

Word of God

The Book of Acts

EDITOR'S NOTE: *THE BIBLE IS LIKE NO OTHER BOOK, FOR IT HOLDS THE VERY WORDS OF GOD, WHICH HAVE POWER TO CHANGE THE LIVES OF ANY WHO READ IT AND PUT THEIR FAITH IN OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. PSALM 34:8 SAYS, "OH, TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD! BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO TAKES REFUGE IN HIM!" THROUGH THE NEBRASKA LIVING TIMES YOU MAY "TASTE" AND SEE THE GOODNESS OF GOD THROUGH HIS VERY OWN WORDS, EACH MONTH, RIGHT HERE. MAY GOD BLESS YOU WITH HIS WORD!*

(CONTINUED FROM MARCH 2019)
THE BOOK OF ACTS
CHAPTER 20

PAUL IN MACEDONIA AND GREECE

1 AFTER THE UPROAR CEASED, PAUL SENT FOR THE DISCIPLES, AND AFTER ENCOURAGING THEM, HE SAID FAREWELL AND DEPARTED FOR MACEDONIA. 2 WHEN HE HAD GONE THROUGH THOSE REGIONS AND HAD GIVEN THEM MUCH ENCOURAGEMENT, HE CAME TO GREECE. 3 THERE HE SPENT THREE MONTHS, AND WHEN A PLOT WAS MADE AGAINST HIM BY THE JEWS AS HE WAS ABOUT TO SET SAIL FOR SYRIA, HE DECIDED TO RETURN THROUGH MACEDONIA. 4 SOPATER THE BEREAN, SON OF PYRRHUS, ACCOMPANIED HIM; AND OF THE THESSALONIANS, ARISTARCHUS AND SECUNDUS; AND GAIUS OF DERBE, AND TIMOTHY; AND THE ASIANS, TYCHICUS AND TROPHIMUS. 5 THESE WENT ON AHEAD AND WERE WAITING FOR US AT TROAS, 6 BUT WE SAILED AWAY FROM PHILIPPI AFTER THE DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD, AND IN FIVE DAYS WE CAME TO THEM AT TROAS, WHERE WE STAYED FOR SEVEN DAYS.

EUTYCHUS RAISED FROM THE DEAD

7 ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK, WHEN WE WERE GATHERED TOGETHER TO BREAK BREAD, PAUL TALKED WITH THEM, INTENDING TO DEPART ON THE NEXT DAY, AND HE PROLONGED HIS SPEECH UNTIL MIDNIGHT. 8 THERE WERE MANY LAMPS IN THE UPPER ROOM WHERE WE WERE GATHERED. 9 AND A YOUNG MAN NAMED EUTYCHUS, SITTING AT THE WINDOW, SANK INTO A DEEP SLEEP AS PAUL TALKED STILL LONGER. AND BEING OVERCOME BY SLEEP, HE FELL DOWN FROM THE THIRD STORY AND WAS TAKEN UP DEAD. 10 BUT PAUL WENT DOWN AND BENT OVER HIM, AND TAKING HIM IN HIS ARMS, SAID, "DO NOT BE ALARMED, FOR HIS LIFE IS IN HIM." 11 AND WHEN PAUL HAD GONE UP AND HAD BROKEN BREAD AND EATEN, HE CONVERSED WITH THEM A LONG WHILE, UNTIL DAYBREAK, AND SO DEPARTED. 12 AND THEY TOOK THE YOUTH AWAY ALIVE, AND WERE NOT A LITTLE COMFORTED.

13 BUT GOING AHEAD TO THE SHIP, WE SET SAIL FOR ASSOS, INTENDING TO TAKE PAUL ABOARD THERE, FOR SO HE HAD ARRANGED, INTENDING HIMSELF TO GO BY LAND. 14 AND WHEN HE MET US AT ASSOS, WE TOOK HIM ON BOARD AND WENT TO MITYLENE. 15 AND SAILING FROM THERE WE CAME THE FOLLOWING DAY OPPOSITE CHIOS; THE NEXT DAY WE TOUCHED AT SAMOS; AND THE DAY AFTER THAT WE WENT TO MILETUS. 16 FOR PAUL HAD DECIDED TO SAIL PAST EPHEBUS, SO THAT HE MIGHT NOT HAVE TO SPEND TIME IN ASIA, FOR HE WAS

HASTENING TO BE AT JERUSALEM, IF POSSIBLE, ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST.

