Acts

1 In my first account, Theophilus, I wrote
about all that Jesus began to do and teach
2 until the day he was taken up, after giving
instructions through the Holy Spirit to the
apostles he had chosen.
3 After his suffering, he presented himself
alive to them with many convincing proofs,
appearing to them over forty days and speaking
about the kingdom of God.
4 While gathered with them, he ordered them
not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the
Father's promise. "You heard about it from me.
5 For John baptized with water, but in a few
days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."
6 So when they had come together, they asked
him, "Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to
Israel at this time?"
7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know the
times or seasons that the Father has set by his
own authority.
8 But you will receive power when the Holy
Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my
witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and
Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
9 After he said this, he was lifted up as they
watched, and a cloud took him from their sight.
10 As they were gazing into heaven while he
went, suddenly two men in white clothes stood
beside them.

11 They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you
stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was
taken up from you into heaven, will come in the
same way you saw him go into heaven.”
12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the
Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem, about
half a mile away.
13 When they entered the city, they went up to
the upstairs room where they were staying:
Peter, John, James, and Andrew; Philip and
Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James son
of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of
James.
14 All of them devoted themselves with one
accord to prayer, along with the women, Mary
the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.
15 In those days Peter stood up among the
brothers and sisters—there were about a
hundred and twenty people gathered—and said,
16 “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled
that the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand through
the mouth of David about Judas, who became a
guide to those who arrested Jesus.
17 For he was numbered among us and
received a share in this ministry.”
18 Now this man acquired a field with the
reward of his wickedness. Falling headlong, he
burst open in the middle, and all his intestines
spilled out.
19 This became known to everyone living in
Jerusalem, so that in their own language the
field was called Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.
20 “For it is written in the book of Psalms,

‘Let his dwelling become desolate, and let no
one live in it,’
and,
‘Let another take his office.’
21 So one of the men who accompanied us
throughout the time the Lord Jesus went in and
out among us,
22 beginning with John’s baptism until the day
he was taken up from us, must become a
witness with us to his resurrection.”
23 They put forward two men: Joseph called
Barsabbas, who was also named Justus, and
Matthias.
24 Then they prayed, “Lord, you know
everyone’s heart. Show which one of these two
you have chosen
25 to take the place in this ministry and
apostleship that Judas abandoned to go to his
own place.”
26 They cast lots for them, and the lot fell to
Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven
apostles.

2

1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were
all together in one place.
2 Suddenly a sound like a violent rushing wind
came from heaven and filled the whole house
where they were sitting.
3 Tongues like fire appeared to them and
separated, and one rested on each of them.
4 They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and
began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit
enabled them to speak.

5 Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem,
devout men from every nation under heaven.
6 When this sound arose, a crowd gathered in
bewilderment, because each person heard them
speaking in his own language.
7 They were amazed and astonished, saying,
“Look, aren’t all these people who are speaking
Galileans?
8 How is it that each of us hears them in our
own native language?
9 Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; residents of
Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, and
Asia,
10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts
of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome,
11 both Jews and converts to Judaism; Cretans
and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own
tongues of the mighty works of God!”
12 They were all amazed and perplexed, saying
to one another, “What does this mean?”
13 But others mocked them, saying, “They are
full of sweet wine.”

14 Then Peter stood up with the eleven, raised
his voice, and addressed them: “Fellow Jews and
all who live in Jerusalem, understand this and
listen to my words.
15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose,
for it is only nine in the morning.
16 Rather, this is what was spoken through the
prophet Joel:

17 ‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my
Spirit on all flesh.

Your sons and your daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions, and your
old men will dream dreams.
18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I
will pour out my Spirit in those days, and
they will prophesy.
19 I will show wonders in heaven above and
signs on the earth below: blood and fire
and a cloud of smoke.
20 The sun will turn to darkness and the moon to
blood before the great and glorious day of
the Lord comes.
21 And everyone who calls on the name of the
Lord will be saved.'
22 Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus of
Nazareth was a man attested to you by God
through mighty works, wonders, and signs that
God did through him among you, as you
yourselves know.
23 This man, handed over according to God's
determined plan and foreknowledge, you killed
by nailing him to a cross through the hands of
lawless men.
24 But God raised him up, freeing him from the
pains of death, because it was impossible for
death to hold him.
25 For David says about him,
'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my
right hand so that I will not be shaken.
26 Therefore my heart was glad and my tongue
rejoiced;
even my flesh will rest in hope,
27 because you will not abandon my soul to
Hades or let your Holy One see decay.

28 You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.'

29 Brothers, I can speak freely to you about the
patriarch David: he died and was buried, and
his tomb is with us to this day.
30 Since he was a prophet and knew that God
had sworn an oath to him to seat one of his
descendants on his throne,
31 he foresaw and spoke about the
resurrection of the Christ: he was not
abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see decay.
32 God raised this Jesus, and we are all
witnesses of this.
33 So, exalted to the right hand of God and
having received from the Father the promise of
the Holy Spirit, he has poured out what you see
and hear.
34 For David did not ascend into heaven, but
he himself says,

'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand

35 until I make your enemies a footstool for your
feet." '

36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know
for certain that God has made this Jesus whom
you crucified both Lord and Christ."

37 When they heard this, they were pierced to
the heart and said to Peter and the other
apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"
38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of
you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for
the forgiveness of your sins, and you will
receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 For the promise is for you, for your
children, and for all who are far away—as many
as the Lord our God calls."
40 With many other words he bore solemn
witness and urged them, saying, "Be saved from
this crooked generation."
41 So those who received his word were
baptized, and about three thousand people were
added that day.
42 They devoted themselves to the apostles'
teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of
bread and the prayers.
43 Awe came over everyone, and many
wonders and signs were done through the
apostles.
44 All who believed were together and held
everything in common.
45 They sold their property and possessions
and distributed the proceeds to all, according to
each person's need.
46 Day by day they continued with one accord
in the temple, breaking bread in their homes
and sharing food with gladness and simplicity of
heart,
47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all
the people. And day by day the Lord added to
their number those who were being saved.

3

1 Peter and John were going up to the temple
at the hour of prayer, three in the afternoon.
2 A man who had been lame from his mother's
womb was being carried there. Every day he

was placed at the temple gate called Beautiful to
ask for alms from those entering the temple.
3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter
the temple, he asked them for alms.
4 Peter, together with John, looked intently at
him and said, “Look at us.”
5 So he gave them his attention, expecting to
receive something from them.
6 But Peter said, “I have no silver or gold, but
what I have I give you: in the name of Jesus
Christ of Nazareth, walk.”
7 He took him by the right hand and raised
him up, and immediately the man’s feet and
ankles were strengthened.
8 Leaping up, he stood and began to walk. He
entered the temple with them, walking and
leaping and praising God.
9 All the people saw him walking and praising
God.
10 They recognized him as the one who sat
begging at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, and
they were filled with wonder and amazement at
what had happened to him.

11 While he held on to Peter and John, all the
people ran together to them in the portico called
Solomon’s, utterly amazed.
12 When Peter saw this, he addressed the
people: “Men of Israel, why are you amazed at
this? Why do you stare at us as though we had
made him walk by our own power or godliness?
13 The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the
God of our fathers, has glorified his servant

Jesus, whom you handed over and denied before
Pilate, though he had decided to release him.
14 But you denied the Holy and Righteous One
and asked for a murderer to be released to you.
15 You killed the Author of life, whom God
raised from the dead. We are witnesses of this.
16 Through faith in his name, his name has
strengthened this man whom you see and know.
The faith that comes through him has given this
man complete health before you all.
17 And now, brothers, I know that you acted in
ignorance, as did your rulers.
18 But in this way God fulfilled what he had
foretold through the mouth of all the prophets:
that his Christ would suffer.
19 Repent, then, and turn back, so that your
sins may be wiped away,
20 so that times of refreshing may come from
the presence of the Lord, and he may send Jesus,
the Christ appointed beforehand for you.
21 Heaven must receive him until the times of
restoration of all things, of which God spoke
through the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.
22 Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for
you a prophet like me from among your
brothers. You must listen to him in everything
he tells you.
23 And everyone who does not listen to that
prophet will be utterly destroyed from among
the people.’
24 All the prophets who have spoken, from
Samuel and those who followed him onward,
also proclaimed these days.

25 You are the children of the prophets and of
the covenant God made with your fathers,
saying to Abraham, 'In your offspring all the
families of the earth will be blessed.'
26 God raised up his servant and sent him to
you first, to bless you by turning each of you
away from your wicked ways."

4

1 While they were speaking to the people, the
priests, the captain of the temple guard, and the
Sadducees came up to them,
2 greatly disturbed because they were
teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the
resurrection from the dead.
3 They arrested them and held them in custody
until the next day, since it was already evening.
4 But many who had heard the word believed,
and the number of men came to about five
thousand.
5 The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes
gathered in Jerusalem,
6 along with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas,
John, Alexander, and all who belonged to the
high-priestly family.
7 They had the apostles stand in their midst
and asked, "By what power or in what name did
you do this?"
8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to
them, "Rulers of the people and elders,
9 if we are being questioned today about a
good deed done for a disabled man and how he
has been healed,

10 let all of you and all the people of Israel
know that it is in the name of Jesus Christ of
Nazareth, whom you crucified and whom God
raised from the dead, that this man stands
before you healthy.
11 He is the stone you builders rejected, which
has become the cornerstone.
12 There is salvation in no one else, for there is
no other name under heaven given among
people by which we must be saved."
13 When they saw the boldness of Peter and
John and realized that they were uneducated,
ordinary men, they were amazed. They also
recognized that they had been with Jesus.
14 But seeing the man who had been healed
standing with them, they had nothing to say
against it.
15 So they ordered them to leave the council
and conferred with one another,
16 saying, "What should we do with these men?
It is clear to everyone living in Jerusalem that a
remarkable sign has been done through them,
and we cannot deny it.
17 But to keep it from spreading further among
the people, let us threaten them so that they no
longer speak to anyone in this name."
18 Then they called them in and ordered them
not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.
19 But Peter and John answered them, "Judge
for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight
to listen to you rather than to God.
20 For we cannot stop speaking about what we
have seen and heard."

21 After threatening them further, they
released them, finding no way to punish them
because of the people, since everyone was
glorifying God for what had happened.
22 For the man on whom this sign of healing
had been performed was over forty years old.

23 After their release, they went to their own
people and reported all that the chief priests
and elders had said to them.
24 When they heard this, they raised their
voices to God with one accord and said,
“Sovereign Lord, you made heaven and earth
and the sea and everything in them.

25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the
mouth of our father David, your servant:

‘Why did the nations rage and the peoples plot
in vain?
26 The kings of the earth took their stand, and
the rulers gathered together against the
Lord and against his Christ.’

27 For in this city Herod and Pontius Pilate
truly gathered with the Gentiles and the peoples
of Israel against your holy servant Jesus, whom
you anointed,
28 to do whatever your hand and your plan
had determined beforehand would happen.
29 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and
grant your servants to speak your word with all
boldness,
30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and
signs and wonders are done through the name
of your holy servant Jesus.”

