



THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

From the New Testament of the
New Jerusalem Bible.

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and all studies.

Area for notes included

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 1:1-8

1- In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning

2- until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven.

3- He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God.

4- While at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is', he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about:

5- John baptised with water but, not many days from now, you are going to be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

6- Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come for you to restore the kingdom to Israel?'

7- He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority,

8- but you will receive the power of the Holy Spirit which will come on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to earth's remotest end.'

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 1:9-15

9- As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight

10- They were still staring into the sky as he went, when suddenly two men in white were standing beside them,

11- and they said, 'Why are you Galileans standing here looking into the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will come back in the same way as you have seen him go to heaven.'

12- So from the Mount of Olives, as it is called, they went back to Jerusalem, a short distance away, no more than a Sabbath walk;

13- and when they reached the city they went to the upper room where they were staying; there were Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Jude son of James.

14- With one heart all these joined constantly in prayer, together with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

15- One day Peter stood up to speak to the brothers -- there were about a hundred and twenty people in the congregation,

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 1:16-23

16- 'Brothers,' he said, 'the passage of scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit, speaking through David, foretells the fate of Judas, who acted as guide to the men who arrested Jesus-

17- after being one of our number and sharing our ministry.

18- As you know, he bought a plot of land with the money he was paid for his crime. He fell headlong and burst open, and all his entrails poured out.

19- Everybody in Jerusalem heard about it and the plot came to be called "Bloody Acre", in their language Hakeldama.

20- Now in the Book of Psalms it says: Reduce his encampment to ruin and leave his tent unoccupied. And again: Let someone else take over his office.

21- 'Out of the men who have been with us the whole time that the Lord Jesus was living with us,

22- from the time when John was baptising until the day when he was taken up from us, one must be appointed to serve with us as a witness to his resurrection.'

23- Having nominated two candidates, Joseph known as Barsabbas, whose surname was Justus, and Matthias,

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 1:24-26

24- they prayed, 'Lord, you can read everyone's heart; show us therefore which of these two you have chosen

25- to take over this ministry and apostolate, which Judas abandoned to go to his proper place.'

26- They then drew lots for them, and as the lot fell to Matthias, he was listed as one of the twelve apostles.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 2:1-10

1- When Pentecost day came round, they had all met together,

2- when suddenly there came from heaven a sound as of a violent wind which filled the entire house in which they were sitting;

3- and there appeared to them tongues as of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them.

4- They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak different languages as the Spirit gave them power to express themselves.

5- Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven,

6- and at this sound they all assembled, and each one was bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language.

7- They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely,' they said, 'all these men speaking are Galileans?'

8- How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language?

9- Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

10- Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; residents of Rome-

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 2:11-20

11- Jews and proselytes alike -- Cretans and Arabs, we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

12- Everyone was amazed and perplexed; they asked one another what it all meant.

13- Some, however, laughed it off. 'They have been drinking too much new wine,' they said.

14- Then Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed them in a loud voice: 'Men of Judaea, and all you who live in Jerusalem, make no mistake about this, but listen carefully to what I say.

15- These men are not drunk, as you imagine; why, it is only the third hour of the day.

16- On the contrary, this is what the prophet was saying:

17- In the last days -- the Lord declares -- I shall pour out my Spirit on all humanity. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young people shall see visions, your old people dream dreams.

18- Even on the slaves, men and women, shall I pour out my Spirit.

19- I will show portents in the sky above and signs on the earth below.

20- The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the day of the Lord comes, that great and terrible Day.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 2:21-30

21- And all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved.

22- 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you know.

23- This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified and killed by men outside the Law.

24- But God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since,

25- as David says of him: I kept the Lord before my sight always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me.

26- So my heart rejoiced my tongue delighted; my body, too, will rest secure,

27- for you will not abandon me to Hades or allow your holy one to see corruption.

28- You have taught me the way of life, you will fill me with joy in your presence.

29- 'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us.

30- But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne,

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 2:31-39

31- he spoke with foreknowledge about the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not see corruption.

32- God raised this man Jesus to life, and of that we are all witnesses.

33- Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.

34- For David himself never went up to heaven, but yet he said: The Lord declared to my Lord, take your seat at my right hand,

35- till I have made your enemies your footstool.

36- 'For this reason the whole House of Israel can be certain that the Lord and Christ whom God has made is this Jesus whom you crucified.'

37- Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'What are we to do, brothers?'

38- 'You must repent,' Peter answered, 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'

39- The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God is calling to himself.'

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 2:40-47

40- He spoke to them for a long time using many other arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.'

41- They accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

42- These remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

43- And everyone was filled with awe; the apostles worked many signs and miracles.

44- And all who shared the faith owned everything in common;

45- they sold their goods and possessions and distributed the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

46- Each day, with one heart, they regularly went to the Temple but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously;

47- they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 3:1-10

1- Once, when Peter and John were going up to the Temple for the prayers at the ninth hour,

2- it happened that there was a man being carried along. He was a cripple from birth; and they used to put him down every day near the Temple entrance called the Beautiful Gate so that he could beg from the people going in.

3- When this man saw Peter and John on their way into the Temple he begged from them.

4- Peter, and John too, looked straight at him and said, 'Look at us.'

5- He turned to them expectantly, hoping to get something from them,

6- but Peter said, 'I have neither silver nor gold, but I will give you what I have: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, walk!'

7- Then he took him by the right hand and helped him to stand up. Instantly his feet and ankles became firm,

8- he jumped up, stood, and began to walk, and he went with them into the Temple, walking and jumping and praising God.

9- Everyone could see him walking and praising God,

10- and they recognised him as the man who used to sit begging at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple. They were all astonished and perplexed at what had happened to him

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 3:11-17

11- Everyone came running towards them in great excitement, to the Portico of Solomon, as it is called, where the man was still clinging to Peter and John.

12- When Peter saw the people he addressed them, 'Men of Israel, why are you so surprised at this? Why are you staring at us as though we had made this man walk by our own power or holiness?

13- It is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus whom you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate after he had given his verdict to release him.

14- It was you who accused the Holy and Upright One, you who demanded that a murderer should be released to you

15- while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are witnesses;

16- and it is the name of Jesus which, through faith in him, has brought back the strength of this man whom you see here and who is well known to you. It is faith in him that has restored this man to health, as you can all see.

17- 'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing;

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 3:18-26

18- but this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer.

19- Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out,

20- and so that the Lord may send the time of comfort. Then he will send you the Christ he has predestined, that is Jesus,

21- whom heaven must keep till the universal restoration comes which God proclaimed, speaking through his holy prophets.

22- Moses, for example, said, "From among your brothers the Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me; you will listen to whatever he tells you.

23- Anyone who refuses to listen to that prophet shall be cut off from the people."

24- In fact, all the prophets that have ever spoken, from Samuel onwards, have predicted these days.

25- 'You are the heirs of the prophets, the heirs of the covenant God made with your ancestors when he told Abraham, "All the nations of the earth will be blessed in your descendants".

26- It was for you in the first place that God raised up his servant and sent him to bless you as every one of you turns from his wicked ways.'

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 4:1-9

1- While they were still talking to the people the priests came up to them, accompanied by the captain of the Temple and the Sadducees.

2- They were extremely annoyed at their teaching the people the resurrection from the dead by proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus.

3- They arrested them, and, as it was already late, they kept them in prison till the next day.

4- But many of those who had listened to their message became believers; the total number of men had now risen to something like five thousand.

5- It happened that the next day the rulers, elders and scribes held a meeting in Jerusalem

6- with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, Jonathan, Alexander and all the members of the high-priestly families.

7- They made the prisoners stand in the middle and began to interrogate them, 'By what power, and by whose name have you men done this?'

8- Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, addressed them, 'Rulers of the people, and elders!

9- If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple and asking us how he was healed,

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 4:10-17

10- you must know, all of you, and the whole people of Israel, that it is by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, and God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man stands before you cured.

11- This is the stone which you, the builders, rejected but which has become the cornerstone. Only in him is there salvation;

12- for of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

13- They were astonished at the fearlessness shown by Peter and John, considering that they were uneducated laymen; and they recognised them as associates of Jesus;

14- but when they saw the man who had been cured standing by their side, they could find no answer.

15- So they ordered them to stand outside while the Sanhedrin had a private discussion.

16- 'What are we going to do with these men?' they asked. 'It is obvious to everybody in Jerusalem that a notable miracle has been worked through them, and we cannot deny it.

17- But to stop the whole thing spreading any further among the people, let us threaten them against ever speaking to anyone in this name again.'

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 4:18-25

18- So they called them in and gave them a warning on no account to make statements or to teach in the name of Jesus.

19- But Peter and John retorted, 'You must judge whether in God's eyes it is right to listen to you and not to God.

20- We cannot stop proclaiming what we have seen and heard.'

21- The court repeated the threats and then released them; they could not think of any way to punish them, since all the people were giving glory to God for what had happened.

22- The man who had been miraculously cured was over forty years old.

23- As soon as they were released they went to the community and told them everything the chief priests and elders had said to them.

24- When they heard it they lifted up their voice to God with one heart. 'Master,' they prayed, 'it is you who made sky and earth and sea, and everything in them;

25- it is you who said through the Holy Spirit and speaking through our ancestor David, your servant: Why this uproar among the nations, this impotent muttering of the peoples?

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 4:26-33

26- Kings on earth take up position, princes plot together against the Lord and his Anointed.

27- 'This is what has come true: in this very city Herod and Pontius Pilate plotted together with the gentile nations and the peoples of Israel, against your holy servant Jesus whom you anointed,

28- to bring about the very thing that you in your strength and your wisdom had predetermined should happen.

29- And now, Lord, take note of their threats and help your servants to proclaim your message with all fearlessness,

30- by stretching out your hand to heal and to work miracles and marvels through the name of your holy servant Jesus.'

31- As they prayed, the house where they were assembled rocked. From this time they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to proclaim the word of God fearlessly.

32- The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, as everything they owned was held in common.

33- The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all accorded great respect.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 4:34-37

34- None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from the sale of them,

35- to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any who might be in need.

36- There was a Levite of Cypriot origin called Joseph whom the apostles surnamed Barnabas (which means 'son of encouragement').

37- He owned a piece of land and he sold it and brought the money and presented it to the apostles.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 5:1-9

- 1- There was also a man called Ananias. He and his wife, Sapphira, agreed to sell a property;
- 2- but with his wife's connivance he kept back part of the price and brought the rest and presented it to the apostles.
- 3- Peter said, 'Ananias, how can Satan have so possessed you that you should lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land?
- 4- While you still owned the land, wasn't it yours to keep, and after you had sold it wasn't the money yours to do with as you liked? What put this scheme into your mind? You have been lying not to men, but to God.'
- 5- When he heard this Ananias fell down dead. And a great fear came upon everyone present.
- 6- The younger men got up, wrapped up the body, carried it out and buried it.
- 7- About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had taken place.
- 8- Peter challenged her, 'Tell me, was this the price you sold the land for?' 'Yes,' she said, 'that was the price.'
- 9- Peter then said, 'Why did you and your husband agree to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Listen! At the door are the footsteps of those who have buried your husband; they will carry you out, too.'

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 5:10-17

10- Instantly she dropped dead at his feet. When the young men came in they found she was dead, and they carried her out and buried her by the side of her husband.

11- And a great fear came upon the whole church and on all who heard it.

12- The apostles worked many signs and miracles among the people. One in heart, they all used to meet in the Portico of Solomon.

13- No one else dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise

14- and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. Many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles

15- so that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past.

16- People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

17- Then the high priest intervened with all his supporters from the party of the Sadducees. Filled with jealousy,

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 5:18-26

18- they arrested the apostles and had them put in the public gaol.

19- But at night the angel of the Lord opened the prison gates and said as he led them out,

20- 'Go and take up position in the Temple, and tell the people all about this new Life.'

21- They did as they were told; they went into the Temple at dawn and began to preach. When the high priest arrived, he and his supporters convened the Sanhedrin -- this was the full Senate of Israel -- and sent to the gaol for them to be brought.

