
 Historically, mothers have been more supportive of “exposure” than fathers.
- 7.37 The **“prophet like Moses”** had come, [see 3.22]
- 7.47 **“Solomon built Him an house”**
 * Herod’s Temple [in Jesus’ day] outshone Solomon’s Temple in cost and beauty and size.

My paragraph title:**7.1 Stephen’s defense: a history lesson****An APPLICATION I can use:** May I never be accused of knowing to right and choosing to do wrong.

Session

10

ch. 7.1

ACTS: EXEGESIS

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Acts 7.51-53

title: _____

7.51-53 **“stiff-necked. . . uncircumcised in heart. . . resist the Holy Spirit. . . killed the prophets. . . betrayers. . . murderers. . .”**

- Is Stephen shouting, weeping, smirking, sarcastic? **8Keys #8, T.B.D.S.** What I miss most in Scripture are the inflections, tones, and facial expressions.
 - *I have already asked the Lord to grant me the opportunity in heaven to hear Him read the whole Bible to me, aloud, so I can look into His eyes and hear the feelings He had as He wrote each verse in the Bible—shouting, whispering, sobbing, mocking, pleading, persuading, and even cooing.*
Which parts did Stephen speak very slowly and deliberately looking deep into the eyes of his audience? Which parts did He sing? Did they smile?
- Then Stephen’s last phrase was **“You received the Law. . . AND DID NOT KEEP IT!”**,
- Those in the audience felt horrified because they considered themselves the supreme example of those who kept the Law. [see 5.32]
- Even the Lord had referred to their meticulous obsession of following the Law when He said, **“Except your righteousness exceed the scribes and Pharisees.”** [Matt 5.20]
- Boy! Were they teeth-grinding mad.

My paragraph title:**7.51 Stephen's history lesson accuses Jews**

An APPLICATION I can use: I know we have to tell people they’re sinners. Lord, may I not come across as “holier-than-thou.”

Acts 7.54-60

title: _____

7.54 They stopped Stephen in mid-sentence.

7.56 **“the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God”**,

- This is the only time we know Jesus stood up. He always sat at the Father’s right hand.
- Heb 8.1 10.12 12.2 1.3,13 Luke 22.69 Col 3.1 Eph 1.20
Matt 26.64 Psa 110.1 16.11 Rev 3.21 Mark 16.19

7.57 Isn’t it interesting how many English words we have for anger. If it were grammatically acceptable, I think Luke might have used them all: fury, ire, hatred, detest, abhor, malice, loathe, melevolence, disgust, revulsion, contempt, venom. . . .

7.58 **“stoned him”**, a no-rules, furious, bitterness-fete. A deliberate, time-consuming, stripped-to-the-waist, arm-tiring spree. A participation sport.

- and they **“laid down their clothes at a young man’s feet whose name was Saul.”** [see 8.1]

7.60 **“Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. . . he fell asleep”**,

* Jesus’ words were similar, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.” Luke 23.34

- Roman police [soldiers] didn’t seem to interfere with this illegal event.
- John 18.31 “not permitted to put anyone to death”

My paragraph title:**7.54 Stephen stoned**

An APPLICATION I can use: Thank You Lord, for missionaries, pastors, and many of my friends who have suffered because of their love for You.

TO THE SAMARITANS WE GO!**Acts 8.1-3**

title: _____

8.1 Saul’s hatred, same list as 7.54,57 [above].

- **“on that day a great [local, not empire-wide] persecution began. . . they were scattered. . . except the apostles [huh?]”**,
- The command to scatter had been given by Jesus directly to the apostles in 1.8
- Claudius didn’t chase Jews out of Rome until 54 AD.
- The Great Diaspora [dispersion] didn’t occur until 40 years later [70 AD] when the Temple was destroyed and Rome mandated pogroms against the Christians who were chased out of Jerusalem.

Session

11

ch. 8.1

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31 AD

- Claudius, 54 AD, chased the Jews out of Rome, *20 years hence*.
- Scattered with a purpose: Teach the Word! Spread the Church!

8.3 **"Saul... began ravaging [made havoc] the Church"**,

* Some guess that Saul was about the same age as Jesus or maybe a little younger.

My paragraph title: 8.1 Persecution begins in earnest

An APPLICATION I can use: If it would bring more glory to You to have me go through deep water, so be it.

Acts 8.4-8

title: _____

"Philip", the open-air preacher: Samaria, eunuch, Azotus all the way to Caesarea. . .

4 daughters who were evangelists [I have 4 daughters. . .and 5 sons, one wife]

8.4-6 **"Philip. . . [after whom I am named. My brother is Stephen]. . . scattered. . . preached Christ. . . miracles"**,

* 8.35 "Philip. . . preached Jesus [to the eunuch]." Is that your message and mine? Do we talk a lot about who Jesus is and what He has done for us? Are we active in leading people to "Come meet my best friend?"

- This was Paul's message, too. "We preach Christ" I Cor 1.23, "Jesus is the Christ" Acts 18.3,5,28 "we preach. . . Jesus Christ" II Cor 4.5

[see PhilMyersBlog.com](#) **Muslim Friends, "What Do You Think of Jesus?"**

A 9-part tract about Jesus.

8.6 Philip's miracles drew crowds: exorcisms? paralysis? cleft palate? polio?

My paragraph title: 8.4 Philip in Samaria

An APPLICATION I can use: Do my neighbors think of me as the one who wants them to "Come meet my best friend?"

✚✚ v.12, Samaritans believed 13, Simon believes

Acts 8.9-13

title: _____

8.9,11 **"Simon [had] long time. . . [demonic] sorceries/magic arts [KJV]"**, yes, demons can cause sickness and perform miracles, Matt 12.22. He was fascinated by Philip's miracles.

8.13 **"Simon himself believed. . . constantly amazed at Philip's miracles [NASB]"**,

- Simon, a true believer. Nowhere in Scripture does it call anyone was a believer when he was faking it. **8Keys #4, LITERAL**
- Yes, there are pseudo-believers but there is nothing in this text that would indicate Simon was one of them. Actually, the strongest statement God records for us is Simon's immediate, positive, authentic repentance, **"Pray for me"**, [8.24]. With that statement God closes the discussion. **8Keys #4, LITERAL, GRAMMATICAL**
* In my study of such things, I've come to expect that God would not have included 8.24 if Peter's warning had not been followed by Simon's repentance. *pjm*,
- *Samaria is 40 miles NW of Jerusalem.*

My paragraph title: 8.9 Simon believes

An APPLICATION I can use: Thank You for my dad who brought me to faith in Jesus [in the back seat of a brand new 1949 Chevy].

8.18
I'm always
the optimist
about
people's
motives.

Acts 8.14-25

title: _____

8.14,15 **"Jerusalem heard. . . Peter. . . came"**, Jerusalem is 40 SE of Samaria [city or region] **8Keys #8, T.B.D.S.]**

* Peter's panache may have been valuable in validating the celebration.

8.15 Ministry of prayer!

8.17-19 **"laying on hands"**, they received the Spirit it seems with visible evidences. We assume it may have been accompanied with glossolalia as in 2.4, although there were no "laying on of hands" in chapter 2.

This is the only occurrence of "laying on hands" in Acts besides Paul's ordination by Ananias who was not a church leader. [9.17]. see also I Tim 4 & 5

Session

12

ch. 8.14

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31 AD

see PhilMyersBlog.com [Laying on Hands](#)

- Today churches use laying on of hands as a simple sign of affirmation as in an ordination of elders, deacons, or missionaries. Not a transference of godliness or power, only responsibility. [see 9.17, Saul]

- 8.18 What did Simon physically see or hear when the Holy Spirit was given? [8Keys](#) #8, TBDS
- 8.18,20-22 Brand new Christian, Simon [former magician and public figure], now wants to bless others as Peter had been able to. Perhaps he also craves the limelight but asks [politely] for Peter's magical powers. [8Keys](#) #7, UNCLEAR
- 8.24 Unlike Peter's rebuke of Ananias [the liar], his harsh reprimand of Simon causes a dramatic change of heart. **"Pray for me"**
- 8.25 At last the message gets to **"Samaria."**, [Acts 1.8 "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria"]
* Peter and John preach in many villages on their way home.
n.b. again miracles [in Samaria] lead to more evangelism.

My paragraph title:

8.14 Covetous Simon immediately repents

An APPLICATION I can use: Thank You for the avenue of confession, simple, and earnest. May I always bond my confession with a determination never to commit that sin again.

✝ v.37, eunuch believed

Acts 8.26-40

title: _____

Eunuch, African—Ham	chap 8
Paul, Asia —Shem	chap 9
Cornelius, —Japheth?	chap 10, a Roman name

8.26, 29 **"angel. . .spoke to Philip. . .Spirit said to Philip"**, God had appeared as an angel sometimes. What about this time? see *Gen 16, Hagar Gen 22, Abraham Ex 3, Moses*

- This is one of the last cases we know where an angel brought verbal instructions to man.

see my blog PhilMyersBlog.com [I Quit](#)

It discusses how God guided Paul 39X in making decisions in the following dozen different methods:

[Acts 13-28]. i.e. by angels, by persecution, with friends' advice, by Paul's personal preference, by government restrictions [jail], or response of the audience, or the work was completed, etc.

8.27 **"Ethiopian eunuch"**,

- **"Candace"**, title rather than her first name.

8.30 **"Do you understand what you are reading?"**, good way to open a conversation—CONTACT EVANGELISM

* A friend of mine wears 2 question marks ?? on his lapel. People ask him about it.

- #1 Q "Do you know where you will go when you die?"
- #2 Q "Would you like to know what the Bible says about eternal life?"

8.31 **"How could I unless someone guides me?"**,

- "There is none that seeketh after God" Romans 3.11
- "You will find Him, if you seek Him with all your heart. . ." Deut 4.29 & Jer 29.13
- "I. . .will draw all men unto Me" [Jesus, John 12.32]

These 3 statements are 3 sides of the same coin.

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37 AD

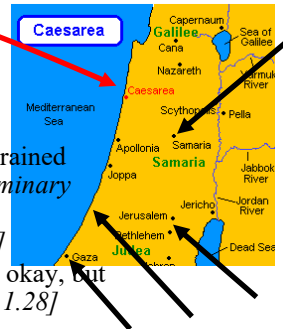
8.32,35 OT evangelism: Philip starts with Isaiah and preaches the Gospel. There were no New Testament books for ten years after Jesus' crucifixion. We do not know when Mark wrote his Gospel, probably shortly after his departure from Paul & Barnabas [13.13] but I believe he was the first to write one, possibly right after he returned to Jerusalem. Paul started writing Galatians sometime shortly after his trip first missionary tour of Gaul which took place about 49 AD.

8.35
Burned into the leather on my Bible.

"Philip preached Jesus."

- Philip **"preached Jesus"**, We know he started [8.35] **"at the same Scripture"**, and taught the eunuch about Jesus. Boy! Did Philip know his OT prophetic Scripture!
* What Scripture do **you** think he used?
* What OT Scripture would **you** use?
- How about. . . ?
 - First prediction of Messiah, *Gen 3.15*
 - Birth, *Micah 5.2*
 - Out of Egypt, *Hos 11.1*
 - From tribe of Judah, *Gen 49.10*
 - Preceded by Elijah, *Mal 4.5,6*
 - Teach in parables, *Psa 78.2-4*
 - Betrayed, *Psa 41.9*
 - Crucified with criminals, *Isa 53.12*
 - Pierced hands & feet, *Zech 12.10*
 - Bones not broken, *Psa 34.20*
 - Buried with rich, *Isa 53.9*
 - Resurrected, *Psa 16.10*

"Isn't it interesting how the Holy Spirit has such a great affinity for trained minds."
Dr. Sayalupa, SWBTSeminary



8.36 Eunuch already knew about **"baptism"** [He had just been to Jerusalem, maybe met Christians?]

- **"down into the water"**, even if you don't believe in baptism by immersion, that's okay, but at least we know both John the Baptist and Philip stood in water to baptize. [John 1.28]
[βαπτίζω] baptidzo = baptize

8.39,40 **"snatched/caught away Philip. . . found himself at Azotus"**, 45 miles southwest of Samaria. [see 8.5]

- **"preached the Gospel. . . [all the way to]. . . Caesarea"**, 60 miles North of Azotus, along the Mediterranean coast. See map. Azotus is midway between Gaza and Joppa.
- I presume the preaching tour took several months.
- What was Philip doing about his job of feeding the widows in Jerusalem? Acts 6.2

My paragraph title: 8.26 Philip & Ethiopian eunuch
An APPLICATION I can use: How well can I use OT Scripture to explain Who the Messiah is?

SAUL

† v.8, Saul saved
Acts 9.1-9

title: _____

Session
13

ch. 9.1

"The conversion of Saul is believed by some to be the most important event. . .since Pentecost." [recorded 3X]
Stan Toussaint, Dallas Seminary

"Be persistent in sharing the Gospel with hostile friends." anon

- Saul knew all the info he needed, but he still didn't understand. He knew about miracles, sermons, changed lives, the Rez, the OT Scriptures about the Messiah, but. . .he never met Jesus! Your and my stubborn friends need to meet Jesus, too.
- "There is almost no one who can explain that the Bible teaches we are saved by faith, not by depending on our good works, and still has not trusted Jesus Christ as Savior. It's almost as though simply realizing that they are trusting in their good works is enough to convince most to trust in Jesus.

9.2 **"synagogues at Damascus"**, 100 miles due north of Jerusalem means a rapid spread of "churches" regularly meeting.

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35,36

- 9.4 • **“breathing out fury. . . of threats and murder”**, calculated anger
Scripture only records 37 words of Jesus in 3 sentences. I choose to believe that Jesus said more than this.
But this is all God chose to include. pjm

“Why are you persecuting Me?”, Question: “Was Jesus. . . ?” CHECK ONE BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> Shouting?	<input type="checkbox"/> Condescending?	<input type="checkbox"/> As to a little child?
<input type="checkbox"/> Speaking tenderly?	<input type="checkbox"/> Exasperated?	<input type="checkbox"/> Mocking?
	<input type="checkbox"/> In-your-face?	

Go ahead, try to ask Jesus’ question in each of these tones. . . aloud, please.

- Paul’s testimony is repeated twice more, chapters 22 & 26. Because of this, I believe God may expect each of us to use our “personal testimony” often to “soften.” Learn how to present the Gospel and how you trusted in Christ as your Savior. It may be helpful to your friends. Someone encouraged me to learn how to explain salvation with my testimony in 3 ways: 1 minute, 3 minutes, 8 minutes. I have also done it in a whole sermon using 16 Bible verses to illustrate 16 phases of my life and spiritual growth.

And please avoid such nonsense terminology as:

“let Jesus come into your heart” [*Who knows what this means?*]

“give your life to God” [*Hindus do this every day*]

“accept Jesus” [*Mormons accept Him*]

“pray to receive Jesus” [*Catholics think this happens in the eucharist*]

What you really mean is “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, don’t trust your good works.” So, say it just like that!

- Once [*chap 22*] Paul gave his testimony to a mob that wanted to beat him [*to death?*] Cops helped.