31 When they had prayed, the place where
they were gathered was shaken. They were all
filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of
God with boldness.
32 The multitude of those who believed was of
one heart and soul. No one claimed that any of
his possessions was his own, but they held
everything in common.
33 With great power the apostles bore witness
to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great
grace was upon them all.
34 There was no needy person among them,
for all who owned fields or houses sold them
and brought the proceeds of the sales
35 and laid them at the apostles' feet. These
were distributed to each according to need.
36 Joseph, whom the apostles called Barnabas,
which means Son of Encouragement, was a
Levite from Cyprus.
37 He sold a field he owned, brought the
money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

5

1 A man named Ananias, together with his
wife Sapphira, sold a property.
2 With his wife's knowledge, he kept back part
of the price, brought a portion, and laid it at the
apostles' feet.
3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled
your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back
part of the price of the land?
4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain
yours? And after it was sold, was the money not

at your disposal? Why have you conceived this
deed in your heart? You have not lied to people,
but to God."
5 When Ananias heard these words, he fell
down and died. Great fear came upon all who
heard.
6 The younger men got up, wrapped his body,
carried him out, and buried him.
7 About three hours later his wife came in,
unaware of what had happened.
8 Peter asked her, "Tell me, did you sell the
land for this amount?" She said, "Yes, for that
amount."
9 Then Peter said to her, "Why did you agree
together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test?
Look, the feet of those who buried your husband
are at the door, and they will carry you out."
10 Immediately she fell at his feet and died.
When the young men came in, they found her
dead, carried her out, and buried her beside her
husband.
11 Great fear came upon the whole church and
upon all who heard about these things.
12 Many signs and wonders were done among
the people through the hands of the apostles.
They were all together with one accord in
Solomon's Portico.
13 None of the rest dared to join them, but the
people held them in high esteem.
14 Yet more and more believers in the Lord
were added, multitudes of both men and
women.
15 As a result, people even carried the sick into
the streets and laid them on cots and mats, so

that when Peter passed by, at least his shadow might fall on some of them.
16 Crowds also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.
17 Then the high priest and all who were with him, the party of the Sadducees, rose up, filled with jealousy,
18 and arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.
19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, led them out, and said,
20 "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."
21 When they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach. When the high priest and those with him arrived, they called together the council and the whole assembly of the elders of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.
22 But when the officers arrived, they did not find them in the prison. They returned and reported,
23 "We found the jail securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside."
24 When the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests heard these words, they were perplexed about them, wondering what would come of this.
25 Then someone came and told them, "Look! The men you put in prison are standing in the

temple and teaching the people."
26 Then the captain went with the officers and
brought them back without violence, for they
feared being stoned by the people.
27 They brought them in and stood them
before the council. The high priest questioned
them,
28 saying, "We strictly ordered you not to teach
in this name, and look, you have filled Jerusalem
with your teaching and want to bring this man's
blood upon us."
29 Peter and the apostles answered, "We must
obey God rather than people.
30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom
you killed by hanging him on a tree.
31 God exalted him to his right hand as Leader
and Savior, to grant Israel repentance and
forgiveness of sins.
32 We are witnesses of these things, as is the
Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who
obey him."
33 When they heard this, they were enraged
and wanted to kill them.
34 But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of
the law respected by all the people, stood up in
the council and ordered the men to be taken
outside for a little while.
35 Then he said to them, "Men of Israel, take
care what you are about to do to these men.
36 For some time ago Theudas arose, claiming
to be somebody, and about four hundred men
joined him. He was killed, and all who followed
him were dispersed and came to nothing.

37 After him Judas the Galilean arose in the
days of the census and drew people away after
him. He too perished, and all who followed him
were scattered.
38 So now I tell you, keep away from these men
and leave them alone. For if this plan or this
work is of human origin, it will be overthrown.
39 But if it is from God, you will not be able to
overthrow them. You may even find yourselves
fighting against God." They were persuaded by
him.
40 They called in the apostles and had them
beaten, ordered them not to speak in the name
of Jesus, and released them.
41 So they left the council's presence rejoicing
that they had been considered worthy to suffer
dishonor for the Name.
42 Every day, in the temple and in homes, they
never stopped teaching and proclaiming the
good news that Jesus is the Christ.

6

1 In those days, as the disciples increased in
number, the Greek-speaking Jews raised a
complaint against the Hebrews because their
widows were being overlooked in the daily
distribution.
2 The twelve called the whole body of disciples
together and said, "It is not right for us to neglect
the word of God to serve at tables.
3 So, brothers and sisters, choose from among
you seven men of good reputation, full of the
Spirit and wisdom, whom we will appoint to this
task.

4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to
the ministry of the word."
5 The proposal pleased the whole gathering.
They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the
Holy Spirit; Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon,
Parmenas, and Nicolas, a convert to Judaism
from Antioch.
6 They presented these men to the apostles,
who prayed and laid their hands on them.
7 The word of God continued to grow, and the
number of disciples in Jerusalem increased
greatly. A large number of priests also became
obedient to the faith.
8 Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing
great wonders and signs among the people.
9 But some from the synagogue called the
Synagogue of the Freedmen, along with
Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia
and Asia, rose up and debated with Stephen.
10 They could not withstand the wisdom and
the Spirit with which he spoke.
11 Then they secretly induced men to say, "We
have heard him speak blasphemous words
against Moses and God."
12 They stirred up the people, the elders, and
the scribes, came upon him, seized him, and
brought him before the council.
13 They put forward false witnesses who said,
"This man never stops speaking against the holy
place and the law.
14 For we have heard him say that this Jesus of
Nazareth will destroy this place and change the
customs Moses handed down to us."

15 All who sat in the council looked intently at
him and saw that his face was like the face of an
angel.

7

1 Then the high priest asked, “Are these things
so?”
2 Stephen replied, “Brothers and fathers, listen.
The God of glory appeared to our father
Abraham while he was in Mesopotamia, before
he settled in Haran,
3 and said to him, ‘Leave your country and
your relatives, and come to the land I will show
you.’
4 Then he left the land of the Chaldeans and
settled in Haran. After his father died, God
moved him from there to this land where you
now live.
5 He gave him no inheritance in it, not even a
place to set his foot, but promised to give it to
him as a possession and to his offspring after
him, even though he had no child.
6 God spoke in this way: his offspring would
live as foreigners in another land, and they
would be enslaved and mistreated for four
hundred years.
7 ‘But I will judge the nation they serve as
slaves,’ God said, ‘and afterward they will come
out and worship me in this place.’
8 He gave him the covenant of circumcision.
So Abraham fathered Isaac and circumcised him
on the eighth day; Isaac fathered Jacob, and
Jacob the twelve patriarchs.

9 The patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him
into Egypt. But God was with him
10 and delivered him from all his afflictions.
He gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh
king of Egypt, who appointed him ruler over
Egypt and all his household.
11 Then famine and great affliction came upon
all Egypt and Canaan, and our fathers could find
no food.
12 When Jacob heard there was grain in Egypt,
he sent our fathers on their first visit.
13 On the second visit Joseph made himself
known to his brothers, and Joseph's family
became known to Pharaoh.
14 Joseph sent for his father Jacob and all his
relatives, seventy-five people in all.
15 Jacob went down to Egypt, and he and our
fathers died.
16 They were brought back to Shechem and
laid in the tomb Abraham had bought for a sum
of silver from the sons of Hamor in Shechem.
17 As the time drew near for the promise God
had made to Abraham, the people grew and
multiplied in Egypt
18 until another king arose over Egypt who did
not know Joseph.
19 He dealt craftily with our people and
mistreated our fathers, forcing them to abandon
their infants so that they would not survive.
20 At that time Moses was born, and he was
beautiful in God's sight. He was brought up for
three months in his father's house.
21 When he was abandoned, Pharaoh's
daughter took him in and brought him up as her

own son.
22 Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of
the Egyptians, and he was powerful in his words
and deeds.
23 When he was forty years old, it came into
his heart to visit his brothers, the children of
Israel.
24 When he saw one of them being mistreated,
he defended him and avenged the oppressed
man by striking down the Egyptian.
25 He thought his brothers would understand
that God was giving them deliverance through
his hand, but they did not understand.
26 The next day he came upon some of them
fighting and tried to reconcile them, saying,
'Men, you are brothers. Why are you wronging
one another?'
27 But the one who was wronging his neighbor
pushed him away, saying, 'Who appointed you
ruler and judge over us?
28 Do you want to kill me as you killed the
Egyptian yesterday?'
29 At these words Moses fled and became a
foreign resident in the land of Midian, where he
fathered two sons.
30 After forty years had passed, an angel
appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount
Sinai, in the flame of a burning bush.
31 When Moses saw it, he marveled at the
sight. As he approached to look more closely, the
voice of the Lord came:
32 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of
Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.' Moses trembled and
did not dare to look.

33 The Lord said to him, ‘Take the sandals off
your feet, for the place where you stand is holy
ground.
34 I have surely seen the oppression of my
people in Egypt and heard their groaning, and I
have come down to deliver them. Now come, I
will send you to Egypt.’
35 This Moses, whom they rejected, saying,
‘Who appointed you ruler and judge?’—God sent
this very man as ruler and deliverer, with the
help of the angel who appeared to him in the
bush.
36 He led them out, performing wonders and
signs in the land of Egypt, at the Red Sea, and in
the wilderness for forty years.
37 This is the Moses who said to the children of
Israel, ‘God will raise up for you a prophet like
me from among your brothers.’
38 He was with the assembly in the wilderness,
with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai
and with our fathers. He received living words
to give to us.
39 Our fathers refused to obey him. Instead,
they pushed him aside and turned back to Egypt
in their hearts,
40 saying to Aaron, ‘Make us gods who will go
before us, for we do not know what has
happened to this Moses who led us out of the
land of Egypt.’
41 In those days they made a calf, offered
sacrifice to the idol, and rejoiced in the works of
their own hands.
42 But God turned away and gave them over to

worship the host of heaven, as it is written in
the book of the prophets:
‘Did you offer me slaughtered animals and
sacrifices for forty years in the
wilderness, house of Israel?
43 You took up the tent of Moloch and the star of
the god Rephan, the images you made to
worship them.
I will send you into exile beyond Babylon.’
44 Our fathers had the tent of the testimony in
the wilderness, just as the one who spoke to
Moses directed him to make it according to the
pattern he had seen.
45 Our fathers received it in turn and brought
it in with Joshua when they took possession of
the land of the nations God drove out before
them. It remained until the days of David,
46 who found favor before God and asked to
find a dwelling for the God of Jacob.
47 But Solomon built him a house.
48 Yet the Most High does not dwell in places
made by human hands, as the prophet says:
49 ‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth is a
footstool for my feet.
What kind of house will you build for me,
says the Lord, or what is the place of my
rest?
50 Did not my hand make all these things?’
51 You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in
hearts and ears! You always resist the Holy
Spirit; you are just like your fathers.
52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not
persecute? They killed those who foretold the

coming of the Righteous One, whom you have
now betrayed and murdered.
53 You received the law as ordained by angels,
yet you did not keep it."

54 When they heard these things, they were
enraged in their hearts and gnashed their teeth
at him.
55 But he, full of the Holy Spirit, looked
intently into heaven and saw the glory of God
and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
56 He said, "Look! I see the heavens opened
and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of
God."
57 They shouted at the top of their voices,
covered their ears, and rushed at him together.
58 They drove him outside the city and began
to stone him. The witnesses laid their cloaks at
the feet of a young man named Saul.
59 As they stoned Stephen, he called out, "Lord
Jesus, receive my spirit."
60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a
loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against
them." After saying this, he fell asleep.

8

1 Saul approved of his killing. On that day a
great persecution arose against the church in
Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were
scattered throughout the regions of Judea and
Samaria.
2 Devout men buried Stephen and mourned
deeply for him.

3 But Saul was ravaging the church. Going
from house to house, he dragged off men and
women and handed them over to prison.

4 Those who had been scattered went from
place to place proclaiming the good news of the
word.
5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and
proclaimed the Christ to them.
6 The crowds paid attention with one accord to
what Philip said, as they heard him and saw the
signs he was doing.
7 For unclean spirits came out of many who
had them, crying out with a loud voice, and
many who were paralyzed or lame were healed.
8 So there was great joy in that city.

9 Now a man named Simon had been
practicing magic in the city and astonishing the
people of Samaria, claiming to be someone
great.
10 They all paid attention to him, from the
least to the greatest, saying, “This man is the
power of God called Great.”
11 They paid attention to him because he had
astonished them for a long time with his magic.
12 But when they believed Philip as he
proclaimed the good news about the kingdom of
God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and
women were baptized.
13 Simon himself also believed, and after being
baptized he stayed close to Philip. He was
astonished as he saw signs and great miracles
being done.