22- But when the officials arrived at the prison they found they were not inside, so they went back and reported,

23- 'We found the gaol securely locked and the warders on duty at the gates, but when we unlocked the door we found no one inside.'

24- When the captain of the Temple and the chief priests heard this news they wondered what could be happening.

25- Then a man arrived with fresh news. 'Look!' he said, 'the men you imprisoned are in the Temple. They are standing there preaching to the people.'

26- The captain went with his men and fetched them -- though not by force, for they were afraid that the people might stone them.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 5:27-34

27- When they had brought them in to face the Sanhedrin, the high priest demanded an explanation.

28- 'We gave you a strong warning', he said, 'not to preach in this name, and what have you done? You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and seem determined to fix the guilt for this man's death on us.'

29- In reply Peter and the apostles said, 'Obedience to God comes before obedience to men;

30- it was the God of our ancestors who raised up Jesus, whom you executed by hanging on a tree.

31- By his own right hand God has now raised him up to be leader and Saviour, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins through him to Israel.

32- We are witnesses to this, we and the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

33- This so infuriated them that they wanted to put them to death.

34- One member of the Sanhedrin, however, a Pharisee called Gamaliel, who was a teacher of the Law respected by the whole people, stood up and asked to have the men taken outside for a time.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 5:35-42

35- Then he addressed the Sanhedrin, 'Men of Israel, be careful how you deal with these people.

36- Some time ago there arose Theudas. He claimed to be someone important, and collected about four hundred followers; but when he was killed, all his followers scattered and that was the end of them.

37- And then there was Judas the Galilean, at the time of the census, who attracted crowds of supporters; but he was killed too, and all his followers dispersed.

38- What I suggest, therefore, is that you leave these men alone and let them go. If this enterprise, this movement of theirs, is of human origin it will break up of its own accord;

39- but if it does in fact come from God you will be unable to destroy them. Take care not to find yourselves fighting against God.' His advice was accepted;

40- and they had the apostles called in, gave orders for them to be flogged, warned them not to speak in the name of Jesus and released them.

41- And so they left the presence of the Sanhedrin, glad to have had the honour of suffering humiliation for the sake of the name.

42- Every day they went on ceaselessly teaching and proclaiming the good news of Christ Jesus, both in the temple and in private houses.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 6:1-8

1- About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked.

2- So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food;

3- you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom, to whom we can hand over this duty.

4- We ourselves will continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.'

5- The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

6- They presented these to the apostles, and after prayer they laid their hands on them.

7- The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

8- Stephen was filled with grace and power and began to work miracles and great signs among the people.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 6:9-15

9- Then certain people came forward to debate with Stephen, some from Cyrene and Alexandria who were members of the synagogue called the Synagogue of Freedmen, and others from Cilicia and Asia.

10- They found they could not stand up against him because of his wisdom, and the Spirit that prompted what he said.

11- So they procured some men to say, 'We heard him using blasphemous language against Moses and against God.'

12- Having turned the people against him as well as the elders and scribes, they took Stephen by surprise, and arrested him and brought him before the Sanhedrin.

13- There they put up false witnesses to say, 'This man is always making speeches against this Holy Place and the Law.

14- We have heard him say that Jesus, this Nazarene, is going to destroy this Place and alter the traditions that Moses handed down to us.'

15- The members of the Sanhedrin all looked intently at Stephen, and his face appeared to them like the face of an angel.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 7:1-8

1- The high priest asked, 'Is this true?'

2- He replied, 'My brothers, my fathers, listen to what I have to say. The God of glory appeared to our ancestor Abraham, while he was in Mesopotamia before settling in Haran,

3- and said to him, "Leave your country, your kindred and your father's house for this country which I shall show you."

4- So he left Chaldea and settled in Haran; and after his father died God made him leave that place and come to this land where you are living today.

5- God did not give him any property in this land or even a foothold, yet he promised to give it to him and after him to his descendants, childless though he was.

6- The actual words God used when he spoke to him are that his descendants would be exiles in a land not their own, where they would be enslaved and oppressed for four hundred years.

7- "But I will bring judgement on the nation that enslaves them," God said, "and after this they will leave, and worship me in this place."

8- Then he made the covenant of circumcision with him: and so when his son Isaac was born Abraham circumcised him on the eighth day; similarly Isaac circumcised Jacob, and Jacob the twelve patriarchs.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 7:9-16

9-'The patriarchs were jealous of Joseph and sold him into slavery in Egypt. But God was with him,

10- and rescued him from all his miseries by making him so wise that he won the favour of Pharaoh king of Egypt, who made him governor of Egypt and put him in charge of his household.

11- Then a famine set in that caused much suffering throughout Egypt and Canaan, and our ancestors could find nothing to eat.

12- When Jacob heard that there were supplies in Egypt, he sent our ancestors there on a first visit;

13- and on the second Joseph made himself known to his brothers, and Pharaoh came to know his origin.

14- Joseph then sent for his father Jacob and his whole family, a total of seventy-five people.

15- Jacob went down into Egypt and after he and our ancestors had died there,

16- their bodies were brought back to Shechem and buried in the tomb that Abraham had bought for money from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 7:17-25

17- 'As the time drew near for God to fulfil the promise he had solemnly made to Abraham, our nation in Egypt became very powerful and numerous,

18- there came to power in Egypt a new king who had never heard of Joseph.

19- He took precautions and wore down our race, forcing our ancestors to expose their babies rather than letting them live.

20- It was at this time that Moses was born, a fine child before God. He was looked after for three months in his father's house,

21- and after he had been exposed, Pharaoh's daughter adopted him and brought him up like a son.

22- So Moses was taught all the wisdom of the Egyptians and became a man with power both in his speech and in his actions.

23- 'At the age of forty he decided to visit his kinsmen, the Israelites.

24- When he saw one of them being ill-treated he went to his defence and rescued the man by killing the Egyptian.

25- He thought his brothers would realise that through him God would liberate them, but they did not.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 7:26-33

26- The next day, when he came across some of them fighting, he tried to reconcile them, and said, "Friends, you are brothers; why are you hurting each other?"

27- But the man who was attacking his kinsman pushed him aside, saying, "And who appointed you to be prince over us and judge?"

28- Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?"

29- Moses fled when he heard this and he went to dwell in the land of Midian, where he fathered two sons.

30- 'When forty years were fulfilled, in the desert near Mount Sinai, an angel appeared to him in a flame blazing from a bush that was on fire.

31- Moses was amazed by what he saw. As he went nearer to look at it, the voice of the Lord was heard,

32- "I am the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." Moses trembled and was afraid to look.

33- The Lord said to him, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 7:34-40

34- I have seen the misery of my people in Egypt, I have heard them crying for help, and I have come down to rescue them. So come here; I am sending you into Egypt."

35- "It was the same Moses that they had disowned when they said, "Who appointed you to be our leader and judge?" whom God sent to be both leader and redeemer through the angel who had appeared to him in the bush.

36- It was this man who led them out, after performing miracles and signs in Egypt and at the Red Sea and in the desert for forty years.

37- It was this Moses who told the sons of Israel, "From among your own brothers God will raise up a prophet like me."

38- When they held the assembly in the desert it was he who was with our ancestors and the angel who had spoken to him on Mount Sinai; it was he who was entrusted with words of life to hand on to us.

39- This is the man that our ancestors refused to listen to; they pushed him aside, went back to Egypt in their thoughts,

40- and said to Aaron, "Make us a god to go at our head; for that Moses, the man who brought us here from Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 7:41-47

41- It was then that they made the statue of a calf and offered sacrifice to the idol. They were perfectly happy with something they had made for themselves.

42- God turned away from them and abandoned them to the worship of the army of heaven, as scripture says in the book of the prophets: Did you bring me sacrifices and oblations those forty years in the desert, House of Israel?

43- No, you carried the tent of Moloch on your shoulders and the star of the god Rephan, the idols you made for yourselves to adore, and so now I am about to drive you into captivity beyond Babylon.

44- 'While they were in the desert our ancestors possessed the Tent of Testimony that had been constructed according to the instructions God gave Moses, telling him to work to the design he had been shown.

45- It was handed down from one ancestor of ours to another until Joshua brought it into the country that had belonged to the nations which were driven out by God before us. Here it stayed until the time of David.

46- He won God's favour and asked permission to find a dwelling for the House of Jacob,

47- though it was Solomon who actually built a house for God.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 7:48-55

48- Even so the Most High does not live in a house that human hands have built: for as the prophet says:

49- With heaven my throne and earth my footstool, what house could you build me, says the Lord, what place for me to rest,

50- when all these things were made by me?

51- 'You stubborn people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears. You are always resisting the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do.

52- Can you name a single prophet your ancestors never persecuted? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Upright One, and now you have become his betrayers, his murderers.

53- In spite of being given the Law through angels, you have not kept it.'

54- They were infuriated when they heard this, and ground their teeth at him.

55- But Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at God's right hand.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 7:56-60

56- 'Look! I can see heaven thrown open,' he said, 'and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God.'

57- All the members of the council shouted out and stopped their ears with their hands; then they made a concerted rush at him,

58- thrust him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses put down their clothes at the feet of a young man called Saul.

59- As they were stoning him, Stephen said in invocation, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.'

60- Then he knelt down and said aloud, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' And with these words he fell asleep.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 8:1-9

1- Saul approved of the killing. That day a bitter persecution started against the church in Jerusalem, and everyone except the apostles scattered to the country districts of Judaea and Samaria.

2- There were some devout people, however, who buried Stephen and made great mourning for him.

3- Saul then began doing great harm to the church; he went from house to house arresting both men and women and sending them to prison.

4- Once they had scattered, they went from place to place preaching the good news.

5- And Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them.

6- The people unanimously welcomed the message Philip preached, because they had heard of the miracles he worked and because they saw them for themselves.

7- For unclean spirits came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured.

8- As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

9- Now a man called Simon had for some time been practising magic arts in the town and astounded the Samaritan people. He had given it out that he was someone momentous,

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 8:10-17

10- and everyone believed in him; eminent citizens and ordinary people alike had declared, 'He is the divine power that is called Great.'

11- He had this following because for a considerable period they had been astounded by his wizardry.

12- But when they came to accept Philip's preaching of the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptised, both men and women,

13- and even Simon himself became a believer. After his baptism Simon went round constantly with Philip and was astonished when he saw the wonders and great miracles that took place.

14- When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them,

15- and they went down there and prayed for them to receive the Holy Spirit,

16- for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus.

17- Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 8:18-25

18- When Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money,

19- with the words, 'Give me the same power so that anyone I lay my hands on will receive the Holy Spirit.'

20- Peter answered, 'May your silver be lost for ever, and you with it, for thinking that money could buy what God has given for nothing!

21- You have no share, no part, in this: God can see how your heart is warped.

22- Repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that this scheme of yours may be forgiven;

23- it is plain to me that you are held in the bitterness of gall and the chains of sin.'

24- Simon replied, 'Pray to the Lord for me yourselves so that none of the things you have spoken about may happen to me.'

25- Having given their testimony and proclaimed the word of the Lord, they went back to Jerusalem, preaching the good news to a number of Samaritan villages.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 8:26-33

26- The angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, 'Set out at noon and go along the road that leads from Jerusalem down to Gaza, the desert road.'

27- So he set off on his journey. Now an Ethiopian had been on pilgrimage to Jerusalem; he was a eunuch and an officer at the court of the kandake, or queen, of Ethiopia; he was her chief treasurer.

28- He was now on his way home; and as he sat in his chariot he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

29- The Spirit said to Philip, 'Go up and join that chariot.'

30- When Philip ran up, he heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?'

31- He replied, 'How could I, unless I have someone to guide me?' So he urged Philip to get in and sit by his side.

32- Now the passage of scripture he was reading was this: Like a lamb led to the slaughterhouse, like a sheep dumb in front of its shearers, he never opens his mouth.

33- In his humiliation fair judgement was denied him. Who will ever talk about his descendants, since his life on earth has been cut short?