My paragraph title:

9.1 Saul on Damascus Interstate

An APPLICATION I can use: There is nothing fancy about my salvation experience like Paul’s, but help me to continue to share it with others when it would help.

Acts 9.10-19

title: _____

9.10,11 **“Ananias. . . get up and go”**, [*a regular church member*], living in Damascus

9.13 **“Lord, I’ve heard. . .”**, [*balk*]

8Keys, #3 COMPARE & CONTRAST PEOPLE

Others who balked, their reasons, God’s responses:

- Abraham, Gen 12, baby boy
- Sarah, Gen 17.16 18.12 baby boy
- Moses, Exod 32.14, God is ready to destroy whole nation
- Peter, Matt 14.31 storm
Acts 10.14 “Not so, Lord”
- Ezekiel, Ezek 4.14 dung used for cooking fuel

9.16 **“I will show him [Paul] how much he has to suffer”**, What about you and me? Would I want to know?

9.17,18 **“laying his hands on him”**, this is what the 21st century church calls “ordination.”

- Notice he is not identified as an apostle or church leader as he laid hands on Paul.
- n.b. Paul is called a **“brother. . . [before he is]. . . baptized”**, salvation before baptism.

8Keys # 2, CONTEXT

- “be filled”**, Why was this [*command?*] necessary for Paul to hear? It wasn’t needed in 2.4. Wouldn’t it also be automatic here? We don’t know when Ananias learned of the filling of the Spirit, nor whether he ever lived in Jerusalem. It seems he might have been a product of the “scattered Church.”

* The same word for filling, **πλεθη** [*pletho*] is always used in the NT.

My paragraph title:

9.10 Ananias sent to Saul

An APPLICATION I can use: Thank You for sending godly people into my life: Dad, Mom, especially Linda, Kay, Doug, Arden, Snoop, Alice. . . and even some ungodly ones who helped me.

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36 AD

Acts 9.20-22

title: _____

9.20 **“straightway/immediately he [Paul] preached Christ”**, When talking about salvation, it’s okay to talk about sinning, and not using the Lord’s Name in vain, and being pure minded, and being honest, and getting back to church; but that’s not where most unbelievers are stuck. Most of those whom I meet are stuck on trying to earn their salvation by good works.

I **always** campout on the issue of **grace and works**.

Among the thousands of lost friends I’ve talked to about Jesus, none of them has understood that salvation is FREE.

On the other hand hardly any who understand that the Bible says God’s gift of eternal life is free have turned it down flat.

Our job is mostly just to make it clear that **depending on good works doesn’t work!**

9.21 **“destroy those who call on His Name”**, blasphemy

9.22 Paul’s message: **“Jesus is the Christ”**,

- 9.28 **“boldly in the Name of the Lord”**, there is salvation in His Name

My paragraph title: 9.19 Saul’s escapes after 1st sermon

An APPLICATION I can use: I could use a little more boldness myself, and a little less pride.

Acts 9.23-25

title: _____

Saul travels to:

Damascus ☞ Jerusalem ☞ Tarsus ☞ Arabia [Gal 1.17] ☞ Tarsus ☞ Antioch ☞ uttermost part

9.23-25 Death threat, over-the-wall-in-a-basket.

9.31 **“churches. . .peace. . .multiplied”**, after Paul leaves.

See blog I Quit *This time the Spirit uses a death threat to move Paul out of town.*

My paragraph title: 9.31 Baby Christian, Paul, receives death threat & leaves, Peace reigns in the city

An APPLICATION I can use: Saul irritated people. By my age I should have learned to irritate people less than I do. I will work on being more diligent to guard my mouth.

✝ v. 31, Judean church grows**Acts 9.26-31**

title: _____

9.26 Jerusalem disciples resist former trouble maker, namely Saul.

Barnabas sticks up for Paul’s boldness in Damascus last month.

9.29 **“[Saul] speaks boldly. . .disputing/arguing with the Grecians”**, still a contentious streak [needs mellowing]

9.30 brethren **“sent him [home] to Tarsus”**, to mature, for 2 or 3 years [pjm] he went to the S.A.D. [Seminary of the Arabian Desert]. Gal 1.18

9.31 **“churches. . .Judea, Galilee, Samaria. . .grew”**, Galilee not mentioned by Jesus in Acts 1.8

My paragraph title: 9.26 Saul sent home to Tarsus after causing a riot in Jerus

An APPLICATION I can use: I thank God for many sweet moments like Saul’s time with Jesus alone in the desert. May it continue.

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Peter

✝ **v.35, all Lydda & Sharon believe**
Acts 9.32-35

9.32 Peter's ministry:

- Part I, start of the Church, ch 2
- Part II, joined Philip in Samaria, ch 8
- Part III, arrives in Lydda & Sharon, ch 9
- Part IV, Cornelius, end of Peter's ministry in Acts, ch 10,
- Peter's 6 miracles
 - ◇ 2.4 "gift of languages"
 - ◇ 3.1 lame man
 - ◇ 5.5 Ananias & Saphira
 - ◇ 5.15 Peter's shadow
 - ◇ 9.40 Dorcas, dead
 - ◇ 9.34 2nd lame man

9.33 After healing Aeneas, 2 whole cities believe: Lydda & Sharon

My paragraph title: **9.32 Aeneas healed**

An APPLICATION I can use: I must be more diligent in seeking the lost, keeping it on the front lobe.

✝ **v.42, Joppa believes**

Acts 9.36-43

title: _____

9.36 Raising Dorcas from the dead

9.42 Again a miraculous event opens the door of evangelism, many believed.

My paragraph title: **9.36 Dorcas back from the dead**

An APPLICATION I can use: I may not be able to heal, but I want to be able to cry with those who grieve.

8Keys CREATE A TIME-LINE

Session

14

ch. 9.32

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TO THE GENTILES**Acts 10.1-8**

title: _____

10.1,2 Cornelius: centurion, a Gentile “seeker” from Caesarea [*on Med. Sea coast*]

- devout
- God-fearer
- generous
- prayerful
- lost

10.3 vision: angel of God says, “send for a man named Simon”, angel gives street address

My paragraph title:**10.1 Cornelius' vision****An APPLICATION I can use:**

Lord, teach me to ask more spiritually leading questions so I can find out where my neighbors are, like Jimmy.

Acts 10.9-16

title: _____

10.9 While Cornelius' messengers were on the way, Peter goes up on roof to “pray” at lunchtime.

10.10ff in a trance: “unclean” animals in a sheet

“a voice says. . . kill and eat”

* one of 7 “trances/visions” 2.17, Pentecost 7.56, Stephen 9.4, Saul 10.3, Cornelius 10.10, Peter 16.9,10, Paul/Macedonia 18.9, Paul/Corinth

10.14 “Not so, Lord!” = “No Way! Sir!” An oxymoron!

Peter balks, voice says, “What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy”,

- OT Temple ceremonial laws are suspended [*it seems until the Trib*]
* [*side Road*] Will there be Temple sacrifices in the 3rd Temple? Study Isa, Jer, & Ezek]
* [*another side Road*] Peter's 4 balks: Matt 16.23 _____, John 13.8 _____,
21.21 _____, Acts 10.14 _____ [*fill in with one word*] **8Keys** #3, COMPARE
* His refusals seem reasonable, yet to one of Peter's refusals the Lord said, “Get thee behind Me, Satan.”

Eating non-Kosher foods is a major stumbling block for a God-fearing Hasidic, Bible-believing Jew, today. He thinks that it is the “spiritual adultery” of the prophets to believe the Law of Moses is abolished. It would be a whimsical or capricious adoption of worldliness. Remember that Ezekiel asked permission to refuse to use human dung for cooking? [*after God's command, Ezek 4.12, and God reneged*]

- Here, God uses dramatic events to assure Peter that rules of godliness would be changing during this Israeli-Church transition.

My paragraph title:**10.9 Peter's vision****An APPLICATION I can use:**

Am I as prayerful about my daily life as Peter was?

Acts 10.17-22

title: _____

10.17 Cornelius' men show up to assure Peter of God's affirmation of the vision.

10.19,26 “Spirit says. . . accompany [3 men] without question”, a rare heavenly voice

My paragraph title:**10.17 Peter joins Gentiles****An APPLICATION I can use:**

Am I as aware of the Holy Spirit's ministry in the lives of others as He convicts them of sin and punishment?

10.9
Learn to make
good use of
“waiting”

- * dentists
- * restaurants
- * quiet minutes
church
starts
- * ???

ACTS: EXEGESIS

Drawing out what is in the text paragraph by paragraph

APPLICATIONS

Examples to follow
Sins to avoid
Praise & worship

Repeated words
Decisions to make
Seeking the lost
Cautions & warnings
Ways to pray

Attitudes to correct
Questions to answer
Promises to claim
A teaching to study
Praying better

✝ v.47, Cornelius & family believe
Acts 10.23-43 title: _____

10.23 Peter immediately obeys

10.28 **“God has shown me”**, trust me *[must be scary words for some]*

10.35 **“the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him”**

- One of our **8Keys** is LITERAL and it does not fit. *The “face value” the above quote appears to say that good works buy salvation.*
- *If we take verse 35 LITERALLY we must conclude that salvation comes wholly by works apart from faith. Clearly not an acceptable interpretation.*
- *However, we know that is false because we have the list of 211 NT verses which clearly show that salvation comes through “faith” or “belief.”* **8Keys #3, COMPARE [VOLUME HELPS]**
see PhilMyersBlog.com 211 Verses salvation verses using “believe” or “faith.”
*Clearly 14 of these verses even say that faith and **not works save us.***
- *Good works, in place of faith, countermands the abundant evidence of a major doctrine.*
8Keys #7, UNCLEAR VERSES ARE UNDERSTOOD IN THE LIGHT OF VOLUME OF CLEARER SCRIPTURE

10.43 **“everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins”**, refers to Cornelius and his family, Gentiles

- Peter is explaining several things in this paragraph
 - * salvation by faith alone
 - * shift from Temple to Church
 - * Messiahship of Jesus, *still future*
 - * Jesus promises the coming of the anointing of the Holy Spirit, *[1.8]*
 - * the importance of the crucifixion & the Res
 - * forgiveness and eternal life are included as a result of faith

My paragraph title: 10.23 Jew/Gentile distinction dropped

An APPLICATION I can use: Am I as grateful as I should be for my forgiveness? I have a student who seems genuinely more thankful for his salvation than I think I am for mine.

Acts 10.44-48

title: _____

10.45,46 All the Jewish believers were shocked in seeing the **“Holy Spirit poured out on the Gentiles”** which had occurred to the Jews in chapter 2— **“[the gift of] languages!”** We’ve already seen salvation ✝✝✝ on pages #10,11,12,18,21,22,24,26,27, with many more to come.

- **“Can any man forbid water [baptism]?”**, so they were all baptized after they were saved.
- Presbyterians use this verse *[I believe obtusely]* to say that
“Probably babies were also baptized. We believe in infant baptism but don’t believe in baptismal regeneration.”
** Baptismal Regeneration asserts that a baby [or anyone] who is baptized has been “born again” and is therefore “saved.”*

8Keys COMPARING DENOMINATIONAL BELIEFS

10.48 **“asked him to stay”**, List 5 things you would want a new believer to know if he/she asked you to, “Stay and teach me how to be a strong Christian.”

My paragraph title: 10.44 Gentiles filled with Holy Spirit

An APPLICATION I can use: I, too, want to be filled constantly with the Spirit’s power especially in overcoming temptation.

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Acts 11.1-18

title: _____

- 11.1 New expression used as synonym of salvation: **“received the Word of God”**, but never used again.
8Keys, #3,7 COMPARE WITH CLER SALVATION VERSES
- 1-18 Peter retells the Cornelius story without any significant new info.
- 11.3 Brings up the abomination Jews had about eating with Gentiles.
 - 11.15 Peter connects the Caesarea incident with events of Pentecost **“at the beginning”**, by saying, **“Who was I that I could stand in God’s way?”**, meaning even Gentiles were saved.

My paragraph title:**11.1 Peter tells Jews about vision & Gentile evangelism****An APPLICATION I can use:** May I never stand in God’s way as He tries to use me to do His will.**✚✚ v.21, Grecians turn to the Lord 24, numbers believed in Antioch****Acts 11.19-26**

title: _____

- 11.19 **“scattered”**, with a purpose: to Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch.
They had already partially fulfilled the mandate to go to Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria.
- 11.20,21 **“Antioch”**, 3rd largest city in Roman Empire [*Rome, Alexandria*]
- In Syria, 300 miles due north of Jerusalem
 - grossly immoral
 - **“many believed”**
 - many cities named Antioch [*see Acts 13.14, Antioch Pisidia in central Turkey*]
 - Also traveled to **“Cyrene...[Libya]...and Cyprus”**
- 11.22 **“sent Barnabas to Antioch”**, very **first missionary sent** by the Jerusalem church, became pastor & church planter, **“many brought to the Lord”** under his ministry at his new home. pjm
- 11.25 Barnabas travels 150 miles almost due west to **“Tarsus to look for Saul [9.30]”**.
- Barnabas had defended Saul when he was first saved [9.27] after Saul had made the Jerusalem elders uncomfortable with his unbridled enthusiasm.
I Quit *Paul’s method of finding “God’s Will.”*
Barnabas, pastor in Antioch, recruits Paul as a Bible teacher.
- 11.26 **“for an entire year”**, Barnabas & Saul taught Bible classes in Antioch [*only from the OT Scriptures*]
- Believers were nicknamed **“Christians first at Antioch.”**
 - Barnabas made Saul an elder in the baby church.
n.b. Saul was among the group of five guys called “prophets and teachers” in 13.1 when the Holy Spirit shows up and picks out Barnabas and Saul for a missions tour. **8Keys** # 3, COMPARE.
The term “elder” had not yet actually been adopted by the early church.
The term “apostle” means one who is sent on a mission.
 - “Saul was brought back specifically to teach and may have been the Church’s first Christian Education Director.” *Ken Gangel, Dallas Theological Seminary*

My paragraph title:**11.19 Diaspora missionaries in Antioch****An APPLICATION I can use:** Like P & B, I love to teach. May I get greater pleasure out of seeing others learn than I do out of just talking.**Acts 11.27-30**

title: _____

- 11.27,28 **“prophet...Agabus...by the Holy Spirit”**, predicts 13-year famine which occurred 41-54 AD, under Claudius’ reign as emperor.
- Agabus shows up again and says [*by the Spirit*] that Paul will be arrested in Jerusalem. It also comes true. [*21.10*]
 - We conclude he is a true prophet from JHVH. **8Keys** #4, LITERAL, GRAMMATICAL
- 11.29,30 Response of believers to Agabus: **“determine to send a contribution...[from Antioch to Jerusalem church]”**, 300 miles due south.
- They sent the gift to the **“elders”** [*rather than to the deacons who might be the custodians of the finances for the poor or impoverished. Remember, feeding widows?*].

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My paragraph title: 11.27 Fund raising for Judean poverty

An APPLICATION I can use: May I be more determined than ever to be generous to the poor in my community.