14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that
Samaria had received the word of God, they sent
Peter and John to them.
15 They went down and prayed for them to
receive the Holy Spirit,
16 for he had not yet fallen upon any of them;
they had only been baptized into the name of
the Lord Jesus.
17 Then they laid their hands on them, and
they received the Holy Spirit.
18 When Simon saw that the Spirit was given
through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he
offered them money,
19 saying, "Give me this authority too, so that
anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive
the Holy Spirit."
20 But Peter said to him, "May your silver
perish with you, because you thought you could
acquire God's gift with money!
21 You have no part or share in this matter, for
your heart is not right before God.
22 Repent, then, of this wickedness of yours,
and plead with the Lord that perhaps you may
be forgiven for the intent of your heart.
23 For I see that you are in bitter gall and in
the bond of unrighteousness."
24 Simon answered, "You yourselves pray to
the Lord for me, so that none of what you have
said may happen to me."

25 After bearing solemn witness and speaking
the word of the Lord, they made their way back
to Jerusalem, proclaiming the good news in

many Samaritan villages.

26 Then an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip,
saying, “Get up and go south to the road that
goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a
wilderness road.
27 He got up and went. There was an Ethiopian
man, a eunuch and high official of Candace,
queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of all her
treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship
28 and was returning, seated in his chariot,
reading the prophet Isaiah.
29 The Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and stay
beside this chariot.”
30 Philip ran up and heard him reading the
prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand
what you are reading?”
31 He said, “How could I, unless someone
guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up
and sit with him.
32 The passage of Scripture he was reading
was this:
“He was led like a sheep to slaughter, and as a
lamb is silent before its shearer, so he
does not open his mouth.
33 In humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can tell of his descendants?
For his life is taken from the earth.”
34 The eunuch asked Philip, “Please tell me,
about whom does the prophet say this? About
himself or about someone else?”
35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting
with this Scripture, he told him the good news
about Jesus.

36 As they traveled along the road, they came
to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look,
water! What prevents me from being baptized?”
37 [Philip said, “If you believe with all your
heart, you may.” He answered, “I believe that
Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”]
38 He ordered the chariot to stop, and both
Philip and the eunuch went down into the water,
and Philip baptized him.
39 When they came up out of the water, the
Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The
eunuch saw him no more, for he went on his
way rejoicing.
40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as
he passed through, he proclaimed the good
news in all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

9

1 Saul, still breathing threats and murder
against the Lord’s disciples, went to the high
priest
2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues
in Damascus, so that if he found any who
belonged to the Way, men or women, he could
bring them bound to Jerusalem.
3 As he traveled and drew near Damascus,
suddenly a light from heaven flashed around
him.
4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice
saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you
persecuting me?”
5 He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” He replied, “I
am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

6 But get up and enter the city, and you will be
told what you must do."
7 The men traveling with him stood
speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.
8 Saul got up from the ground, but although
his eyes were open, he could see nothing. So
they led him by the hand into Damascus.
9 For three days he could not see, and he
neither ate nor drank.
10 Now there was a disciple in Damascus
named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a
vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am,
Lord."
11 The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the
street called Straight, and at Judas's house ask
for a man from Tarsus named Saul. Look, he is
praying,
12 and in a vision he has seen a man named
Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so
that he may regain his sight."
13 Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from
many about this man, how much harm he has
done to your saints in Jerusalem.
14 And here he has authority from the chief
priests to bind all who call on your name."
15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for this man is
my chosen instrument to carry my name before
Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.
16 For I will show him how much he must
suffer for my name."
17 So Ananias went and entered the house. He
laid his hands on him and said, "Brother Saul,
the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road
as you were coming here, has sent me so that

you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."
18 Immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. He got up and was baptized,
19 and after taking food he regained his strength. He stayed for some days with the disciples in Damascus,
20 and immediately he began proclaiming Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."
21 All who heard him were astonished and said, "Isn't this the man who devastated those in Jerusalem who call on this name? Hadn't he come here to bring them bound before the chief priests?"
22 But Saul grew stronger and stronger and confounded the Jews living in Damascus by demonstrating that Jesus is the Christ.
23 After many days had passed, the Jews plotted together to kill him,
24 but Saul learned of their plot. They were also watching the gates day and night to kill him.
25 But his disciples took him by night and lowered him through the wall, letting him down in a basket.
26 When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing he was a disciple.
27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the road, how the Lord had spoken to him, and how he had spoken boldly in the

name of Jesus in Damascus.
28 So he went in and out among them in
Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the
Lord.
29 He spoke and debated with the
Greek-speaking Jews, but they were trying to kill
him.
30 When the brothers learned of this, they
brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off
to Tarsus.
31 So the church throughout all Judea, Galilee,
and Samaria had peace and was being built up.
Walking in the fear of the Lord and in the
encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it increased in
number.
32 As Peter traveled through all those places,
he also went down to the saints living in Lydda.
33 There he found a man named Aeneas who
had been lying on a mat for eight years because
he was paralyzed.
34 Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals
you. Get up and make your bed.” Immediately
he got up.
35 All who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him
and turned to the Lord.
36 In Joppa there was a disciple named
Tabitha, which translated is Dorcas. She
abounded in good works and in the alms she
gave.
37 In those days she became sick and died.
After washing her body, they laid it in an
upstairs room.
38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples
heard that Peter was there and sent two men to

urge him, “Do not delay in coming to us.”
39 Peter got up and went with them. When he
arrived, they brought him to the upstairs room.
All the widows stood beside him, weeping and
showing him the tunics and cloaks Dorcas had
made while she was with them.
40 Peter sent everyone outside, knelt down,
and prayed. Then he turned toward the body
and said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes,
and when she saw Peter, she sat up.
41 He gave her his hand and helped her stand.
Then he called the saints and the widows and
presented her alive.
42 This became known throughout Joppa, and
many believed in the Lord.
43 Peter stayed in Joppa for many days with a
man named Simon, a tanner.

10

1 In Caesarea there was a man named
Cornelius, a centurion in what was called the
Italian Cohort.
2 He was devout and feared God with all his
household, gave generously in alms to the
people, and prayed to God continually.
3 About three in the afternoon he clearly saw
in a vision an angel of God come to him and say,
“Cornelius.”
4 He stared at him in fear and asked, “What is
it, sir?” The angel said to him, “Your prayers and
your alms have come up as a memorial before
God.
5 Now send men to Joppa and send for a man
named Simon who is called Peter.

6 He is staying with Simon, a tanner, whose
house is beside the sea."
7 When the angel who spoke to him had gone,
Cornelius called two of his household servants
and a devout soldier from among those who
attended him.
8 He explained everything to them and sent
them to Joppa.

9 The next day, as they traveled and
approached the city, Peter went up on the roof
to pray about noon.
10 He became hungry and wanted something
to eat. While they were preparing it, he fell into
a trance.
11 He saw heaven opened and something like a
large sheet coming down, lowered to the earth
by its four corners.
12 In it were all kinds of four-footed animals,
creatures that crawl on the earth, and birds of
the sky.
13 A voice said to him, "Get up, Peter. Slaughter
and eat."
14 But Peter said, "Certainly not, Lord, for I
have never eaten anything defiled and unclean."
15 The voice spoke to him again a second time:
"What God has made clean, you must not call
defiled."
16 This happened three times, and
immediately the sheet was taken up into heaven.

17 While Peter was inwardly perplexed about
what the vision he had seen might mean, the
men sent by Cornelius had asked for Simon's
house and were standing at the gate.

18 They called out and asked whether Simon
who was called Peter was staying there.
19 As Peter pondered the vision, the Spirit said
to him, “Look, men are seeking you.
20 Get up, go down, and go with them without
hesitation, for I have sent them.”
21 Peter went down to the men and said, “Here
I am, the one you are looking for. Why have you
come?”
22 They said, “Cornelius, a centurion, a
righteous man who fears God and is well spoken
of by the whole Jewish nation, was instructed by
a holy angel to send for you to come to his house
and hear what you have to say.”
23 So he invited them in and gave them
lodging. The next day he got up and went with
them, and some of the brothers from Joppa
accompanied him.
24 The following day he entered Caesarea.
Cornelius was expecting them and had called
together his relatives and close friends.
25 When Peter was about to enter, Cornelius
met him, fell at his feet, and bowed before him.
26 But Peter raised him up, saying, “Stand up. I
too am a man.”
27 As he talked with him, he went inside and
found many people gathered.
28 He said to them, “You know that a Jewish
man is not permitted to associate with or visit a
foreigner. But God has shown me that I must not
call any person defiled or unclean.
29 That is why I came without objection when
you sent for me. So I ask, why did you send for

me?"
30 Cornelius said, "Four days ago, at this very
hour, three in the afternoon, I was praying in my
house, and suddenly a man in bright clothing
stood before me
31 and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been
heard and your alms have been remembered
before God.
32 Send to Joppa and call for Simon who is
called Peter. He is staying at the house of Simon
the tanner beside the sea.'
33 So I sent for you at once, and you have done
well to come. Now we are all here before God to
hear everything the Lord has commanded you."
34 Then Peter began to speak: "I truly
understand that God shows no partiality,
35 but in every nation whoever fears him and
does what is right is acceptable to him.
36 He sent the word to the children of Israel,
proclaiming the good news of peace through
Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.
37 You know what happened throughout
Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism
John proclaimed:
38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with
the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing
good and healing all who were oppressed by the
devil, because God was with him.
39 We are witnesses of all he did in the land of
the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by
hanging him on a tree.
40 God raised him on the third day and caused
him to appear,

41 not to all the people, but to witnesses
chosen beforehand by God: to us, who ate and
drank with him after he rose from the dead.
42 He commanded us to proclaim to the people
and bear solemn witness that he is the one
appointed by God as judge of the living and the
dead.
43 All the prophets bear witness about him:
everyone who believes in him receives
forgiveness of sins through his name."
44 While Peter was still speaking these words,
the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were hearing
the word.
45 The circumcised believers who had come
with Peter were astonished that the gift of the
Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the
Gentiles,
46 for they heard them speaking in tongues
and magnifying God. Then Peter said,
47 "Can anyone withhold the water for
baptizing these people who have received the
Holy Spirit just as we have?"
48 He ordered them to be baptized in the name
of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay for a
few days.

11

1 The apostles and the brothers throughout
Judea heard that the Gentiles too had received
the word of God.
2 When Peter went up to Jerusalem, those of
the circumcision disputed with him,
3 saying, "You visited uncircumcised men and
ate with them."

4 So Peter began to explain it to them in order,
saying,
5 "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a
trance I saw a vision: something like a large
sheet coming down, lowered from heaven by its
four corners. It came right down to me.
6 I looked intently into it and saw four-footed
animals of the earth, wild beasts, crawling
creatures, and birds of the sky.
7 I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up,
Peter. Slaughter and eat.'
8 But I said, 'Certainly not, Lord, for nothing
defiled or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'
9 A voice answered from heaven a second
time, 'What God has made clean, you must not
call defiled.'
10 This happened three times, and everything
was drawn back up into heaven.
11 Just then three men sent to me from
Caesarea arrived at the house where we were.
12 The Spirit told me to go with them without
making any distinction. These six brothers also
went with me, and we entered the man's house.
13 He told us how he had seen the angel
standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa
and call for Simon who is called Peter.
14 He will speak words to you by which you
and all your household will be saved.'
15 As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon
them just as upon us at the beginning.
16 Then I remembered the word of the Lord,
how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you
will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

17 So if God gave them the same gift he gave us
when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who
was I to hinder God?"
18 When they heard this, they fell silent and
glorified God, saying, "Then God has granted
even the Gentiles repentance that leads to life."
19 Now those scattered by the persecution that
arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia,
Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the word to no
one except Jews.
20 But some of them, men from Cyprus and
Cyrene, came to Antioch and also spoke to the
Greek-speaking people, proclaiming the good
news of the Lord Jesus.
21 The hand of the Lord was with them, and a
great number believed and turned to the Lord.
22 News about them reached the ears of the
church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to
Antioch.
23 When he arrived and saw the grace of God,
he rejoiced and encouraged them all to remain
faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose of
heart,
24 for he was a good man, full of the Holy
Spirit and faith. And a large number of people
were added to the Lord.
25 Then he went to Tarsus to look for Saul,
26 and when he found him, he brought him to
Antioch. For a whole year they gathered with
the church and taught a large number of people.
It was in Antioch that the disciples were first
called Christians.
27 In those days prophets came down from
Jerusalem to Antioch.