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 8:34-40

34- The eunuch addressed Philip and said, 'Tell me, is the prophet referring to himself or someone else?'

35- Starting, therefore, with this text of scripture Philip proceeded to explain the good news of Jesus to him.

36- Further along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, 'Look, is some water; is there anything to prevent my being baptised?'

37- *

38- He ordered the chariot to stop, then Philip and the eunuch both went down into the water and he baptised him.

39- But after they had come up out of the water again Philip was taken away by the Spirit of the Lord, and the eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing.

40- Philip appeared in Azotus and continued his journey, proclaiming the good news in every town as far as Caesarea.

** [8:37] The oldest and best manuscripts of Acts omit this verse, which is a Western text reading: "And Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he said in reply, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.'" (USCCB)*

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 9:1-8

1- Meanwhile Saul was still breathing threats to slaughter the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest

2- and asked for letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, that would authorise him to arrest and take to Jerusalem any followers of the Way, men or women, that he might find.

3- It happened that while he was travelling to Damascus and approaching the city, suddenly a light from heaven shone all round him.

4- He fell to the ground, and then he heard a voice saying, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'

5- 'Who are you, Lord?' he asked, and the answer came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.'

6- Get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you are to do.'

7- The men travelling with Saul stood there speechless, for though they heard the voice they could see no one.

8- Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing at all, and they had to lead him into Damascus by the hand.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 9:9-16

9- For three days he was without his sight and took neither food nor drink.

10- There was a disciple in Damascus called Ananias, and he had a vision in which the Lord said to him, 'Ananias!' When he replied, 'Here I am, Lord,'

11- the Lord said, 'Get up and go to Straight Street and ask at the house of Judas for someone called Saul, who comes from Tarsus. At this moment he is praying,

12- and has seen a man called Ananias coming in and laying hands on him to give him back his sight.'

13- But in response, Ananias said, 'Lord, I have heard from many people about this man and all the harm he has been doing to your holy people in Jerusalem.

14- He has come here with a warrant from the chief priests to arrest everybody who invokes your name.'

15- The Lord replied, 'Go, for this man is my chosen instrument to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel;

16- I myself will show him how much he must suffer for my name.'

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 9:17-23

17- Then Ananias went. He entered the house, and laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, I have been sent by the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, so that you may recover your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.'

18- It was as though scales fell away from his eyes and immediately he was able to see again. So he got up and was baptised,

19- and after taking some food he regained his strength. After he had spent only a few days with the disciples in Damascus,

20- he began preaching in the synagogues, 'Jesus is the Son of God.'

21- All his hearers were amazed, and said, 'Surely, this is the man who did such damage in Jerusalem to the people who invoke this name, and who came here for the sole purpose of arresting them to have them tried by the chief priests?'

22- Saul's power increased steadily, and he was able to throw the Jewish colony at Damascus into complete confusion by the way he demonstrated that Jesus was the Christ.

23- Some time passed, and the Jews worked out a plot to kill him,

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 9:24-30

24- but news of it reached Saul. They were keeping watch at the gates day and night in order to kill him,

25- but the disciples took him by night and let him down from the wall, lowering him in a basket.

26- When he got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple.

27- Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to him and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached fearlessly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

28- Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord.

29- But after he had spoken to the Hellenists and argued with them, they became determined to kill him.

30- When the brothers got to know of this, they took him to Caesarea and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 9:31-37

31- The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up and living in the fear of the Lord; encouraged by the Holy Spirit, they continued to grow.

32- It happened that Peter visited one place after another and eventually came to God's holy people living down in Lydda.

33- There he found a man called Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bedridden for eight years.

34- Peter said to him, 'Aeneas, Jesus Christ cures you: get up and make your bed.' Aeneas got up immediately;

35- everybody who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they were converted to the Lord.

36- At Jaffa there was a disciple called Tabitha, or in Greek, Dorcas, who never tired of doing good or giving to those in need.

37- But it happened that at this time she became ill and died, and they washed her and laid her out in an upper room.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 9:38-43

38- Lydda is not far from Jaffa, so when the disciples heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to urge him, 'Come to us without delay.'

39- Peter went back with them immediately, and on his arrival they took him to the upper room, where all the widows stood round him in tears, showing him tunics and other clothes Dorcas had made when she was with them.

40- Peter sent everyone out of the room and knelt down and prayed. Then he turned to the dead woman and said, 'Tabitha, stand up.' She opened her eyes, looked at Peter and sat up.

41- Peter helped her to her feet, then he called in the members of the congregation and widows and showed them she was alive.

42- The whole of Jaffa heard about it and many believed in the Lord.

43- Peter stayed on some time in Jaffa, lodging with a leather-tanner called Simon.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 10:1-9

1- One of the centurions of the Italica cohort stationed in Caesarea was called Cornelius.

2- He and the whole of his household were devout and God-fearing, and he gave generously to Jewish causes and prayed constantly to God.

3- One day at about the ninth hour he had a vision in which he distinctly saw the angel of God come into his house and call out to him, 'Cornelius!'

4- He stared at the vision in terror and exclaimed, 'What is it, Lord?' The angel answered, 'Your prayers and charitable gifts have been accepted by God.'

5- Now you must send some men to Jaffa and fetch a man called Simon, known as Peter,

6- who is lodging with Simon the tanner whose house is by the sea.'

7- When the angel who said this had gone, Cornelius called two of the slaves and a devout soldier of his staff,

8- told them all that had happened, and sent them off to Jaffa.

9- Next day, while they were still on their journey and had only a short distance to go before reaching the town, Peter went to the housetop at about the sixth hour to say his prayers.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 10:10-17

10- He felt hungry and was looking forward to his meal, but before it was ready he fell into a trance

11- and saw heaven thrown open and something like a big sheet being let down to earth by its four corners;

12- it contained every kind of animal, reptile and bird.

13- A voice then said to him, 'Now, Peter, kill and eat!'

14- But Peter answered, 'Certainly not, Lord; I have never yet eaten anything profane or unclean.'

15- Again, a second time, the voice spoke to him, 'What God has made clean, you have no right to call profane.'

16- This was repeated three times, and then suddenly the container was drawn up to heaven again.

17- Peter was still at a loss over the meaning of the vision he had seen, when the men sent by Cornelius arrived. They had asked where Simon's house was and they were now standing at the door,

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 10:18-25

18- calling out to know if the Simon known as Peter was lodging there.

19- While Peter's mind was still on the vision, the Spirit told him, 'Look! Some men have come to see you.'

20- Hurry down, and do not hesitate to return with them; it was I who told them to come.'

21- Peter went down and said to them, 'I am the man you are looking for; why have you come?'

22- They said, 'The centurion Cornelius, who is an upright and God-fearing man, highly regarded by the entire Jewish people, was told by God through a holy angel to send for you and bring you to his house and to listen to what you have to say.'

23- So Peter asked them in and gave them lodging. Next day, he was ready to go off with them, accompanied by some of the brothers from Jaffa.

24- They reached Caesarea the following day, and Cornelius was waiting for them. He had asked his relations and close friends to be there,

25- and as Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, fell at his feet and did him reverence.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 10:26-33

26- But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said, ' after all, I am only a man!'

27- Talking together they went in to meet all the people assembled there,

28- and Peter said to them, 'You know it is forbidden for Jews to mix with people of another race and visit them; but God has made it clear to me that I must not call anyone profane or unclean.

29- That is why I made no objection to coming when I was sent for; but I should like to know exactly why you sent for me.'

30- Cornelius replied, 'At this time three days ago I was in my house saying the prayers for the ninth hour, when I suddenly saw a man in front of me in shining robes.

31- He said, "Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your charitable gifts have not been forgotten by God;

32- so now you must send to Jaffa and fetch Simon known as Peter who is lodging in the house of Simon the tanner, by the sea."

33- So I sent for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come. Here we all are, assembled in front of you to hear all the instructions God has given you.'

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 10:34-41

34- Then Peter addressed them, 'I now really understand', he said, 'that God has no favourites,

35- but that anybody of any nationality who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

36- 'God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ -- he is the Lord of all.

37- You know what happened all over Judaea, how Jesus of Nazareth began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism.

38- God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.

39- Now we are witnesses to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and they killed him by hanging him on a tree,

40- yet on the third day God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen,

41- not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses that God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses -- we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead-

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 10:42-48

42- and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to bear witness that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead.

43- It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

44- While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners.

45- Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on gentiles too,

46- since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said,

47- 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?'

48- He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 11:1-9

1- The apostles and the brothers in Judaea heard that gentiles too had accepted the word of God,

2- and when Peter came up to Jerusalem the circumcised believers protested to him

3- and said, 'So you have been visiting the uncircumcised and eating with them!'

4- Peter in reply gave them the details point by point,

5- 'One day, when I was in the town of Jaffa,' he began, 'I fell into a trance as I was praying and had a vision of something like a big sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners. This sheet came right down beside me.

6- I looked carefully into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles, and birds of heaven.

7- Then I heard a voice that said to me, "Now, Peter, kill and eat!"

8- But I answered, "Certainly not, Lord; nothing profane or unclean has ever crossed my lips."

9- And a second time the voice spoke from heaven, "What God has made clean, you have no right to call profane."

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 11:10-17

10- This was repeated three times, before the whole of it was drawn up to heaven again.

11- 'Just at that moment, three men stopped outside the house where we were staying; they had been sent from Caesarea to fetch me,

12- and the Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going back with them. The six brothers here came with me as well, and we entered the man's house.

13- He told us he had seen an angel standing in his house who said, "Send to Jaffa and fetch Simon known as Peter;

14- he has a message for you that will save you and your entire household."

15- 'I had scarcely begun to speak when the Holy Spirit came down on them in the same way as it came on us at the beginning,

16- and I remembered that the Lord had said, "John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit."

17- I realised then that God was giving them the identical gift he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ; and who was I to stand in God's way?'

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 11:18-24

18- This account satisfied them, and they gave glory to God, saying, 'God has clearly granted to the gentiles too the repentance that leads to life.'

19- Those who had scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen travelled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, but they proclaimed the message only to Jews.

20- Some of them, however, who came from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch where they started preaching also to the Greeks, proclaiming the good news of the Lord Jesus to them.

21- The Lord helped them, and a great number believed and were converted to the Lord.

22- The news of them came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem and they sent Barnabas out to Antioch.

23- There he was glad to see for himself that God had given grace, and he urged them all to remain faithful to the Lord with heartfelt devotion;

24- for he was a good man, filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. And a large number of people were won over to the Lord.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 11:25-30

25- Barnabas then left for Tarsus to look for Saul,

26- and when he found him he brought him to Antioch. And it happened that they stayed together in that church a whole year, instructing a large number of people. It was at Antioch that the disciples were first called 'Christians'.

27- While they were there some prophets came down to Antioch from Jerusalem,

28- and one of them whose name was Agabus, seized by the Spirit, stood up and predicted that a severe and universal famine was going to happen. This in fact happened while Claudius was emperor.

29- The disciples decided to send relief, each to contribute what he could afford, to the brothers living in Judaea.

30- They did this and delivered their contributions to the elders through the agency of Barnabas and Saul.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 12:1-9

1- It was about this time that King Herod started persecuting certain members of the church.

2- He had James the brother of John beheaded,

3- and when he saw that this pleased the Jews he went on to arrest Peter as well.

4- As it was during the days of Unleavened Bread that he had arrested him, he put him in prison, assigning four sections of four soldiers each to guard him, meaning to try him in public after the Passover.

5- All the time Peter was under guard the church prayed to God for him unremittingly.

6- On the night before Herod was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with two chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison.

7- Then suddenly an angel of the Lord stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. 'Get up!' he said, 'Hurry!' -- and the chains fell from his hands.

8- The angel then said, 'Put on your belt and sandals.' After he had done this, the angel next said, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.'

9- He followed him out, but had no idea that what the angel did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 12:10-17

10- They passed through the first guard post and then the second and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the angel left him.