Acts 12.1-5

title: _____

12.1,2 **“Herod [Agrippa I]”**

8Keys ANCIENT HISTORY

- Herod the Great killed Bethlehem babies [*Matt 2*], built Temple, 74 BC-4 AD
- Herod Antipas, tetrarch, killed John the Baptist [*Matt 14*], Pilate sent Jesus’ to Herod, 4-39 AD
- Herod Agrippa I, killed James, arrested Peter [*here*] 37-44 AD
- Herod Agrippa II, Paul’s trial [*ch 22*] 53-99 AD

12.2 **“killed James. . .with a sword”**, probably beheaded rather than stabbed, [*supposedly more honorable than stabbing*].

- James #1 is John’s brother, the fisherman, one of the 12, is 2nd Church martyr.
James is one of Jesus’ best friends [*included in the “inner three”: Peter, James, and John*]
- James #2 is the Lord’s oldest brother [*Mark 6.3 “James, J,S,J”*]
* James, the Lord’s brother [*12.17*] is the pastor of the Jerusalem church.
* Peter tells the prayer meeting group [*after he’s released from prison*] “Go tell James I’m alive.”

8Keys # 3, THERE SEEM TO BE FIVE “JAMESSES”

- Normally flogged before beheading

12.3 Killing the disciple, James, pleased the Jews, so Herod seized Peter almost immediately.

- Feast of Unleavened Bread immediately followed Passover. [*Mar-Apr*]

12.4 **“4 squads of soldiers”**, 4 soldiers in each squad, 6 hour shift round-the-clock [*no coffee or loo breaks*], 2 soldiers chained to prisoner, 2 soldiers “on guard” at the cell door. **8Keys** ROMAN HISTORY

- Prisoner sleeps, not guards
- Peter’s previous escape, 5.19-24

12.5 Relentless prayer, “pray without ceasing” [*Thes 5.17*] *Rom 12.12* *Matt 21.19* *Luke 18.3* 11.8

My paragraph title: 12.1 Peter arrested after James’ martyrdom

An APPLICATION I can use: Would I have had the same confidence Peter had to go to sleep? I hope so.

Acts 12.6-11

title: _____

12.6 **“Peter”**, fearless and sleeping for he had already been told by Jesus he would live to be an old man [*John 21.18*]

8Keys # 3, COMPARE

12.11 One of the lesser themes of Acts is **church-growth** despite oppression.

My paragraph title: 12.6 Angel springs Peter

An APPLICATION I can use: May I embrace any barrier or roadblock before me, and trust the Lord to open opportunities regardless of the difficulties.

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43 AD

Acts 12.12-19 title: _____

- 12.12 [John] Mark’s mom’s home, **“Mary”**, in Jerusalem. Mark = author of Gospel of Mark
- Mark traveled with Saul and Uncle Barnabas on their 1st missionary tour for only a couple months. pjm,
 - Mark is Barnabas’ nephew, Col 4.10.
 - His departure [13.13] was the cause of the tension between Barnabas & Paul.
 - Paul considers him a quitter, 15.38.
 - Mark tours Cyprus with uncle Barnabas. [15.40].
 - Later, Mark was imprisoned with Paul [Col 4.10] in Ephesus or Rome while Paul wrote the book of Colossians.

- “many were gathered together praying”**, probably praying harder than when James was arrested.
- 12.15 **“must be his angel”**, whether rightly or wrongly, Jews believed in “personal angels.”
- Dan 10.21 Matt 18.10
 - Sometimes called “guardian angels,” we know from both OT and NT accounts that angels did “guard” some of God’s chosen servants.
 - We know of at least 10 places in the Bible where angels were serving as guards: Dan 6, Heb 1.14 Psa 91.11 [Jesus] Psa 34.7, Elisha II Kgs 6.17ff, Balaam Num 22.
 - Angels have at least 30 duties recorded in Scripture.
see PhilMyersBlog.com, 30 Angels’ Duties
 - Those at the prayer meeting didn’t have any Scripture to assure them that Peter [or anyone else] actually had an angel. Their belief may have been only a Jewish myth.

[8Keys](#) # 8, T.B.D.S.

The strongest statement in the Bible are Jesus’ words in Matt 18.10. “[the children’s] angels do always behold the face of My Father.”

A. Do only children have personal angels?
 B. Do adults’ angels not have access to the Father?
 C. Do all [saved and unsaved] children have angels?

[8Keys](#) #8, T.B.D.S.

- 12.16 “Prayer changes things” Is this a pagan platitude or a biblical truth?
- #1 We must be seeking His glory
 #2 We must not be hiding any iniquity in our hearts
 #3 We must ask in faith

Sweet hour of prayer
 Sweet hour of prayer,
 Sweet hour of prayer,
 That calls me from a world of care,
 And bids me at my Father’s throne,
 Make all my wants and wishes known.
William Walford

We must pray according to His will
 We must be persistent, passionate, and probably fasting
 We must pray in one of His Names
 We must be living godly lives
 We must ask according to His Word

- What are the conditions for receiving [any] answers to prayer?
 * THERE IS NO PROMISE THAT GOD EVEN LISTENS TO SINNING BELIEVERS.
 * Prayer to a Heavenly Father is a family thing and is mostly limited to saved children of God.
 * We know God has even answered the prayers of unbelievers. . .sometimes

- 12.17 **“show these things to James”**, [8Keys](#) #3, CROSS REFERENCE
- * He is Jesus’ oldest brother [Mark 6.3 James, J, S, J].
 - * James was the pastor of the Jerusalem church.
 - * He wrote the book of James.

My paragraph title: 12.12 Midnight prayer vigil for Peter
An APPLICATION I can use: There has never been one year in the last 50 that I feel I have approached praying well enough. Deepen my prayer-life, Lord.



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Acts 12.18-25

title: _____

12.23 Capricious Herod Agrippa I: **“smote. . . [because he] did not give God the glory. . . eaten by worms. . . died”** Josephus says he died in 5 days. See list of Herods, p.35.

[8Keys](#) ANCIENT ROMAN HISTORY, Josephus: [XIX](#)

Session
17

My paragraph title: 12.20 Herod eaten by worms

An APPLICATION I can use: God forbid that I should bring glory upon myself. I am a proud, proud man.

ch. 12.18

We're about to travel several thousand miles, mostly on foot. Many Bibles have these in the back. Although we'll be in the modern day countries of Turkey, Greece, Macedonia, and Italy for the rest of our study, names have changed so cities on current maps don't always have their ancient names.

**TO THE UTTERMOST
1ST MISSIONARY TRIP
BARNABAS & SAUL**

13.1—14.28, 80 verses

Acts 13.1-5

title: _____

13.1 Five prophets, *προφηται, prophetai*, elders in one church in Antioch: Barn, S, L, M, Saul

* see note at 1.2 for the names of 9 other NT apostles

13.2 **“ministering to [worshipping] the Lord and fasting”**

- Fasting: 9.11 13.3 14.23 Do a study on fasting during the Church Age, sometime.
 - Jesus says the time to fast is when the groom is not on earth with them [Mark 2.19]. When is that?
 - **“Holy Spirit said, ‘Separate Me Barnabas and Saul for the work’”**,
 - No job description
 - No destination
 - No requirements mentioned,
 - No financial arrangements [*never recorded that Antioch ever gave them money*] [8Keys](#) OBSERVATION
* *I wonder whether Barnabas & Saul both had financial resources.* [8Keys](#) T.B.D.S.
 - Immediate obedience [13.3]: a. fast, b. pray, c. laid hands on them, d. sent
I Quit *The Spirit uses to move Paul in a different direction [God's Will]. Holy Spirit speaks [audibly?] to the elders in Antioch.* *pjm, yes*
- 13.4 Ticket to **“Cyprus [Barnabas' home island, 4.36]”**, started preaching on east coast, Salamis.
* Seleucia is the closest port to Antioch, *18 miles SW, on the Mediterranean Sea*
* Barnabas & Paul traveled 500 miles by sea, 700 miles on land on their first trip. Find Cyprus island on the map, p. 36.
- 13.5 * Mark travels with them as helper.

My paragraph title: 13.1 Barnabas & Saul: first cross-cultural missionaries

An APPLICATION I can use: Teach me all over again to carry the world on my prayers.

✚ v.12, proconsul believed

Acts 13.6-12

title: _____

13.6 **“sorcerers [Bar-Jesus]”**, *μαγος, magos* = magician, magi, wise men
by implication—astronomer/astrologer

13.7,8 * **“Sergius Paulus, proconsul. . . summons ‘Barnabas & Saul’”**, Barnabas clearly the leader
“proconsul/deputy” = an appointment by the Roman Senate
“procurator” = appointment by the emperor himself [*i.e. Pilate, Felix, & Festus*]

[8Keys](#) EXTRA-BIBLICAL SOURCES

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These are 18 easiest-to-recognize letters
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α β δ ε γ ι κ λ μ ν ο ω π ρ σ τ υ ς
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44+AD

13.8 Elymas [*bar Jesus* = “*son of Jesus*” or “*son of Joshua*” same name], the magician, an adversary to B & S
* Yes, unbelievers can do true miracles through demonic power:

- creation of snakes in Exodus
- demon possession [*break chains with arm strength*] in Gospels
- make man deaf & dumb
- fight 7-at-a-time
- drown 2,000 pigs
- boils and weather, Job
- Simon, “*sorceries for a long time*”
- The Revelation, 10x
- speak with human voice boxes

* Saul = Hebrew Paul = Latin and Greek [*Italian*] [*His name didn't really change.*]

13.11 exorcism of Elymas 8.9, Simon 16.16, girl 19.13, Jewish exorcists

13.12 proconsul believed

13.13,42,43,46 Paul now mentioned as the leader, 4X

My paragraph title: 13.6 The magician at Cyprus

An APPLICATION I can use: And Mike believed, and Sam believed, and Roseana believed. . . .

Acts 13.13-41

title: _____

13.13,14 “*Paul and his companions*”, this begins Paul’s leadership phase
Eventually, Paul has 26+ travelling companions.

[see my blog PhilMyersBlog.com](#) [26 Travelling Companions](#)

* Perga = south coast of Turkey

* [*John*] Mark “**left them and returned to Jerusalem**”,
[*see also Col 4.10 Phile 24 II Tim 4.11*]

* Mark goes home to mama.

* I believe Mark wrote the Gospel of Mark soon after he returned home. Many think Peter helped Mark fill-in-the-blanks, since Mark wasn’t one of the Twelve.

[8Keys](#) # 8, T.B.D.S.

pjm, opinion

* Pisidian-Antioch = middle of Turkey [*Syrian-Antioch is 400 miles east*]
13.15 Paul invited to speak [*for 24 verses*],

- Stephen-like sermon, lots of history of Jews [*Stephen spoke for 52 verses*]
- Paul doesn’t castigate Jews for disobeying Law [*as Stephen had, 7.54*]
- Keeps going on to David, David’s Son—Jesus, the crucifixion, and the Rez
- He even calls them “scoffers” and they keep on listening, 13.41
- They beg for more the next day, 13.42
- It seems some believed [*13.42? 13.48*]
- Word spread [*13.49*]
- Big trouble “**leading men. . .drove them out**”, 13.50
- Paul “**shook the dust off their feet**”, 13.51

* *Matt 10.14* “*whoever shall not hear your words. . . .shake off*” [Jesus]

[8Keys](#) # 3, COMPARE

• Length of stay unknown,

months—pjm,

• “**reading of the Law and the Prophets**”, meant the complete OT Scripture

Paul’s sermon, Stephen-like: heavy on the OT, [*13.33*] Jewish audience.

Message has distinctly Hebrew flavor.

[8Keys](#) # 3, COMPARE

- 13.33 Psa 2.7 “Thou art My Son”
- 13.34 Isa 55.3 “the sure mercies of David”
- 13.35 Psa 16.10 “not allow. . .undergo decay”
- 13.41 Hab 1.5 “you will not believe”

But Paul’s message is still “grace not works”

13.24 Did these Jews in central Turkey even know who John the Baptist was and that he was Jesus’ cousin?

My paragraph title: 13.16 Paul’s 1st missionary sermon

An APPLICATION I can use: As I lead, Lord, help me to become a better team player.

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ch. 13.13

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44+ AD

✚ v.43, Pisidians kept begging, v.48, Gentiles believed

Acts 13.42-48

title: _____

13.42 **“people kept begging”**, It seems some had become believers already, pjm
13.43,44 **“God-fearing proselytes [cf 15.1]. . . whole city assembled to hear him”**, Jews were hungry to know the truth

13.45,46 Scathing accusation, **“you judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life”**,

- Jewish hecklers **“contradicting. . . blaspheming”**, so **“P & B waxed bold. . . we turn to the Gentiles”**,
First of 3X. 13.46 Antioch / 18.6 Corinth / 19.9 Ephesus
- How did Paul know it would please God to seek the Gentiles? Not until Acts 22.21 did God actually say he was sending Paul “to the Gentiles.”

I Quit This time Paul found God’s Will in the antagonistic response of the Jews. So he went to the Gentiles. God had already told Paul he would be a missionary to the Gentiles when Ananias put his hands on him [Acts 9.15].

13.47 **“You [Jews] are a light to the Gentiles”**, Isa 42.6

13.48 **“Gentiles rejoiced”**, God and the people are excited that folks believed!

“as many as were ordained [appointed] to eternal life, believed”,

8Keys #4, LITERAL

- At FACE VALUE, this may seem to indicate that God had selected some to believe and not selected others.
ordained/appointed = **тетαγμενοι, τεταγμονοι**, appoint, determine
Strong’s # 5021—passive, someone else did the selecting **8Keys #4, GRAMMAR**
- Let’s look at another one of the **8Keys #7, UNCLEAR PHRASES ARE UNDERSTOOD WHEN THE LIGHT OF CLEAR TEACHING SHINES ON THEM**
- Belief is necessary [13.48]. Who believed? *people who listened*. Did God know they would believe? *Yes, He knows everything in the past and future*.
He knows my sin in the future but I am 100% responsible for each sin. When I choose to sin, I do it of my own free will. God knew my decision would be to place my trust in Jesus as my Savior as a kid, but with the choice God gave me, I decided myself to trust Jesus Christ.
see PhilMyersBlog.com 211 verses, Salvation Just by Faith
- God did not decide [appoint/ordain/choose] whether the people who listened to Paul’s preaching would believe and be saved. Yes, I know it is a knotty sort of situation we find, but just because God knows everything, does not mean He made us robots. Yes, we do have a real choice. In His sovereignty God chose to give us a free choice—believe or reject.
“What must we do to work the works of God. This is the work of God that ye believe on Him Whom He hath sent.” *John 6.29*
- *When you and I come to a “seemingly unexplainable wording”*
* *By the by, if you find that you can comprehend the first twenty chapters of your physics text, and you run into a knotty problem that seems like a contradiction, . . . remember there is not only Physics texts Number Two & Three, but teachers have written texts Numbers Eight, Nine, and Ten. They had the same questions you have right now.*
* *Take heart, some Scripture is difficult for God to explain to everybody’s satisfaction.*
* *Some become Calvinists and hold God accountable for the unbelief all those who are lost.*

My paragraph title:

13.44 Jewish resistance - ministry to Gentiles

An APPLICATION I can use: Thank You for my dad who told me what to believe.