28 One of them, named Agabus, stood up and
indicated through the Spirit that there would be
a great famine over the whole inhabited world.
This occurred in the time of Claudius.
29 The disciples decided, each according to his
means, to send relief to the brothers living in
Judea.
30 This they did, sending it to the elders by the
hands of Barnabas and Saul.

12

1 About that time King Herod laid hands on
some who belonged to the church to mistreat
them.
2 He had James, the brother of John, killed
with the sword.
3 When he saw that this pleased the Jews, he
went on to arrest Peter as well. This was during
the days of Unleavened Bread.
4 After seizing him, he put him in prison and
handed him over to four squads of four soldiers
each to guard him, intending to bring him
before the people after the Passover.
5 So Peter was kept in prison, but the church
was praying earnestly to God for him.
6 On the night before Herod was to bring him
out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers,
bound with two chains, while guards in front of
the door kept watch over the prison.
7 Suddenly an angel of the Lord stood beside
him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck
Peter on the side and woke him, saying, “Get up
quickly.” And the chains fell from his hands.

8 The angel said to him, “Fasten your belt and
put on your sandals.” He did so. Then he said to
him, “Wrap your cloak around you and follow
me.”
9 He went out and followed him, not knowing
that what was being done through the angel was
real; he thought he was seeing a vision.
10 They passed the first guard post and the
second and came to the iron gate leading into
the city, which opened for them by itself. They
went out and proceeded along one street, and
immediately the angel left him.
11 When Peter came to himself, he said, “Now I
know for certain that the Lord has sent his angel
and rescued me from Herod’s hand and from all
that the Jewish people were expecting.”
12 When he realized this, he went to the house
of Mary, the mother of John who was called
Mark, where many were gathered and praying.
13 When he knocked at the outer gate, a
servant girl named Rhoda came to answer.
14 She recognized Peter’s voice, and in her joy
she did not open the gate but ran inside and
announced that Peter was standing at the gate.
15 They said to her, “You are out of your mind.”
But she kept insisting that it was so. They said,
“It is his angel.”
16 But Peter kept knocking. When they opened
the door, they saw him and were astonished.
17 He motioned with his hand for them to be
silent and told them how the Lord had brought
him out of the prison. Then he said, “Tell James
and the brothers these things.” He left and went

to another place.

18 At daybreak there was no small commotion
among the soldiers over what had become of
Peter.
19 After Herod searched for him and did not
find him, he questioned the guards and ordered
them to be led away for execution. Then he went
down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there.
20 Now he was very angry with the people of
Tyre and Sidon. They came to him together and,
after gaining the support of Blastus, the king's
chamberlain, asked for peace, because their
country depended on the king's country for food.
21 On an appointed day Herod put on royal
robes, sat on the judgment seat, and addressed
them.
22 The crowd shouted, "The voice of a god, and
not of a man!"
23 Immediately an angel of the Lord struck
him because he did not give the glory to God,
and he was eaten by worms and died.
24 But the word of God grew and multiplied.
25 Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem
after completing their service, taking with them
John who was called Mark.

13

1 Now in the church at Antioch there were
prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called
Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been
brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.
2 While they were serving the Lord and
fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me

Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."
3 Then, after fasting and praying, they laid their hands on them and sent them off.
4 So, sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus.
5 When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. They also had John as their helper.
6 They traveled through the whole island as far as Paphos and found a Jewish magician and false prophet named Bar-Jesus.
7 He was with the proconsul Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. The proconsul summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God.
8 But Elymas the magician—for that is how his name is translated—opposed them, trying to turn the proconsul away from the faith.
9 Then Saul, also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him
10 and said, "You who are full of every kind of deceit and malice, son of the devil, enemy of all righteousness, will you not stop twisting the straight ways of the Lord?
11 And now, look, the Lord's hand is upon you, and you will be blind, unable to see the sun for a time." Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand.
12 When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, astonished at the

teaching of the Lord.

13 Paul and his companions sailed from
Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. But
John left them and returned to Jerusalem.
14 They continued on from Perga and came to
Pisidian Antioch. On the Sabbath they entered
the synagogue and sat down.
15 After the reading of the Law and the
Prophets, the synagogue rulers sent word to
them: “Brothers, if you have a word of
encouragement for the people, speak.”
16 Paul stood up, motioned with his hand, and
said, “Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen.
17 The God of this people Israel chose our
fathers and exalted the people during their stay
as foreigners in the land of Egypt. With an
uplifted arm he brought them out of it,
18 and for about forty years he bore with them
in the wilderness.
19 After destroying seven nations in the land of
Canaan, he gave them their land as an
inheritance,
20 all this over about four hundred and fifty
years. After that he gave them judges until
Samuel the prophet.
21 Then they asked for a king, and God gave
them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of
Benjamin, for forty years.
22 After removing him, he raised up David as
their king, of whom he testified, ‘I have found
David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart,
who will do all my will.’

23 From this man's offspring, according to
promise, God brought Israel a Savior, Jesus.
24 Before his coming, John proclaimed a
baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.
25 As John was finishing his course, he said,
'Who do you suppose I am? I am not the one.
But look, one is coming after me whose sandals I
am not worthy to untie.'

26 Brothers, children of Abraham's family, and
those among you who fear God, the word of this
salvation has been sent to us.
27 For the people living in Jerusalem and their
rulers did not recognize him or the voices of the
prophets read every Sabbath, and by
condemning him they fulfilled them.
28 Though they found no grounds for a death
sentence, they asked Pilate to have him killed.
29 When they had accomplished everything
written about him, they took him down from the
tree and laid him in a tomb.
30 But God raised him from the dead.
31 For many days he appeared to those who
had gone up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem,
who are now his witnesses to the people.
32 And we proclaim to you the good news of
the promise made to the fathers:
33 God has fulfilled it for our children by
raising up Jesus, as it is written in the second
psalm, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten
you.'
34 As for raising him from the dead, never
again to return to decay, he has spoken in this

way: ‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings
of David.’
35 Therefore he also says in another place, ‘You
will not let your Holy One see decay.’
36 For David, after serving his own generation
according to God’s purpose, fell asleep, was
gathered to his fathers, and saw decay.
37 But the one God raised did not see decay.
38 So let it be known to you, brothers, that
through this man forgiveness of sins is
proclaimed to you; and from everything from
which you could not be justified by the law of
Moses,
39 in him everyone who believes is justified.
40 Take care, then, that what was spoken in the
prophets does not come upon you:
41 ‘Look, you scoffers, be amazed and perish, for
I am doing a work in your days, a work
you would never believe even if someone
told you about it.’ ”
42 As they went out, the people urged them to
speak these words to them the next Sabbath.
43 When the synagogue meeting ended, many
Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed
Paul and Barnabas, who spoke with them and
urged them to continue in the grace of God.
44 The next Sabbath almost the whole city
gathered to hear the word of the Lord.
45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they
were filled with jealousy and contradicted what
Paul was saying, speaking blasphemously.
46 Then Paul and Barnabas spoke boldly: “It
was necessary for the word of God to be spoken

to you first. Since you reject it and judge
yourselves unworthy of eternal life, look, we are
turning to the Gentiles.
47 For this is what the Lord has commanded
us: ‘I have appointed you as a light for the
Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the
ends of the earth.’ ”
48 When the Gentiles heard this, they rejoiced
and glorified the word of the Lord, and all who
had been appointed to eternal life believed.
49 The word of the Lord spread throughout the
whole region.
50 But the Jews stirred up the devout women
of high standing and the leading men of the city,
raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas,
and drove them out of their territory.
51 They shook the dust from their feet against
them and went to Iconium.
52 And the disciples were filled with joy and
the Holy Spirit.

14

1 In Iconium they entered the Jewish
synagogue together and spoke in such a way
that a great multitude of both Jews and Greeks
believed.
2 But the Jews who refused to believe stirred
up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds
against the brothers.
3 So they stayed a considerable time, speaking
boldly in reliance on the Lord, who bore witness
to the word of his grace by granting signs and
wonders to be done through their hands.

4 But the people of the city were divided: some
sided with the Jews and others with the apostles.
5 When the Gentiles and Jews, together with
their rulers, made a move to mistreat and stone
them,
6 they learned of it and fled to Lystra and
Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding
region.
7 There they continued to proclaim the good
news.
8 In Lystra a man was sitting who had no
strength in his feet. He had been lame from his
mother's womb and had never walked.
9 He listened to Paul speaking. Paul looked
intently at him, and seeing that he had faith to
be healed,
10 said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your
feet!" He leaped up and began to walk.
11 When the crowds saw what Paul had done,
they raised their voices in the Lycaonian
language, saying, "The gods have come down to
us in human likeness!"
12 They called Barnabas Zeus and Paul
Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.
13 The priest of Zeus, whose shrine was outside
the city, brought bulls and garlands to the gates
and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds.
14 When the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard
this, they tore their clothes and rushed into the
crowd, crying out
15 and saying, "Men, why are you doing these
things? We too are human beings of the same
nature as you. We bring you good news, that
you should turn from these worthless things to

the living God, who made heaven and earth and
the sea and everything in them.
16 In past generations he allowed all the
nations to go their own ways.
17 Yet he did not leave himself without
witness: he did good, giving you rain from
heaven and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts
with food and gladness."
18 Even with these words, they barely
restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to
them.

19 But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium
and persuaded the crowds. They stoned Paul
and dragged him outside the city, thinking he
was dead.
20 But when the disciples gathered around
him, he got up and entered the city. The next
day he left with Barnabas for Derbe.

21 After proclaiming the good news in that city
and making many disciples, they returned to
Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch,
22 strengthening the souls of the disciples and
urging them to remain in the faith, saying, "We
must enter the kingdom of God through many
afflictions."
23 They appointed elders for them in each
church and, after praying with fasting, entrusted
them to the Lord in whom they had believed.
24 Then they passed through Pisidia and came
to Pamphylia.
25 After speaking the word in Perga, they went
down to Attalia.

26 From there they sailed to Antioch, where
they had been entrusted to the grace of God for
the work they had now completed.
27 When they arrived and gathered the church
together, they reported all that God had done
with them and how he had opened a door of
faith to the Gentiles.
28 They stayed a considerable time with the
disciples.

15

1 Some men came down from Judea and
taught the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised
according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be
saved.”
2 After Paul and Barnabas had a sharp dispute
and debate with them, it was decided that Paul,
Barnabas, and some others from among them
should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and
elders about this question.
3 So, sent on their way by the church, they
passed through Phoenicia and Samaria,
recounting the conversion of the Gentiles and
bringing great joy to all the brothers.
4 When they arrived in Jerusalem, they were
welcomed by the church, the apostles, and the
elders, and they reported all that God had done
with them.
5 But some believers from the party of the
Pharisees stood up and said, “They must be
circumcised and ordered to keep the law of
Moses.”
6 The apostles and elders gathered to consider
this matter.