PAUL SPEAKS TO THE EPHESIAN ELDERS

17 NOW FROM MILETUS HE SENT TO EPHEBUS AND CALLED THE ELDERS OF THE CHURCH TO COME TO HIM. 18 AND WHEN THEY CAME TO HIM, HE SAID TO THEM: "YOU YOURSELVES KNOW HOW I LIVED AMONG YOU THE WHOLE TIME FROM THE FIRST DAY THAT I SET FOOT IN ASIA, 19 SERVING THE LORD WITH ALL HUMILITY AND WITH TEARS AND WITH TRIALS THAT HAPPENED TO ME THROUGH THE PLOTS OF THE JEWS; 20 HOW I DID NOT SHRINK FROM DECLARING TO YOU ANYTHING THAT WAS PROFITABLE, AND TEACHING YOU IN PUBLIC AND FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE, 21 TESTIFYING BOTH TO JEWS AND TO GREEKS OF REPENTANCE TOWARD GOD AND OF FAITH IN OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. 22 AND NOW, BEHOLD, I AM GOING TO JERUSALEM, CONSTRAINED BY [FN] THE SPIRIT, NOT KNOWING WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME THERE, 23 EXCEPT THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT TESTIFIES TO ME IN EVERY CITY THAT IMPRISONMENT AND AFFLICTIONS AWAIT ME. 24 BUT I DO NOT ACCOUNT MY LIFE OF ANY VALUE NOR AS PRECIOUS TO MYSELF, IF ONLY I MAY FINISH MY COURSE 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 NONE OF YOU AMONG WHOM I HAVE GONE ABOUT PROCLAIMING THE KINGDOM WILL SEE MY FACE AGAIN. 26 THEREFORE I TESTIFY TO YOU THIS DAY THAT I AM INNOCENT OF THE BLOOD OF ALL, 27 FOR I DID NOT SHRINK FROM DECLARING TO YOU THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD. 28 PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO YOURSELVES AND TO ALL THE FLOCK, IN WHICH THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS MADE YOU OVERSEERS, TO CARE FOR THE CHURCH OF GOD, WHICH HE OBTAINED WITH HIS OWN BLOOD. 29 I KNOW THAT AFTER MY DEPARTURE FIERCE WOLVES WILL COME IN AMONG YOU, NOT SPARING THE FLOCK; 30 AND FROM AMONG YOUR OWN SELVES WILL ARISE MEN SPEAKING TWISTED THINGS, TO DRAW AWAY THE DISCIPLES AFTER THEM. 31 THEREFORE BE ALERT, REMEMBERING THAT FOR THREE YEARS I DID NOT CEASE NIGHT OR DAY TO ADMONISH EVERY ONE WITH TEARS. 32 AND NOW I COMMEND YOU TO GOD AND TO THE WORD OF HIS GRACE, WHICH IS ABLE TO BUILD YOU UP AND TO GIVE YOU THE INHERITANCE AMONG ALL THOSE WHO ARE SANCTIFIED. 33 I COVETED NO ONE'S SILVER OR GOLD OR APPAREL. 34 YOU YOURSELVES KNOW THAT THESE HANDS MINISTERED TO MY NECESSITIES

AND TO THOSE WHO WERE WITH ME. 35 IN ALL THINGS I HAVE SHOWN YOU THAT BY WORKING HARD IN THIS WAY WE MUST HELP THE WEAK AND REMEMBER THE WORDS OF THE LORD JESUS, HOW HE HIMSELF SAID, 'IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE.'"

36 AND WHEN HE HAD SAID THESE THINGS, HE KNELT DOWN AND PRAYED WITH THEM ALL. 37 AND THERE WAS MUCH WEeping ON THE PART OF ALL; THEY EMBRACED PAUL AND KISSED HIM, 38 BEING SORROWFUL MOST OF ALL BECAUSE OF THE WORD HE HAD SPOKEN, THAT THEY WOULD NOT SEE HIS FACE AGAIN. AND THEY ACCOMPANIED HIM TO THE SHIP.