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44+ AD

Acts 13.49-52

13.50 **“Jews. . .women. . .persecution. . .drove them out”**, *no need for Paul to pray about this decision. The mob made the choice for him.*

How did Paul determine God’s will?

[see PhilMyersBlog.com](http://PhilMyersBlog.com) **I Quit**

In the booklet I describe 39 different times and 14 different ways Paul used to determine whether to continue in the same path or go somewhere else in the book of Acts. It will help us as we face choices in our own lives. Some decisions are entirely our own: What color to paint the house, what car to buy, which girl to marry, which job offer to take, whether to move to Switzerland. But with some decisions we face a choice in which God may not give many options. Paul faced many of the same forks in the Road that we face.

13.51 **“they shook off the dust of their feet”**, *Matt 10.14*

8Keys #3, COMPARE

My paragraph title: **13.49 Jewish women resist**

An APPLICATION I can use: May popular opinion never dissuade me from good choices.

✚ **v.1, believed in Iconium synagogue**

Acts 14.1-7

title: _____

14.1 **“Iconium [central Turkey]. . .to synagogue. . .large number of people believed”**,

14.2 2nd persecution, bitter Jews

14.3,5 **“signs and wonders”**, at the hands of the apostles. . . **“attempt to stone [the apostles]. . .[they] fled”**, again, no special instructions from the Holy Spirit, they just ran for their lives, . . .God’s will.

My paragraph title: **14.1 Attempted stoning at Iconium**

An APPLICATION I can use: Lord, give me just the right strength at just the right time.

✚ **v.8, Lystra, lame man believed?**

Acts 14.8-18

title: _____

14.8-20 four responses at Lystra:

- v.8 1 lame man, faith
- v.11 crowds, “Zeus is here!”
- v.19 apostles, “Your gods aren’t even gods!”
- v.20 new believers’ response, crowd around Paul and pray [*I suppose*]

14.8,9 3rd time a lame man was healed [*Jesus, Peter & John, Paul*]

- first time Paul heals anybody,
 - Paul loses this “gift” of healing by the end of his ministry [*66 AD*].
* “Epaphroditus have I left sick at Miletus.” *Phil 2.27 [see also II Tim 4.20 Acts 28.8,9]*
 - *My observation is that I’ve also seen friends’ “gifts” change over different periods of their lives. pjm, opinion* **8Keys** OPINION

“faith to be healed”, not always needed. Once a blind man said of Jesus, “Whether He be a sinner or no, whereas I was blind, now I see.” He didn’t even know who had healed him. John 9.25.

14.11 Paul & Barnabas were worshipped as **“gods. . .[ready to make]. . .sacrifices [14.18]”**,

14.12 Barnabas was called Zeus [*Gr.*]/Jupiter [*Latin*] = chief god Paul was called Hermes/Mercury = chief speaker, messenger, interpreter, god of flower delivery ☺, as well as fertility, and thievery.

14.15-17 Paul’s shortest sermon given to superstitious heathens who believed in Roman mythology

* Topic here: JHVH is Creator-God—above all gods

* The previous Pisidian group [*13.16*] were Bible-knowledgeable Jews.

My paragraph title: **14.8 Cripple healed at Lystra**

An APPLICATION I can use: Different people respond to the Gospel in different ways. Please lead me to those whom I can reach best. To those whose hearts are prepared by the Spirit to believe the truth. And help me to remember that friends who get angry are already under conviction and the Holy Spirit has been preparing their hearts for my words.

Session

19

ch. 14.1

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Ways to pray

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Praying better

✠ v.21, Antioch, made many disciples

Acts 14.19-22

title: _____

14.19 **“they stoned Paul”**, rather capricious & fickle. [see also II Cor 11.25]

14.20 **“[dead]...got up...next day...went to Derbe”** 60 miles to the east

14.21 preached all around Derbe [for months?] **“many disciples”**.

My paragraph title: 14.19 Paul stoned

An APPLICATION I can use: STONING! HAH! I laugh at stoning. . . well, at least You know, Lord, that I'd like it to be that way.

Acts 14.23-28

title: _____

14.23 church planted in Iconium and **“appointed elders”**, in every church they revisited,

* **“with prayer and fasting”**,

* It seems that P & B may have left behind some of their traveling companions at each “new” church? There is no reason to believe that P & B didn't have [or pick up] other believers who tagged along. Since they went to Jews first and many believed, they might have been able to leave some pretty knowledgeable disciples behind. Too bad, they couldn't leave some New Testament books with the baby churches, too. I would think these companions would have been veteran believing Jews who knew the OT well.


- Elders, presbuteros = pastors for the churches
 - Note Titus 1.5,7 elders, *πρεσβυτερος*, [presbuteros] [v.5] and bishops (overseers), *επισκοπος/episkopos* [v.7] are the same guys. Acts 20.28, speaking to the elders of Miletus, Paul tells them to “shepherd the church of God.” Elder=bishop/overseer=pastor = same guys. Just different titles.
 - * The Spanish word “pastor” is the word for shepherd.
 - * The word “pastor” does not appear in the New Testament.
 - Altogether we know the names of 26 traveling companions Paul had. [see list at 16.14] church = *εκκλησια, ekklesia* - it can be translated: assembly, gathering, church, body—as in the Body of Christ,
 - * ek = out kaleo = to call thus, an “ekklesia” is a called out group of people or called together group of people
 - The word had its roots in the public “agora” or village meeting place in the center of town.

14.23ff

I hope you're still trying to “read” some of these Greek words.

14.26-28 Wiersbe calls the return to Antioch the first “mini-missionary conference,” and says “Jesus had the local church in mind when He gave the Great Commission.” “Go! Preach! Teach!”

14.28 **“spent a long time”**, in Antioch when they got back.

- Paul wrote Galatians  during this period. *pjm*,
- I betcha copies of Galatians spread like wildfire to many [all?] church plants as quickly as someone could make copies.

My paragraph title: 14.23 Elders appointed for Lystra church

An APPLICATION I can use: Teach me to pray for the elders in my church more diligently.

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50 AD

The JERUSALEM COUNCIL**Acts 15.1-5**

title: _____

15.1 **"except ye be circumcised. . . ye cannot be saved"** = works for salvation
Circumcision capsulizes keeping the whole OT Law.

15.5 **"Pharisees which believed"**, = mixed up after salvation

The false message: "Jesus is necessary but not enough."

8Keys COMPARING FALSE TEACHINGS

Becoming a Jewish proselyte: [see 13.43] demanded circumcision among other rituals.

- Exod 12.48
- Deut 4.5-7
- Acts 6.5 Nicolas
- Acts 13.43 devout proselytes
- Today, circumcision is an outpatient procedure. Leave with a band-aid and Tylenol.

Session
20

ch. 15.1

My paragraph title: 15.1 2nd Jerusalem Council convenes, [first Council was chapter 1.15-20]

An APPLICATION I can use: Guide me in my study of Your Word.

Acts 15.6-12

title: _____

15.11 **"We are saved through the grace of the Lord!"** Not of works!

My paragraph title: 15.6 Peter's comments: belief, grace, faith

An APPLICATION I can use: Thank You that salvation was simple enough for me to understand as a small child!

Acts 15.13-21

title: _____

15.13 *"If the elders were organized as a kind of Sanhedrin, James was their president."* F.F. Bruce

15.19ff Prohibitions are moral issues not dealing with the primary problem of the Council Meeting that of circumcision and keeping Jewish ceremonial Law.

- The original focus was, "What are the requirement for salvation?" [2 positions]
- The issue of circumcision was resolved. 15.11 **circumcision was not required for salvation**
- The addenda: a) anti-fornication, b) anti-idolatry, c) anti-[strangled? raw?] meat, d) and blood [bloody sacrifices? murder? Unclear].
* *This was tainted theology.* *pjm, Why was this added to a discussion about the clarity of the Gospel? I dunno.*
- Why were these 4 added? These four items were probably universally banned by the churches already as moral sins whether Jew or Gentile whether believer or unbeliever.
- The troubling question I still have is, "Why did the Council allow these "4 Prohibitions" to cloud the issue?" *pjm*

15.20 **"meat"**, meat had idolatrous associations

Was James mainly cautioning new believers to be careful of their testimony [idolatry? immorality? and murder?]
pjm, possibly

On the other hand, I believe Paul succumbs to **"keeping the Law and proving it by offering sacrifices"**, and making an OT [Mosaic] vow **"to. . . keep the Law."**, [21. & 16.3]

Later, Paul encourages believers in Rome [Rom 14.1ff] and Corinth [I Cor 8.1ff] to be careful not to flaunt their [food] liberties.

My paragraph title: 15.13 James' comments: cautions for new believers

An APPLICATION I can use: Teach me how I can best help others grow strong to please You.

Acts 15.22-29

title: _____

15.23-29 The Council sends a letter to Antioch with the 4 prohibitions. Why? Why not send a letter with a specific pronouncement that the dissenting Jewish Pharisees [15.5] were wrong and the matter was resolved:

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51 AD

15.11 “We are saved through the grace of the Lord!” Not of works! Not of the Law!
 15.28 The letter sent out literally says that these “4 prohibitions” are **“must”** essential/necessary. *Eph 2.8,9*
8Keys #4, LITERAL “*Sola scriptura. Sola fe.*” [*This is Latin for “Only Scripture. Only faith”*]

- **“lay . . .burden”**, on believers.
- **“it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us”**: idolatry, murder, strangled animals, immorality, [i.e. live holy lives]
 * It might be argued that this is not a comprehensive compendium, but a reminder to pursue purity. But I ask, “Why add things strangled, which came directly out of the OT ceremonial laws as well as the moral laws? [*Lev 7.26 17.10 19.26*].

My paragraph title: 15.22 The “Second” Council’s first edict

An APPLICATION I can use: I am grateful that the churches I’ve joined have always been very concerned about sound doctrine. *8 churches in 8 states.*

Acts 15.30-35 title: _____

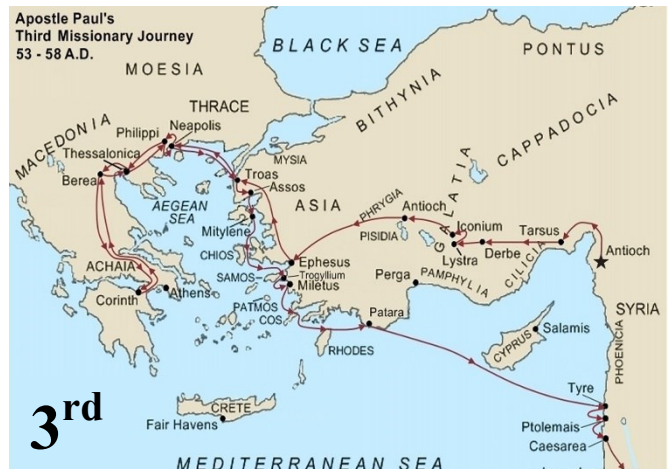
15.30 **“Judas & Silas, prophets”** [a Hebrew and a Gentile], returned to Antioch.
 15.35 **“Paul & Barnabas teach and preach [in Antioch].”**

My paragraph title: 15.30 Judas & Silas stay in Jerusalem

An APPLICATION I can use: If I had any job I wanted in the world. . .it would be to teach the Bible! Thank You, Lord, for fulfilling the greatest desire of my life. I’d like to have all my students over to my home in heaven for a big BBQ in eternity. . .for a year or two. I’d love to hear how You used each one of them.

Acts 15.36-41 title: _____

- 15.36 Paul to Barnabas: “Wow! Let’s go do it again!!!” No direct instructions from God. Just a hunger to see the new believers grow Christ and plant some more churches.
- This is a great example to finding “God’s Will.” They already knew how God had opened doors in a dozen towns. They felt no need to wait for direct words from the Holy Spirit to pursue something He had already blessed—church planting among both Jews and Gentiles.
 - And God blessed both Paul and Barnabas as they parted company.
- 15.38 Both leaders had strong reasons about inviting Mark along.
- It seems Mark evidently went straight home to Jerusalem. Mark’s mom lived in Jerusalem [*13.13,14*]
8Keys #3, COMPARE
 - Paul had no sinful grudge against Mark, just a choice that he wouldn’t be an asset on this tour.
 - Later, Paul and Mark spend time in jail together. *Col 4.10* 8Keys #3, COMPARE SCRIPTURE W/ SCRIPT
 “Bring Mark with you. He is helpful to me in my ministry,” Paul. *II Tim 4.11*



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51 AD

- 15.39 **“such a sharp disagreement / contention was so sharp”**, neither one sinned. **8Keys #2, CONTEXT**
Paul & Barnabas separated amicably but with strong feelings. There is no evidence of sin on either’s part.
- **Principle:** Don’t attribute your own carnal feelings to others. God says **“became so sharp / such a sharp disagreement.”** The Bible is not explicit that either sinned. Don’t read that in.
8Keys #4,8, VOCAB / GRAMMAR T.B.D.S.
 - I once quit working with a particular ministry because of a strong **opinion** on a serious matter. We separated amicably with the highest regard for each other. . .but we disagreed. I still esteem that work.
 - *“It takes more grace than I can tell, to play the second fiddle well.” C.H. Spurgeon*
* Evidently Barnabas played it well.
- 15.40,41 No biosketch of Barnabas and Mark on Cyprus.
Barnabas, son of encouragement, felt strongly about a 2nd chance for Mark. **pjm**

My paragraph title: 15.36 Paul & Barnabas split, Barnabas goes home, Silas comes with Paul
An APPLICATION I can use: May my ministry differences with others never cause a rift.

