



## **MIDWEEK FILLUP | THE STUDY OF ACTS**

### **ACTS 21**

#### **OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER**

1. To explore the warnings that Paul received as he journeyed to Jerusalem
2. To review the arrival of Paul in Jerusalem
3. To examine Paul's arrest in the temple
4. To observe Paul's request to address the violent mob as he entered the barracks

#### **SUMMARY**

Paul left the Ephesian elders at Miletus. Paul, Luke and the other traveling companions sailed from Miletus to Cos. From Cos, they sailed to Rhodes, and then on to Patara. At Patara, they caught a ship to Tyre of Phoenicia. The ship passed to the south of the island of Cyprus. Upon arrival in Tyre, they found the disciples and remained with them seven days. The Spirit had indicated to the disciples what awaited Paul in Jerusalem. They told Paul to not go to Jerusalem. Paul continued, the disciples accompanied him outside the city, and they knelt and prayed on the shore. Paul and his companions boarded the ship and departed. They sailed from Tyre to Ptolemais. They greeted the brethren there and remained one day. They then went to Caesarea. Paul and his companions went to Philip's house. He was one of the seven (cf. Acts 6). Philip had four virgin daughters; they prophesied. The prophet Agabus came down from Judea. He took Paul's belt and bound his own hands and feet. This was to indicate that Paul would be bound and delivered to the Gentiles in Jerusalem, as the Holy Spirit revealed. Both his traveling companions and those in Caesarea pleaded with Paul not to go to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." (Acts 21:13 NKJV) They then ceased pleading with Paul and asked that the will of the Lord be done. (1-14)

Paul and his companions proceeded to Jerusalem. They were accompanied by some of the disciples from Caesarea. They were to lodge with Mnason of Cyprus, who was an early disciple. They then met with the Jerusalem brethren, who met them gladly. The next day, Paul and his companions met with James and the elders to give a description of the "things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry." The brethren glorified the Lord upon hearing these things. James and the elders then expounded to Paul the problem he faced. Many myriads of Jews had believed, and they were zealous for the law. They had been informed that Paul taught Jews, living among the Gentiles, to forsake Moses - that is, not to circumcise their children, nor to keep the customs. They expected these Jewish believers to learn that Paul was in Jerusalem. James and the elders gave Paul a plan - he should accompany the four men who had taken a vow; purify himself; pay their expenses in an effort

to show that Paul kept the law (customs) as a Jew. They reiterated (cf. Acts 15) that the believing Gentiles were not subject to the law. (15-25)

Paul followed the plan from James and the elders. He took the men and was purified with them. They then entered the temple. Jews from Asia saw Paul in the temple. They stirred up the crowd and seized Paul. They cried out charges as James and the elders had expected. Additionally, they charged that Paul had brought Greeks into the temple and had defiled the place. They had seen Trophimus, the Ephesian, with Paul in the city and "supposed" that he had brought him into the temple. The Jews seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple. As they sought to kill him, word came to the Roman commander about the uproar. When the Jews saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. The commander took Paul and bound him with chains. He asked what he had done, but he could not get an answer from the mob. He then took him to the barracks. When they reached the stairs of the barracks, Paul had to be carried due to the violence of the mob. (26-36)

Paul asked to speak to the commander. The commander asked him if he could speak Greek. The commander also asked if he was the Egyptian leader of the assassins. Paul replied that he was a Jew from Tarsus in Cilicia, "a citizen of no mean city." Paul then requested to speak to the people. The commander gave Paul permission to speak to the people. Paul then began to speak to them in Hebrew. (37-40)

## **OUTLINE**

### **1. WARNINGS TO PAUL AS HE HEADED TO JERUSALEM (1-14)**

#### **a. THEY SAILED FROM MILETUS TO TYRE (1-3)**

- i. Paul left the Ephesian elders at Miletus
- ii. Paul, Luke, and the other traveling companions sailed from Miletus to Cos to Rhodes and to Patara
- iii. From Patara, they caught a ship to Tyre of Phoenicia
  1. As they sailed, they saw Cyprus on the "left" (passing south of the island)