7 After much debate, Peter stood up and said
to them, “Brothers, you know that some time ago
God chose me from among you so that through
my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of
the gospel and believe.
8 And God, who knows the heart, bore witness
to them by giving them the Holy Spirit just as to
us.
9 He made no distinction between us and
them, cleansing their hearts by faith.
10 Now, then, why are you putting God to the
test by placing on the necks of the disciples a
yoke that neither our fathers nor we have been
able to bear?
11 But we believe that we are saved through
the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they are.”
12 The whole assembly fell silent and listened
to Barnabas and Paul recount all the signs and
wonders God had done through them among the
Gentiles.
13 After they finished speaking, James replied,
“Brothers, listen to me.
14 Simeon has recounted how God first visited
the Gentiles to take from them a people for his
name.
15 The words of the prophets agree with this,
as it is written:
16 ‘After this I will return and rebuild the fallen
tent of David.
I will rebuild its ruins and restore it,
17 so that the rest of humanity may seek the
Lord, and all the nations over whom my
name has been called, says the Lord, who
makes these things
18 known from long ago.’

19 Therefore my judgment is that we should
not trouble those among the Gentiles who are
turning to God,
20 but should write to them to abstain from
things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality,
from the meat of strangled animals, and from
blood.
21 For from ancient generations Moses has had
those who proclaim him in every city, since he is
read in the synagogues every Sabbath."

22 Then the apostles and elders, together with
the whole church, decided to choose men from
among them and send them to Antioch with
Paul and Barnabas: Judas called Barsabbas and
Silas, leading men among the brothers.
23 They sent this letter by their hands: "The
apostles and elders, your brothers, to the
brothers from among the Gentiles in Antioch,
Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings.
24 Since we have heard that some who went
out from us have troubled you with their words
and unsettled your souls, though we gave them
no instructions,
25 we have agreed together to choose men and
send them to you with our beloved Barnabas
and Paul,
26 men who have risked their lives for the
name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
27 So we have sent Judas and Silas, who will
also tell you the same things by word of mouth.
28 For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to
us to lay no further burden on you beyond these
necessary things:

29 that you abstain from food sacrificed to
idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled
animals, and from sexual immorality. If you
keep yourselves from these things, you will do
well. Farewell."
30 So they were sent off and went down to
Antioch, gathered the congregation, and
delivered the letter.
31 When they read it, they rejoiced at its
encouragement.
32 Judas and Silas, who were themselves
prophets, encouraged and strengthened the
brothers with many words.
33 After spending some time there, they were
sent off in peace by the brothers to those who
had sent them.
34 [But Silas thought it best to stay there.]
35 But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch,
teaching and proclaiming the good news of the
word of the Lord, along with many others.
36 After some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let
us go back and visit the brothers in every city
where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, to
see how they are doing."
37 Barnabas wanted to take along John who
was called Mark.
38 But Paul thought they should not take along
the man who had withdrawn from them in
Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the
work.
39 A sharp disagreement arose, so that they
separated from one another. Barnabas took
Mark and sailed to Cyprus,

40 but Paul chose Silas and left, entrusted by
the brothers to the grace of the Lord.
41 He traveled through Syria and Cilicia,
strengthening the churches.

16

1 He also came to Derbe and Lystra. There was
a disciple there named Timothy, the son of a
believing Jewish woman, but his father was
Greek.
2 The brothers in Lystra and Iconium spoke
well of him.
3 Paul wanted him to go with him, so he took
him and circumcised him because of the Jews in
those places, for they all knew that his father
was Greek.
4 As they traveled through the cities, they
delivered to them the decisions reached by the
apostles and elders in Jerusalem, for them to
observe.
5 So the churches were strengthened in the
faith and increased in number day by day.
6 They went through Phrygia and the Galatian
region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit
to speak the word in Asia.
7 When they came to the borders of Mysia,
they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of
Jesus did not permit them.
8 Passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas.
9 During the night a vision appeared to Paul: a
Macedonian man was standing and pleading
with him, saying, “Come over to Macedonia and
help us.”

10 After he saw the vision, we immediately
sought to leave for Macedonia, concluding that
God had called us to proclaim the good news to
them.
11 So we sailed from Troas and made a straight
course to Samothrace, and the next day to
Neapolis.
12 From there we went to Philippi, a leading
city of that district of Macedonia and a Roman
colony. We stayed in that city for some days.
13 On the Sabbath we went outside the gate to
the riverside, where we thought there was a
place of prayer. We sat down and spoke to the
women who had gathered.
14 A woman named Lydia, a seller of purple
cloth from the city of Thyatira who worshiped
God, was listening. The Lord opened her heart
to pay attention to what Paul was saying.
15 After she and her household were baptized,
she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to
be faithful to the Lord, come and stay in my
house.” And she prevailed upon us.
16 As we were going to the place of prayer, a
slave girl with a spirit of divination met us. She
brought her masters much profit by
fortune-telling.
17 She followed Paul and us, crying out, “These
men are servants of God Most High, who
proclaim to you the way of salvation.”
18 She kept doing this for many days. Paul
became greatly troubled, turned, and said to the
spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus
Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that

very hour.
19 When her masters saw that their hope of
profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and
dragged them into the marketplace before the
rulers.
20 They brought them to the magistrates and
said, “These men are Jews and are throwing our
city into turmoil.
21 They proclaim customs that we, as Romans,
are not permitted to accept or practice.”
22 The crowd joined in the attack against them,
and the magistrates tore their clothes off them
and ordered them to be beaten with rods.
23 After inflicting many blows on them, they
threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to
keep them securely.
24 Having received such an order, he put them
in the inner prison and secured their feet in the
stocks.
25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying
and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners
were listening to them.
26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so
that the prison’s foundations were shaken. At
once all the doors opened and everyone’s bonds
were loosened.
27 The jailer woke up and saw the prison doors
open. He drew his sword and was about to kill
himself, thinking the prisoners had escaped.
28 But Paul called out in a loud voice, “Do
yourself no harm, for we are all here!”
29 He called for lights, rushed in, and fell
trembling before Paul and Silas.

30 He brought them outside and asked, “Sirs,
what must I do to be saved?”
31 They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and
you will be saved, you and your household.”
32 They spoke the word of the Lord to him and
to everyone in his house.
33 At that very hour of the night he took them
and washed their wounds. Immediately he and
all his household were baptized.
34 He brought them up into his house and set
food before them, and he rejoiced with his
whole household that he had believed in God.
35 When day came, the magistrates sent their
officers, saying, “Release those men.”
36 The jailer reported these words to Paul:
“The magistrates have sent orders for your
release. So come out now and go in peace.”
37 But Paul said to them, “They beat us publicly
without a conviction, though we are Roman
citizens, and threw us into prison. And now are
they sending us away secretly? Certainly not!
Let them come themselves and lead us out.”
38 The officers reported these words to the
magistrates. They were afraid when they heard
that they were Roman citizens,
39 and they came and appealed to them. After
leading them out, they asked them to leave the
city.
40 After leaving the prison, they went to
Lydia’s house, where they saw the brothers,
encouraged them, and departed.

17

1 After passing through Amphipolis and
Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where
there was a Jewish synagogue.
2 As was his custom, Paul went in to them, and
for three Sabbaths he reasoned with them from
the Scriptures,
3 explaining and demonstrating that the Christ
had to suffer and rise from the dead. He said,
“This Jesus whom I proclaim to you is the Christ.”
4 Some of them were persuaded and joined
Paul and Silas, along with a great multitude of
devout Greeks and not a few prominent women.
5 But the Jews became jealous and enlisted
some wicked men from the marketplace. They
formed a mob and threw the city into an uproar,
attacked Jason's house, and sought to bring them
out to the people.
6 When they did not find them, they dragged
Jason and some brothers before the city officials,
shouting, “These men who have turned the
world upside down have come here too,
7 and Jason has welcomed them. They all act
against Caesar's decrees, saying that there is
another king, Jesus.”
8 They alarmed the crowd and the city officials
who heard these things.
9 After taking security from Jason and the
others, they released them.

10 The brothers immediately sent Paul and
Silas away by night to Berea. When they
arrived, they went into the Jewish synagogue.

11 The people there were more noble-minded
than those in Thessalonica. They received the
word with all eagerness, examining the
Scriptures daily to see whether these things
were so.
12 So many of them believed, along with many
prominent Greek women and many men.
13 But when the Jews from Thessalonica
learned that Paul had also proclaimed the word
of God in Berea, they came there too, stirring up
and troubling the crowds.
14 Then the brothers immediately sent Paul
away to go to the sea, while Silas and Timothy
stayed there.
15 Those escorting Paul brought him as far as
Athens. They received instructions for Silas and
Timothy to come to him as quickly as possible,
and then they left.

16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens,
his spirit was provoked within him as he saw
that the city was full of idols.
17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with the
Jews and those who worshiped God, and every
day in the marketplace with those who
happened to be there.
18 Some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also
debated with him. Some said, “What is this
babbler trying to say?” Others said, “He seems to
be a proclaimer of foreign deities,” because he
was proclaiming the good news of Jesus and the
resurrection.
19 They took him and brought him to the
Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new

teaching is that you are speaking about?
20 For you are bringing some strange things to
our ears, and we want to know what they mean."
21 Now all the Athenians and the foreigners
visiting there spent their time doing nothing but
telling or hearing something new.

22 Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus
and said, "Men of Athens, I see that in every way
you are very religious.
23 For as I passed along and observed your
objects of worship, I found an altar inscribed,
'To an unknown god.' What you worship
without knowing, this I proclaim to you.
24 The God who made the world and
everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth,
does not dwell in temples made by human
hands,
25 nor is he served by human hands as though
he needed anything, since he himself gives
everyone life and breath and all things.
26 From one he made all nations to live on the
whole face of the earth, determining their
appointed times and the boundaries of their
dwelling,
27 so that they might seek God, and perhaps
feel their way toward him and find him, though
he is not far from each one of us.
28 For in him we live and move and have our
being, as even some of your own poets have
said, 'For we too are his offspring.'
29 Since we are God's offspring, we ought not
to think that the divine nature is like gold or
silver or stone, an image formed by human art

and imagination.
30 So God overlooked the times of ignorance,
but now commands all people everywhere to
repent,
31 because he has set a day on which he will
judge the inhabited world in righteousness
through a man whom he has appointed. He has
given assurance of this to everyone by raising
him from the dead."
32 When they heard of the resurrection of the
dead, some mocked, but others said, "We will
hear you again about this."
33 So Paul went out from among them.
34 But some joined him and believed,
including Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman
named Damaris, and others with them.

18

1 After this Paul left Athens and came to
Corinth.
2 He found a Jew named Aquila, a native of
Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with
his wife Priscilla because Claudius had ordered
all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see
them,
3 and because he practiced the same trade, he
stayed with them and worked, for they were
tentmakers by trade.
4 Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue
and sought to persuade Jews and Greeks.
5 When Silas and Timothy came down from
Macedonia, Paul devoted himself to the word,
bearing solemn witness to the Jews that Jesus is
the Christ.

6 But when they opposed him and spoke
blasphemously, he shook out his clothes and said
to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I
am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”
7 He left there and entered the house of a man
named Titius Justus, who worshiped God. His
house was next to the synagogue.
8 Crispus, the synagogue ruler, believed in the
Lord with all his household, and many of the
Corinthians who heard believed and were
baptized.
9 The Lord said to Paul one night in a vision,
“Do not be afraid, but keep speaking and do not
be silent,
10 for I am with you, and no one will attack
you to harm you, for I have many people in this
city.”
11 So he stayed a year and six months,
teaching the word of God among them.
12 When Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the
Jews rose up together against Paul and brought
him before the judgment seat,
13 saying, “This man persuades people to
worship God contrary to the law.”
14 When Paul was about to speak, Gallio said
to the Jews, “If it were a matter of wrongdoing or
a serious crime, Jews, I would have reason to
hear you out.
15 But if these are disputes about words,
names, and your own law, see to it yourselves. I
am not willing to be a judge of these things.”
16 And he drove them away from the judgment
seat.