PAUL [from here to the end of the book]
2nd MISSIONARY TRIP

16.1—18.22, 96 verses

✝ v.5, church increased daily

Acts 16.1-5 title: _____

Start of the 2nd missionary tour
Paul has already started to write epistles

- After 1st tour: Galatians, before Jerusalem Council [Acts 15] 49 AD **pjm**
- On 2nd tour: I & II Thessalonians 51 AD **pjm**
- On 3rd tour: I & II Corinthians, Romans, Hebrews 56 AD
- During 1st imprisonment: Eph, Phil, Col, Philemon 57 AD
- After release from prison: I Timothy & Titus 60 AD
- Later, 2nd imprisonment: II Timothy 63 AD

8Keys BEST GUESSES ON DATES

- 16.1 **“Timothy”** joins the squad. I wonder if the church in **“Lystra”** asked why Barnabas wasn’t along with Paul and the people suggested Timothy as a replacement.
- Tim had deep roots and had come to faith [II Tim 3.15 *“from a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures. . .salvation through faith”*] through **Lois & Eunice**.
 - Tim was already **“well spoken of”** [v.2] by the **brethren** of two cities, **Lystra & Iconium**.
 - Obviously, Tim was well-fit to join these freewheeling soul winners. Paul called Tim his right-hand man who was like a “son.” A seasoned believer. Surely not a babe in Christ who had just trusted Christ after Paul showed up in town two years ago on his first missionary tour.
 - Before long he became Paul’s best friend [**B.F.F.**] and most trusted co-worker. *“I have no one like him.” Phil 2.19-23*

Session
21

ch. 16.1

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- 16.3 Paul was foolish and wrong: **“Paul. . .circumcised. . .him [Timothy] because of the Jews”**, Immediately after the Council forbade circumcision. Paul bowed to the pressure of “What will the Jews think if Timothy isn’t a law keeping Jew.” Several of Paul’s travelling companions had Greek names, like Timotheus. We know nothing of their ethnic backgrounds. It can be assumed several may have been Gentiles. Did Paul demand their circumcision for the same reason as Timothy? After all, Timothy had grown up as a practicing Gentile with a Jewish faith,
- If you do not see Paul’s sin here it is most probably because of your presupposition, your personal opinion that Paul was *[always]* pleasing to God *[in everything]* he did which is recorded in Scripture. Not a bad place to start, and I agree with that expectation 98%.
We don’t suppose Paul intentionally sinned, but to leave the Council in chapter 15 which *[almost]* forbid that Gentiles should ever be circumcised to conform to Mosaic Law, and then to circumcise a Jew **because of the Jews which were in those parts [16.3]**, is reverting to keeping the Law.
Please don’t defend Paul against the obvious evidence. **8Keys #4, LITERAL**
cf Gal 2.1-5, the circumcision of Titus, a Gentile.
 - Later *[Gal 6.12]* Paul makes a weak “apology” for circumcising Timothy, or at least a definite change of mind.
- 16.4 Paul’s message is not salvation by faith. It changes to, **“the [four] decrees. . .that were ordained of the apostles and elders.”**, *[fornication, idolatry, strangled, blood]*. **8Keys #3, COMPARE**
- 16.5 The result of the Jerusalem Council was **“churches established. . .increased in numbers daily”**,

My paragraph title:

16.1 Timothy joins the mission

An APPLICATION I can use: Early in my adult life while still a Bible college student, someone saw something in me and gave me a job teaching the Bible. Thank You Lord. Help me bring others along the same way.

Acts 16.6-10

title: _____

- 16.6 **“forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach”**, how he was told is undisclosed, **8Keys #7, T.B.D.S.**
- “Spirit suffered them not”**, *[16.7]*
 - Bithynia heard later *[1 Pet 1.1]*
 - 2nd divine message came at Troas *[Troy = Trojan Horse, 1184 BC]*
- 16.8,9 **“Troas. . .vision appeared to Paul. . .come over into Macedonia. . .gathering that the Lord had called us to preach.”**
- * Knowing “God’s will” - rarely by divine contact, most often by feelings *[peace in the soul or often, just godly wisdom]*.
- 16.10 This verse starts one of the “we/us” portions of Acts. It’s not a strong proof, but many readers believe that when Luke uses “we” it means that Luke joins Paul and the team. Many others believe *[like I do]* that Luke was right there with the team even when he writes in his “they” mode. It certainly could be either way. Luke’s specific role in church planting isn’t recorded.
- * **I choose to believe** Luke traveled with the cadre most of the time, at least from here on since he is even a cell mate with Paul in Rome in jail. **pjm**
 - “We” sections of Acts = 16.10-17 20.5 through 21.18 27.1 through 28.16
 - * Other parts of Scripture mix multiple pronouns in the same paragraph: notably in Psalms.
 - * Psa 3.3 = You, O Lord 2nd person
Psa 3.5 = The Lord. . . 3d person
 - “from there [Troy] to Philippi”**, this Road was the famous Egnatian Way, part of “all *[cobblestone]* roads lead to Rome.” **8Keys ANCIENT ROMAN HISTORY**

My paragraph title:

16.6 Macedonian vision in Turkey [at the Bosporus]

An APPLICATION I can use: Thank You Lord, for the abundance of information available about those who are seeking God in the 21st century.

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✝ v.14, Lydia believed

Acts 16.11-15

title: _____

16.13,14 no synagogue—so they looked for a place for prayer

- Paul searched. The Spirit led.
- “I, being in the way, the Lord led me.” *Gen 24.27, Eleazar*
- Needed 10 Jewish males to start a synagogue, in a city of hundreds of thousands.
 - * Synagogues may have started about Ezekiel’s time. Not any mandate in Scripture to attend a synagogue. Synagogues just came into being as the need arose.
 - * Jesus approved of the synagogue. He went there. *See Gospels.*

16.14 “Lydia [a God-fearer]. . .the Lord opened her heart”, [*other unsaved God-fearers: Cornelius, the Eunuch, Syro-Phoenecian woman*]

* a church planted on a river bank

- Lydia’s home is big enough to house at least 4 visitors for a period of time [*Paul, Luke, Timothy, Silas, and others [?]*], “come into my house and abide/stay there.”,
- She probably sold only to the rich who could afford purple, the most expensive color in the Roman empire. **8Keys ROMAN CULTURE**
- We know of at least 26 men who traveled with Paul’s small army.

1. Aquil_ & Pri_____ Acts 16.3,4
2. Ari_____ Acts 20.1-5 19.29
3. Bar_____ Acts 13.2,5
4. Bar_____ Acts 15.22 [Judas]
5. Cre_____ II Tim 4.10
6. Dem_____ II Tim 4.9 Phlm 24
7. Epa_____ Col 1.17 4.12 Phlm 3, 24
8. Epa_____ Phil 2.25 4.18
9. Era_____ Acts 19.22 II Tim 4.20
10. Gai_____ Acts 19.29 20.4
11. Joh_____ M_____ Acts 13.5
12. Jus_____ Col 4.11
13. Luk_____ Acts 20.5 II 4.11
14. One_____ Col.4.9
15. One_____ II Tim 4.19
16. Sec_____ Acts 20.4
17. Sil_____ Acts 15.22 15.40
18. Silv_____ I Thes 1.1
19. Sop_____ Acts 20.4
20. Ter_____ Romans 16.22
21. Tim_____ Acts 20.4
22. Tit_____ II Tim 4.10 not mentioned in Acts
23. Tro_____ Acts 20.4 II Tim 4.20
[Paul left Trophimus sick at Miletus]
24. Tyc_____ Acts 20.4
25. Urb_____ Romans 16.9
26. “and others” Acts 15.2

My paragraph title: **16.11 Lydia in Philippi**

An APPLICATION I can use: Thank You for opening Lydia’s heart to salvation. Thank You for opening my own heart to wanting to serve You all of my life. Thank You for pulling me close to Your side.

✝ v.18, possessed girl believed?

Acts 16.16-18

title: _____

16.16 “fortune-telling”, demonic predictive powers [*demons do miracles: Simon, Acts 8*]

No one but God actually knows the future. Only God is omniscient.

16.17 “These men. . .proclaim to us THE way of salvation”,

- Satan used her message to draw attention to herself— “for many days.”
- Many pastors translate her proclamation, “show unto us A way of salvation”, *οδον, hodon = a way*
 - There is no definite article the in the passage,” therefore it is not correct to translate the statement as “THE way of salvation.” **8Keys #4, GRAMMAR**

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51 AD

16.18 The exorcism. The spirit **“came out”**. It is not explicit when the girl was saved, but her owners were furious. I choose to believe that she was saved through the preaching which she heard **“for many days”**. Many have come to Christ this way. Though demon possessed, she was not insane or stupid.

8Keys #8, T.B.D.S. *pjm*, saved

* In the gospels we know that the demon possessed man wanted to follow Jesus after he was saved. He was instructed to go home and witness to his family. [Mark 5]

My paragraph title: 16.16 Girl exorcised?

An APPLICATION I can use: Lord, those with demonic spirits must ache spiritually. Help us [me] to reach them with the Gospel. They are not the enemy. . .they are victims of our enemy, Satan.

Session
22

Acts 16.19-24

title: _____

ch. 16.19

16.19 Her owners performed a citizens' arrest and took Paul to the police station.

* Note instructions given to demoniacs: I Tim 4.1-6 I John 4.1-4

16.21 **“customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans”**,

* Illegal to propagate a religion not officially approved by Rome.

* Jews had special permission to practice because the empire had to bow to the fact that they knew the Jews wouldn't budge when required to worship the emperor as a god.

16.22,23 **“Magistrates. . .commanded them to be beaten with rods [not whips]”**,

- Fairly safe for the soldier to assume Paul & Silas weren't Roman citizens. Less than 10% of the empire were citizens.
- **“rent off their clothes”**
- “thrice I was beaten with rods” - II Cor 11.25
- All this time Paul knew that he was going to “put them over a barrel” when he would later confront them with the fact of his citizenship.

My paragraph title: 16.19 P & S in prison

An APPLICATION I can use: Thank You for Mr. M who was wrongfully imprisoned in Africa but found many, many Muslims in jail who were eager to hear about Jesus.

✚34, jailer's family saved

Acts 16.25-34

title: _____

16.25 **“Paul & Silas were praying and singing”** at midnight—earthquake—everyone's chains broke.

16.27 Jailer's life is at stake if any prisoner escapes. Suicide is better than torture.

16.30,31 Jailer must have heard them preaching. He talks [only, and specifically] to Paul & Silas,

“What must I do to be saved?”,

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ [the Jewish Messiah], and you will be saved”, **8Keys** KEEP IT SIMPLE

“and thy house”, everybody in your family will be saved IF THEY BELIEVE. *Simple solution.*

16.34b **“believing in God with all his house”**,

My paragraph title: 16.25 “What must I do to be saved?”

An APPLICATION I can use: Thank You that belief is enough. Depending on You is enough. Faith is all it takes to be saved. I've never met a person who fully understands that Jesus paid for his/her sins and only demands faith in Your substitution for sinners, yet still doesn't trust You as savior. Few who grasp the message are still unsaved.

ACTS: EXEGESIS

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Praying better

Acts 16.35-40

title: _____

16.35-37 **“Release these men. . . go in peace. . . They have beaten us openly, uncondemned, being Romans . . . Send us away secretly? No indeed! . . . Let [the magistrates] come and fetch us out”.**

- Far less than 10% of the empire were Roman citizens.
- Non-citizens had few personal rights which we Americans assume are “inalienable” for all people.

16.39 Yes, the magistrates came and **“besought/begged them. . . to depart out of the city.”**

* Claiming citizenship was simply done by saying, “Civis Romanus sum,” *I am a Roman citizen.*

8Keys ROMAN LEGAL SYSTEM [Cicero ii, *Verine Oration*]

* False claims of citizenship may lead to death.

My paragraph title: 16.35 P & S released

An APPLICATION I can use: I'd like to say I rejoiced if slandered [again].

Session

23

ch. 16.35

✚ v.4, Thessalonika, large number believed

Acts 17.1-9

title: _____

17.1,2 **“synagogue. . . three sabbaths”**, this does not limit the evangelists' total stay to less than a month

- It seems Paul was there for several months. pjm
- When Paul and his guys left, there was a thriving church which existed for many years to come.
* I attended Dallas Seminary with a friend named Mark who became pastor of the Baptist Church of Thessalonika.
- Paul received gifts from Philippi several times during their stay [Phil 4.15,16]
- Paul was a “tentmaker” for a time in Thes, [I Thes 2.9]

My paragraph title: 17.1 P's sermon in Thessalonika

An APPLICATION I can use: Thank You that the Thessalonika church was generous with Paul. Keep my heart aware of missionaries' needs, too.

✚ v.12 Berea, many believed

Acts 17.10-15

title: _____

17.10-15 Just because people hate us doesn't make us right. Sometimes it might be because we've been a tiny bit obnoxious. But don't be surprised if even our kind and gentle deeds are repaid with nastiness.

- Paul shipped out of Berea [v.15] because of out-of-towners from Thessalonika. But Silas and Timothy didn't seem to be in danger, just Paul. Before long S & T joined Paul in Athens.
- Later, Tim was sent back to Thessalonika [I Thes 3.1-6] and Silas went to Macedonia [Philippi]. Both men later joined Paul in Corinth [Acts 18.1-5].

17.11 Bereans **“searched the Scriptures daily to see if these things we so”**,

- This is one reason I encourage people to set aside 20-30 minutes every day [at least 5 days a week] to read the Bible and pray and examine their hearts. Try to increase that time as allowable as you grow.
- We can all be “good Christians” if we do the good things and don't do the bad things but we will never be “strong” Christians if we don't spend time WITH the Savior meditating on His Word. He's written 1,000 pages in His book. He expects all of us will learn much about what He wrote. Two 35-minute sermons each week will motivate us, but it takes some poring over the Scripture to get to know the heart of God.
- I don't know how many verses God expects us to memorize, but I'm sure there are a couple hundred which everybody ought to be able to paraphrase. After all, everybody can sing the words to 1,000 songs or else verses in the hymn book.
- That's why I wrote the **Doc's Discovery Books**. You can get them free on my website. They will take you through every chapter of the Bible and I'll ask you about 5-10 questions in every chapter [that's 5,000 questions in 1,000 chapters]. I've also selected 117 verses to “memorize or at least read 10 times aloud” when you come to them.
There are 1,189 chapters in the Bible. Read the New Testament 4 or 5 times and then read the Old Testament once. **Keep it up for the rest of your life.**

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52 AD

If you read one-chapter-a-day your whole adult life, you'll get through the Bible 10 to 15 times before you die. Read 3-5 chapters a day and. . .Wow!

- . . .end of sermonette.

17.14,15 **"Silas and Timothy remained there [as Bible teachers]"**, maybe as acting-elders in the new church.

This seems to be Paul's M.O. of church planting.

- It certainly has been a missionary strategy around the world in our recent era. For years Jonathan Goforth planted strings of churches in China in the 1800s after staying in a county for a solid month doing evangelism in each area. He left Bible teachers behind and then went back to visit these ministries to baptize, teach, and train.

My paragraph title:

17.10 Noble Bereans

An APPLICATION I can use: They searched the Scriptures daily. May that always be true of me.

Acts 17.16-31

title: _____

17,17 **"the marketplace"**, the agora, a commercial center of villages and cities

17.18 Paul was invited to be the daily "guest speaker" because of **"Jesus and the resurrection"**,

Other beliefs that deny any resurrection or life-after-death:

- Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, atheism, agnosticism, Judaism [21st cent], existentialism, humanism, many evolutionists, Taoism, Sikhism, hedonism, epicureanism, and Stoicism
- The **teleological** argument is the concept that there must be life after death since the majority of every society intrinsically grasps the concept of life after death. Animals don't, not even in the mythical elephant burial grounds [which don't exist].

17.22ff Paul's Athens is past its glory days and is in decline but still a powerfully influential city.

Paul used no direct quotations from the OT Scriptures on Mars Hill.

"to the UNKNOWN GOD",

* 12 major Roman gods * 16 more well-known gods

[most were the Greek gods with much the same mythology, but the names & language changed.]

