

## Doctrine of Paul

8-15-18

1. On the 27th day of June I began a study of the life of Paul. Since that first lesson we have completed a review of the early life of Paul, his conversion experience, the first missionary journey (47-48), the second missionary journey (51-53), a travelogue of Paul's third missionary journey (53-57), and the first imprisonment period (58-61).

2. Last week when the clock tolled 7:45 p.m. we were about to study Paul's appearance before Agrippa. I want to review some of that learned and then begin new material on page three.

### The Third Missionary Journey

1. Paul with some eight disciples went on the third missionary journey. A partial listing of those traveling with him is Timothy, Erastus, Gaius, Aristarchus, Sopater, Secundus, Tychicus and Trophemus.

2. Traversing once again to the Galatian region and Phrygia, Paul spent some time in follow-up work, strengthening his disciples in the Galatian cities.



3. Then he pursued his journey westward, coming into Asia and to its key city Ephesus.

4. In Ephesus he spent approximately three years, his longest stay in any single place. At this point in history, Ephesus was the leading center of the Roman province of Asia. It will later become the center of 1st and early 2nd century Christianity.

5. A number of evil practices found in Ephesus proved to be a challenge to Paul. The Lord spoke to Paul in a vision saying, do not be afraid but keep on speaking, do not be silent.

6. In spite of these opposing influences, significant results were recorded by Luke: "All who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks; and "the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing."

7. From Ephesus Paul crossed over the Hellespont into first Macedonia and then south to Corinth before returning to Syria and ultimately Jerusalem. On the return trip he was warned three times by God the Holy Spirit not to go into the "Holy City." Paul refused to heed these warnings.

8. Luke's writing of this embarrassing segment of Paul's life also supports the truth of Dr Luke's chronicle. If Luke was trying to aggrandize Paul and his team, he clearly would have left this part out.

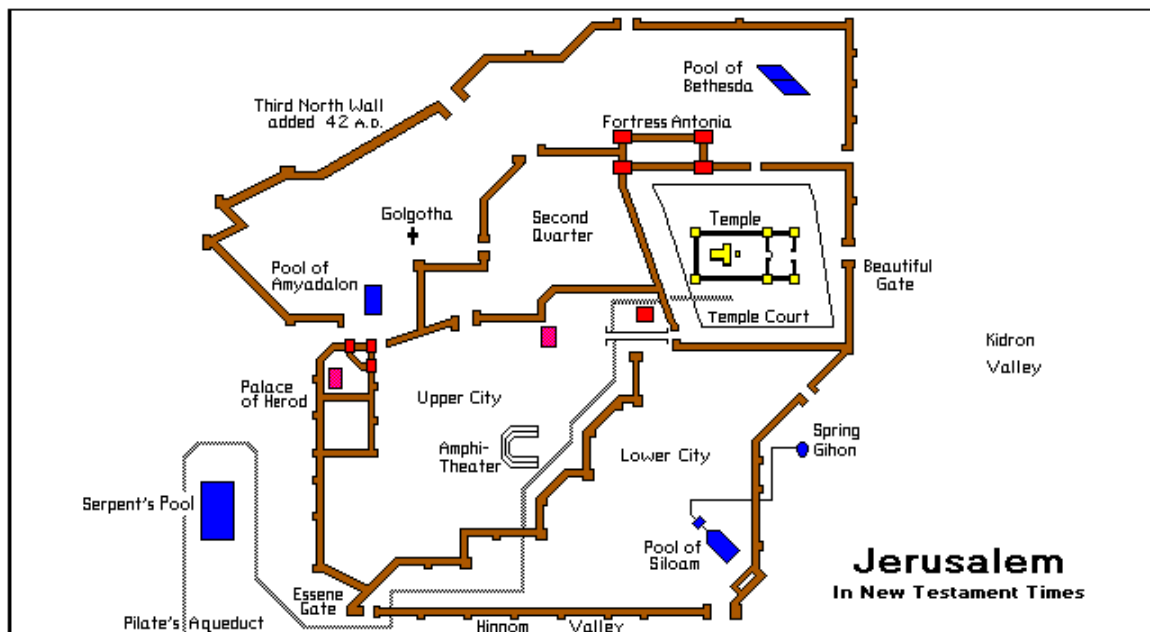
9. Concerning this period of Paul's life, it will be well to study Paul's relations with the following persons and groups:

