

Paul's Third Missionary Journey—Back Through Macedonia (Spring 55)

Acts 20:3b–5

3b *Because* a plot was made against him by the Jews *as he* was about to set sail for Syria, he came to a decision to return through Macedonia.

4 And Sopater *son* of Pyrrhus from Berea, and Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, and Gaius from Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus from Asia, were accompanying him.

5 And these had gone on ahead *and* were waiting for us in Troas.

Paul's Third Missionary Journey—Troas (Spring 55)

Acts 20:6–12

6 And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread and came to them at Troas within five days, where we stayed seven days.

7 And on the first *day* of the week, *when* we had assembled to break bread, Paul began conversing with them, *because he* was going to leave on the next day, and he extended *his* message until midnight.

8 Now there were quite a few lamps in the upstairs room where we were gathered.

9 And a certain young man named Eutychus who was sitting in the window was sinking into a deep sleep *while* Paul was conversing at length. Being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was picked up dead.

10 But Paul went down *and* threw himself on him, and putting his arms around *him*, said, "Do not be distressed, for his life is in him."

11 So he went up and broke bread, and *when he* had eaten and talked for a long *time*, until dawn, then he departed.

12 And they led the youth away alive, and were greatly comforted.

Paul's Third Missionary Journey—Miletus (Spring 55)

Acts 20:13–38

From Troas to Assos to Mitylene to Miletus

13 But we went on ahead to the ship *and* put out to sea for Assos, intending to take Paul on board there. For having made arrangements in this way, he himself was intending to travel by land.

14 And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board *and* went to Mitylene.

15 And we sailed from there on the next *day*, *and* arrived opposite Chios. And on the next *day* we approached Samos, and on the following *day* we came to Miletus.

16 For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus so that he would not be *having* to spend time in Asia. For he was hurrying if it could be possible for him to be in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

Paul's Farewell Speech to the Ephesian Elders

17 And from Miletus he sent *word* to Ephesus *and* summoned the elders of the church.

18 And when they came to him, he said to them, "You know from the first day on which I set foot in Asia how I was the whole time with you—

19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears, and with the trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews—

20 how I did not shrink from proclaiming to you anything that would be profitable, and *from* teaching you in public and from house *to house*,

21 testifying both to Jews and to Greeks with respect to repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus.

22 "And now behold, bound by the Spirit I am traveling to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there,

23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in town *after town*, saying that bonds and persecutions await me.

24 But I consider *my* life *as* worth nothing to myself, in order to finish my mission and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify *to* the gospel of the grace of God.

25 "And now behold, I know that all *of* you, among whom I went about proclaiming the kingdom, will see my face no more.

26 Therefore I testify to you on this very day that I am guiltless of the blood of all *of* you,

27 for I did not shrink from proclaiming to you the whole purpose of God.

28 Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock among which the Holy Spirit has appointed you *as* overseers, to shepherd the church of God which he obtained through the blood of his own *Son*.

29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

30 And from among you yourselves men will arise, speaking perversions of the truth in order to draw away the disciples after them.

31 Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day *for* three years I did not stop warning each one *of* you with tears.

32 "And now I entrust you to God and to the message of his grace, which is able to build *you* up and to give *you* the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

33 I have desired no one's silver or gold or clothing!

34 You yourselves know that these hands served *to meet* my needs and *the needs of* those who were with me.
 35 I have shown you *with respect to* all *things* that *by* working hard in this way it is necessary to help those who are in need, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus that he himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”
 36 And *when he* had said these *things*, he fell to his knees *and* prayed with them all.
 37 And there was considerable weeping by all, and hugging Paul, they kissed him,
 38 especially distressed at the statement that he had said, that they were going to see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship.

Paul’s Third Missionary Journey—Syria (Spring 55)

Acts 21:1–6

1 And it happened that after we tore ourselves away from them, we put out to sea, *and* running a straight course we came to Cos and on the next *day* to Rhodes, and from there to Patara.
 2 And finding a ship that was crossing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard *and* put out to sea.
 3 And *after we* sighted Cyprus and left it behind on the port side, we sailed to Syria and arrived at Tyre, because the ship was to unload *its* cargo there.
 4 And we stayed there seven days *after we* found the disciples, who kept telling Paul through the Spirit not to set foot in Jerusalem.
 5 And it happened that when our days were over, we departed *and* went on our way, *while* all *of them* accompanied us, together with *their* wives and children, as far as outside the city. And *after* falling to our knees on the beach *and* praying,
 6 we said farewell to one another and embarked in the ship, and they returned to their own *homes*.