17 They all seized Sosthenes, the synagogue
ruler, and beat him before the judgment seat,
but Gallio cared about none of these things.
18 Paul stayed many more days, then said
farewell to the brothers and sailed for Syria,
with Priscilla and Aquila accompanying him. He
had cut his hair at Cenchreae, for he was under
a vow.
19 They arrived at Ephesus, and he left them
there. He himself entered the synagogue and
reasoned with the Jews.
20 When they asked him to stay longer, he did
not agree,
21 but took leave of them, saying, “I will return
to you again, God willing.” Then he sailed from
Ephesus.
22 He landed at Caesarea, went up and greeted
the church, and went down to Antioch.
23 After spending some time there, he
departed and traveled in order through the
Galatian region and Phrygia, strengthening all
the disciples.
24 Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of
Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an
eloquent man, mighty in the Scriptures.
25 He had been instructed in the way of the
Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and
taught accurately about Jesus, though he knew
only John’s baptism.
26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue.
When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took
him aside and explained the way of God to him
more accurately.

27 When he wanted to cross over to Achaia, the
brothers encouraged him and wrote to the
disciples to welcome him. On arriving, he
greatly helped those who had believed through
grace,
28 for he vigorously refuted the Jews in public,
demonstrating through the Scriptures that Jesus
is the Christ.

19

1 While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled
through the inland regions and came to
Ephesus, where he found some disciples.
2 He asked them, “Did you receive the Holy
Spirit when you believed?” They replied, “We
have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”
3 He said, “Into what, then, were you
baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.”
4 Paul said, “John baptized with a baptism of
repentance, telling the people to believe in the
one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.”
5 When they heard this, they were baptized
into the name of the Lord Jesus.
6 When Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy
Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in
tongues and prophesied.
7 There were about twelve men in all.
8 He entered the synagogue and spoke boldly
for three months, reasoning and persuading
them about the kingdom of God.
9 But when some became hardened and
refused to believe, speaking evil of the Way
before the multitude, he withdrew from them

and took the disciples apart, reasoning daily in
the hall of Tyrannus.
10 This continued for two years, so that all who
lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both
Jews and Greeks.
11 God was doing extraordinary miracles
through Paul's hands,
12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that
had touched his skin were carried to the sick,
and their diseases left them and the evil spirits
came out.
13 Some of the traveling Jewish exorcists also
tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over
those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you
by Jesus whom Paul proclaims."
14 Seven sons of a certain Sceva, a Jewish chief
priest, were doing this.
15 But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I
know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?"
16 The man in whom the evil spirit was leaped
on them, overpowered both of them, and
prevailed against them, so that they fled from
that house naked and wounded.
17 This became known to all the Jews and
Greeks living in Ephesus. Fear fell upon them
all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was
magnified.
18 Many of those who had believed came,
confessing and disclosing their practices.
19 A considerable number of those who had
practiced magic brought their books together
and burned them before everyone. They added
up their value and found it to be fifty thousand

pieces of silver.
20 In this way the word of the Lord grew
mightily and prevailed.
21 After these things had taken place, Paul
resolved in spirit to travel through Macedonia
and Achaia and go to Jerusalem. He said, “After I
have been there, I must also see Rome.”
22 He sent two of his helpers, Timothy and
Erastus, to Macedonia, while he himself stayed
in Asia for a time.
23 About that time there arose no small
disturbance concerning the Way.
24 For a silversmith named Demetrius, who
made silver shrines of Artemis, brought
considerable business to the craftsmen.
25 He gathered them together with the workers
in related trades and said, “Men, you know that
our prosperity comes from this business.
26 You see and hear that not only in Ephesus
but in almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded
and turned away a considerable multitude,
saying that gods made by hands are not gods.
27 Not only is our trade in danger of falling into
disrepute, but the temple of the great goddess
Artemis may be regarded as nothing, and she
may be stripped of her majesty, she whom all
Asia and the inhabited world worship.”
28 When they heard this, they were filled with
rage and cried out, “Great is Artemis of the
Ephesians!”
29 The city was filled with confusion, and they
rushed together into the theater, seizing Gaius
and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul’s

traveling companions.
30 Paul wanted to go in before the people, but
the disciples would not let him.
31 Some of the Asiarchs, who were his friends,
also sent to him and urged him not to venture
into the theater.
32 Some shouted one thing and some another,
for the assembly was in confusion, and most did
not know why they had come together.
33 People in the crowd instructed Alexander,
whom the Jews had pushed forward. Alexander
motioned with his hand and wanted to make a
defense before the people.
34 But when they recognized that he was a Jew,
they all shouted with one voice for about two
hours, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”
35 The city clerk quieted the crowd and said,
“Men of Ephesus, who does not know that the
city of the Ephesians is temple guardian of the
great Artemis and of what fell from heaven?
36 Since these things cannot be disputed, you
must remain calm and do nothing rash.
37 For you have brought these men here, who
are neither temple robbers nor blasphemers of
our goddess.
38 So if Demetrius and the craftsmen with him
have a charge against anyone, court sessions are
held and there are proconsuls. Let them bring
charges against one another.
39 But if you seek anything further, it will be
settled in the lawful assembly.
40 For we are in danger of being charged with
rioting over today’s events. There is no cause for

it, and we will not be able to give an account of this gathering."
41 After saying this, he dismissed the assembly.

20

1 After the uproar had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, encouraged them, and said farewell. Then he left for Macedonia.
2 He traveled through those regions, encouraged them with many words, and came to Greece,
3 where he spent three months. When the Jews formed a plot against him as he was about to sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.
4 He was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea; Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica; Gaius from Derbe and Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus from Asia.
5 These men came to Troas and waited for us there.
6 We sailed from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread and reached them in Troas in five days. We stayed there seven days.
7 On the first day of the week, when we had gathered to break bread, Paul spoke with them. Since he intended to leave the next day, he prolonged his message until midnight.
8 There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were gathered.
9 A young man named Eutychus was sitting in the window, sinking into a deep sleep as Paul continued speaking at length. Overcome by

sleep, he fell down from the third story and was picked up dead.
10 But Paul went down, fell upon him, and embraced him, saying, “Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him.”
11 Then he went upstairs, broke bread, and ate. He talked with them for a long time, until dawn, and then left.
12 They brought the young man away alive and were greatly comforted.

13 We went ahead to the ship and sailed for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there, for he had arranged it this way and intended to travel on foot.
14 When he met us at Assos, we took him aboard and went to Mitylene.
15 We sailed from there and the next day came opposite Chios. The following day we arrived at Samos, and the day after that we came to Miletus.
16 For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus so that he would not spend time in Asia. He was hurrying to be in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, if possible.

17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and summoned the elders of the church.
18 When they came to him, he said to them, “You know how I lived among you the whole time, from the first day I set foot in Asia,
19 serving the Lord with all humility, with tears, and with trials that befell me through the plots of the Jews.

20 I did not hold back from declaring to you
anything beneficial and teaching you publicly
and from house to house,
21 bearing solemn witness to both Jews and
Greeks about repentance toward God and faith
in our Lord Jesus.
22 And now, look, bound by the Spirit, I am
going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will
happen to me there,
23 except that in every city the Holy Spirit
bears witness to me that bonds and afflictions
await me.
24 But I do not count my life as precious to
myself, if only I may finish my course and the
ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to bear
solemn witness to the gospel of the grace of God.
25 And now I know that none of you among
whom I went about proclaiming the kingdom
will see my face again.
26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am
clean from the blood of all,
27 for I did not hold back from declaring to
you the whole counsel of God.
28 Pay attention to yourselves and to all the
flock in which the Holy Spirit has made you
overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which
he acquired with his own blood.
29 I know that after my departure fierce
wolves will come in among you, not sparing the
flock.
30 Even from your own number men will
arise, speaking twisted things to draw the
disciples away after themselves.

31 Therefore be watchful, remembering that
for three years, night and day, I never stopped
admonishing each one of you with tears.
32 And now I entrust you to God and to the
word of his grace, which is able to build you up
and give you the inheritance among all who are
sanctified.
33 I coveted no one's silver or gold or clothing.
34 You yourselves know that these hands
served my needs and those of my companions.
35 In everything I showed 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 After saying this, he knelt down and prayed
with them all.
37 They all wept deeply, embraced Paul, and
kissed him,
38 grieving most of all over his statement that
they would not see his face again. Then they
accompanied him to the ship.

21

1 After we had torn ourselves away from them
and set sail, we sailed directly to Cos, the next
day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara.
2 We found a ship crossing to Phoenicia, went
aboard, and set sail.
3 When we came in sight of Cyprus, we left it
on our left and sailed for Syria. We landed at
Tyre, for the ship was to unload its cargo there.

4 We sought out the disciples and stayed there
seven days. Through the Spirit they kept telling
Paul not to set foot in Jerusalem.
5 When our days there were over, we left and
continued our journey. They all accompanied us
outside the city, with their wives and children.
We knelt on the beach and prayed,
6 said farewell to one another, and boarded
the ship, while they returned home.
7 We completed the voyage from Tyre and
arrived at Ptolemais, where we greeted the
brothers and stayed with them for one day.
8 The next day we left and came to Caesarea.
We entered the house of Philip the evangelist,
who was one of the Seven, and stayed with him.
9 He had four virgin daughters who
prophesied.
10 While we stayed there for several days, a
prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.
11 He came to us, took Paul's belt, bound his
own feet and hands, and said, "This is what the
Holy Spirit says: 'In this way the Jews in
Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt
and hand him over into the hands of the
Gentiles.' "
12 When we heard this, both we and the
people there pleaded with 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 bound, but even to die in
Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."
14 When he would not be persuaded, we

stopped insisting and said, “Let the Lord’s will be done.”
15 After those days we made our preparations
and went up to Jerusalem.
16 Some disciples from Caesarea also
accompanied us, bringing us to Mnason, a
Cypriot and a disciple from the early days, with
whom we were to stay.
17 When we arrived in Jerusalem, the brothers
welcomed us gladly.
18 The next day Paul went with us to James,
and all the elders were present.
19 After greeting them, he recounted one by
one the things God had done among the Gentiles
through his ministry.
20 When they heard it, they glorified God and
said to him, “You see, brother, how many tens of
thousands of Jews have believed, and they are
all zealous for the law.
21 They have been informed about you that
you teach all the Jews living among the Gentiles
to abandon Moses, telling them not to
circumcise their children or follow the customs.
22 What is to be done, then? They will
certainly hear that you have come.
23 So do what we tell you. We have four men
who are under a vow.
24 Take them with you, purify yourself with
them, and pay their expenses so that they may
shave their heads. Then everyone will know
that there is nothing to what they have been told
about you, but that you yourself also live in
observance of the law.