"Men of Athens", had a world famous university, Pericles to blame **8Keys** ROMAN PHILOSOPHY

- **"Epicureans"**, hedonists who craved sensual pleasure and happiness
- **"Stoics"**, good is based on knowledge and reason, not on pleasure; admired Zeus
* esteemed: wisdom, justice, courage, moderation
* called Paul a "babbling" "seed-picker" **σπερμαλογος [spermalogos]**, = one who gathered scraps of knowledge like picking up seeds
- Both groups denied the existence of a soul or the afterlife and mocked the Rez.

17.24-31 Paul's sermon: "The Gospel to the Intellect" [it didn't work]

a. God the Creator, [17.24]

b. God is not unknowable, He is for those who seek Him [17.27]

c. Jesus rose from the dead [17.30]

Paul's strategy:

* acknowledged their religiosity, "Unknown God"

* **"very religious" or "too superstitious" [KJV]** using the word **deisidamonesterous**, literally "fearing the spirits," an innuendo for "behind your idols, are demons"

8Keys #4, GRAMMAR/ VOCAB

* Paul represented what they admitted they were looking for

* Refute their beliefs: God is Creator [17.24], God cannot be known through stone idols [17.29], Your Thinking is Wrong—Repent [17.30], God has the right to judge man [17.31] God can be known through Jesus' Resurrection [27]. . .interrupted by sneers.

* 17.28 **"even as some of your own poets have said"**, Paul quotes Epimenides to show that the poet came close but missed the truth [possibly the poets Araius & Cleanthes?].

* Maybe Luke's point in recording this sermon was to show how hard it is for the educated elite to embrace the simplicity of the message of salvation.

My paragraph title:

17.16 Speech on Mars Hill

An APPLICATION I can use: I will look for people who are all mixed up, like the Athenians.

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†34, Mars Hill, several believers**Acts 17.32-34**

title: _____

17.32 “some mocked/sneered”, sneering is the response of those who cannot give a rational answer.17.34 “some . . . believed”, Dionysius & Damaris**My paragraph title:****17.32 Philosophers mock the resurrection at Athens****An APPLICATION I can use:** Even among the mockers there are thirsty people like Dionesius & Damaris. I will look for them.

Session

24

ch. 17.32

Acts 18.1-4

title: _____

18.1 Corinth, Romans was probably written while Paul lived here in Corinth. [Rom 1.18-32]

* Las Vegas, New York, and New Orleans have earned the reputation of Corinth.

* 900 temple prostitutes on the AcroCorinth overlooking the city

* Sailor's port for promiscuity.

* Shortcut from Italy to markets in Asia.

* First letter to Corinthians carried 14 rebukes for open sins in the congregation.

* Second letter commended them for addressing the sins and practicing purity!

18.2 Aquila and Priscilla, tentmakers expelled from Rome. [II Tim 4.19]

• Paul was also a tentmaker, [I Cor 9.6-15 II Cor 11.9]

• Paul stays in business with them for 2 verses [4 & 5] until Silas and Tim show up.

• Why did he quit? [8Keys](#) # 8, T.B.D.S.• Silas & Tim get jobs and support Paul so that he can quit. II Cor 11.9 I Thes *pjm*

• Although Kay and I have always tried to be over-generous in our own giving, we have been on the receiving end of the churches' giving most of our lives. We raised 9 kids out of the generosity of many friends. We are extra grateful to the Lord and His servants for helping us to accomplish as much as we have to His glory. Amen!

[see PhilMyersBlog.com](http://PhilMyersBlog.com)[Paul's 28 Prayers for His Churches](#)**My paragraph title:****18.1 P lives with Aquila & Priscilla****An APPLICATION I can use:** Aquila and Priscilla probably wondered why they were chased out of Rome until they arrived in Corinth and met Paul.18.1 Temple on Acrocorinth,
900 Temple prostitutes.Corinthian canal
today.**†† v.8, Crispus believed v.8, many Corinthians believed****Acts 18.5-11**

title: _____

18.6-9 “be not afraid”

note another time when Paul faced tension:

I Cor 16.9 “great and effective door has opened to me. . . AND. . . there are many adversaries”,

n.b. [note well], Paul doesn't say “BUT there are many adversaries.” He was saying, “Pray for us. This is a tremendous opportunity in spite of all the hassles!”

- Our enemy, Satan, gets angry when we invade his territory.
- [Some, not most] enemies of Christ are intentional in their efforts to undermine your testimony. [The day my fellow-employee, Johnny, quit our night-time job, he told me that he had tried a dozen times to make me angry. I had no idea I was being tested.]

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54 AD

- 18.6 **“shake your tunic”**, Neh 5.13 Acts 13.51
- **“your blood be on your own hands”**. Ezek 3.17-21 33.1-9 Acts 20.26
 - We can all think of friends whose eternal souls we neglected.
- 18.7,8 Justus shows up out of nowhere! He lives right next to the synagogue. Crispus, Synagogue ruler
- Many Bible readers think he is also called Gaius as well as Titus, the pastor, Paul’s friend to whom he wrote the book.
 - I Cor 1.14—Crispus & Gaius Rom 16.23—Gaius **8Keys # 3, COMPARE SCRIPTURE**
 - Whole family saved! Yes!
- 18.9,10 **“Do not be afraid! . . . do not be silent. . . I am with you. . . I have many people in this city”**,
- 18.11 So Paul and the team stayed for a year and a half and saw much fruit. Church firmly planted.

My paragraph title:**18.5 We go to the Gentiles**

An APPLICATION I can use: I was literally threatened by a shotgun to leave, but I got to talk to his friend on the way to the gate. Thank You for opportunities.

Acts 18.12-17

title: _____

- 18.14 **“Gallio”**, [a proconsul, not appointed by the emperor] legitimizes Christianity by making it a sect of Judaism. It was, in truth, a continuation of Judaism. Same cargo, same truth, different vehicle.
- * Rome did not permit new religions, but had actually bowed to Judaism whose adherents refused to bow to the emperor—as a god. **8Keys ROMAN HISTORY**

18.14 Gallio’s
Judge’s seat,
at Corinth

**My paragraph title:****18.12 Gallio dismisses accusation against P**

An APPLICATION I can use: I will pray harder that we get people in public office who are sensitive to Christians.

Acts 18.18-21

title: _____

Acts 18.18-23 Paul drops in to see church at Ephesus

- 18.19,20 **“they asked [Paul] to stay longer [at Ephesus]”**. He didn’t stay. [returns Acts 19.8]
- 18.21 **“if God wills”**, How did Paul determine God’s will? *Party at the Jerusalem church at Pentecost.*
- I Quit**, *New method. People tried to persuade Paul to stay, but he left anyway. Personal choice. No divine sign.*
- Does God change His mind in answer to our prayers?
Heb 6.3 Luke 22.42 [Jesus’ request, denied] Gen 18.16-33
Exod 32.9,10,14 Jonah 3.4-4.2 I John 5.14,15
Isa 65.24 John 14.13,14
- 18.22 **“he [Paul] went down to Antioch”**, to Caesarea then home to Antioch, end of 2nd trip
Paul & team travel 1,500 miles in 3 verses
- 18.23 2nd missionary tour ends and Paul **“having spent some time [at Antioch]. . . .”**
- * Maybe he writes Hebrews, now.
 - * Maybe he planted another church on the outskirts of Antioch. **8Keys # 8, T.B.D.S.**

An APPLICATION I can use:

Just a whistle-stop on his travels, but Paul later returns to stay for 18 months to plant a church. Lord, help me to be sensitive to “chance meetings” with those I can later bring to faith.

Your paragraph title & application**3rd MISSIONARY TRIP**

18.23—21.20, 105 verses

PAUL & TMOTHY, LUKE, others?**Acts 18.23-28 A & P disciple Apollos**

- 18.23 3rd missionary trip starts in the middle of verse 23.
Paul decides [on his own?] to go back to Galatia [eastern Turkey] and Phrygia [western Turkey] to do some follow-up work, teaching, praying, answering theological questions, challenging? Who knows?
- 18.24 Paul goes back to Ephesus [in region of Phrygia], where he had visited at the end of his 2nd tour.

Session

25

ch. 18.22

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- Paul stays 3 years, *[his longest stint] see 19.9,10*
On his second trip Paul had visited Ephesus for a while with Timothy, Aquila and Priscilla. Aquila and Priscilla evidently stayed behind when Paul left.
- He had visited Ephesus on 2nd trip, left Tim, Aquila and Priscilla, and Apollos there.
- 18.25 Apollos had shown up in Ephesus and had run into Aquila and Priscilla
- From Alexandria in Egypt.
- Knew only **“the baptism of John”**,
- MIGHTY in the Scriptures. *[maybe Luke is comparing him to Paul’s grasp of Scriptures]*
* The average well-educated rabbi *[perhaps like Paul]* might have: **8Keys JEWISH**
- LORE
 - Memorized much of the Torah
 - Read much of the 25-volume Talmud
 - Learned the Psalms by heart
 - Became conversant in all parts of the Prophets
- Aquila and Priscilla “catechized” Apollos - probably taught him the basics of the crucifixion, Res, filling of the Spirit, Great Commission, Pentecost & start of the Church, progress report of church planting over the last 20 years, and perhaps the existence of the first few books of the NT which had been written *[Galatians, Mark, Hebrews?]*.
Apollos soon heads off to Corinth. *[19.1]*
- Ephesus is home of Diana’s *[Latin]* temple was over 400 years old, 418’ x 236’
[140 yds x 80 yds]
- One of the 7 Wonders of the World
see PhilMyersBlog.com 7 Wonders of Ancient World
- Good harbor at Ephesus *[today Ephesus is 4 miles inland, no harbor]*
- A major Roman hub.
- In Ephesus, home of Artemis *[Greek]* was a goddess who “fell down from heaven”
- Religious prostitutes at the temple
- Much later *[it seems]* the apostle John became pastor, elder, and regional “bishop” at Ephesus *[perhaps for many years before being exiled to Patmos]*. **8Keys CHURCH HISTORY**

18.24 much bigger than
a football field.



An APPLICATION I can use: Thank You Lord, for people who have invested time in my spiritual life helping me to learn to love You: Dad and Mom, Arden, Linda, Ernie, Kay. . .

Your paragraph title & application**Acts 19.1-7**

title: _____

- 19.1 Apollos goes to Corinth. *Pastor? Staff? Bible teacher?* **8Keys #8, T.B.D.S.**
“Apollos watered” *I Cor 2.6*
Paul left Corinth and traveled to Ephesus, 3rd visit *[1,000 miles by foot, 350 miles by air]*.
- Stays 3 months, *19.8*, preaches in a synagogue
 - Good harbor at Ephesus *[today Ephesus is 4 miles inland, no harbor]*
 - Diana’s temple was one of the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World
 - A major Roman hub.
 - Much later *[it seems]* the apostle John became pastor, elder, and regional “bishop” at Ephesus *[perhaps for many years before being exiled to Patmos]*.
- 19.2,3 Like Apollos, these believers knew nothing past the baptism of John the Baptist. *see note at 18.25*
They were baptized into John the Baptist’s *[Old Testament]* baptism *[now 20 years after JB’s death]*.
- Luke 3.16 Matt 3.11
- 19.5 **“they were [re-]baptized”**, the only case in Scripture where anyone was re-baptized.
- Our term “anabaptist” refers, by definition, to a re-baptizer. It is often performed on those who were christened *[baby “baptism”]* as children but accepted “believer’s baptism” as adults after they understood salvation was just by faith.
- 19.6,7 Paul laid hands on them and twelve men spoke with the gift of languages.

My paragraph title:**19.1 Believers baptized at Ephesus**

An APPLICATION I can use: Thank You for the encouragement to be baptized when my little sister was baptized. I had led her to faith in Christ.

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✚ v.18, many Ephesian magicians believed

Acts 19.8-20

title: _____

- 19.8 Paul taught in the synagogue in Ephesus 3 months on his way to Jerusalem. [19.21]
 19.9,10 Moved to the School of Tyrannus and taught for 2 years. Stays a total of 3 years. [18.24]
 * **“all who lived in Asia heard the Word of the Lord”**. How? **8Keys** #8, T.B.D.S.
 19.11,12 **“Miracles by the hands of Paul”**.
 • **“handkerchiefs. . . from his body to the sick and the diseases left them”**,
συνδαρια, sudaria = rag, sweat rags, “(shop) aprons”
 • Even by Bible terms these miracles were **“extraordinary / unusual / special”**,
 19.13 **“Jewish exorcists. . . [attempted to exorcise evil spirits] in the Name of Jesus. . . whom Paul preaches”**.
 • Spirits overpower them and deny knowledge of them.
 • [Matt 12.27] Jesus defied the Pharisees by asking, “By whom do you children cast them [demons] out?”
 Evidently, the Pharisees “children” didn’t cast out any demons.
 • These Jews were identified as “exorcists” who evidently had been driving out demons. Yes, unbelievers can perform miracles. [see note at 13.8]
 19.18,19 Many magicians believed, burned their books worth “50,000 pieces of silver.”
 • Someone calculated this to be \$4 million. Someone else: annual wages for 150 men. Who knows?
 • Miracles bring about faith this time, though not usually in the Gospels.

My paragraph title:

19.8 Miracles & teaching at Tyrannus’ school

An APPLICATION I can use: May I always remember that when God closes one door He opens another.

Acts 19.21-27

title: _____

- 19.21 **“Paul purposed in the Spirit to go to Jerusalem.”**, This should be the norm that when we make decisions we feel the Holy Spirit has given us His guidance. Sometimes it simply feels as though He hasn’t said “No” or has **not withheld** His blessing from pursuing our plans. In Scripture the Holy Spirit rarely spoke audibly, with visions, or with clear directions; but certainly He opened doors, allowed His children to make personal decisions without consulting the Urim & Thummim, and comforted Paul and others as they made their plans. We can expect He will lead us the same way, without definite “signs.” **New method of decision making: personal preference.**
 • See my discussion on “the Circle and the Dot” methods of determining “God’s Will” in our everyday life as well as in “big” decisions we make.
I Quit, Paul’s personal preference.
 • We face a dilemma if we demand that we can “determine with absolute assurance” God’s specific plan [will?, direction?, guidance?] for our lives.
 The question is: **“For what kinds of decisions does God have a plan with only one answer?”**
 * marriage? college to go to? church to attend? country for a missionary to go to?
 choice of a new pastor for a church? suit or dress to wear to. . . [interview?, church?, party?, work?], color of car to buy?, passage to preach on Sunday?, ad infinitum.
 And what decisions are left completely up to our own opinion or option or wisdom? Which decisions do we pray about and wait for an answer? Which do we depend on God to give us common sense? A study of Paul’s decision making show us that God allows **us** to make many choices without direct approval from Him. **8Keys** # 8, T.B.D.S.
 • *Romans 15.24,28* Paul asks for help in going to Spain—\$\$\$.
 • There seems to be no mention of the offering taken up for famine relief once Paul gets to Jerusalem.

My paragraph title:

19.21 Trouble w/ Demetrius

An APPLICATION I can use: It is probably not because of anything I’ve done wrong when I meet someone who doesn’t want me to talk about Jesus. It’s not personal.

Acts 19.28-34

title: _____

- 19.28 **“[mantra] Great is Diana [Artemis in Greek] of the Ephesians”**, [19.34 “for 2 hours”]
 This must be the ancient rendition of “the stadium Wave.”