Paul’s Journey to Jerusalem (May/June 55)

Acts 21:7–17

7 And *when* we had completed the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais. And *after we* greeted the brothers, we stayed one day with them.
 8 And on the next day we departed *and* came to Caesarea, and entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, who was *one* of the seven, *and* stayed with him.
 9 (Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied.)
 10 And *while we* were staying *there* many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.
 11 And he came to us and took Paul’s belt. Tying up his own feet and hands, he said, “This is what the Holy Spirit says: ‘In this way the Jews in Jerusalem will tie up the man whose belt this is, and will deliver *him* into the hands of the Gentiles.’”
 12 And when we heard these *things*, both we and the local residents urged him not to go up to Jerusalem.
 13 Then Paul replied, “What are you doing weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be tied up, but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus!”
 14 And *because* he would not be persuaded, we remained silent, saying, “The will of the Lord be done.”
 15 So after these days we got ready *and* went up to Jerusalem.
 16 And *some* of the disciples from Caesarea also traveled together with us, bringing *us* to a certain Mnason of Cyprus, a disciple of long standing, with whom we were to be entertained as guests.
 17 And *when* we came to Jerusalem, the brothers welcomed us gladly.

“To the Jews I became a Jew in order to win the Jews” (Summer 55)

Acts 21:18–26

18 And on the next *day* Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present.
 19 And *after* greeting them, he began to relate one after the other *the things* which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.
 20 And *when* they heard *this*, they began to glorify God. And they said to him, “You see, brother, how many ten thousands there are among the Jews who have believed, and they are all zealous adherents of the law.
 21 And they have been informed about you that you are teaching all the Jews *who are* among the Gentiles *the* abandonment of Moses, telling them not to circumcise *their* children or to live according to *our* customs.
 22 What then is to be done? Doubtless they will all hear that you have come!
 23 Therefore do this that we tell you: we have four men who have *taken* a vow upon themselves.
 24 Take these *men* *and* purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses so that they can shave *their* heads, and everyone will know that *the things* which they had been informed about you are nothing, but you yourself also agree with observing the law.
 25 But concerning the Gentiles who have believed, we have written a letter *after* deciding they should avoid food sacrificed to idols and blood and *what has been* strangled and sexual immorality.”

26 Then Paul took along the men on the next day, *and after he* had purified himself together with them, he entered into the temple *courts*, announcing the completion of the days of purification until the time the offering would be presented on behalf of each one of them.

The Riot and Paul's Arrest at the Temple (Summer 55)

Acts 21:27–36

27 But when the seven days were about to be completed, the Jews from Asia who had seen him in the temple *courts* stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him,

28 shouting, "Israelite men, help! This is the man who is teaching everyone everywhere against the people and the law and this place! And furthermore he also brought Greeks into the temple, and has defiled this holy place!"

29 (For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with him, whom they thought that Paul had brought into the temple.)

30 And the whole city was stirred up, and the people came running together, and they seized Paul *and* dragged him outside of the temple *courts*, and immediately the doors were shut.

31 And *as they* were seeking to kill him, a report came up to the military tribune of the cohort that all Jerusalem was in confusion.

32 He immediately took along soldiers and centurions *and* ran down to them. And *when* they saw the military tribune and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.

33 Then the military tribune came up *and* arrested him and ordered *him* to be bound with two chains, and inquired who he was and what it was that he had done.

34 But some in the crowd were shouting one thing *and* others *another*, and *because* he was not able to find out the truth on account of the commotion, he gave orders to bring him into the barracks.

35 And when he came to the steps, it happened that he had to be carried by the soldiers on account of the violence of the crowd,

36 for the crowd of people was following *them*, shouting, "Away with him!"

Paul's Defense (Summer 55)

Acts 21:37–22:29

Paul Asks the Roman Officer for Permission to Speak

21:37 And *as he* was about to be brought into the barracks, Paul said to the military tribune, "Is it permitted for me to say something to you?" And he said, "Do you know Greek?"

38 Then you are not the Egyptian who before these days raised a revolt and led out into the wilderness the four thousand men of the Assassins?"

39 But Paul said, "I am a Jewish man from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no unimportant city. Now I ask you, allow me to speak to the people."

40 So *when* he permitted *him*, Paul, standing there on the steps, motioned with *his* hand to the people. And *when there* was a great silence, he addressed *them* in the Aramaic language, saying,

Paul Addresses the Crowd in Aramaic

22:1 "Men—brothers and fathers—listen to my defense to you now!"

2 And *when they* heard that he was addressing them in the Aramaic language, they became even more silent. And he said,

3 "I am a Jewish man born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, educated according to the exactness of the law received from our fathers, being zealous for God, just as all *of* you are today.

