

PART 28: PAUL'S JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

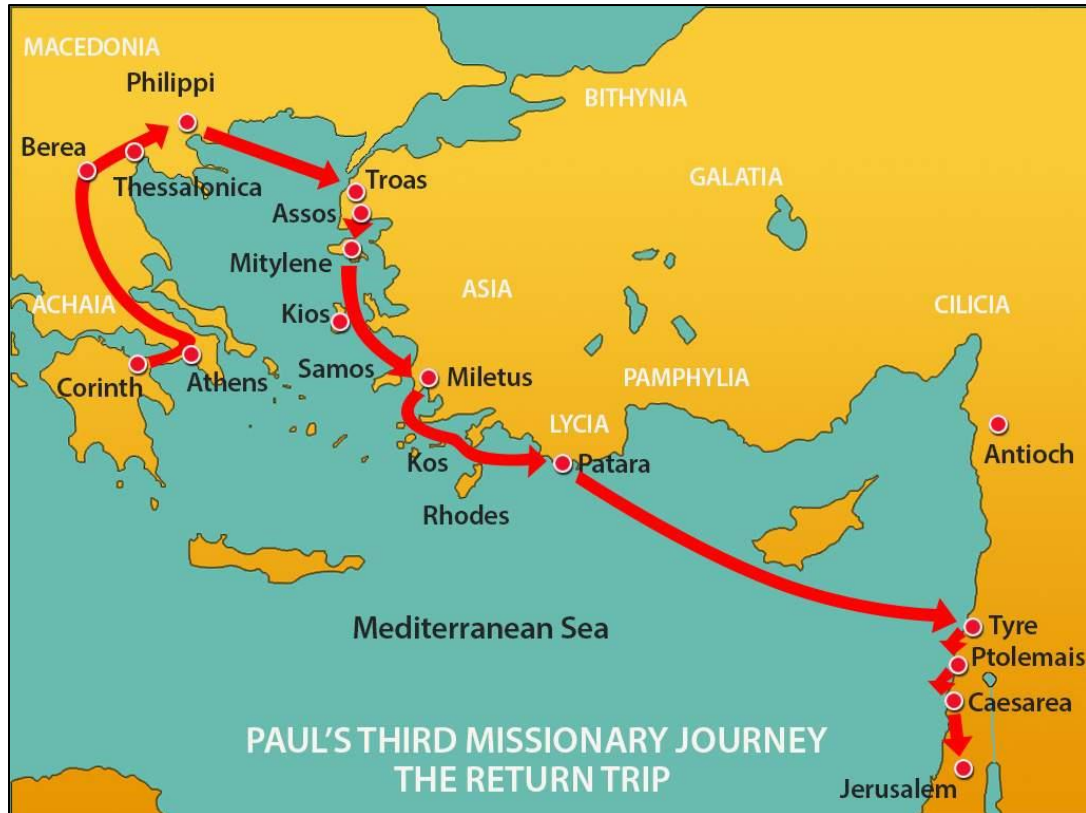
ACTS 20:36—21:16

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SUMMARY



I. PAUL BIDS FAREWELL TO THE EPHESIAN ELDERS (20:36-38)

A. Paul's emotional farewell to these elders (20:36-37)

- Paul sadly tells them he will never see them again (20:38a)
- What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again (20:38a)
- Then they accompanied him to the ship Paul is then accompanied to the ship where he will make his way to Jerusalem (20:38b)

II. PAUL BEGINS HIS TRIP TO JERUSALEM (21:1-14)

A. Paul travels from Miletus to Tyre (21:1-3)

- After we had torn ourselves away from them, we put out to sea and sailed straight to Kos. The next day we went to Rhodes and from there to Patara (21:1)
- We found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, went on board and set sail (21:2)
- After sighting Cyprus and passing to the south of it, we sailed on to Syria. We landed at Tyre, where our ship was to unload its cargo (21:3)

B. Paul is warned to not go to Jerusalem (21:4)

- We sought out the disciples there and stayed with them seven days. Through the Spirit they urged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem (21:4).
- (Note: This was not a command from the Holy Spirit for Paul not to go to Jerusalem . Rather, the Holy Spirit had revealed to these believers at Tyre that Paul would face suffering in Jerusalem).

C. Paul travels from Tyre to Ptolemais (21:5-7)

- When it was time to leave, we left and continued on our way. All of them, including wives and children, accompanied us out of the city, and there on the beach we knelt to pray (21:5)
- After saying goodbye to each other, we went aboard the ship, and they returned home (21:6)
- We continued our voyage from Tyre and landed at Ptolemais, where we greeted the brothers and sisters and stayed with them for a day (21:7).

D. Paul stays with Philip in Caesarea, Agabus warns Paul (21:8-14)

- Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven (21:8).
- (Note: Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven: Apparently, Philip, one of the seven chosen in Acts 6 to serve tables, settled in Caesarea and had four daughters who had the gift of prophecy).
- He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied (21:9).
- (Note: Luke does not reveal the nature of their prophecy but to "prophecy" can mean to predict the future).
- Agabus warns Paul not to go to Jerusalem (21:10a)

- After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea (21:10b).
- Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, "The Holy Spirit says, 'In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'" (21:11).
- (Note: The prophecy of Agabus was true, and genuinely from the Holy Spirit. But to this true word, they added a human application, "they pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem". That additional word was not of the Lord, otherwise Paul would have been disobedient to go to Jerusalem).
- When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem (21:12).
- Then Paul answered, "Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." (21:13).
- (Note: Paul's insistence on going to Jerusalem despite the dangers predicted by the Holy Spirit was not a result of rebellion, but an obedient response to the command of the Holy Spirit in his heart).
- When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, "The Lord's will be done." (21:14)

III. PAUL ARRIVES IN JERUSALEM (21:15-16)

- After this, we started on our way up to Jerusalem (21:15).
- Some of the disciples from Caesarea accompanied us and brought us to the home of Mnason, where we were to stay. He was a man from Cyprus and one of the early disciples (21:16).
- (Note: Mnason is a Greek name suggesting that he was a Hellenistic Jew. If so, Paul and his Gentile companions may have chosen to stay with him because of his acquaintance with Greek culture. That would have made him more comfortable in housing a party of Gentiles than the Jews would have been).

IV. APPLICATION

1. As a follower of Jesus, value the importance of having _____ (Hebrews 10:24-25).
2. Learn to _____ your close Christian friends (John 15:12; Gal. 6:2).
3. Have _____ you can turn to when you need prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:25)