25 As for the Gentiles who have believed, we
have sent our decision that they should abstain
from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from
the meat of strangled animals, and from sexual
immorality."
26 Then Paul took the men with him, and the
next day he purified himself with them and
entered the temple, giving notice of the
completion of the days of purification, when the
offering would be presented for each of them.
27 When the seven days were almost over, the
Jews from Asia saw him in the temple, stirred up
the whole crowd, and seized him,
28 shouting, "Men of Israel, help! This is the
man who teaches everyone everywhere against
the people, the law, and this place. He has even
brought Greeks into the temple and defiled this
holy place."
29 For they had previously seen Trophimus the
Ephesian with him in the city and assumed that
Paul had brought him into the temple.
30 The whole city was stirred up, and the
people came running together. They seized Paul
and dragged him outside the temple, and
immediately the doors were shut.
31 As they were seeking to kill him, word
reached the commander of the cohort that all
Jerusalem was in confusion.
32 He immediately took soldiers and
centurions and ran down to them. When they
saw the commander and the soldiers, they
stopped beating Paul.
33 Then the commander came up, arrested

him, and ordered him to be bound with two chains. He asked who he was and what he had done.
34 Some in the crowd shouted one thing and some another. Since he could learn nothing certain because of the uproar, he ordered him to be brought into the barracks.
35 When Paul reached the stairs, the soldiers had to carry him because of the crowd's violence,
36 for the multitude of people followed, shouting, "Away with him!"
37 As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he said to the commander, "May I say something to you?" He replied, "Do you know Greek?
38 Then are you not the Egyptian who some time ago stirred up a rebellion and led the four thousand assassins out into the wilderness?"
39 Paul said, "I am a Jew from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no insignificant city. I beg you, allow me to speak to the people."
40 When he gave permission, Paul stood on the stairs and motioned with his hand to the people. A great silence fell, and he addressed them in the Hebrew language, saying:

22

1 "Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense before you."
2 When they heard him addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even quieter. Then he said,

3 “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia but
brought up in this city, educated at the feet of
Gamaliel according to the strict requirements of
the law of our fathers. I was zealous for God, as
all of you are today.
4 I persecuted this Way to the death, binding
both men and women and handing them over to
prison,
5 as the high priest and the whole council of
elders can testify about me. I received letters
from them to the brothers and was traveling to
Damascus, intending to bring those there too to
Jerusalem in bonds to be punished.
6 As I was traveling and approaching
Damascus about noon, suddenly a bright light
from heaven flashed around me.
7 I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying
to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’
8 I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ He said to
me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are
persecuting.’
9 Those who were with me saw the light, but
they did not understand the voice of the one
speaking to me.
10 I said, ‘What should I do, Lord?’ The Lord
said to me, ‘Get up and go to Damascus. There
you will be told everything you have been
appointed to do.’
11 Since I could not see because of the
brilliance of that light, I came to Damascus led
by the hand of those with me.
12 A man named Ananias, devout according to
the law and well spoken of by all the Jews living

there,
13 came to me, stood beside me, and said,
‘Brother Saul, regain your sight.’ At that very
moment I regained my sight and looked at him.
14 He said, ‘The God of our fathers has chosen
you to know his will, to see the Righteous One,
and to hear a voice from his mouth,
15 for you will be his witness to all people of
what you have seen and heard.
16 And now, why do you delay? Get up, be
baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on
his name.’
17 When I returned to Jerusalem and was
praying in the temple, I fell into a trance
18 and saw him saying to me, ‘Hurry and get
out of Jerusalem quickly, for they will not accept
your testimony about me.’
19 I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that in
the synagogues I used to imprison and beat
those who believed in you.
20 And when the blood of Stephen your
witness was being shed, I myself stood by,
approving it and guarding the clothes of those
killing him.’
21 He said to me, ‘Go, for I will send you far
away to the Gentiles.’ ”
22 They listened to him until these words, then
raised their voices, saying, “Away with such a
man from the earth! He ought not to live!”
23 As they shouted, threw off their clothes, and
tossed dust into the air,
24 the commander ordered him to be brought
into the barracks and said that he should be

examined by flogging, to find out why they were
shouting against him like this.
25 When they stretched him out with the
straps, Paul said to the centurion standing there,
“Is it lawful for you to flog a Roman citizen who
has not been condemned?”
26 When the centurion heard this, he went to
the commander and reported it, saying, “What
are you about to do? This man is a Roman
citizen.”
27 The commander came and said to him, “Tell
me, are you a Roman citizen?” He said, “Yes.”
28 The commander replied, “I acquired this
citizenship for a large sum.” Paul said, “But I was
born a citizen.”
29 Immediately those about to examine him
withdrew from him. The commander too was
afraid when he learned that he was a Roman
citizen and that he had bound him.
30 The next day, wanting to know for certain
what the Jews were accusing him of, he
unbound him and ordered the chief priests and
the whole council to assemble. He brought Paul
down and stood him before them.

23

1 Paul looked intently at the council and said,
“Brothers, I have lived before God in all good
conscience to this day.”
2 The high priest Ananias ordered those
standing by to strike him on the mouth.
3 Then Paul said to him, “God is going to strike
you, you whitewashed wall! You sit to judge me

according to the law, yet you break the law by
ordering me to be struck?"
4 Those standing by said, "Are you insulting
God's high priest?"
5 Paul replied, "Brothers, I did not know that
he was the high priest, for it is written, 'You shall
not speak evil of a ruler of your people.' "
6 When Paul realized that one part consisted
of Sadducees and the other of Pharisees, he
cried out in the council, "Brothers, I am a
Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. I am on trial for the
hope and resurrection of the dead."
7 When he said this, a dispute arose between
the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly
was divided.
8 For the Sadducees say there is no
resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the
Pharisees affirm both.
9 A great outcry arose, and some scribes from
the Pharisees' party stood up and argued
fiercely, saying, "We find nothing wrong with
this man. But if a spirit or an angel has spoken
to him—"
10 As the dispute became violent, the
commander feared that Paul would be torn
apart by them. He ordered the troops to go
down, snatch him from their midst, and bring
him into the barracks.
11 The following night the Lord stood beside
him and said, "Take courage, for just as you have
borne solemn witness about me in Jerusalem,
you must also bear witness in Rome."
12 When day came, the Jews formed a
conspiracy and bound themselves under a

curse, saying they would neither eat nor drink
until they had killed Paul.
13 More than forty men had joined this
conspiracy.
14 They went to the chief priests and elders
and said, “We have bound ourselves under a
solemn curse to taste nothing until we have
killed Paul.
15 So now you, together with the council,
should ask the commander to bring him down
to you, as though you intended to examine his
case more closely. We are ready to kill him
before he comes near.”
16 But the son of Paul’s sister heard of the
ambush. He came to the barracks, went in, and
told Paul.
17 Paul called one of the centurions and said,
“Take this young man to the commander, for he
has something to report to him.”
18 So he took him to the commander and said,
“Paul the prisoner called me and asked me to
bring this young man to you, because he has
something to tell you.”
19 The commander took him by the hand,
withdrew in private, and asked, “What do you
have to report to me?”
20 He said, “The Jews have agreed to ask you to
bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as
though it intended to inquire more closely about
him.
21 But do not be persuaded by them, for more
than forty of their men are lying in ambush for
him. They have bound themselves under a curse
neither to eat nor drink until they have killed

him. They are ready now and waiting for your agreement."

22 So the commander dismissed the young man, ordering him, "Tell no one that you have reported these things to me."

23 Then he called two of the centurions and said, "Prepare two hundred soldiers to go to Caesarea, along with seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen, at nine tonight.

24 Provide mounts as well, so that Paul may ride and be brought safely to Felix the governor."

25 He wrote a letter in these terms:

26 "Claudius Lysias to His Excellency Governor Felix: Greetings.

27 This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them. I came with the troops and rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman citizen.

28 Wanting to know the charge they brought against him, I took him down to their council.

29 I found that he was being accused over questions of their law, but had no charge against him deserving death or imprisonment.

30 When I was informed that a plot was being prepared against the man, I sent him to you at once, also ordering his accusers to state their case against him before you."

31 So the soldiers, according to their orders, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris.

32 The next day they let the horsemen go on with him and returned to the barracks.

33 When the horsemen arrived in Caesarea,
they delivered the letter to the governor and
presented Paul to him as well.
34 After reading it, he asked what province he
was from. When he learned that he was from
Cilicia,
35 he said, “I will hear your case when your
accusers arrive too.” He ordered Paul to be kept
under guard in Herod’s praetorium.

24

1 After five days the high priest Ananias came
down with some elders and an advocate named
Tertullus. They presented charges against Paul
to the governor.
2 When Paul was called in, Tertullus began to
accuse him, saying, “Since we enjoy great peace
through you, and reforms are being made for
this nation through your foresight,
3 we acknowledge this in every way and
everywhere with all gratitude, most excellent
Felix.
4 But so that I may not detain you further, I
beg you in your kindness to hear us briefly.
5 For we have found this man to be a plague,
stirring up rebellions among all the Jews
throughout the inhabited world, and a
ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.
6 He even tried to profane the temple, and we
seized him.
7 [But Lysias the commander came and with
great violence took him out of our hands.]

8 By examining him yourself, you will be able
to learn about all these things of which we
accuse him."
9 The Jews also joined in the accusation,
asserting that these things were so.

10 When the governor motioned to him to
speak, Paul answered, "Knowing that you have
been a judge of this nation for many years, I
gladly make my defense.
11 You can verify that no more than twelve
days have passed since I went up to Jerusalem to
worship.
12 They did not find me disputing with anyone
or stirring up a crowd, either in the temple, in
the synagogues, or throughout the city.
13 Nor can they prove to you the things of
which they now accuse me.
14 But this I confess to you: according to the
Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of
our fathers, believing everything written in the
Law and in the Prophets.
15 I have a hope in God, which these men
themselves also hold, that there will be a
resurrection of both the righteous and the
unrighteous.
16 So I myself strive always to maintain a
blameless conscience before God and people.
17 After several years I came to bring alms to
my nation and offerings.
18 While I was doing this, they found me
purified in the temple, without a crowd or a
disturbance.

19 But some Jews from Asia ought to have been
here before you to accuse me, if they had
anything against me.
20 Or let these men themselves say what
wrongdoing they found when I stood before the
council,
21 except for this one statement I cried out
while standing among them: ‘I am on trial
before you today for the resurrection of the
dead.’ ”

22 But Felix, who was well acquainted with the
Way, adjourned the case, saying, “When Lysias
the commander comes down, I will decide your
case.”
23 He ordered the centurion to keep him in
custody but allow him some freedom and not
prevent any of his own people from attending to
him.

24 After some days Felix came with his wife
Drusilla, who was Jewish. He sent for Paul and
heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus.
25 But as he reasoned about righteousness,
self-control, and the coming judgment, Felix
became afraid and answered, “Go away for now.
When I have an opportunity, I will send for you.”
26 At the same time he hoped that Paul would
give him money, so he sent for him more often
and conversed with him.

27 When two years had passed, Porcius Festus
succeeded Felix. Wanting to gain favor with the
Jews, Felix left Paul bound.

25

1 Three days after arriving in the province,
Festus went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem.
2 The chief priests and the leading men of the
Jews presented charges against Paul to him and
pleaded with him,
3 asking as a favor against Paul that he
summon him to Jerusalem. They were
preparing an ambush to kill him along the way.
4 Festus answered that Paul was being kept in
custody in Caesarea and that he himself would
be leaving shortly.
5 "So let those in authority among you go down
with me," he said, "and if there is anything
wrong in the man, let them accuse him."
6 After staying among them no more than
eight or ten days, he went down to Caesarea.
The next day he sat on the judgment seat and
ordered Paul to be brought in.
7 When he arrived, the Jews who had come
down from Jerusalem stood around him,
bringing many serious charges that they could
not prove.
8 Paul said in his defense, "I have committed
no offense against the law of the Jews, against
the temple, or against Caesar."
9 But Festus, wanting to gain favor with the
Jews, answered Paul, "Are you willing to go up to
Jerusalem and be tried there before me on these
matters?"
10 Paul said, "I am standing before Caesar's
judgment seat, where I ought to be tried. I have
done the Jews no wrong, as you yourself know

very well.
11 If I am doing wrong and have done
anything deserving death, I do not refuse to die.
But if there is nothing to what these men accuse
me of, no one can hand me over to them as a
favor. I appeal to Caesar!"
12 Then Festus, after conferring with his
council, answered, "You have appealed to
Caesar; to Caesar you will go."
13 After some days King Agrippa and Bernice
arrived in Caesarea and greeted Festus.
14 As they were staying there for several days,
Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying,
"There is a man whom Felix left as a prisoner.
15 When I was in Jerusalem, the chief priests
and elders of the Jews presented charges against
him and asked for his condemnation.
16 I answered them that it is not Roman
custom to hand anyone over as a favor before
the accused has faced his accusers and had an
opportunity to defend himself against the
charge.
17 So when they came together here, I made no
delay. The next day I sat on the judgment seat
and ordered the man to be brought in.
18 When his accusers stood up, they brought
no charge of the crimes I had suspected.
19 Instead, they had certain disputes with him
about their own religion and about a certain
Jesus who had died, whom Paul asserted to be
alive.
20 I was at a loss how to investigate these
matters, so I asked whether he wanted to go to

Jerusalem and be tried there on them.
21 But when Paul appealed to be kept in
custody for the emperor's decision, I ordered
him to be held until I could send him to Caesar."
22 Agrippa said to Festus, "I too would like to
hear the man myself." He said, "Tomorrow you
will hear him."
23 The next day Agrippa and Bernice came
with great pomp and entered the audience hall
with the military commanders and prominent
men of the city. At Festus's command, Paul was
brought in.
24 Festus said, "King Agrippa and all you men
here with us, you see this man, about whom the
whole multitude of the Jews appealed to me,
both in Jerusalem and here, shouting that he
ought not to live any longer.
25 But I found that he had done nothing
deserving death, and since he himself appealed
to the emperor, I decided to send him.
26 I have nothing certain to write to the
sovereign about him. So I have brought him
before you, and especially before you, King
Agrippa, so that after the examination I may
have something to write.
27 For it seems unreasonable to me to send a
prisoner without also specifying the charges
against him."