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Session

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ch. 19.21



19.28 Theater at Ephesus, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" 25,000

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19.29 **"they rushed into the theater"**, extant stadium in Ephesus which today could hold 25,000

My paragraph title: 19.28 Mob at the theatre

An APPLICATION I can use: "JHVH is great!" "Jehovah is Great!" "Yahweh is Great!"
We have a great God. He has all the plusses and none of the minuses.

Acts 19.35-41 title: _____

19.40 Paul's makes 3 visits to Corinth, his 1st visit lasted 1^{1/2} years and the church was planted

My paragraph title: 19.35 Town clerk dismisses the mob

An APPLICATION I can use: Please give supernatural wisdom to church planters, and may they be ridiculously brave in hunting for people who are eager to listen to the Gospel.

Acts 20.1-6 title: _____

20.1-6 Paul calls 7 friends while he is in Ephesus. They meet him, then he goes to Macedonia [*N. of Greece*] and afterwards goes to Greece. Aha! Jews make a plot.

He then decides to go back to Macedonia with his 7 friends plus Luke. They all go to Philippi and Troas.

20.3 God's will came via a death threat. Time to leave town, pronto!

My paragraph title: 20.1 Seven friends + Luke

An APPLICATION I can use: God is the God of little details. And to think that record of these 500 miles is preserved in the Holy Scriptures.

Acts 20.7-12 title: _____

20.7 **"on the first day of the week"**, this is the clearest verse in the NT to indicate the churches had already begun to meet on Sundays, though perhaps at night since the workweek lasted 7 days.

"Break bread" is the ancient word for communion, not Potluck dinner; however, in the first centuries of the Church, there was often an "agape" meal, a love feast, which was truly like a potluck dinner on the site where they assembled for worship. [*see 20.11*]

* This is a 3rd floor "house church."

20.9 Eutychus falls out of the window [*after "breaking bread, v.7*].

* Paul preached all night.

* Someone told a pastor, "There is no such thing as a bad short sermon."

My paragraph title: 20.7 Eutychus drops off to sleep

An APPLICATION I can use: Hooray for Sundays, the best day of the week.

Acts 20.13-16 title: _____

20.16 God's will for Paul comes from Paul's personal desire to be in Jerusalem for Pentecost party.

The walk from Troas to Assos = 10 miles, 3 or 4 hours. *Paul just wanted to be alone???*

My paragraph title: 20.13 Good-bye to Troas

An APPLICATION I can use: Thank You Lord, for nudging me toward different ministries in which to serve. Some by invitation. Others by resume.

Acts 20.17-38 title: _____

Elders came to see Paul at Miletus. Miletus to Ephesus = 36 miles, 11 hour walk

20.26,27 **"innocent of the blood of all men"**, cf Ezek 33.1-9

8Keys # 3, COMPARE

20.28,29 [*a sidebar for pastors*]: Paul reminds them that they are **"to shepherd the church of God"**, and take care of their flocks. Our word "pastor" comes from "to pasture the sheep."

* 20.29 **"grievous wolves"**, predicted. Internal heresies & heretics are far worse than physical persecution, or even open sins. I Tim 1.19ff II Tim 1.15 2.17f 3.1ff

20.35 **"more blessed to give than to receive"**, must have been remembered from hearing Jesus speak since it is not a tenet written down in any of the Gospels.

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α β δ ε γ ι κ λ μ ν ο ω π ρ σ τ υ ς
a b d e g i k l m n o o p r s t u s

Session
27

ch. 20.17

ACTS: EXEGESIS

*Drawing out what is in the text
paragraph by paragraph*

APPLICATIONS

Examples to follow
Sins to avoid
Praise & worship

Repeated words
Decisions to make
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A teaching to study
Praying better

20.36,37 **“knelt down and prayed with them all”**, relentless prayer once again, with weeping.

My paragraph title: 20.17 **Good-bye to Ephesian elders**

An APPLICATION I can use: Thank You for our elders [*even though our pastor thinks the Bible teaches that there can be only one elder in a church*]. They are wonderful guys.

Acts 21.1-6

title: _____

Saul’s persecution rampage caused families of believers to flee to cities like Tyre to plant new churches. Tyre was located in Phoenicia, *see scattering @ 11.19*.

21.4 & 11 There are 2 warnings to Paul [*vss. . He disregards the Holy Spirit’s message*. **8Keys #3, COMPARE**

- The command which Paul disregards came directly from the Holy Spirit! **8Keys #4, LITERAL**
- vs. 4 **“they told [kept telling, grammatically] Paul, THROUGH THE SPIRIT, not to go to Jerusalem”**, Paul absolutely gave no response and ignored the Holy Spirit’s command.
- v.6 Paul continued his journey to Jerusalem by boat.
- I have not found one commentator [*yet*] who says Paul sinned. No one even comments on the fact that these friends of Paul spoke **“through the Spirit”**. Surely I’m not the only believer who thinks that it is wrong, even for Paul, to ignore a message sent by the Holy Spirit.
- vs.11 Ah, yes, it is true that in the very next paragraph [*another city*] another speaker [*Agabus, a prophet*] is sent by the Spirit and carries the message that Paul is granted permission by God that Paul is free to enter Jerusalem. But that does not negate the direct command just 7 verses prior.
 - * Perhaps God’s prohibition would have circumvented 2 years of imprisonment in Caesarea, physical pain, trouble for the local churches, etc. and allow Paul to plant several more churches. *pjm*
 - * Agabus, informs Paul, **“thus said the Holy Ghost”**, it’s okay to go to Jerusalem but you’re going to get arrested. [*21.11*]
- Friends **“knelt down on the beach and prayed”**, relentless prayer.

My paragraph title: 21.1 **Good-bye on beach at Tyre**

An APPLICATION I can use: God, You’ve never spoken to me audibly, but it’s clear that You’ve put me in many situations where I’ve had to make a choice between two good things. I thank You for Your guidance and peace.

Acts 21.7-9

title: _____

21.7,8 Paul does some “couch surfing” with Philip [*Caesarea, near the coast*]. It seems **“Philip. . .one of the seven”**, never went back to Jerusalem as a Deacon. Caesarea is where his chapter 8 excursion had left him and this might be 20 years later. Some feel that his deacon ordination was the first step in becoming an elder and that he was commissioned to go preach [*Acts 8*].

8Keys #8, T.B.D.S.

21.9 Philip had four **“daughters who were prophetesses / prophesied”**, [*I have 4 daughters. . .and 5 sons*]

Paul has logged 6,000 miles with his ministry buddies planting churches.
Visited 50 cities.
Started 14 churches.

My paragraph title: 21.7 **Stays with Deacon Philip, the evangelist**

An APPLICATION I can use: Like Philip, I have four daughters. Each one came to know Christ as her Savior. Thank you, Father, for each one.

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JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM THEN ROME**Acts 21.10-16**

title: _____

- 21.11 After telling Paul not to go to Jerusalem [21.4] the Holy Spirit saw that Paul had ignored His orders, and the Spirit shrugged His mighty shoulders and through Agabus says, **“Thus said the Holy Spirit”**, it’s okay to go to Jerusalem but you’re going to get arrested.
- We met Agabus before [Acts 11.28] where he predicted a famine. The famine lasted 14 years [41-54 AD] and precipitated the collection Paul took up from the European churches [I Cor 16.1ff].
 - Here Agabus makes another prediction which comes true. Paul’s arrest in Jerusalem.
 - If Paul had heeded the Holy Spirit’s prohibition to go to Jerusalem, I’m sure the Spirit would have opened another door [sans imprisonment?] for Paul to get to Rome as he wanted. **8Keys #8, T.B.D.S.**
- 21.15 **“Caesarea [21.8]. . . Jerusalem”**, distance of 75 miles, 2 days by horse, 3 days on foot
* Caesarea is a nice port on the Mediterranean.
* Caesarea Philippi is a city at the headwaters of the Jordan River.
- 21.20 **“began glorifying God”**, and I’m sure they were thanking the Lord for the love-offering provided through Gentile gifts from Europe. [I Cor 1.1-4 II Cor 8.13,14 9.12,13 Rom 15.25-27] **8Keys #8, T.B.D.S.**

God’s holiness obligates Him to withhold blessings from His disobedient children.

My paragraph title:**21.10 Agabus’ warning to Paul**

An APPLICATION I can use: Lord, help me to recognize and obey any warnings You bring to me through my friends.

✠✠ v.20, Jerusalem, thousands [already saved] 25, Gentiles believed [already saved]
Acts 21.17-26 title: _____

- 21.21-24 Jews asked Paul to prove that **“you yourself also walk orderly, keeping the Law”**.
* Paul takes this vow specifically to prove he still was required to obey the Mosaic Law.
Anathema!
- 21.26 Paul succumbs: **“purifying himself. . .sacrificing”**.
- OUT OF GOD’S WILL. This is sin, again. [see notes at Acts 21.4]
 - The moral laws in the OT were, of course, still in operation: don’t lie, don’t kill, honor parents, et al. But the ceremonial laws [the Law], Temple rituals, were suspended. In chapter 15, the Jerusalem Council the whole issue pertained to the ceremonial laws. Here Paul falters under the pressure of **“James and all the elders [v.18]”**.
 - Paul’s decision was just as wrong then as it would be today in the 21st century if members of our churches demanded that you and I also **“[vss. 24,25,26] purify. . .shave [our] heads . . . abstain from meat. . . [offer an animal] sacrifice”**.
- Note Paul’s 3 recorded sins: OUT OF GOD’S WILL
- 1 ___ **circumcises** Timothy to **placate** Jews, ch. 16.3
 - 2 ___ **disregards** Holy Spirit’s command **not** to go to Jerusalem, 21.4, **makes plans** to go
 - 3 ___ takes a vow to **prove** to the Jews that he was still **under** the Law—here, 21.24

Session
28

ch. 21.17

My paragraph title:**21.17 Paul pressured into legalistic sacrifices & vows**

An APPLICATION I can use: I think I’m someone who tends to presume on the good will of others. I must be careful not to expect that God will overlook my flaws the way my friends do.

Acts 21.27-40

title: _____

- 21.27 Paul’s 6th riot: 13.50, mob at Pisidian 14.19, stoning at Lystra 16.19-22 mob at Philippi
17.5-8 mob at Thessalonika 19.25-34, mob in Ephesus 21. 27-35 Temple, Jerusalem
23.10 a potential riot
- 21.28 They had **“seen Trophimus. . .and. . .supposed that Paul had brought [him] into the Temple”**
Paul was accused [falsely] of bringing a Gentile into the Temple area. Death at the hand of Jews toward Gentile offenders was allowed by the Roman gov’t for such an offense [a most unusual allowance by Rome].
[lost my source for this info]
- 21.37 Jews usually spoke Aramaic. Aram is the alternate name of Syria. Jesus grew up speaking Aramaic.
- 21.39 Saved by citizenship [22.23-29]

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My paragraph title: 21.27 Jews drag Paul out of the Temple
An APPLICATION I can use:

Acts 22.1-21 title: _____

22.16 Second time Luke records the events of Paul's salvation experience.
"Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away [by] calling on the Name of the Lord",
We've already discussed that it is unnecessary to be baptized to be saved. [see notes at 2.38]

My paragraph title: 22.1 Paul's defense & testimony
An APPLICATION I can use:

Acts 22.22-30 title: _____

22.22 Instant rage! Potential riot #7 interrupted his sermon!
Chapters 22—28, almost no one saved during these 7 chapters. I wonder what the Holy Spirit had in mind for Paul when He refused to grant Paul permission to go to Jerusalem 21.4. Did God have in mind to send Paul on a last Church planting tour rather than rot in jail?
22.23,24 Roman scourging was not same as Jewish "beating with rods" or "39 lashes" [Paul had received Jewish long whips, 5X]. Roman whips were short and had metal or glass embedded in the thongs. Death could result. Roman whips were used at Jesus' crucifixion, Matt 27.26.

My paragraph title: 22.22 Almost flogged by Roman police
An APPLICATION I can use: I don't mind being criticized for my words, but Lord, help me with the tone of my voice!

Acts 23.1-5 title: _____

23.3 Paul tells the high priest he's a **"white-washed wall!"**,
Matt 23.27 Jesus said, "you're whitewashed tombs"
23.5 Paul's weak apology, "Sorry, I didn't know," or maybe "I couldn't tell by your behavior."
* Paul obviously didn't realize Ananias was the High Priest.
* If Paul's "thorn in the flesh" [II Cor 12.7-9] was terrible vision, perhaps he couldn't see the High Priest very well?

My paragraph title: 23.1 Paul finishes yesterday's speech [to Council]
An APPLICATION I can use: I need to ramp up my esteem for other people's position, sometimes.

Acts 23.6-11 title: _____

23.8 Sadducees don't believe in afterlife or the Rez of the body.
* But I've mentioned that the Sadducees didn't get furious or violent with their Sanhedrin buddies, the Pharisees, who also believed in the Rez.
23.10 Dissension during the Council meeting. Arrested for fear of violence and riot.
* Did police regularly listen in on Council meetings? **8Keys #8, T.B.D.S.**
23.11 God shows up [this is called a theophany of God] and whispers in Paul's ear, **"you must bear witness at Rome"**,
* Perhaps this is the reason that Paul is not hesitant to "appeal to Caesar" [25.10] and sit in jail for the next two years in Caesarea.
* Betcha this is also a big comfort to Paul later when he's on board ship in a fierce storm for two weeks.

PhilMyersBlog.com, I Quit, New method, theophany shows up and gives comfort.

My paragraph title: 23.6 Paul sides with the Pharisees
An APPLICATION I can use: We are servants [ambassadors] of the Most High God. We never need to fear any situation He placed us in.

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a b d e g i k l m n o o p r s t u s

Session
29

ch. 22.22

ACTS: EXEGESIS

*Drawing out what is in the text
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Sins to avoid
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Praying better

Acts 23.12-15

23.12 Assassination pact in the very next verse after God's promised Paul that he would still be alive until he reaches Rome.

My paragraph title: **23.12 Solemn pact to kill Paul**

An APPLICATION I can use: Every obedient believer is totally safe until God calls him home.

Acts 23.16-25

title: _____

- 23.16 Paul had a nephew and perhaps a sister living in Jerusalem. It seems he did not live with them.
23.18ff Nephew tells of plot. Centurion spirits Paul 75 miles away to Caesarea. 200 spearmen, 70 horsemen,
[horse's walking speed = 4-5 mph, very brisk soldier's walk, double-time, 12 min/mile]
23.18 Jews were not permitted to put anyone to death, **8Key**, ROMAN LAW
23.19 **"the commander took him by the hand"**, perhaps a small boy [?] who carried weighty message.
* While living as a missionary in Indonesia I stopped by the home of the community "mayor" and we walked together to the men's town meeting. An older man, he reached over and took me by the hand and we strolled along through town like that. Just culture.