9.1 With James and the Jerusalem elders; (Acts 21:18-26)

9.2 With the Jewish population of Jerusalem in general; (Acts 21:27-32)

9.3 With the Jewish mobs outside the temple area; (Acts 21:40-22:29)

9.4 With Claudius Lysias, the captain of the Roman garrison in Jerusalem. (Acts 21:31-40)



9.5 With the council (or the Sanhedrin, the supreme governing body of Judaism in Jerusalem, consisting of 70 men plus the high priest; (Acts 22:30-23:11)

9.6 With Felix, the procurator of Judea; (Acts 24:1-27)

10. Herod Agrippa II.

10.1 Agrippa was a Roman-appointed king over certain territories adjacent to and within Palestine. His territory included Judaea. Agrippa's capital was located in Caesarea Philippi.



10.2 He was well known for his relationship with his beautiful sister Bernice. As we will see she will also sit with Agrippa when he hears Paul's case.

10.2.1 I want to give several points about this man Agrippa and Israel's ill-thought rebellion against Rome.

Agrippa tried desperately to avert war with Rome. His countrymen, however, were disposed to fight against the mighty Roman Eagle. This fight was in part motivated by certain insults and abuses they had experienced under their Procurator, Gessius Flores.

It all seemed to spin out of control when the Jews broke off the cloisters leading from Fort Antonia to the Temple Mount where Roman soldiers were stationed to keep guard during certain Jewish holidays. Additionally, this act of disobedience was accompanied by a failure to pay certain tribute to Caesar.

Agrippa convened the Jewish leaders and urged them to tolerate the temporary injustices and submit themselves to Roman hegemony. Agrippa failed to prevent his subjects from rebelling.

When the Roman Governor of Syria, Cestius Gallus, led a small force into Judea in an attempt to quell the rebellion, his forces were routed by the Jewish forces.

In A.D. 66 the citizenry of Jerusalem expelled their king Agrippa, and his sister Bernice. During the Jewish-Roman war, Agrippa sent 2,000 men, archers and cavalry, to support Vespasian, showing that, although a Jew in religion, he was entirely devoted to the Roman Empire.

This act of a Jew siding with Rome was not unlike that of Agrippa's good friend Josephus, who left the Jewish army and sided with Rome in hopes of avoiding the forthcoming ravaging of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple in A.D.70.

Agrippa accompanied Titus on some campaigns, and was wounded at the siege of Gamla (a city located in the Golan Heights overlooking the Sea of Galilee). After the capture of Jerusalem, he went with Bernice to Rome, where he was invested with the dignity of Praetor and rewarded with additional territory.



#### 11. Festus Briefs Agrippa (Acts 25:13-22)

Acts 25:13 And after certain days king Agrippa and Bernice came unto Caesarea to salute Festus.

Acts 25:14 And when they had been there many days, Festus declared Paul's cause unto the king, saying, There is a certain man left in bonds by Felix:

Acts 25:15 About whom, when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed me, desiring to have judgment against him.

Acts 25:16 To whom I answered, It is not the manner of the Romans to deliver any man to die, before that he which is accused have the accusers face to face, and have licence to answer for himself concerning the crime laid against him.

Acts 25:17 Therefore, when they were come hither, without any delay on the morrow I sat on the judgment seat, and commanded the man to be brought forth.

Acts 25:18 Against whom when the accusers stood up, they brought none accusation of such things as I supposed:

Acts 25:19 But had certain questions against him of their own superstition, and of one Jesus, which was dead, whom Paul affirmed to be alive.

Acts 25:20 And because I doubted of such manner of questions, I asked him whether he would go to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these matters.

Acts 25:21 When Paul made his appeal to be held over for the Emperor's decision, I ordered him held until I could send him to Caesar."

Acts 25:22 Then Agrippa said unto Festus, I would also hear the man myself. Tomorrow, said he, thou shalt hear him.

## 12. Agrippa and Bernice Arrive (Acts 25:23-27)

Acts 25:23 The next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp and entered the audience room with the high-ranking officers and the leading men of the city. At the command of Festus, Paul was brought in.

Acts 25:24 Festus said: "King Agrippa, and all who are present with us, you see this man! The whole Jewish community has petitioned me about him in Jerusalem and here in Caesarea, shouting that he ought not to live any longer.