26

1 Agrippa said to Paul, "You are permitted to
speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his
hand and began his defense:

2 “I consider myself fortunate, King Agrippa, to
make my defense before you today against all
the accusations the Jews bring against me,
3 especially since you are familiar with all the
Jewish customs and controversies. Therefore I
beg you to listen to me patiently.
4 All the Jews know how I have lived since my
youth, from the beginning among my own
people and in Jerusalem.
5 They have known me from the start and, if
they are willing, can testify that I lived as a
Pharisee, according to the strictest party of our
religion.
6 And now I stand on trial for the hope of the
promise made by God to our fathers,
7 which our twelve tribes hope to attain as
they worship earnestly night and day. It is for
this hope that I am accused by the Jews, O king.
8 Why is it judged incredible among you that
God raises the dead?
9 I myself thought I ought to do many things
against the name of Jesus of Nazareth.
10 And that is what I did in Jerusalem. With
authority received from the chief priests, I
locked many of the saints in prisons, and when
they were put to death, I cast my vote against
them.
11 I often punished them in all the synagogues
and tried to force them to blaspheme. In my
extreme rage against them, I pursued them even
to foreign cities.
12 While engaged in this, I was traveling to
Damascus with authority and a commission

from the chief priests.
13 At midday, O king, on the road I saw a light
from heaven brighter than the sun, shining
around me and those traveling with me.
14 When we had all fallen to the ground, I
heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew
language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting
me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’
15 I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ The Lord said, ‘I
am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.
16 But get up and stand on your feet, for I have
appeared to you for this purpose: to appoint you
as a servant and a witness of what you have
seen of me and of the things in which I will
appear to you,
17 rescuing you from the people and from the
Gentiles, to whom I am sending you
18 to open their eyes, so that they may turn
from darkness to light and from the authority of
Satan to God, to receive forgiveness of sins and
an inheritance among those sanctified by faith
in me.’
19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not
disobedient to the heavenly vision,
20 but proclaimed first to those in Damascus,
then in Jerusalem and throughout the region of
Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should
repent and turn to God, doing works worthy of
repentance.
21 For these reasons the Jews seized me in the
temple and tried to kill me.
22 But having obtained help from God, I stand
to this day bearing witness to small and great

alike, saying nothing beyond what the prophets
and Moses said would happen:
23 that the Christ would suffer and, as the first
to rise from the dead, would proclaim light both
to the people and to the Gentiles."
24 As he was saying these things in his defense,
Festus said in a loud voice, "You are out of your
mind, Paul! Your great learning is driving you
mad."
25 But Paul said, "I am not out of my mind,
most excellent Festus. I speak words of truth
and sound judgment.
26 For the king knows about these things, and I
speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of
these things has escaped his notice, for this was
not done in a corner.
27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets?
I know that you believe."
28 Agrippa said to Paul, "In so short a time are
you persuading me to become a Christian?"
29 Paul said, "I pray to God that, whether in a
short time or a long time, not only you but all
who hear me today might become as I am,
except for these bonds."
30 Then the king rose, along with the governor,
Bernice, and those sitting with them.
31 As they withdrew, they spoke with one
another, saying, "This man is doing nothing
deserving death or imprisonment."
32 Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have
been released if he had not appealed to Caesar."

27

1 When it was decided that we should sail for
Italy, they handed Paul and some other
prisoners over to a centurion named Julius, of
the Augustan Cohort.
2 We boarded a ship from Adramyttium that
was about to sail to the ports along Asia, and set
sail. Aristarchus, a Macedonian from
Thessalonica, was with us.
3 The next day we put in at Sidon. Julius
treated Paul kindly and allowed him to go to his
friends and receive their care.
4 We sailed from there under the shelter of
Cyprus, because the winds were against us.
5 After crossing the open sea off Cilicia and
Pamphylia, we came to Myra in Lycia.
6 There the centurion found a ship from
Alexandria sailing for Italy and put us aboard it.
7 We sailed slowly for many days and barely
reached a point off Cnidus. Since the wind
would not let us go on, we sailed under the
shelter of Crete, off Salmone.
8 We made our way along its coast with
difficulty and came to a place called Fair
Havens, near the city of Lasea.
9 Much time had passed, and sailing was now
dangerous because even the Fast had already
passed. Paul advised them,
10 saying, “Men, I see that the voyage will bring
damage and great loss, not only to the cargo and
the ship but also to our lives.”
11 But the centurion paid more attention to the
pilot and the shipowner than to what Paul said.

12 Since the harbor was unsuitable for
wintering, the majority decided to sail from
there, hoping somehow to reach Phoenix, a
harbor of Crete facing southwest and northwest,
and spend the winter there.
13 When a gentle south wind began to blow,
they thought they had gained their purpose.
They weighed anchor and sailed close along
Crete.
14 But soon a violent wind called Euraquilo
swept down from the island.
15 The ship was caught and could not face the
wind, so we gave way and were driven along.
16 Running under the shelter of a small island
called Cauda, we barely managed to secure the
ship's boat.
17 After hoisting it aboard, they secured the
ship with ropes passed underneath. Fearing
they would be driven onto the Syrtis, they
lowered the gear and drifted along in this way.
18 The storm battered us violently, and the
next day they began throwing the cargo
overboard.
19 On the third day they threw the ship's
equipment overboard with their own hands.
20 For many days neither sun nor stars
appeared, and a violent storm kept bearing
down on us. At last all hope of our being saved
was lost.
21 After they had gone a long time without
food, Paul stood among them and said, "Men,
you should have listened to me and not sailed
from Crete, and so avoided this damage and loss.

22 But now I urge you to take courage, for
there will be no loss of life among you, only of
the ship.
23 For this very night an angel of the God to
whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside
me,
24 saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must
stand before Caesar, and look, God has granted
you all those sailing with you.'
25 So take courage, men, for I believe God that
it will happen just as I have been told.
26 But we must run aground on some island."

27 On the fourteenth night, as we were being
driven about in the sea of Adria, around
midnight the sailors suspected that land was
drawing near.
28 They took a sounding and found a depth of
about 120 feet. A little farther on they took
another sounding and found about 90 feet.
29 Fearing we might be driven onto rocks, they
dropped four anchors from the stern and
prayed for day to come.
30 The sailors tried to escape from the ship and
lowered the boat into the sea, pretending that
they were going to lay out anchors from the bow.
31 Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers,
"Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot
be saved."
32 Then the soldiers cut the boat's ropes and
let it fall away.

33 As day was about to dawn, Paul urged
everyone to take food, saying, "Today is the

fourteenth day you have continued waiting
without food, having taken nothing.
34 So I urge you to eat, for this is for your
survival. Not a hair will be lost from the head of
any of you."
35 After saying this, he took bread, gave thanks
to God before them all, broke it, and began to
eat.
36 They all took courage and ate some food
themselves.
37 There were 276 of us in all on the ship.
38 When they had eaten their fill, they
lightened the ship by throwing the wheat into
the sea.
39 When day came, they did not recognize the
land, but they saw a bay with a beach where
they planned to run the ship ashore if they
could.
40 They cast off the anchors and left them in
the sea, at the same time loosening the lashings
of the rudders. They hoisted the foresail to the
wind and headed for the beach.
41 But they struck a place where two seas met
and ran the ship aground. The bow stuck fast
and remained immovable, while the stern was
being broken up by the force of the sea.
42 The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners so
that none could swim away and escape.
43 But the centurion, wanting to save Paul,
prevented them from carrying out their plan.
He ordered those who could swim to jump
overboard first and get to land,
44 and the rest to follow, some on planks and
some on pieces of the ship. In this way everyone

reached land safely.

28

1 After we had reached safety, we learned that
the island was called Malta.
2 The islanders showed us extraordinary
kindness. They lit a fire and welcomed us all
because of the rain that had set in and because
of the cold.
3 Paul gathered a bundle of sticks and put it on
the fire. A viper came out because of the heat
and fastened onto his hand.
4 When the islanders saw the creature hanging
from his hand, they said to one another, “This
man must be a murderer. Though he escaped
from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live.”
5 But he shook the creature off into the fire
and suffered no harm.
6 They expected him to swell up or suddenly
fall down dead. After waiting a long time and
seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they
changed their minds and said he was a god.
7 Near that place were estates belonging to the
chief official of the island, named Publius. He
welcomed us and kindly hosted us for three
days.
8 Publius’s father was lying in bed, suffering
from fevers and dysentery. Paul went in to see
him, prayed, laid his hands on him, and healed
him.
9 After this happened, the rest of the island’s
sick people also came and were healed.
10 They honored us in many ways, and when
we set sail, they supplied what we needed.

11 After three months we set sail in a ship
from Alexandria that had wintered on the island
and had the Twin Brothers as its emblem.
12 We put in at Syracuse and stayed there for
three days.
13 From there we weighed anchor and reached
Rhegium. A day later a south wind came up, and
on the second day we arrived at Puteoli.
14 There we found some brothers and were
invited to stay with them for seven days. And so
we came to Rome.
15 When the brothers there heard about us,
they came as far as the Forum of Appius and the
Three Taverns to meet us. On seeing them, Paul
thanked God and took courage.
16 When we entered Rome, Paul was allowed
to stay by himself with the soldier guarding him.
17 Three days later he called together the
leading men of the Jews. When they had
gathered, he said to them, “Brothers, although I
have done nothing against our people or the
customs of our fathers, I was handed over as a
prisoner from Jerusalem to the Romans.
18 After questioning me, they wanted to
release me because there were no grounds for
putting me to death.
19 But when the Jews objected, I was forced to
appeal to Caesar, though I had no charge to
bring against my nation.
20 For this reason I asked to see you and speak
with you, because it is for the hope of Israel that
I wear this chain.”
21 They said to him, “We have received no
letters from Judea about you, and none of the

brothers who have come has reported or said
anything bad about you.
22 But we want to hear your views, for we
know that this sect is spoken against
everywhere."
23 They arranged a day with him and came in
greater numbers to his lodging. From morning
until evening he explained and solemnly
testified about the kingdom of God, trying to
persuade them about Jesus from both the law of
Moses and the Prophets.
24 Some were persuaded by what he said, but
others did not believe.
25 They disagreed with one another and began
to leave after Paul made this one statement:
"The Holy Spirit rightly spoke to your fathers
through Isaiah the prophet,
26 saying, 'Go to this people and say: "You will
keep hearing but never understand, and you
will keep looking but never perceive.
27 For this people's heart has grown dull, and
they have become hard of hearing, and they
have closed their eyes, so that they might not see
with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand
with their heart, and turn, and I would heal
them." '
28 Therefore, know that this salvation of God
has been sent to the Gentiles. They will listen."
29 [After he said this, the Jews went away,
arguing at length among themselves.]
30 He stayed two full years in his own rented
lodging and welcomed everyone who came to
him,

31 proclaiming the kingdom of God and
teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with
complete boldness and without hindrance.

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