My paragraph title: **23.16 Paul smuggled by police to Caesarea at night**

Acts 23.26-35

title: _____

- 23.27 [soldier said to Felix] **"[Paul was] taken of the Jews. . . I . . . rescued him"**, evidently arrested for Paul's protection
23.31 Antipatris = 40 mile forced march from Jerusalem. Foot soldiers turned back at Antipatris.
23.35 Praetorium, probably Felix's palace

My paragraph title: **23.26 Sent to Felix**

Acts 24.1-9

title: _____

- 24.1 Ananias #3, [see also Acts 5 & 9]
24.2-4 **"Felix"**, was known for his cruelty as well as his self-aggrandizement. **8Keys** ROMAN HISTORY
• Felix replaced Pilate
• He's brother-in-law to Herod Agrippa II, see list at 12.1
• Trumped up accusation by Tertullus is mostly biased exaggeration.
24.5,6 Tertullus' accusations, true but exaggerated: pest, causer of strife.
* The inaccurate parts were about Trophimus, a Gentile. They had a legitimate complaint [21.28,29]

My paragraph title: **24.1 Accusation by Tertullus, the lawyer**

An APPLICATION I can use: Others may judge my actions to have wrong motives, but may my motives always please You.

Acts 24.10-21

title: _____

- 24.12 Paul says they're overstating the evidence.
24.21 Paul starts shouting! [bad tones could cause another riot].
Paul ignores the particulars and defends himself against other charges. Smokescreen tactics.

My paragraph title: **24.10 P defends the resurrection**

An APPLICATION I can use: I must be willing to suffer discontent, slander, and loss of freedom if others accuse me of teaching false doctrine.

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Acts 24.22-27

title: _____

24.22 Felix interrupts, leaves Paul in prison for 2 years until Festus takes over same job. 60-62 AD?
Festus installed in 62 AD. **8Keys ROMAN RECORDS**

24.24 Felix's wife, Drusilla, was daughter of Herod Agrippa I [death already described @ 12.20]
* She was also sister of Agrippa II, who shows up next chapter [25.13]

24.27 "**Felix left Paul bound. . .two years**", no evidence of a fruitful ministry in jail for 2 years.

My paragraph title: 24.22 Felix is frightened

Acts 25.1-9

title: _____

Roman legal system benefitted citizens. Less than 10% were citizens. 30% slaves. For citizens it was one of the best governments ever invented. Trial in a court of law. Guaranteed rights. Meet accusers face-to-face.

* Judaism had had trial by peers first, BC 1500, *Mosaic Law*. [Num 35.9-29]

* Eventually Rome adopted trial by peers. Very few nations in the world [twenty-first century] have trial by peers.

Session

30

ch. 25.1

My paragraph title: 25.1 Festus hears P in Caesarea

An APPLICATION I can use: I'll be thankful for a trial by peers if ever accused wrongfully.

Acts 25.10-12

title: _____

25.10 Paul had been in prison for 2 years in Caesarea. 60-62 AD [24.27]
Some debate whether Festus was legally bound to remand Paul to Nero [reigned 54-68 AD].

Nero is considered by many to be one of history's greatest criminals, himself.

25.11 "**I appeal to Caesar!**", This was not a hasty decision. Paul had been thinking about this option for 2 years in jail.

- At this point in his reign, Nero was deemed a fair-minded ruler. AD 62-64?
- Did he become vindictive against Christians after Paul looked him in the eye and explained the Gospel to him? *pjm*, yes
- This is not persecution, it is simply evidence of the Roman judicial system protecting an accused citizen. ☺

My paragraph title: 25.10 Paul appeals to Nero's court

Acts 25.13-27

title: _____

25.13 Herod Agrippa II, great-grandson of Herod the Great [who killed babies in Bethlehem]

25.16 Meet accusers face-to-face. *Roman law*

25.20 Stalemate

My paragraph title: 25.13 Felix explains dilemma to Herod Agrippa II,

An APPLICATION I can use:

Acts 26.1-11

title: _____

26.10 "**I cast my vote against them**", Some affirm that this means Paul was a member of the Sanhedrin. There is a widespread myth that members must be married. Paul wasn't married.

* Jewish writings contradict this.

* Whether he was a member or not, Paul simply agreed with the Sanhedrin.

- A Christian Myth: **All members of the Sanhedrin must be married.**
The supposed requirement of marriage among members of the Sanhedrin is not found in Jewish literature, but only recent Christian writings.

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Jewish Encyclopedia, Sanhedrin: There were only 3 requirements to receive an appointment:

1) scholarship 2) modesty 3) popularity among fellow men [Tosef, Hag. li. 9; Sanhedrin, 88b].

Anecdotal requirements not substantiated in Jewish writings:

[a Sanhedrin member must also be]:

strong, tall, courageous, increasing in dignity, imposing appearance [Paul flunks here],
advanced age, understand foreign languages, as well as some of the arts of the necromancer, [Sifre, Num. 92]

My paragraph title: 26.1 Paul's explanation: the resurrection is credible, I'm innocent

Acts 26.12-23

title: _____

26.18 **"turn from darkness to light"**,

- Repent and turn to God performing deeds meet to repentance
- turn = **epistrepsai** [not *metanoia*]
- Jesus "witnessed" to Paul and explained the Gospel the same way we do. **"open their eyes. . . turn to the light. . . receive forgiveness of sins. . . by faith in Me"**,

My paragraph title: 26.12 P's salvation testimony

An APPLICATION I can use: I must always be willing to use opportunities to tell others what Christ has done for me.

Acts 26.24-32

title: _____

26.24 Festus said, **"You are out of your mind"**,

26.28 **"in a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian"**, This might be a question rather than a statement.

- KJV, **"almost thou persuadest me to become a Christian"**,
- Alternate loose interpretation, "Do you think you can persuade me to with this short talk?"

My paragraph title: 26.24 Agrippa is almost persuaded

An APPLICATION I can use: Yes, I do expect people will trust Jesus Christ as Savior even after God has only given me 2 minutes to explain the Gospel. After all, it is a pretty simple message.

✠✠ v.8 Publius believed on Malta 9, those healed, believed?

Acts 27.1-28.10

title: _____

27.1,3 Centurions [v.1] are usually put in a good light.
Why so much detail about a boat trip?

- 27.9 The [Day of Atonement] fast was over [October]
- 27.10 **Paul says** lives will be lost, he speaks somewhat authoritatively, but incorrectly
* no lives are lost, cf 27.44
- 27.22,23 angel says **"no loss of life"**
- 27.24 promise from God, **"you must stand before Caesar"**.
- 27.18, 19 jettison the cargo, then the tackle later
- 27.38 jettison the wheat [their source of profit goes out last]
- 27.40 "rudders" were 2 huge steering oars out of the back or near the back of the ship **8Keys**, HISTORY
- Paul had become acting captain of the ship and the soldiers listened to him.
- 27.34 **"not a hair"**, hyperbole or fact?
* *I understand that we may lose 100 hairs a day.*
- 27.37 276 people on board

28.1 Malta, near Italy

28.10 Luke is definitely on the ship bound for Rome.

My paragraph title: 27.1 Voyage to Malta, Paul bitten by snake, unhurt

An APPLICATION I can use: People are always watching.

Session
31

ch. 27.1

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✚ v.24, some persuaded at Rome

Acts 28.11-29 title: _____

28.13,14 At Puteoli **“we found brethren”**, Wow! The Gospel had, of course, spread to major cities like Rome, but it had also spread to this Italian seaport 150 miles south of Rome.

28.15 **“they had heard of us”**, What kind of grapevine did the early church have?
The church members persuaded the guards to let Paul stay put for 7 weeks.

My paragraph title: **28.11 Paul encourages Italian saints**

An APPLICATION I can use: Paul probably had to ask the guards for a special hiatus. May I also be bold enough to ask any authorities for special treatment. After all, I am an ambassador for a king.

Acts 28.30-31 title: _____

28.30 **“preaching the Kingdom of God”**, The message of the Kingdom has only been mentioned 4 times since chapter one. Not a major theme in the book. Perhaps if his audience were Jewish he would find the Kingdom a discussion point to open a conversation. Or else, anyone with a Jewish friend would likely know that Jews were looking for a Messiah-king who would bring in a worldwide Kingdom where the Messiah would reign. Another discussion starter.

“teaching. . .with all openness unhindered.”

62 AD jail

64 AD released, went to Spain, *see notes below*

66 AD back in jail [*reason unknown*] , wrote II Timothy, Paul beheaded, soon

Acts does not record the destruction of Herod’s Temple in 70 AD. Luke obviously wrote this record while Paul was alive in jail in Rome for a second time, probably about 64AD. We surmise that he died shortly thereafter, 64-68 AD

My paragraph title: **28.30 Rented quarters for 2 years**

An APPLICATION I can use:

It seems Paul made it to Spain on a 4th missionary trip after release from Roman prison, because. . . .

- Clement, writes in 95 AD “[Paul] had preached in the East and in the West. . . having reached the farthest limits of the West.” [*I Clement 5.5-7*],
* To the Romans, the “*farthest reaches*” would have meant Britain, Gaul [France], or Spain.
- This is also affirmed twice by:
* The Acts of Peter as well as the Muratorian Fragment [*end of the 2nd century*].
* Eusebius, 4th century church historian, supported Paul’s release from jail, after Rome.
- We believe Paul was beheaded circa 66 AD, after being re-arrested.



Acts chapter “29” continues this story as soon as you walk out of your house!

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Have fun memorizing several of these special verses from Acts

Act 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth

Act 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Act 2:24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it

4.12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Act 5:41 And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

Act 4:33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

Act 16:25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

Act 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Act 20:35 I have shewed you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Act 5:29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Act 5:41 And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

16.31 Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ ant thou shalt be saved. On

Timeline of the apostle Paul

Year	Event	Scripture	Year	Event	Scripture
4 BC	birth of Christ	Luke 2	50-54	begged to leave town	Acts 16.39
7 AD	Herod [#1] the Great kills babies Judea becomes Roman province	Matt 2.16-18		*Thessalonika, plants church mob chased them out of town	Acts 17.1-10
1-10AD	birth of Paul, Tarsus [Turkey] Saul, Pharisee Roman citizen	Phil 3.5 Acts 22.28		*?Berea, leaves Silas & Tim Athens, Mars Hill, *Corinth, Silas & Tim rejoin Paul	Acts 17.10-14 Acts 17.16-34
15?AD	educated under Gamaliel Tiberius becomes emperor	Acts 22.3		18 months, meet Aquila & Priscilla, plants church	Acts 18.1-17
26	Pilate becomes procurator, Judea			Paul writes I & II THESS.	
28	John the Baptist beheaded Herod [#2] Antipas	Matt 14.10		visits Ephesus briefly, Caesarea, Jerusalem, returns to Antioch	Acts 18.18-22
29	crucifixion of Christ	John 20	54-58	THIRD MISSIONARY TRIP Nero becomes emperor, 54-68 AD	
	Peter preaches [3,000 & 5,000]	Acts 2.41 4.4		*Galatia again [Turkey], on way to	Acts 18.23
30	Saul at Stephen's stoning Saul persecutor of the Church	Acts 7.51 Acts 8.1-3		*Ephesus, plants church, stays 3 years, Diana [Artemis] mob, [silver idol makers],	Acts 19.1ff
32?	Barnabas sent to Antioch as Jerusalem's first missionary	Acts 11.20-22		Paul writes I, II CORINTHIANS ROMANS,	
34	Saul saved on way to Damascus preaches in Damascus Barnabas vouches for Saul in Damascus	Acts 9.1-9 Acts 9.20 Acts 9.27		Philippi in Macedonia *Troas, Greece, Macedonia	Acts 20.1
	flees Damascus in a basket goes to Jerusalem	Acts 9.20ff Acts 9.26-29		Eutychus falls out window on foot to Mitylene, etc.	Acts 20.2-12 Acts 20.13-15
	Saul sent away to Tarsus	Acts 9.30		*Miletus, meets elders	Acts 20.15ff
35,36	Seminary of Arabian Desert [during time in Dam or Tars?]	Gal 1.17		Rhodes, Patara, Phoenecia, Tyre kneels on the beach	Acts 21.3-6
37	Caligula becomes emperor			CHURCH PLANTING MINISTRY ENDS	
41	Claudius becomes emperor		58-62	Caesarea	
42	famine in Rome			* forbidden to go to Jerusalem [Paul chooses to disregard info given "through the Spirit"]	Acts 21.4
42	Barnabas finds Saul in Tarsus, brings him to Antioch to teach	Acts 11.25,26		* permitted to go to Jerusalem arrested at Jerusalem, mob at Temple	Acts 21.11
	Saul takes famine aid to Jerusalem	Acts 11.29,30		asserts citizenship Jerusalem, Paul makes sinful vow to prove he kept Mosaic laws taken before Sanhedrin	Acts 21.26ff Acts 21.22ff
	Mark joins Barn & Saul	Acts 12.25		murder plot delivered, but imprisoned for 2 years in Caesarea	Acts 23.12ff
	Herod [#3] Agrippa I kills James	Acts 12.1-3		Jesus guarantees Paul that he will get to Rome [to fulfill Jesus' earlier promise that he would stand before a king—Acts 9.15]	
44-49	FIRST MISSIONARY TRIP Barn & Saul chosen by Spirit to be missionaries to Gentiles Cyprus, Galatia [Turkey] Paul becomes leader of trip [so] Mark goes home [Jerusalem?]	Acts 13.2,3 Acts 13.13		Felix	Acts 24
	* Pisidia, preached, expelled	Acts 13.50		Festus	Acts 25.1-12
	* Iconium, murder plot, fled	Acts 14.5		Herod [#4] Agrippa II	Acts 25.26
	* Lystra, healed lame man, * Derbe			* Paul appeals to emperor Nero	Acts 25.11
	P&B mocked gods, stoned	Acts 14.19,20		boat trip to Rome as prisoner	Acts 27,28
	return trip appoint elders	Acts 14.21-24		Writes Phlm [maybe "prison" written from Caesarean jail]	epistles were
49	return to Antioch			PHIL, EPH, COL, HEB,	
	Paul writes GALATIANS			Nero's great fire of Rome	
50	P & B, Jerusalem Council			Paul re-imprisoned	
	Claudius expels Jews fr Rome			Paul has 26 traveling companions over 20 years.	
50	squabble over Mark's departure [nobody sinned, just disagreed] [Mark goes home and writes book of MARK]	Acts 15.36-39	62	* Paul's church plants, 10-14x	
50-54	SECOND MISSIONARY TRIP Paul & Silas, re-visit ch in Turkey Lystra, pick up Timothy [Luke joins P's team somewhere along the way and stays with Paul continuously for 15 years, even to prisons]	Acts 15.40,41 Acts 16.1-5	64		
	Troas, "Macedonian vision"	Acts 16.9,10	65		
	*Philippi, Lydia, demon-possessed girl, jail, jailer's family saved plants church	Acts 16. 11-38			

Events after Acts 28

Paul witnesses to Nero, was released from prison, writes I **TIM, TITUS**, goes to Spain, re-arrested, writes II **TIMOTHY**, beheaded about 65 AD. Temple destroyed 70 AD. see PhilMyersBlog.com, 2020