11- It was only then that Peter came to himself. And he said, 'Now I know it is all true. The Lord really did send his angel and save me from Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

12- As soon as he realised this he went straight to the house of Mary the mother of John Mark, where a number of people had assembled and were praying.

13- He knocked at the outside door and a servant called Rhoda came to answer it.

14- She recognised Peter's voice and was so overcome with joy that, instead of opening the door, she ran inside with the news that Peter was standing at the main entrance.

15- They said to her, 'You are out of your mind,' but she insisted that it was true. Then they said, 'It must be his angel!'

16- Peter, meanwhile, was still knocking. When they opened the door, they were amazed to see that it really was Peter himself.

17- He raised his hand for silence and described to them how the Lord had led him out of prison. He added, 'Tell James and the brothers.' Then he left and went elsewhere.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 12:18-25

18- When daylight came there was a great commotion among the soldiers, who could not imagine what had become of Peter.

19- Herod put out an unsuccessful search for him; he had the guards questioned, and before leaving Judaea to take up residence in Caesarea he gave orders for their execution.

20- Now Herod was on bad terms with the Tyrians and Sidonians. Yet they sent a joint deputation which managed to enlist the support of Blastus, the king's chamberlain, and through him negotiated a treaty, since their country depended for its food supply on the king's territory.

21- A day was fixed, and Herod, wearing his robes of state and seated on a throne, began to make a speech to them.

22- The people acclaimed him with, 'It is a god speaking, not a man!'

23- and at that moment the angel of the Lord struck him down, because he had not given the glory to God. He was eaten away by worms and died.

24- The word of God continued to spread and to gain followers.

25- Barnabas and Saul completed their task at Jerusalem and came back, bringing John Mark with them.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 13:1-8

1- In the church at Antioch the following were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen, who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

2- One day while they were offering worship to the Lord and keeping a fast, the Holy Spirit said, 'I want Barnabas and Saul set apart for the work to which I have called them.'

3- So it was that after fasting and prayer they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

4- So these two, sent on their mission by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and from there set sail for Cyprus.

5- They landed at Salamis and proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; John acted as their assistant.

6- They travelled the whole length of the island, and at Paphos they came in contact with a Jewish magician and false prophet called Bar-Jesus.

7- He was one of the attendants of the proconsul Sergius Paulus, who was an extremely intelligent man. The proconsul summoned Barnabas and Saul and asked to hear the word of God,

8- but Elymas the magician (this is what his name means in Greek) tried to stop them so as to prevent the proconsul's conversion to the faith.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 13:9-16

9- Then Saul, whose other name is Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked at him intently

10- and said, 'You utter fraud, you impostor, you son of the devil, you enemy of all uprightness, will you not stop twisting the straightforward ways of the Lord?

11- Now watch how the hand of the Lord will strike you: you will be blind, and for a time you will not see the sun.' That instant, everything went misty and dark for him, and he groped about to find someone to lead him by the hand.

12- The proconsul, who had watched everything, became a believer, being much struck by what he had learnt about the Lord.

13- Paul and his companions went by sea from Paphos to Perga in Pamphylia where John left them to go back to Jerusalem.

14- The others carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the Sabbath and took their seats.

15- After the passages from the Law and the Prophets had been read, the presidents of the synagogue sent them a message, 'Brothers, if you would like to address some words of encouragement to the congregation, please do so.'

16- Paul stood up, raised his hand for silence and began to speak: 'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen!

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 13:17-24

17- The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors and made our people great when they were living in Egypt, a land not their own; then by divine power he led them out

18- and for about forty years took care of them in the desert.

19- When he had destroyed seven nations in Canaan, he put them in possession of their land

20- for about four hundred and fifty years. After this he gave them judges, down to the prophet Samuel.

21- Then they demanded a king, and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin. After forty years,

22- he deposed him and raised up David to be king, whom he attested in these words, "I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will perform my entire will."

23- To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour,

24- whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 13:25-32

25- Before John ended his course he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; there is someone coming after me whose sandal I am not fit to undo."

26- 'My brothers, sons of Abraham's race, and all you godfearers, this message of salvation is meant for you.

27- What the people of Jerusalem and their rulers did, though they did not realise it, was in fact to fulfil the prophecies read on every Sabbath.

28- Though they found nothing to justify his execution, they condemned him and asked Pilate to have him put to death.

29- When they had carried out everything that scripture foretells about him they took him down from the tree and buried him in a tomb.

30- But God raised him from the dead,

31- and for many days he appeared to those who had accompanied him from Galilee to Jerusalem: and it is these same companions of his who are now his witnesses before our people.

32- 'We have come here to tell you the good news that the promise made to our ancestors has come about.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 13:33-40

33- God has fulfilled it to their children by raising Jesus from the dead. As scripture says in the psalms: You are my son: today I have fathered you.

34- The fact that God raised him from the dead, never to return to corruption, is no more than what he had declared: To you I shall give the holy things promised to David which can be relied upon.

35- This is also why it says in another text: You will not allow your Holy One to see corruption.

36- Now when David in his own time had served God's purposes he died; he was buried with his ancestors and has certainly seen corruption.

37- The one whom God has raised up, however, has not seen corruption.

38- 'My brothers, I want you to realise that it is through him that forgiveness of sins is being proclaimed to you. Through him justification from all sins from which the Law of Moses was unable to justify

39- is being offered to every believer.

40- 'So be careful -- or what the prophets say will happen to you.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 13:41-47

41- Cast your eyes around you, mockers; be amazed, and perish! For I am doing something in your own days that you would never believe if you were told of it.'

42- As they left they were urged to continue this preaching the following Sabbath.

43- When the meeting broke up many Jews and devout converts followed Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

44- The next Sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God.

45- When they saw the crowds, the Jews, filled with jealousy, used blasphemies to contradict everything Paul said.

46- Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out fearlessly. 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, here and now we turn to the gentiles.

47- For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said: I have made you a light to the nations, so that my salvation may reach the remotest parts of the earth.'

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 13:48-51

48- It made the gentiles very happy to hear this and they gave thanks to the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers.

49- Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

50- But the Jews worked on some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city; they stirred up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas and expelled them from their territory.

51- So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went off to Iconium; but the converts were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 14:1-8

1- It happened that at Iconium they went to the Jewish synagogue, in the same way, and they spoke so effectively that a great many Jews and Greeks became believers.

2- (However, the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the gentiles against the brothers and set them in opposition.)

3- Accordingly Paul and Barnabas stayed on for some time, preaching fearlessly in the Lord; and he attested all they said about his gift of grace, allowing signs and wonders to be performed by them.

4- The people in the city were divided; some supported the Jews, others the apostles,

5- but eventually with the connivance of the authorities a move was made by gentiles as well as Jews to make attacks on them and to stone them.

6- When they came to hear of this, they went off for safety to Lycaonia where, in the towns of Lystra and Derbe and in the surrounding country,

7- they preached the good news.

8- There was a man sitting there who had never walked in his life, because his feet were crippled from birth;

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 14:9-16

9- he was listening to Paul preaching, and Paul looked at him intently and saw that he had the faith to be cured.

10- Paul said in a loud voice, 'Get to your feet-stand up,' and the cripple jumped up and began to walk.

11- When the crowds saw what Paul had done they shouted in the language of Lycaonia, 'The gods have come down to us in human form.'

12- They addressed Barnabas as Zeus, and since Paul was the principal speaker they called him Hermes.

13- The priests of Zeus-outside-the-Gate, proposing that all the people should offer sacrifice with them, brought garlanded oxen to the gates.

14- When the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard what was happening they tore their clothes, and rushed into the crowd, shouting,

15- 'Friends, what do you think you are doing? We are only human beings, mortal like yourselves. We have come with good news to make you turn from these empty idols to the living God who made sky and earth and the sea and all that these hold.

16- In the past he allowed all the nations to go their own way;

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 14:17-23

17- but even then he did not leave you without evidence of himself in the good things he does for you: he sends you rain from heaven and seasons of fruitfulness; he fills you with food and your hearts with merriment.'

18- With this speech they just managed to prevent the crowd from offering them sacrifice.

19- Then some Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium and turned the people against them. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the town, thinking he was dead.

20- The disciples came crowding round him but, as they did so, he stood up and went back to the town. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

21- Having preached the good news in that town and made a considerable number of disciples, they went back through Lystra, Iconium and Antioch.

22- They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith, saying, 'We must all experience many hardships before we enter the kingdom of God.'

23- In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 14:24-28

24- They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia.

25- Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia

26- and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

27- On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the gentiles.

28- They stayed there with the disciples for some time.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 15:1-7

1- Then some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.'

2- This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument with these men it was decided that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the question with the apostles and elders.

3- The members of the church saw them off, and as they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria they told how the gentiles had been converted, and this news was received with the greatest satisfaction by all the brothers.

4- When they arrived in Jerusalem they were welcomed by the church and by the apostles and elders, and gave an account of all that God had done through them.

5- But certain members of the Pharisees' party who had become believers objected, insisting that gentiles should be circumcised and instructed to keep the Law of Moses.

6- The apostles and elders met to look into the matter,

7- and after a long discussion, Peter stood up and addressed them. 'My brothers,' he said, 'you know perfectly well that in the early days God made his choice among you: the gentiles were to learn the good news from me and so become believers.'

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 15:8-16

8- And God, who can read everyone's heart, showed his approval of them by giving the Holy Spirit to them just as he had to us.

9- God made no distinction between them and us, since he purified their hearts by faith.

10- Why do you put God to the test now by imposing on the disciples the very burden that neither our ancestors nor we ourselves were strong enough to support?

11- But we believe that we are saved in the same way as they are: through the grace of the Lord Jesus.'

12- The entire assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul describing all the signs and wonders God had worked through them among the gentiles.

13- When they had finished it was James who spoke. 'My brothers,' he said, 'listen to me.

14- Simeon has described how God first arranged to enlist a people for his name out of the gentiles.

15- This is entirely in harmony with the words of the prophets, since the scriptures say:

16- After that I shall return and rebuild the fallen hut of David; I shall make good the gaps in it and restore it.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 15:17-24

17- Then the rest of humanity, and of all the nations once called mine, will look for the Lord, says the Lord who made this

18- known so long ago.

19- 'My verdict is, then, that instead of making things more difficult for gentiles who turn to God,

20- we should send them a letter telling them merely to abstain from anything polluted by idols, from illicit marriages, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.

21- For Moses has always had his preachers in every town and is read aloud in the synagogues every Sabbath.'

22- Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose delegates from among themselves to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas, known as Barsabbas, and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood,

23- and gave them this letter to take with them: 'The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of gentile birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia.

24- We hear that some people coming from here, but acting without any authority from ourselves, have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds;

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 15:25-33

25- and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with our well-beloved Barnabas and Paul,

26- who have committed their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

27- Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written.

28- It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to impose on you any burden beyond these essentials:

29- you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from illicit marriages. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

30- The party left and went down to Antioch, where they summoned the whole community and delivered the letter.

31- The community read it and were delighted with the encouragement it gave them.

32- Judas and Silas, being themselves prophets, spoke for a long time, encouraging and strengthening the brothers.

33- These two spent some time there, and then the brothers wished them peace and went back to those who had sent them.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 15:34-41

34-*

35- Paul and Barnabas, however, stayed on in Antioch, and there with many others they taught and proclaimed the good news, the word of the Lord.

36- On a later occasion Paul said to Barnabas, 'Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord, so that we can see how they are doing.'

37- Barnabas suggested taking John Mark,

38- but Paul was not in favour of taking along the man who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had refused to share in their work.

39- There was sharp disagreement so that they parted company, and Barnabas sailed off with Mark to Cyprus.

40- Before Paul left, he chose Silas to accompany him and was commended by the brothers to the grace of God.

41- He travelled through Syria and Cilicia, consolidating the churches.