CHAPTER 21
PAUL GOES TO JERUSALEM

1 AND WHEN WE HAD PARTED FROM THEM AND SET SAIL, WE CAME BY A STRAIGHT COURSE TO COS, AND THE NEXT DAY TO RHODES, AND FROM THERE TO PATARA. 2 AND HAVING FOUND A SHIP CROSSING TO PHOENICIA, WE WENT ABOARD AND SET SAIL. 3 WHEN WE HAD COME IN SIGHT OF CYPRUS, LEAVING IT ON THE LEFT WE SAILED TO SYRIA AND LANDED AT TYRE, FOR THERE THE SHIP WAS TO UNLOAD ITS CARGO. 4 AND HAVING SOUGHT OUT THE DISCIPLES, WE STAYED THERE FOR SEVEN DAYS. AND THROUGH THE SPIRIT THEY WERE TELLING PAUL NOT TO GO ON TO JERUSALEM. 5 WHEN OUR DAYS THERE WERE ENDED, WE DEPARTED AND WENT ON OUR JOURNEY, AND THEY ALL, WITH WIVES AND CHILDREN, ACCOMPANIED US UNTIL WE WERE OUTSIDE THE CITY. AND KNEELING DOWN ON THE BEACH, WE PRAYED 6 AND SAID FAREWELL TO ONE ANOTHER. THEN WE WENT ON BOARD THE SHIP, AND THEY RETURNED HOME.

7 WHEN WE HAD FINISHED THE VOYAGE FROM TYRE, WE ARRIVED AT PTOLEMAIS, AND WE GREETED THE BROTHERS AND STAYED WITH THEM FOR ONE DAY. 8 ON THE NEXT DAY WE DEPARTED AND CAME TO CAESAREA, AND WE ENTERED THE HOUSE OF PHILIP THE EVANGELIST, WHO WAS ONE OF THE SEVEN, AND STAYED WITH HIM. 9 HE HAD FOUR UNMARRIED DAUGHTERS, WHO PROPHESIED. 10 WHILE WE WERE STAYING FOR MANY DAYS, A PROPHET NAMED AGABUS CAME DOWN FROM JUDEA. 11 AND COMING TO US, HE TOOK PAUL'S BELT AND BOUND HIS OWN FEET AND HANDS AND SAID, "THUS SAYS THE HOLY SPIRIT, 'THIS IS HOW THE JEWS AT JERUSALEM WILL BIND THE MAN WHO OWNS THIS BELT AND DELIVER HIM INTO THE HANDS OF THE GENTILES.'" 12 WHEN WE HEARD THIS, WE AND THE PEOPLE THERE URGED

HIM NOT TO GO UP TO JERUSALEM. 13 THEN PAUL ANSWERED, "WHAT ARE YOU DOING, WEEPING AND BREAKING MY HEART? FOR I AM READY NOT ONLY TO BE IMPRISONED BUT EVEN TO DIE IN JERUSALEM FOR THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS." 14 AND SINCE HE WOULD NOT BE PERSUADED, WE CEASED AND SAID, "LET THE WILL OF THE LORD BE DONE." 15 AFTER THESE DAYS WE GOT READY AND WENT UP TO JERUSALEM. 16 AND SOME OF THE DISCIPLES FROM CAESAREA WENT WITH US, BRINGING US TO THE HOUSE OF MNASON OF CYPRUS, AN EARLY DISCIPLE, WITH WHOM WE SHOULD LODGE.

PAUL VISITS JAMES

17 WHEN WE HAD COME TO JERUSALEM, THE BROTHERS RECEIVED US GLADLY. 18 ON THE FOLLOWING DAY PAUL WENT IN WITH US TO JAMES, AND ALL THE ELDERS WERE PRESENT. 19 AFTER GREETING THEM, HE RELATED ONE BY ONE THE THINGS THAT GOD HAD DONE AMONG THE GENTILES THROUGH HIS MINISTRY. 20 AND WHEN THEY HEARD IT, THEY GLORIFIED GOD. AND THEY SAID TO HIM, "YOU SEE, BROTHER, HOW MANY THOUSANDS THERE ARE AMONG THE JEWS OF THOSE WHO HAVE BELIEVED. THEY ARE ALL ZEALOUS FOR THE LAW, 21 AND THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD ABOUT YOU THAT YOU TEACH ALL THE JEWS WHO ARE AMONG THE GENTILES TO FORSAKE MOSES, TELLING THEM NOT TO CIRCUMCISE THEIR CHILDREN OR WALK ACCORDING TO OUR CUSTOMS. 22 WHAT THEN IS TO BE DONE? THEY WILL CERTAINLY HEAR THAT YOU HAVE COME. 23 DO THEREFORE WHAT WE TELL YOU. WE HAVE FOUR MEN WHO ARE UNDER A VOW; 24 TAKE THESE MEN AND PURIFY YOURSELF ALONG WITH THEM AND PAY THEIR EXPENSES, SO THAT THEY MAY SHAVE THEIR HEADS. THUS ALL WILL KNOW THAT THERE IS NOTHING IN WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD ABOUT YOU, BUT THAT YOU YOURSELF ALSO LIVE IN OBSERVANCE OF THE LAW. 25 BUT AS FOR THE GENTILES WHO HAVE BELIEVED, WE HAVE SENT A LETTER WITH OUR JUDGMENT THAT THEY SHOULD ABSTAIN FROM WHAT HAS BEEN SACRIFICED TO IDOLS, AND FROM BLOOD, AND FROM WHAT HAS BEEN STRANGLED, AND FROM SEXUAL IMMORALITY." 26 THEN PAUL TOOK THE MEN, AND THE NEXT DAY HE PURIFIED HIMSELF ALONG WITH THEM AND WENT INTO THE TEMPLE, GIVING NOTICE WHEN THE DAYS OF PURIFICATION WOULD BE FULFILLED AND THE OFFERING PRESENTED FOR EACH ONE OF THEM.