Acts 25:25 I found he had done nothing deserving of death, but because he made his appeal to the Emperor I decided to send him to Rome.

Acts 25:26 But I have nothing definite to write to His Majesty about him.

Therefore I have brought him before all of you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that as a result of this investigation I may have something to write.

Acts 25:27 For I think it is unreasonable to send on a prisoner without specifying the charges against him."

## 13. Paul's Defense Before Agrippa (Acts 26:1-27)

Acts 26:1 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." So Paul motioned with his hand and began his defense:

Acts 26:2 "King Agrippa, I consider myself fortunate to stand before you today as I make my defense against all the accusations of the Jews,

Acts 26:3 and especially so because you are well acquainted with all the Jewish customs and controversies. Therefore, I beg you to listen to me patiently.

Acts 26:4 "The Jews all know the way I have lived ever since I was a child, from the beginning of my life in my own country, and also in Jerusalem.

Acts 26:5 They have known me for a long time and can testify, if they are willing, that according to the strictest sect of our religion, I lived as a Pharisee.

Acts 26:6 And now it is because of my hope in what God has promised our fathers that I am on trial today.

Acts 26:7 This is the promise our twelve tribes are hoping to see fulfilled as they earnestly serve God day and night. O king, it is because of this hope that the Jews are accusing me.

Acts 26:8 Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?

Acts 26:9 "I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

Acts 26:10 And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the saints in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them.

Acts 26:11 Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. In my obsession against them, I even went to foreign cities to persecute them.

Acts 26:12 "On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests.

Acts 26:13 About noon, O king, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions.

Acts 26:14 We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'

Acts 26:15 "Then I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the Lord replied.

Acts 26:16 'Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you.

Acts 26:17 I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them

Acts 26:18 to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

Acts 26:19 "So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven.

Acts 26:20 First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.

Acts 26:21 That is why the Jews seized me in the temple courts and tried to kill me.

Acts 26:22 But I have had God's help to this very day, and so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen --

Acts 26:23 that the Christ would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to his own people and to the Gentiles."

Acts 26:24 At this point Festus interrupted Paul's defense. "You are out of your mind, Paul!" he shouted. "Your great learning is driving you insane."

Acts 26:25 "I am not insane, most excellent Festus," Paul replied. "What I am saying is true and reasonable.

Acts 26:26 The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner.

Acts 26:27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do."

#### 14. Agrippa Confers (Acts 26:28-31)

Acts 26:28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?"

Acts 26:29 Paul replied, "Short time or long -- I pray God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains."

Acts 26:30 The king rose, and with him the governor and Bernice and those sitting with them.

Acts 26:31 They left the room, and while talking with one another, they said, "This man is not doing anything that deserves death or imprisonment."

#### 15. Agrippa Announces the Verdict (Acts 26:31-Acts 27:1)

Acts 26:31 They left the room, and while talking with one another, they said, "This man is not doing anything that deserves death or imprisonment."

Acts 26:32 Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."

Acts 27:1 When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, Paul and some other prisoners were handed over to a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Imperial Regiment.

16. Let me summarize these troubling relationships: During this period, Paul claimed his Roman citizenship, appealed to Caesar for a fair trial, and was judged to be innocent of the charges against him by both Festus and Agrippa.

17. Agrippa tells Festus "This man doeth nothing worthy of death or of imprisonment. He might have been set free had he not appealed to Caesar." Paul is sent to Rome.

#### Paul's Journey to Rome

1. His voyage to Rome eventuated in a two-year period of unhindered preaching and teaching, practically on Caesar's doorstep. (Acts 28:30-31)

Acts 28:30 For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him.

Acts 28:31 Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. It is here the story penned by Luke comes to its end. What happened to Paul then? Did he ever appear before Nero?

3. If so, was he condemned and executed, or released?

3.1 There is a great deal of disputation concerning whether Paul endured two Roman imprisonments.

3.2 I am certainly of the opinion that he most certainly did. My position recognizes that there were two with an approximate year of liberty between the two.

4. We will certainly pursue these questions in detail later but for now let's see what Luke did write concerning "one harrowing journey."

5. There would seem to be no better way to continue Luke's record than to look at a map of the journey to Rome. (Acts 27:1)



Acts 27:1 When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, Paul and some other prisoners were handed over to a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Imperial Regiment.

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