* [15:34] *Some manuscripts add, in various wordings, "But Silas decided to remain there."*(USCCB)

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 16:1-9

- 1- From there he went to Derbe, and then on to Lystra, where there was a disciple called Timothy, whose mother was Jewish and had become a believer; but his father was a Greek.
- 2- The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him,
- 3- and Paul, who wanted to have him as a travelling companion, had him circumcised. This was on account of the Jews in the locality where everyone knew his father was a Greek.
- 4- As they visited one town after another, they passed on the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem, with instructions to observe them.
- 5- So the churches grew strong in the faith, as well as growing daily in numbers.
- 6- They travelled through Phrygia and the Galatian country, because they had been told by the Holy Spirit not to preach the word in Asia.
- 7- When they reached the frontier of Mysia they tried to go into Bithynia, but as the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them,
- 8- they went through Mysia and came down to Troas.
- 9- One night Paul had a vision: a Macedonian appeared and kept urging him in these words, 'Come across to Macedonia and help us.'

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 16:10-16

10- Once he had seen this vision we lost no time in arranging a passage to Macedonia, convinced that God had called us to bring them the good news.

11- Sailing from Troas we made a straight run for Samothrace; the next day for Neapolis,

12- and from there for Philippi, a Roman colony and the principal city of that district of Macedonia.

13- After a few days in this city we went outside the gates beside a river as it was the Sabbath and this was a customary place for prayer. We sat down and preached to the women who had come to the meeting.

14- One of these women was called Lydia, a woman from the town of Thyatira who was in the purple-dye trade, and who revered God. She listened to us, and the Lord opened her heart to accept what Paul was saying.

15- After she and her household had been baptised she kept urging us, 'If you judge me a true believer in the Lord,' she said, 'come and stay with us.' And she would take no refusal.

16- It happened one day that as we were going to prayer, we were met by a slave-girl who was a soothsayer and made a lot of money for her masters by foretelling the future.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 16:17-24

17- This girl started following Paul and the rest of us and shouting, 'Here are the servants of the Most High God; they have come to tell you how to be saved!'

18- She did this day after day until Paul was exasperated and turned round and said to the spirit, 'I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to leave that woman.' The spirit went out of her then and there.

19- When her masters saw that there was no hope of making any more money out of her, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities.

20- Taking them before the magistrates they said, 'These people are causing a disturbance in our city. They are Jews

21- and are advocating practices which it is unlawful for us as Romans to accept or follow.'

22- The crowd joined in and showed its hostility to them, so the magistrates had them stripped and ordered them to be flogged.

23- They were given many lashes and then thrown into prison, and the gaoler was told to keep a close watch on them.

24- So, following such instructions, he threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 16:25-33

25- In the middle of the night Paul and Silas were praying and singing God's praises, while the other prisoners listened.

26- Suddenly there was an earthquake that shook the prison to its foundations. All the doors flew open and the chains fell from all the prisoners.

27- When the gaoler woke and saw the doors wide open he drew his sword and was about to commit suicide, presuming that the prisoners had escaped.

28- But Paul shouted at the top of his voice, 'Do yourself no harm; we are all here.'

29- He called for lights, then rushed in, threw himself trembling at the feet of Paul and Silas,

30- and escorted them out, saying, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'

31- They told him, 'Become a believer in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, and your household too.'

32- Then they preached the word of the Lord to him and to all his household.

33- Late as it was, he took them to wash their wounds, and was baptised then and there with all his household.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 16:34-40

34- Afterwards he took them into his house and gave them a meal, and the whole household celebrated their conversion to belief in God.

35- When it was daylight the magistrates sent the lictors with the order: 'Release those men.'

36- The gaoler reported the message to Paul, 'The magistrates have sent an order for your release; you can go now and be on your way.'

37- 'What!' Paul replied. 'Without trial they gave us a public flogging, though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison, and now they want to send us away on the quiet! Oh no! They must come and escort us out themselves.'

38- The lictors reported this to the magistrates, who were terrified when they heard they were Roman citizens.

39- They came and urged them to leave the town.

40- From the prison they went to Lydia's house where they saw all the brothers and gave them some encouragement; then they left.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 17:1-8

1- Passing through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they eventually reached Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue.

2- Paul as usual went in and for three consecutive Sabbaths developed the arguments from scripture for them,

3- explaining and proving how it was ordained that the Christ should suffer and rise from the dead. 'And the Christ', he said, 'is this Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you.'

4- Some of them were convinced and joined Paul and Silas, and so did a great many godfearing people and Greeks, as well as a number of the leading women.

5- The Jews, full of resentment, enlisted the help of a gang from the market place, stirred up a crowd, and soon had the whole city in an uproar. They made for Jason's house, hoping to bring them before the People's Assembly;

6- however, they found only Jason and some of the brothers, and these they dragged before the city council, shouting, 'The people who have been turning the whole world upside down have come here now;

7- they have been staying at Jason's. They have broken Caesar's edicts by claiming that there is another king, Jesus.'

8 Hearing this, the citizens and the city councilors were alarmed,

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 17:9-16

9- and they made Jason and the rest give security before setting them free.

10- When it was dark the brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away to Beroea, where they went to the Jewish synagogue as soon as they arrived.

11- Here the Jews were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they welcomed the word very readily; every day they studied the scriptures to check whether it was true.

12- Many of them became believers, and so did many Greek women of high standing and a number of the men.

13- When the Jews of Thessalonica came to learn that the word of God was being preached by Paul in Beroea as well, they went there to make trouble and stir up the people.

14- So the brothers arranged for Paul to go immediately as far as the coast, leaving Silas and Timothy behind.

15- Paul's escort took him as far as Athens, and went back with instructions for Silas and Timothy to rejoin Paul as soon as they could.

16- Paul waited for them in Athens and there his whole soul was revolted at the sight of a city given over to idolatry.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 17:17-23

17- In the synagogue he debated with the Jews and the godfearing, and in the market place he debated every day with anyone whom he met.

18- Even a few Epicurean and Stoic philosophers argued with him. Some said, 'What can this parrot mean?' And, because he was preaching about Jesus and Resurrection, others said, 'He seems to be a propagandist for some outlandish gods.'

19- They got him to accompany them to the Areopagus, where they said to him, 'Can we know what this new doctrine is that you are teaching?'

20- Some of the things you say seemed startling to us and we would like to find out what they mean.'

21- The one amusement the Athenians and the foreigners living there seem to have is to discuss and listen to the latest ideas.

22- So Paul stood before the whole council of the Areopagus and made this speech: 'Men of Athens, I have seen for myself how extremely scrupulous you are in all religious matters,

23- because, as I strolled round looking at your sacred monuments, I noticed among other things an altar inscribed: To An Unknown God. In fact, the unknown God you revere is the one I proclaim to you.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 17:24-30

24- 'Since the God who made the world and everything in it is himself Lord of heaven and earth, he does not make his home in shrines made by human hands.

25- Nor is he in need of anything, that he should be served by human hands; on the contrary, it is he who gives everything -- including life and breath -- to everyone.

26- From one single principle he not only created the whole human race so that they could occupy the entire earth, but he decreed the times and limits of their habitation.

27- And he did this so that they might seek the deity and, by feeling their way towards him, succeed in finding him; and indeed he is not far from any of us,

28- since it is in him that we live, and move, and exist, as indeed some of your own writers have said: We are all his children.

29- 'Since we are the children of God, we have no excuse for thinking that the deity looks like anything in gold, silver or stone that has been carved and designed by a man.

30- 'But now, overlooking the times of ignorance, God is telling everyone everywhere that they must repent,

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 17:31-34

31- because he has fixed a day when the whole world will be judged in uprightness by a man he has appointed. And God has publicly proved this by raising him from the dead.'

32- At this mention of rising from the dead, some of them burst out laughing; others said, 'We would like to hear you talk about this another time.'

33- After that Paul left them,

34- but there were some who attached themselves to him and became believers, among them Dionysius the Aeropagite and a woman called Damaris, and others besides.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 18:1-7

1- After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth,

2- where he met a Jew called Aquila whose family came from Pontus. He and his wife Priscilla had recently left Italy because an edict of Claudius had expelled all the Jews from Rome. Paul went to visit them,

3- and when he found they were tentmakers, of the same trade as himself, he lodged with them, and they worked together.

4- Every Sabbath he used to hold debates in the synagogues, trying to convert Jews as well as Greeks.

5- After Silas and Timothy had arrived from Macedonia, Paul devoted all his time to preaching, declaring to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.

6- When they turned against him and started to insult him, he took his cloak and shook it out in front of them, saying, 'Your blood be on your own heads; from now on I will go to the gentiles with a clear conscience.'

7- Then he left the synagogue and moved to the house next door that belonged to a worshipper of God called Justus.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 18:8-14

8- Crispus, president of the synagogue, and his whole household, all became believers in the Lord. Many Corinthians when they heard this became believers and were baptised.

9- One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision, 'Be fearless; speak out and do not keep silence:

10- I am with you. I have so many people that belong to me in this city that no one will attempt to hurt you.'

11- So Paul stayed there preaching the word of God among them for eighteen months.

12- But while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a concerted attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal, saying,

13- 'We accuse this man of persuading people to worship God in a way that breaks the Law.'

14- Before Paul could open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, 'Listen, you Jews. If this were a misdemeanour or a crime, it would be in order for me to listen to your plea;

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 18:15-22

15- but if it is only quibbles about words and names, and about your own Law, then you must deal with it yourselves -- I have no intention of making legal decisions about these things.'

16- Then he began to hustle them out of the court,

17- and at once they all turned on Sosthenes, the synagogue president, and beat him in front of the tribunal. Gallio refused to take any notice at all.

18- After staying on for some time, Paul took leave of the brothers and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had his hair cut off, because of a vow he had made.

19- When they reached Ephesus, he left them, but first he went alone to the synagogue to debate with the Jews.

20- They asked him to stay longer, but he declined,

21- though when he took his leave he said, 'I will come back another time, God willing.' Then he sailed from Ephesus.

22- He landed at Caesarea and went up to greet the church. Then he came down to Antioch

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 18:23-28

23- where he spent a short time before continuing his journey through the Galatian country and then through Phrygia, encouraging all the followers.

24- An Alexandrian Jew named Apollos now arrived in Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, with a sound knowledge of the scriptures, and yet,

25- though he had been given instruction in the Way of the Lord and preached with great spiritual fervour and was accurate in all the details he taught about Jesus, he had experienced only the baptism of John.

26- He began to teach fearlessly in the synagogue and, when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they attached themselves to him and gave him more detailed instruction about the Way.

27- When Apollos thought of crossing over to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote asking the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived there he was able by God's grace to help the believers considerably

28- by the energetic way he refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating from the scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 19:1-8

1- It happened that while Apollos was in Corinth, Paul made his way overland as far as Ephesus, where he found a number of disciples.

2- When he asked, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' they answered, 'No, we were never even told there was such a thing as a Holy Spirit.'

3- He asked, 'Then how were you baptised?' They replied, 'With John's baptism.'

4- Paul said, 'John's baptism was a baptism of repentance; but he insisted that the people should believe in the one who was to come after him -- namely Jesus.'

5- When they heard this, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus,

6- and the moment Paul had laid hands on them the Holy Spirit came down on them, and they began to speak with tongues and to prophesy.

7- There were about twelve of these men in all.

8- He began by going to the synagogue, where he spoke out fearlessly and argued persuasively about the kingdom of God. He did this for three months,

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 19:9-16

9- till the attitude of some of the congregation hardened into unbelief. As soon as they began attacking the Way in public, he broke with them and took his disciples apart to hold daily discussions in the lecture room of Tyrannus.

10- This went on for two years, with the result that all the inhabitants of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, were able to hear the word of the Lord.

11- So remarkable were the miracles worked by God at Paul's hands

12- that handkerchiefs or aprons which had touched him were taken to the sick, and they were cured of their illnesses, and the evil spirits came out of them.

13- But some itinerant Jewish exorcists too tried pronouncing the name of the Lord Jesus over people who were possessed by evil spirits; they used to say, 'I adjure you by the Jesus whose spokesman is Paul.'

14- Among those who did this were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest.

15- The evil spirit replied, 'Jesus I recognise, and Paul I know, but who are you?'