PAUL ARRESTED IN THE TEMPLE

27 WHEN THE SEVEN DAYS WERE

ALMOST COMPLETED, THE JEWS FROM ASIA, SEEING HIM IN THE TEMPLE, STIRRED UP THE WHOLE CROWD AND LAID HANDS ON HIM, 28 CRYING OUT, "MEN OF ISRAEL, HELP! THIS IS THE MAN WHO IS TEACHING EVERYONE EVERYWHERE AGAINST THE PEOPLE AND THE LAW AND THIS PLACE. MOREOVER, HE EVEN BROUGHT GREEKS INTO THE TEMPLE AND HAS DEFILED THIS HOLY PLACE." 29 FOR THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY SEEN TROPHIMUS THE EPHESIAN WITH HIM IN THE CITY, AND THEY SUPPOSED THAT PAUL HAD BROUGHT HIM INTO THE TEMPLE. 30 THEN ALL THE CITY WAS STIRRED UP, AND THE PEOPLE RAN TOGETHER. THEY SEIZED PAUL AND DRAGGED HIM OUT OF THE TEMPLE, AND AT ONCE THE GATES WERE SHUT. 31 AND AS THEY WERE SEEKING TO KILL HIM, WORD CAME TO THE TRIBUNE OF THE COHORT THAT ALL JERUSALEM WAS IN CONFUSION. 32 HE AT ONCE TOOK SOLDIERS AND CENTURIONS AND RAN DOWN TO THEM. AND WHEN THEY SAW THE TRIBUNE AND THE SOLDIERS, THEY STOPPED BEATING PAUL. 33 THEN THE TRIBUNE CAME UP AND ARRESTED HIM AND ORDERED HIM TO BE BOUND WITH TWO CHAINS. HE INQUIRED WHO HE WAS AND WHAT HE HAD DONE. 34 SOME IN THE CROWD WERE SHOUTING ONE THING, SOME ANOTHER. AND AS HE COULD NOT LEARN THE FACTS BECAUSE OF THE UPROAR, HE ORDERED HIM TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE BARRACKS. 35 AND WHEN HE CAME TO THE STEPS, HE WAS ACTUALLY CARRIED BY THE SOLDIERS BECAUSE OF THE VIOLENCE OF THE CROWD, 36 FOR THE MOB OF THE PEOPLE FOLLOWED, CRYING OUT, "AWAY WITH HIM!"

PAUL SPEAKS TO THE PEOPLE

37 AS PAUL WAS ABOUT TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE BARRACKS, HE SAID TO THE TRIBUNE, "MAY I SAY SOMETHING TO YOU?" AND HE SAID, "DO YOU KNOW GREEK? 38 ARE YOU NOT THE EGYPTIAN, THEN, WHO RECENTLY STIRRED UP A REVOLT AND LED THE FOUR THOUSAND MEN OF THE ASSASSINS OUT INTO THE WILDERNESS?" 39 PAUL REPLIED, "I AM A JEW, FROM TARSUS IN CILICIA, A CITIZEN OF NO OBSCURE CITY. I BEG YOU, PERMIT ME TO SPEAK TO THE PEOPLE." 40 AND WHEN HE HAD GIVEN HIM PERMISSION, PAUL, STANDING ON THE STEPS, MOTIONED WITH HIS HAND TO THE PEOPLE. AND WHEN THERE WAS A GREAT HUSH, HE ADDRESSED THEM IN THE HEBREW LANGUAGE, SAYING:

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