4 I persecuted this Way to the death, tying up and delivering to prison both men and women,

5 as indeed the high priest and the whole council of elders can testify about me, from whom also I received letters to the brothers in Damascus, *and* was traveling *there* to lead away those who were there also tied up to Jerusalem so that they could be punished.

6 "And it happened that *as* I was traveling and approaching Damascus around noon, suddenly a very bright light from heaven flashed around me,

7 and I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'

8 And I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said to me, 'I am Jesus the Nazarene whom you are persecuting.'

9 (Now those who were with me saw the light but did not hear the voice of the one who was speaking to me.)

10 So I said, 'What should I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Get up *and* proceed to Damascus, and there it will be told to you about all *the things* that have been appointed for you to do.'

11 And as I could not see as a result of the brightness of that light, I arrived in Damascus led by the hand of those who were with me.

12 And a certain Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who live *there*,

13 came to me and stood by *me and* said to me, 'Brother Saul, regain *your* sight!' And *at that* same time I looked up at him *and* saw *him*.

14 And he said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know his will, and to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from

his mouth,

15 because you will be a witness for him to all people of what you have seen and heard.

16 And now why are you delaying? Get up, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on his name!’

17 “And it happened that *when* I returned to Jerusalem and I was praying in the temple courts, I was in a trance,

18 and saw him saying to me, ‘Hurry and depart quickly from Jerusalem, because they will not accept your testimony about me.’

19 And I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that from synagogue to *synagogue* I was imprisoning and beating those who believed in you.

20 And when the blood of your witness Stephen was being shed, I myself also was standing near and was approving, and was guarding the cloaks of those who were killing him.’

21 And he said to me, ‘Go, because I will send you far away to the Gentiles!’”

22 Now they were listening to him until this word, and they raised their voices, saying, “Away with such a man from the earth! For it is not fitting *for* him to live!”

23 And *while* they were screaming and throwing off *their* cloaks and throwing dust into the air,

24a the military tribune ordered him to be brought into the barracks,

Paul the Roman Citizen

24b saying he was to be examined with a lash so that he could find out for what reason they were crying out against him in this way.

25 But when they had stretched him out for the lash, Paul said to the centurion standing there, “Is it permitted for you to flog a man *who is* a Roman citizen and uncondemned?”

26 And *when* the centurion heard *this*, he went to the military tribune *and* reported *it*, saying, “What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman citizen!”

27 So the military tribune came *and* said to him, “Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?” And he said, “Yes.”

28 And the military tribune replied, “I acquired this citizenship for a large sum of money.” And Paul said, “But I indeed was born *a* citizen.

29 Then immediately those who were about to examine him kept away from him, and the military tribune also was afraid *when he* realized that he was a Roman citizen and that he had tied him up.

Paul Before the Jewish Council (Summer 55)

Acts 22:30–23:11

22:30 But on the next day, *because he* wanted to know the true *reason* why he was being accused by the Jews, he released him and ordered the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin to assemble, and he brought down Paul *and* had *him* stand before them.

23:1 And looking intently at the Sanhedrin, Paul said, “Men *and* brothers, I have lived my life in all good conscience before God to this day.”

2 So the high priest Ananias ordered those standing near him to strike his mouth.

3 Then Paul said to him, “God is going to strike you, *you* whitewashed wall! [cf. [Ezek 13:1–13](#)] And are you sitting *there* judging me according to the law, and acting contrary to the law do you order me to be struck?”

4 And those who stood nearby said, “Are you reviling the high priest of God?”

5 And Paul said, “I did not know, brothers, that he was high priest. For it is written, ‘You must not speak evil *of* a ruler of your people.’” [[Exod 22:28](#)]

6 Now *when* Paul realized that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he shouted out in the Sanhedrin, “Men *and* brothers! I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees! I am being judged concerning the hope and the resurrection of the dead!”

7 And *when* he said this, a dispute developed between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided.

8 (For the Sadducees say there is no resurrection or angel or spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge *them* all.)

9 And there was loud shouting, and some of the scribes from the party of the Pharisees stood up *and* contended sharply, saying, “We find nothing wrong with this man! But *what* if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?”

10 And *when* the dispute became severe, the military tribune, fearing lest Paul be torn apart by them, ordered the detachment to go down, take him away from their midst, and bring *him* into the barracks.

11 And the next night the Lord stood by him *and* said, “Have courage, for as you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.”

Scripture quotations are from the [Lexham English Bible](#) (LEB). Copyright 2012 [Logos Bible Software](#). Lexham is a registered trademark of [Logos Bible Software](#).