16- and the man with the evil spirit hurled himself at them and overpowered first one and then another, and handled them so violently that they fled from that house stripped of clothing and badly mauled.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 19:17-24

17- Everybody in Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks, heard about this episode; everyone was filled with awe, and the name of the Lord Jesus came to be held in great honour.

18- Some believers, too, came forward to admit in detail how they had used spells

19- and a number of them who had practised magic collected their books and made a bonfire of them in public. The value of these was calculated to be fifty thousand silver pieces.

20- In this powerful way the word of the Lord spread more and more widely and successfully.

21- When all this was over Paul made up his mind to go back to Jerusalem through Macedonia and Achaia. 'After I have been there,' he said, 'I must go on to see Rome as well.'

22- So he sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, ahead of him to Macedonia, while he remained for a time in Asia.

23- It was during this time that a serious disturbance broke out in connection with the Way.

24- A silversmith called Demetrius, who provided work for a large number of craftsmen making silver shrines of Diana,

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 19:25-32

25- called a general meeting of them with others in the same trade. 'As you know,' he said, 'it is on this industry that we depend for our prosperity.'

26- Now you must have seen and heard how, not just in Ephesus but nearly everywhere in Asia, this man Paul has persuaded and converted a great number of people with his argument that gods made by hand are not gods at all.

27- This threatens not only to discredit our trade, but also to reduce the sanctuary of the great goddess Diana to unimportance. It could end up by taking away the prestige of a goddess venerated all over Asia, and indeed all over the world.'

28- This speech roused them to fury, and they started to shout, 'Great is Diana of the Ephesians!'

29- The whole town was filled with the uproar and the mob made a concerted rush to the theatre, dragging along two of Paul's Macedonian travelling companions, Gaius and Aristarchus.

30- Paul wanted to make an appeal to the people, but the disciples refused to let him;

31- in fact, some of the Asiarchs, who were friends of his, sent messages urging him not to take the risk of going into the theatre.

32- By now everybody was shouting different things, till the assembly itself had no idea what was going on; most of them did not even know why they had gathered together.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 19:33-40

33- Some of the crowd prevailed upon Alexander, whom the Jews pushed forward; he raised his hand for silence with the intention of explaining things to the people.

34- As soon as they realised he was a Jew, they all started shouting in unison, 'Great is Diana of the Ephesians!' and they kept this up for two hours.

35- When the town clerk eventually succeeded in calming the crowd, he said, 'Citizens of Ephesus! Is there anybody who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is the guardian of the temple of great Diana and of her statue that fell from heaven?

36- Nobody can contradict this and there is no need for you to get excited or do anything rash.

37- These men you have brought here are not guilty of any sacrilege or blasphemy against our goddess.

38- If Demetrius and the craftsmen he has with him want to complain about anyone, there are the assizes and the proconsuls; let them take the case to court.

39- And if you want to ask any more questions you must raise them in the regular assembly.

40- We could easily be charged with rioting for today's happenings: there is no ground for it all, and we can give no justification for this gathering.' When he had finished this speech he dismissed the assembly.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 20:1-8

1- When the disturbance was over, Paul sent for the disciples and, after speaking words of encouragement to them, said good -- bye and set out for Macedonia.

2- On his way through those areas he said many words of encouragement to them and then made his way into Greece,

3- where he spent three months. He was leaving by ship for Syria when a plot organised against him by the Jews made him decide to go back by way of Macedonia.

4- He was accompanied by Sopater, son of Pyrrhus, who came from Beroea; Aristarchus and Secundus who came from Thessalonica; Gaius from Derbe, and Timothy, as well as Tychicus and Trophimus who were from Asia.

5- They all went on to Troas where they waited for us.

6- We ourselves left Philippi by ship after the days of Unleavened Bread and joined them five days later at Troas, where we stayed for a week.

7- On the first day of the week we met for the breaking of bread. Paul was due to leave the next day, and he preached a sermon that went on till the middle of the night.

8- A number of lamps were lit in the upstairs room where we were assembled,

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 20:9-16

9- and as Paul went on and on, a young man called Eutychus who was sitting on the window-sill grew drowsy and was overcome by sleep and fell to the ground three floors below. He was picked up dead.

10- Paul went down and stooped to clasp the boy to him, saying, 'There is no need to worry, there is still life in him.'

11- Then he went back upstairs where he broke the bread and ate and carried on talking till he left at daybreak.

12- They took the boy away alive, and were greatly encouraged.

13- We were now to go on ahead by sea, so we set sail for Assos, where we were to take Paul on board; this was what he had arranged, for he wanted to go overland.

14- When he rejoined us at Assos we took him aboard and went on to Mitylene.

15- The next day we sailed from there and arrived opposite Chios. The second day we touched at Samos and, after stopping at Trogyllium, made Miletus the next day.

16- Paul had decided to pass wide of Ephesus so as to avoid spending time in Asia, since he was anxious to be in Jerusalem, if possible, for the day of Pentecost.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 20:17-25

17- From Miletus he sent for the elders of the church of Ephesus.

18- When they arrived he addressed these words to them: 'You know what my way of life has been ever since the first day I set foot among you in Asia,

19- how I have served the Lord in all humility, with all the sorrows and trials that came to me through the plots of the Jews.

20- I have not hesitated to do anything that would be helpful to you; I have preached to you and instructed you both in public and in your homes,

21- urging both Jews and Greeks to turn to God and to believe in our Lord Jesus.

22- 'And now you see me on my way to Jerusalem in captivity to the Spirit; I have no idea what will happen to me there,

23- except that the Holy Spirit, in town after town, has made it clear to me that imprisonment and persecution await me.

24- But I do not place any value on my own life, provided that I complete the mission the Lord Jesus gave me -- to bear witness to the good news of God's grace.

25- 'I now feel sure that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will ever see my face again.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 20:26-33

26- And so on this very day I swear that my conscience is clear as far as all of you are concerned,

27- for I have without faltering put before you the whole of God's purpose.

28- 'Be on your guard for yourselves and for all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you the guardians, to feed the Church of God which he bought with the blood of his own Son.

29- 'I know quite well that when I have gone fierce wolves will invade you and will have no mercy on the flock.

30- Even from your own ranks there will be men coming forward with a travesty of the truth on their lips to induce the disciples to follow them.

31- So be on your guard, remembering how night and day for three years I never slackened in counselling each one of you with tears.

32- And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace that has power to build you up and to give you your inheritance among all the sanctified.

33- 'I have never asked anyone for money or clothes;

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 20:34-38

34- you know for yourselves that these hands of mine earned enough to meet my needs and those of my companions.

35- By every means I have shown you that we must exert ourselves in this way to support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, who himself said, "There is more happiness in giving than in receiving." '

36- When he had finished speaking he knelt down with them all and prayed.

37- By now they were all in tears; they put their arms round Paul's neck and kissed him;

38- what saddened them most was his saying they would never see his face again. Then they escorted him to the ship.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 21:1-8

1- When we had at last torn ourselves away from them and put to sea, we set a straight course and arrived at Cos; the next day we reached Rhodes, and from there went on to Patara.

2- Here we found a ship bound for Phoenicia, so we went on board and sailed in her.

3- After sighting Cyprus and leaving it to port, we sailed to Syria and put in at Tyre, since the ship was to unload her cargo there.

4- We sought out the disciples and stayed there a week. Speaking in the Spirit, they kept telling Paul not to go on to Jerusalem,

5- but when our time was up we set off. Together with the women and children they all escorted us on our way till we were out of the town. When we reached the beach, we knelt down and prayed;

6- then, after saying good -- bye to each other, we went aboard and they returned home.

7- The end of our voyage from Tyre came when we landed at Ptolemais, where we greeted the brothers and stayed one day with them.

8- The next day we left and came to Caesarea. Here we called on Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven, and stayed with him.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 21:9-17

9- He had four unmarried daughters who were prophets.

10- When we had been there several days a prophet called Agabus arrived from Judaea.

11- He came up to us, took Paul's belt and tied up his own feet and hands, and said, 'This is what the Holy Spirit says, "The man to whom this girdle belongs will be tied up like this by the Jews in Jerusalem and handed over to the gentiles." '

12- When we heard this, we and all the local people urged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.

13- To this he replied, 'What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For my part, I am ready not only to be bound but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.'

14- And so, as he would not be persuaded, we gave up the attempt, saying, 'The Lord's will be done.'

15- After this we made our preparations and went on up to Jerusalem.

16- Some of the disciples from Caesarea accompanied us and took us to the house of a Cypriot with whom we were to lodge; he was called Mnason and had been one of the earliest disciples.

17- On our arrival in Jerusalem the brothers gave us a very warm welcome.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 21:18-25

18- The next day Paul went with us to visit James, and all the elders were present.

19- After greeting them he gave a detailed account of all that God had done among the gentiles through his ministry.

20- They gave glory to God when they heard this. Then they said, 'You see, brother, how thousands of Jews have now become believers, all of them staunch upholders of the Law;

21- and what they have heard about you is that you instruct all Jews living among the gentiles to break away from Moses, authorising them not to circumcise their children or to follow the customary practices.

22- What is to be done? A crowd is sure to gather, for they will hear that you have come.

23- So this is what we suggest that you should do; we have four men here who are under a vow;

24- take these men along and be purified with them and pay all the expenses connected with the shaving of their heads. This will let everyone know there is no truth in the reports they have heard about you, and that you too observe the Law by your way of life.

25- About the gentiles who have become believers, we have written giving them our decision that they must abstain from things sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from illicit marriages.'

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 21:26-33

26- So the next day Paul took the men along and was purified with them, and he visited the Temple to give notice of the time when the period of purification would be over and the offering would have to be presented on behalf of each of them.

27- The seven days were nearly over when some Jews from Asia caught sight of him in the Temple and stirred up the crowd and seized him,

28- shouting, 'Men of Israel, help! This is the man who preaches to everyone everywhere against our people, against the Law and against this place. He has even profaned this Holy Place by bringing Greeks into the Temple.'

29- They had, in fact, previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with him and thought that Paul had brought him into the Temple.

30- This roused the whole city; people came running from all sides; they seized Paul and dragged him out of the Temple, and the gates were closed behind them.

31- While they were setting about killing him, word reached the tribune of the cohort that there was tumult all over Jerusalem.

32- He immediately called out soldiers and centurions and charged down on the crowd, who stopped beating Paul when they saw the tribune and the soldiers.

33- When the tribune came up he took Paul into custody, had him bound with two chains and enquired who he was and what he had done.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 21:34-40

34- People in the crowd called out different things, and since the noise made it impossible for him to get any positive information, the tribune ordered Paul to be taken into the fortress.

35- When Paul reached the steps, the crowd became so violent that he had to be carried by the soldiers;

36- and indeed the whole mob was after them, shouting, 'Do away with him!'

37- Just as Paul was being taken into the fortress, he asked the tribune if he could have a word with him. The tribune said, 'You speak Greek, then?'

38- Aren't you the Egyptian who started the recent revolt and led those four thousand cut-throats out into the desert?'

39- 'I?' said Paul, 'I am a Jew and a citizen of the well-known city of Tarsus in Cilicia. Please give me permission to speak to the people.'

40- The man gave his consent and Paul, standing at the top of the steps, raised his hand to the people for silence. A profound silence followed, and he started speaking to them in Hebrew.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapters 22:1-8

1- 'My brothers, my fathers, listen to what I have to say to you in my defence.'

2- When they realised he was speaking in Hebrew, the silence was even greater than before.

3- 'I am a Jew', Paul said, 'and was born at Tarsus in Cilicia. I was brought up here in this city. It was under Gamaliel that I studied and was taught the exact observance of the Law of our ancestors. In fact, I was as full of duty towards God as you all are today.'

4- I even persecuted this Way to the death and sent women as well as men to prison in chains

5- as the high priest and the whole council of elders can testify. I even received letters from them to the brothers in Damascus, which I took with me when I set off to bring prisoners back from there to Jerusalem for punishment.