#### **b. PAUL AND HIS COMPANIONS ARRIVED IN TYRE (4-6)**

- i. They found the disciples there and remained with them seven days
  1. The disciples understood through the Spirit what awaited Paul in Jerusalem
  2. They told Paul not to go to Jerusalem
- ii. The disciples accompanied Paul and his companions outside the city
  1. They all knelt down and prayed on the shore
  2. Paul and his companions boarded the ship and departed

#### **c. MORE WARNINGS GIVEN TO PAUL BEFORE ARRIVING IN JERUSALEM (6-14)**

- i. Paul and his companions sailed from Tyre to Ptolemais
  - 1. They greeted the brethren there and remained one day
  - 2. The next day, they went to Caesarea
- ii. Paul and his companions went to Philip's house
  - 1. Philip was one of the seven (cf. Acts 6)
  - 2. Philip had four virgin daughters; they prophesied
  - 3. The prophet Agabus came down from Judea
  - 4. Agabus took Paul's belt and bound his own hands and feet; this was to indicate what would happen to Paul, as revealed by the Holy Spirit; he would be delivered to the Gentiles
  - 5. Both his traveling companions and those in Caesarea pleaded with Paul not to go to Jerusalem
  - 6. Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." (Acts 21:13 NKJV)
  - 7. They ceased pleading with Paul and asked that the will of the Lord be done

## **2. PAUL ARRIVED IN JERUSALEM (15-25)**

### **a. PAUL AND HIS COMPANIONS PROCEEDED TO JERUSALEM (15-16)**

- i. They were accompanied by some of the disciples of Caesarea
- ii. They were to lodge with Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple

### **b. THEY MET WITH THE JERUSALEM BRETHREN (17-25)**

- i. The Jerusalem brethren met them gladly
- ii. Paul and his companions met with James and the elders to give a description of the "things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry"
- iii. They glorified the Lord upon hearing these things
- iv. James and the elders expounded to Paul the problem he faced
  - 1. Many myriads of Jews had believed
  - 2. These Jewish believers were zealous for the law
  - 3. They had been informed that Paul taught Jews living among the Gentiles to forsake Moses - not to circumcise their children, nor to keep the customs
  - 4. These Jewish believers would learn that Paul was in Jerusalem
  - 5. James and the elders gave Paul a plan - he was to accompany the four men who had taken a vow; purify himself; pay their expenses - this was an effort to show that Paul kept the law (customs) as a Jew
  - 6. They reiterated (cf. Acts 15) that the believing Gentiles were not subject to the law

### **3. PAUL ARRESTED IN THE TEMPLE (26-36)**

#### **a. PAUL FOLLOWED THE PLAN FROM JAMES AND THE ELDERS (26)**

- i. Paul took the men and was purified with them; they entered the temple

#### **b. JEWS FROM ASIA SAW PAUL IN THE TEMPLE (27-29)**

- i. They stirred up the crowd and seized Paul
- ii. They cried out charges as expected
- iii. Additionally, they charged that Paul had brought Greeks into the temple and defiled the place
  1. They had seen Trophimus the Ephesian with Paul in the city
  2. They "supposed" that Paul had brought him into the temple

### **4. PAUL WAS SEIZED AND THE JEWS SOUGHT TO KILL HIM (30-36)**

- a. The people seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple
- b. As they sought to kill him, word came to the Roman commander of the uproar
- c. When the Jews saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul
- d. The commander took Paul and bound him with chains; he asked what Paul had done
  - i. When he could not get an answer, he took him to the barracks
  - ii. When they reached the stairs, Paul had to be carried due to the violence of the mob

### **5. PAUL ASKED TO ADDRESS THE MOB (37-40)**

#### **a. PAUL ASKED TO SPEAK TO THE COMMANDER (37-39)**

- i. The commander asked if he could speak Greek
- ii. The commander also asked if he was the Egyptian leader of the assassins
- iii. Paul replied that he was a Jew from Tarsus in Cilicia, "a citizen of no mean city"
- iv. Paul requested to speak to the people

#### **b. THE COMMANDER ALLOWED PAUL TO SPEAK TO THE PEOPLE (40)**

- i. The commander gave Paul permission to speak to the people
- ii. Paul began to speak to them in Hebrew