6- 'It happened that I was on that journey and nearly at Damascus when in the middle of the day a bright light from heaven suddenly shone round me.'

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

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

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapters 22:9-16

9- The people with me saw the light but did not hear the voice which spoke to me.

10- I said, "What am I to do, Lord?" The Lord answered, "Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told what you have been appointed to do."

11- Since the light had been so dazzling that I was blind, I got to Damascus only because my companions led me by the hand.

12- 'Someone called Ananias, a devout follower of the Law and highly thought of by all the Jews living there,

13- came to see me; he stood beside me and said, "Brother Saul, receive your sight." Instantly my sight came back and I was able to see him.

14- Then he said, "The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will, to see the Upright One and hear his own voice speaking,

15- because you are to be his witness before all humanity, testifying to what you have seen and heard.

16- And now why delay? Hurry and be baptised and wash away your sins, calling on his name."

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapters 22:17-24

17- 'It happened that, when I got back to Jerusalem, and was praying in the Temple, I fell into a trance

18- and then I saw him. "Hurry," he said, "leave Jerusalem at once; they will not accept the testimony you are giving about me."

19- "Lord," I answered, "they know that I used to go from synagogue to synagogue, imprisoning and flogging those who believed in you;

20- and that when the blood of your witness Stephen was being shed, I, too, was standing by, in full agreement with his murderers, and in charge of their clothes."

21- Then he said to me, "Go! I am sending you out to the gentiles far away." '

22- So far they had listened to him, but at these words they began to shout, 'Rid the earth of the man! He is not fit to live!'

23- They were yelling, waving their cloaks and throwing dust into the air,

24- and so the tribune had him brought into the fortress and ordered him to be examined under the lash, to find out the reason for the outcry against him.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapters 22:25-30

25- But when they had strapped him down Paul said to the centurion on duty, 'Is it legal for you to flog a man who is a Roman citizen and has not been brought to trial?'

26- When he heard this the centurion went and told the tribune; 'Do you realise what you are doing?' he said. 'This man is a Roman citizen.'

27- So the tribune came and asked him, 'Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?' Paul answered 'Yes'.

28- To this the tribune replied, 'It cost me a large sum to acquire this citizenship.' 'But I was born to it,' said Paul.

29- Then those who were about to examine him hurriedly withdrew, and the tribune himself was alarmed when he realised that he had put a Roman citizen in chains.

30- The next day, since he wanted to know for sure what charge the Jews were bringing, he freed Paul and gave orders for a meeting of the chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin; then he brought Paul down and set him in front of them.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 23:1-7

1- Paul looked steadily at the Sanhedrin and began to speak, 'My brothers, to this day I have conducted myself before God with a perfectly clear conscience.'

2- At this the high priest Ananias ordered his attendants to strike him on the mouth.

3- Then Paul said to him, 'God will surely strike you, you whitewashed wall! How can you sit there to judge me according to the Law, and then break the Law by ordering a man to strike me?'

4- The attendants said, 'Are you insulting the high priest of God?'

5- Paul answered, 'Brothers, I did not realise it was the high priest; certainly scripture says, "You will not curse your people's leader." '

6- Now Paul was well aware that one party was made up of Sadducees and the other of Pharisees, so he called out in the Sanhedrin, 'Brothers, I am a Pharisee and the son of Pharisees. It is for our hope in the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial.'

7- As soon as he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was split between the two parties.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 23:8-14

8- For the Sadducees say there is neither resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, while the Pharisees accept all three.

9- The shouting grew louder, and some of the scribes from the Pharisees' party stood up and protested strongly, 'We find nothing wrong with this man. Suppose a spirit has spoken to him, or an angel?'

10- Feeling was running high, and the tribune, afraid that they would tear Paul to pieces, ordered his troops to go down and haul him out and bring him into the fortress.

11- Next night, the Lord appeared to him and said, 'Courage! You have borne witness for me in Jerusalem, now you must do the same in Rome.'

12- When it was day, the Jews held a secret meeting at which they made a vow not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul.

13- More than forty of them entered this pact,

14- and they went to the chief priests and elders and told them, 'We have made a solemn vow to let nothing pass our lips until we have killed Paul.'

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 23:15-21

15- Now it is up to you and the Sanhedrin together to apply to the tribune to bring him down to you, as though you meant to examine his case more closely; we, on our side, are prepared to dispose of him before he reaches you.'

16- But the son of Paul's sister heard of the ambush they were laying and made his way into the fortress and told Paul,

17- who called one of the centurions and said, 'Take this young man to the tribune; he has something to tell him.'

18- So the man took him to the tribune, and reported, 'The prisoner Paul summoned me and requested me to bring this young man to you; he has something to tell you.'

19- Then the tribune took him by the hand and drew him aside and questioned him in private, 'What is it you have to tell me?'

20- He replied, 'The Jews have made a plan to ask you to take Paul down to the Sanhedrin tomorrow, as though they meant to enquire more closely into his case.'

21- Do not believe them. There are more than forty of them lying in wait for him, and they have vowed not to eat or drink until they have got rid of him. They are ready now and only waiting for your order to be given.'

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 23:22-29

22- The tribune let the young man go with this order, 'Tell no one that you have given me this information.'

23- Then he summoned two of the centurions and said, 'Get two hundred soldiers ready to leave for Caesarea by the third hour of the night with seventy cavalry and two hundred auxiliaries;

24- provide horses for Paul, and deliver him unharmed to Felix the governor.'

25- He also wrote a letter in these terms:

26- 'Claudius Lysias to his Excellency the governor Felix, greetings.

27- This man had been seized by the Jews and would have been murdered by them; but I came on the scene with my troops and got him away, having discovered that he was a Roman citizen.

28- Wanting to find out what charge they were making against him, I brought him before their Sanhedrin.

29- I found that the accusation concerned disputed points of their Law, but that there was no charge deserving death or imprisonment.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 23:30-35

30- Acting on information that there was a conspiracy against the man, I hasten to send him to you, and have notified his accusers that they must state their case against him in your presence.'

31- The soldiers carried out their orders; they took Paul and escorted him by night to Antipatris.

32- Next day they left the mounted escort to go on with him and returned to the fortress.

33- On arriving at Caesarea the escort delivered the letter to the governor and handed Paul over to him.

34- When he had read it, he asked Paul what province he came from. Learning that he was from Cilicia he said,

35- 'I will hear your case as soon as your accusers are here too.' Then he ordered him to be held in Herod's praetorium.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 24:1-8

1- Five days later the high priest Ananias came down with some of the elders and an advocate named Tertullus, and they laid information against Paul before the governor.

2- Paul was called, and Tertullus opened for the prosecution, 'Your Excellency, Felix, the unbroken peace we enjoy and the reforms this nation owes to your foresight

3- are matters we accept, always and everywhere, with all gratitude.

4- I do not want to take up too much of your time, but I urge you in your graciousness to give us a brief hearing.

5- We have found this man a perfect pest; he stirs up trouble among Jews the world over and is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect.

6- He has even attempted to profane the Temple. We placed him under arrest.

7- 'I know that you have administered justice over this nation for many years, and I can therefore speak with confidence in my defence.

8- If you ask him you can find out for yourself the truth of all our accusations against this man.'

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 24:9-17

9- The Jews supported him, asserting that these were the facts.

10- When the governor motioned him to speak, Paul answered:

11- As you can verify for yourself, it is no more than twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem on pilgrimage,

12- and it is not true that they ever found me arguing with anyone or stirring up the mob, either in the Temple, in the synagogues, or about the town;

13- neither can they give you any proof of the accusations they are making against me now.

14- 'What I do admit to you is this: it is according to the Way, which they describe as a sect, that I worship the God of my ancestors, retaining my belief in all points of the Law and in what is written in the prophets;

15- and I hold the same hope in God as they do that there will be a resurrection of the upright and the wicked alike.

16- In these things, I, as much as they, do my best to keep a clear conscience at all times before God and everyone.

17- 'After several years I came to bring relief-money to my nation and to make offerings;

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 24:18-24

18- it was in connection with these that they found me in the Temple; I had been purified, and there was no crowd involved, and no disturbance.

19- But some Jews from Asia -- these are the ones who should have appeared before you and accused me of whatever they had against me.

20- At least let those who are present say what crime they held against me when I stood before the Sanhedrin,

21- unless it were to do with this single claim, when I stood up among them and called out, "It is about the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you today." '

22- At this, Felix, who was fairly well informed about the Way, adjourned the case, saying, 'When Lysias the tribune comes down I will give judgement about your case.'

23- He then gave orders to the centurion that Paul should be kept under arrest but free from restriction, and that none of his own people should be prevented from seeing to his needs.

24- Some days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla who was a Jewess. He sent for Paul and gave him a hearing on the subject of faith in Christ Jesus.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 24:25-27

25- But when Paul began to treat of uprightness, self-control and the coming Judgement, Felix took fright and said, 'You may go for the present; I will send for you when I find it convenient.'

26- At the same time he had hopes of receiving money from Paul, and for this reason he sent for him frequently and had talks with him.

27- When two years came to an end, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus and, being anxious to gain favour with the Jews, Felix left Paul in custody.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 25:1-8

- 1- Three days after his arrival in the province, Festus went up to Jerusalem from Caesarea.
- 2- The chief priests and leaders of the Jews informed him of the case against Paul,
- 3- urgently asking him to support them against him, and to have him transferred to Jerusalem. They were preparing an ambush to murder him on the way.
- 4- But Festus replied that Paul was in custody in Caesarea, and that he would be going back there shortly himself.
- 5- He said, 'Let your authorities come down with me, and if there is anything wrong about the man, they can bring a charge against him.'
- 6- After staying with them for eight or ten days at the most, he went down to Caesarea and the next day he took his seat on the tribunal and had Paul brought in.
- 7- As soon as Paul appeared, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem surrounded him, making many serious accusations which they were unable to substantiate.
- 8- Paul's defence was this, 'I have committed no offence whatever against either Jewish law, or the Temple, or Caesar.'

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 25:9-15

9- Festus was anxious to gain favour with the Jews, so he said to Paul, 'Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and be tried on these charges before me there?'

10- But Paul replied, 'I am standing before the tribunal of Caesar and this is where I should be tried. I have done the Jews no wrong, as you very well know.'

11- If I am guilty of committing any capital crime, I do not ask to be spared the death penalty. But if there is no substance in the accusations these persons bring against me, no one has a right to surrender me to them. I appeal to Caesar.'

12- Then Festus conferred with his advisers and replied, 'You have appealed to Caesar; to Caesar you shall go.'

13- Some days later King Agrippa and Bernice arrived in Caesarea and paid their respects to Festus.

14- Their visit lasted several days, and Festus put Paul's case before the king, saying, 'There is a man here whom Felix left behind in custody,

15- and while I was in Jerusalem the chief priests and elders of the Jews laid information against him, demanding his condemnation.'

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 25:16-22

16- But I told them that Romans are not in the habit of surrendering any man, until the accused confronts his accusers and is given an opportunity to defend himself against the charge.

17- So they came here with me, and I wasted no time but took my seat on the tribunal the very next day and had the man brought in.

18- When confronted with him, his accusers did not charge him with any of the crimes I had expected;

19- but they had some argument or other with him about their own religion and about a dead man called Jesus whom Paul alleged to be alive.

20- Not feeling qualified to deal with questions of this sort, I asked him if he would be willing to go to Jerusalem to be tried there on this issue.

21- But Paul put in an appeal for his case to be reserved for the judgement of the emperor, so I ordered him to be remanded until I could send him to Caesar.'

22- Agrippa said to Festus, 'I should like to hear the man myself.' He answered, 'Tomorrow you shall hear him.'

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 25:23-27

23- So the next day Agrippa and Bernice arrived in great state and entered the audience chamber attended by the tribunes and the city notables; and Festus ordered Paul to be brought in.

24- Then Festus said, 'King Agrippa, and all here present with us, you see before you the man about whom the whole Jewish community has petitioned me, both in Jerusalem and here, loudly protesting that he ought not to be allowed to remain alive.

25- For my own part I am satisfied that he has committed no capital crime, but when he himself appealed to the emperor I decided to send him.

26- But I have nothing definite that I can write to his Imperial Majesty about him; that is why I have produced him before you all, and before you in particular, King Agrippa, so that after the examination I may have something to write.

27- It seems to me pointless to send a prisoner without indicating the charges against him.'

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 26:1-9

1- Then Agrippa said to Paul, 'You have leave to speak on your own behalf.' And Paul held up his hand and began his defence:

2- 'I consider myself fortunate, King Agrippa, in that it is before you I am to answer today all the charges made against me by the Jews,

3- the more so because you are an expert in matters of custom and controversy among the Jews. So I beg you to listen to me patiently.

4- 'My manner of life from my youth, a life spent from the beginning among my own people and in Jerusalem, is common knowledge among the Jews.

5- They have known me for a long time and could testify, if they would, that I followed the strictest party in our religion and lived as a Pharisee.

6- And now it is for my hope in the promise made by God to our ancestors that I am on trial,

7- the promise that our twelve tribes, constant in worship night and day, hope to attain. For that hope, Your Majesty, I am actually put on trial by Jews!

8 Why does it seem incredible to you that God should raise the dead?

9- 'As for me, I once thought it was my duty to use every means to oppose the name of Jesus the Nazarene.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 26:10-16

10- This I did in Jerusalem; I myself threw many of God's holy people into prison, acting on authority from the chief priests, and when they were being sentenced to death I cast my vote against them.

11- I often went round the synagogues inflicting penalties, trying in this way to force them to renounce their faith; my fury against them was so extreme that I even pursued them into foreign cities.

12- 'On such an expedition I was going to Damascus, armed with full powers and a commission from the chief priests,

13- and in the middle of the day as I was on my way, Your Majesty, I saw a light from heaven shining more brilliantly than the sun round me and my fellow-travelers.

14- We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Hebrew, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you, kicking against the goad.

15- Then I said, "Who are you, Lord?" And the Lord answered, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

16- But get up and stand on your feet, for I have appeared to you for this reason: to appoint you as my servant and as witness of this vision in which you have seen me, and of others in which I shall appear to you.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 26:17-24

17- I shall rescue you from the people and from the nations to whom I send you

18- to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light, from the dominion of Satan to God, and receive, through faith in me, forgiveness of their sins and a share in the inheritance of the sanctified."

19- 'After that, King Agrippa, I could not disobey the heavenly vision.

20- On the contrary I started preaching, first to the people of Damascus, then to those of Jerusalem and all Judaeen territory, and also to the gentiles, urging them to repent and turn to God, proving their change of heart by their deeds.

21- This was why the Jews laid hands on me in the Temple and tried to do away with me.

22- But I was blessed with God's help, and so I have stood firm to this day, testifying to great and small alike, saying nothing more than what the prophets and Moses himself said would happen:

23- that the Christ was to suffer and that, as the first to rise from the dead, he was to proclaim a light for our people and for the gentiles.'

24- He had reached this point in his defence when Festus shouted out, 'Paul, you are out of your mind; all that learning of yours is driving you mad.'

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 26:25-32

25- But Paul answered, 'Festus, your Excellency, I am not mad: I am speaking words of sober truth and good sense.

26- The king understands these matters, and to him I now speak fearlessly. I am confident that nothing of all this comes as a surprise to him; after all, these things were not done in a corner.

27- King Agrippa, do you believe in the prophets? I know you do.'

28- At this Agrippa said to Paul, 'A little more, and your arguments would make a Christian of me.'

29- Paul replied, 'Little or much, I wish before God that not only you but all who are listening to me today would come to be as I am -- except for these chains.'

30- At this the king rose to his feet, with the governor and Bernice and those who sat there with them.

31- When they had retired they talked together and agreed, 'This man is doing nothing that deserves death or imprisonment.'

32- And Agrippa remarked to Festus, 'The man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.'

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 27:1-8

1- When it had been decided that we should sail to Italy, Paul and some other prisoners were handed over to a centurion called Julius, of the Augustan cohort.

2- We boarded a vessel from Adramyttium bound for ports on the Asiatic coast and put to sea; we had Aristarchus with us, a Macedonian of Thessalonica.

3- Next day we put in at Sidon, and Julius was considerate enough to allow Paul to go to his friends to be looked after.

4- From there we put to sea again, but as the winds were against us we sailed under the lee of Cyprus,

5- then across the open sea off Cilicia and Pamphylia, taking a fortnight to reach Myra in Lycia.

6- There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship leaving for Italy and put us aboard.

7- For some days we made little headway, and we had difficulty in making Cnidus. The wind would not allow us to touch there, so we sailed under the lee of Crete off Cape Salmone

8- and struggled along the coast until we came to a place called Fair Havens, near the town of Lasea.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 27:9-15

9- A great deal of time had been lost, and navigation was already hazardous, since it was now well after the time of the Fast, so Paul gave them this warning,

10- 'Friends, I can see this voyage will be dangerous and that we will run considerable risk of losing not only the cargo and the ship but also our lives as well.'

11- But the centurion took more notice of the captain and the ship's owner than of what Paul was saying;

12- and since the harbour was unsuitable for wintering, the majority were for putting out from there in the hope of wintering at Phoenix -- a harbour in Crete, facing south-west and north-west.

13- A southerly breeze sprang up and, thinking their objective as good as reached, they weighed anchor and began to sail past Crete, close inshore.

14- But it was not long before a hurricane, the 'north-easter' as they call it, burst on them from across the island.

15- The ship was caught and could not keep head to wind, so we had to give way to the wind and let ourselves be driven.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 27:16-23

16- We ran under the lee of a small island called Cauda and managed with some difficulty to bring the ship's boat under control.

17- Having hauled it up they used it to undergird the ship; then, afraid of running aground on the Syrtis banks, they floated out the sea-anchor and so let themselves drift.

18- As we were thoroughly storm-bound, the next day they began to jettison the cargo,

19- and the third day they threw the ship's gear overboard with their own hands.

20- For a number of days both the sun and the stars were invisible and the storm raged unabated until at last we gave up all hope of surviving.

21- Then, when they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among the men. 'Friends,' he said, 'you should have listened to me and not put out from Crete. You would have spared yourselves all this damage and loss.

22- But now I ask you not to give way to despair. There will be no loss of life at all, only of the ship.

23- Last night there appeared beside me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve,

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 27:24-31

24- and he said, "Do not be afraid, Paul. You are destined to appear before Caesar, and God grants you the safety of all who are sailing with you."

25- So take courage, friends; I trust in God that things will turn out just as I was told;

26- but we are to be stranded on some island.'

27- On the fourteenth night we were being driven one way and another in the Adriatic, when about midnight the crew sensed that land of some sort was near.

28- They took soundings and found twenty fathoms; after a short interval they sounded again and found fifteen fathoms.

29- Then, afraid that we might run aground somewhere on a reef, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight.

30- When the crew tried to escape from the ship and lowered the ship's boat into the sea as though they meant to lay out anchors from the bows, Paul said to the centurion and his men,

31- 'Unless those men stay on board you cannot hope to be saved.'

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 27:32-39

32- So the soldiers cut the boat's ropes and let it drop away.

33- Just before daybreak Paul urged them all to have something to eat. 'For fourteen days', he said, 'you have been in suspense, going hungry and eating nothing.'

34- I urge you to have something to eat; your safety depends on it. Not a hair of any of your heads will be lost.'

35- With these words he took some bread, gave thanks to God in view of them all, broke it and began to eat.

36- They all plucked up courage and took something to eat themselves.

37- In all we were two hundred and seventy-six souls on board that ship.

38- When they had eaten what they wanted they lightened the ship by throwing the corn overboard into the sea.

39- When day came they did not recognise the land, but they could make out a bay with a beach; they planned to run the ship aground on this if they could.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles- Chapter 27:40-44

40- They slipped the anchors and let them fall into the sea, and at the same time loosened the lashings of the rudders; then, hoisting the foresail to the wind, they headed for the beach.

41- But the cross-currents carried them into a shoal and the vessel ran aground. The bows were wedged in and stuck fast, while the stern began to break up with the pounding of the waves.

42- The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners for fear that any should swim off and escape.

43- But the centurion was determined to bring Paul safely through and would not let them carry out their plan. He gave orders that those who could swim should jump overboard first and so get ashore,

44- and the rest follow either on planks or on pieces of wreckage. In this way it happened that all came safe and sound to land.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 28:1-8

- 1- Once we had come safely through, we discovered that the island was called Malta.
- 2- The inhabitants treated us with unusual kindness. They made us all welcome by lighting a huge fire because it had started to rain and the weather was cold.
- 3- Paul had collected a bundle of sticks and was putting them on the fire when a viper brought out by the heat attached itself to his hand.
- 4- When the inhabitants saw the creature hanging from his hand they said to one another, 'That man must be a murderer; he may have escaped the sea, but divine justice would not let him live.'
- 5- However, he shook the creature off into the fire and came to no harm,
- 6- although they were expecting him at any moment to swell up or drop dead on the spot. After they had waited a long time without seeing anything out of the ordinary happen to him, they changed their minds and began to say he was a god.
- 7- In that neighborhood there were estates belonging to the chief man of the island, whose name was Publius. He received us and entertained us hospitably for three days.
- 8- It happened that Publius' father was in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him, and after a prayer he laid his hands on the man and healed him.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 28:9-17

9- When this happened, the other sick people on the island also came and were cured;

10- they honoured us with many marks of respect, and when we sailed they put on board the provisions we needed.

11- At the end of three months we set sail in a ship that had wintered in the island; she came from Alexandria and her figurehead was the Twins.

12- We put in at Syracuse and spent three days there;

13- from there we followed the coast up to Rhegium. After one day there a south wind sprang up and on the second day we made Puteoli,

14- where we found some brothers and had the great encouragement of staying a week with them. And so we came to Rome.

15- When the brothers there heard about us they came to meet us, as far as the Forum of Appius and the Three Taverns. When Paul saw them he thanked God and took courage.

16- On our arrival in Rome Paul was allowed to stay in lodgings of his own with the soldier who guarded him.

17- After three days he called together the leading Jews. When they had assembled, he said to them, 'Brothers, although I have done nothing against our people or the customs of our ancestors, I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans.

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 28:18-25

18- They examined me and would have set me free, since they found me guilty of nothing involving the death penalty;

19- but the Jews lodged an objection, and I was forced to appeal to Caesar, though not because I had any accusation to make against my own nation.

20- That is why I have urged you to see me and have a discussion with me, for it is on account of the hope of Israel that I wear this chain.'

21- They answered, 'We have received no letters from Judaea about you, nor has any of the brothers arrived here with any report or story of anything to your discredit.

22- We think it would be as well to hear your own account of your position; all we know about this sect is that it encounters opposition everywhere.'

23- So they arranged a day with him and a large number of them visited him at his lodgings. He put his case to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them about Jesus, arguing from the Law of Moses and the prophets from early morning until evening;

24- and some were convinced by what he said, while the rest were skeptical.

25- So they disagreed among themselves and, as they went away, Paul had one last thing to say to them, 'How aptly the Holy Spirit spoke when he told your ancestors through the prophet Isaiah:

Notes:

Acts of Apostles - Chapter 28:26-31

26- Go and say to this people: Listen and listen but never understand! Look and look but never perceive!

27- This people's heart is torpid, their ears dulled, they have shut their eyes tight, to avoid using their eyes to see, their ears to hear, using their heart to understand, changing their ways and being healed by me.

28- 'You must realise, then, that this salvation of God has been sent to the gentiles; they will listen to it.'

29-*

30- He spent the whole of the two years in his own rented lodging. He welcomed all who came to visit him,

31- proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching the truth about the Lord Jesus Christ with complete fearlessness and without any hindrance from anyone.

* [28:29] *The Western text has added here a verse that is not found in the best Greek manuscripts: "And when he had said this, the Jews left, seriously arguing among themselves."* (USCCB)

Notes: