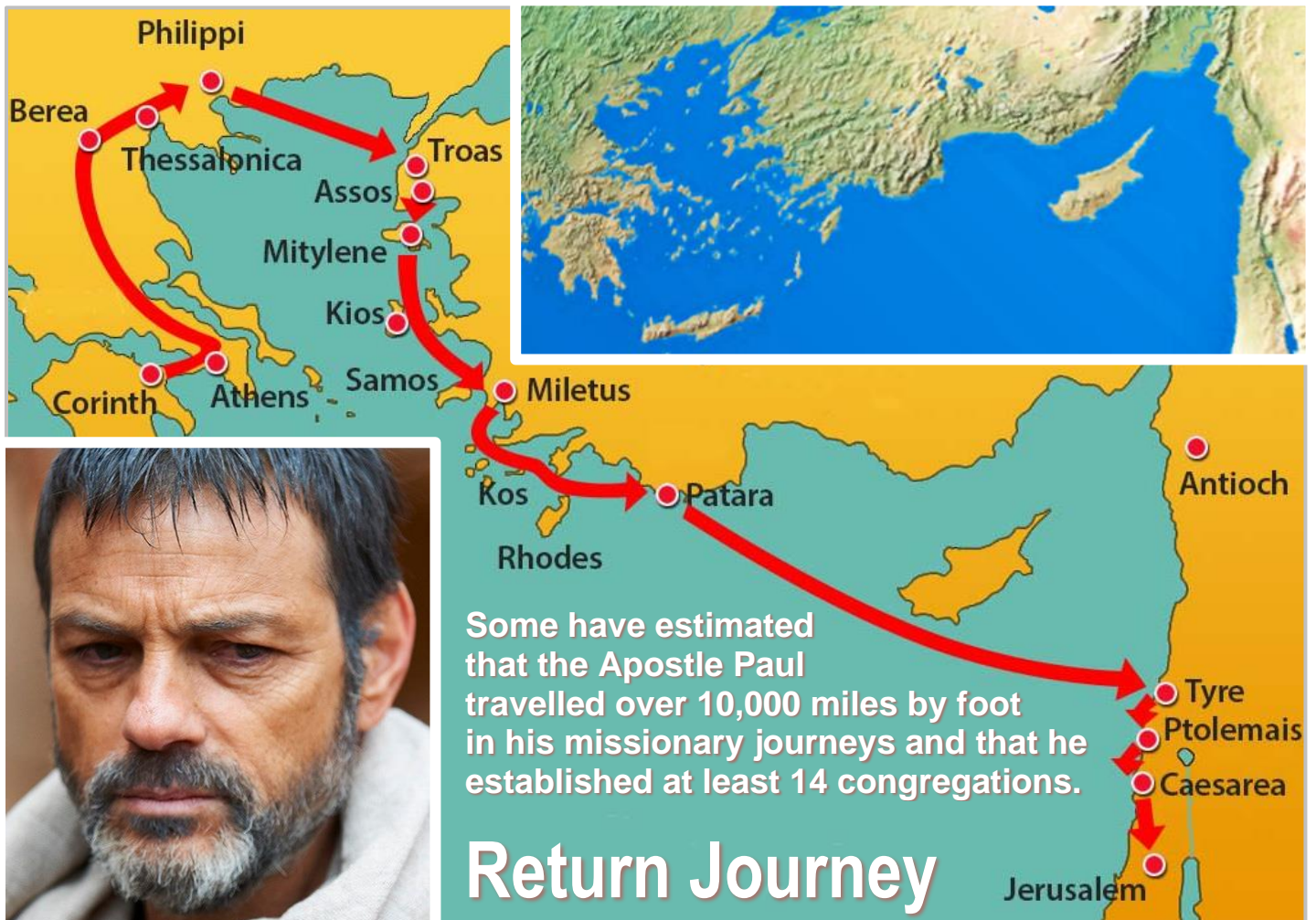
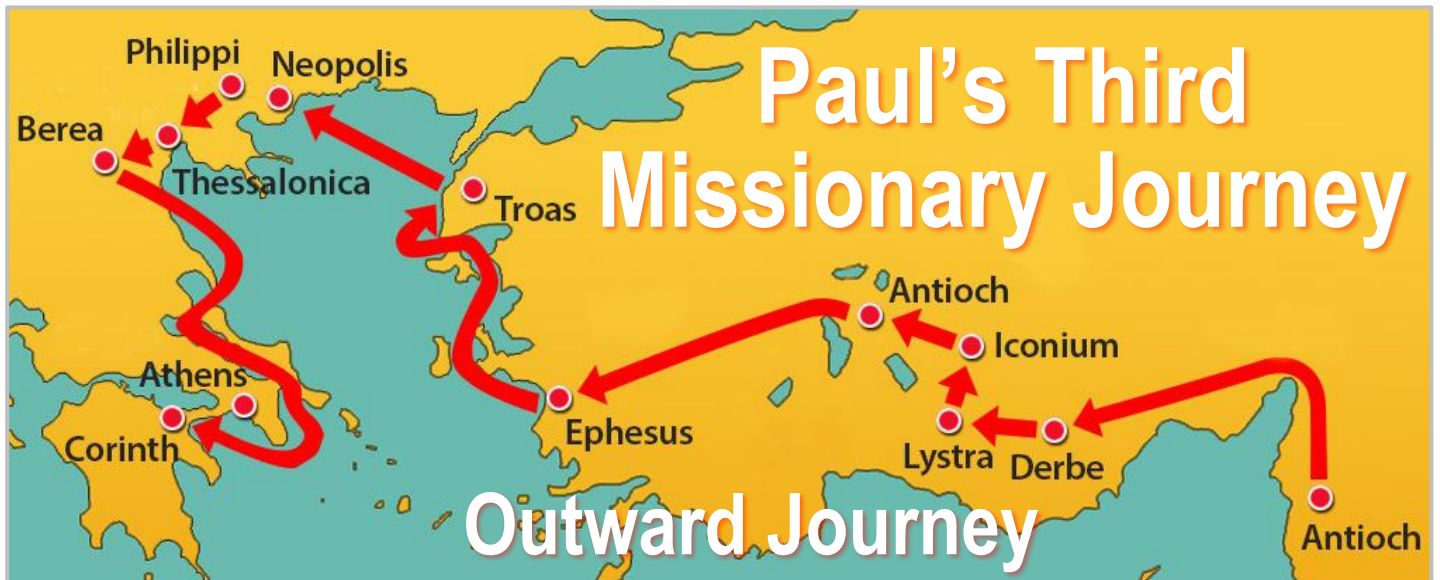


Adventure Club

A weekly lesson for children, young people, parents and grandparents, from the GCI Watford Church.
Number 48, 19th February 2021

Acts 18:23 – 21:17

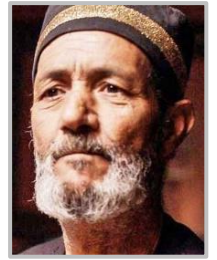
Quoted from the *Easy-to-Read Version* of the Bible





Paul stayed in Antioch for a while. Then he left there and went through the countries of Galatia and Phrygia. He travelled from town to town in these countries, helping all the followers of Jesus grow stronger in their faith.

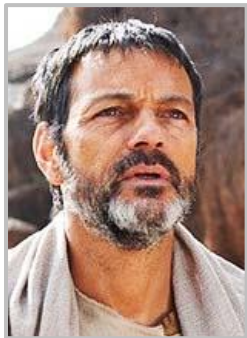
Apollos Speaks Very Boldly



A Jew named Apollos came to Ephesus. Born in the city of Alexandria, he was an educated man who knew the Scriptures well. He had been taught about the Lord and was always excited to talk to people about Jesus. What he taught was right, but the only baptism he knew about was

the baptism that John taught. Apollos began to speak very boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him speak, they took him to their home and helped him understand the way of God better.

Apollos wanted to go to Achaia. So the believers in Ephesus helped him. They wrote a letter to the Lord's followers in Achaia and asked them to accept Apollos. When he arrived there, he was a great help to those who had believed in Jesus because of God's grace. He argued very strongly against the Jews before all the people. He clearly proved that the Jews were wrong. He used the Scriptures and showed that Jesus is the Messiah.



Paul Speaks Very Boldly

While Apollos was in the city of Corinth, Paul was visiting some places on his way to Ephesus. In Ephesus he found some other followers of the Lord. He asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

These followers said to him, "We have never even heard of a Holy Spirit!"

Paul asked them, "So what kind of baptism did you have?"

They said, "It was the baptism that John taught."

Paul said, "John told people to be baptized to show they wanted to change their lives. He told people to believe in the one who would come after him, and that one is Jesus."

When these followers heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Paul laid his hands on them, and the Holy Spirit came on them. They began speaking different languages and prophesying. There were about twelve men in this group.

Paul went into the synagogue and spoke very boldly. He continued doing this for three months. He talked with the Jews, trying to persuade them to accept what he was telling them about God's kingdom. But some of them became stubborn and refused to believe. In front of everyone, they said bad things about the Way. So Paul left these Jews and took the Lord's followers with him. He went to a place where a man named Tyrannus had a school. There Paul talked with people every day. He did this for two years. Because of this work, everyone in Asia, Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the Lord.

Magic Books Burnt

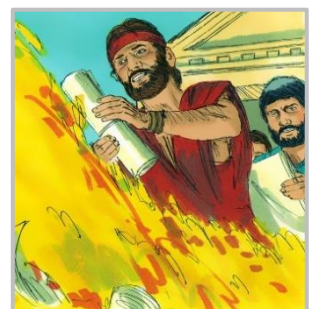
God used Paul to do some very special miracles. Some people carried away handkerchiefs and clothes that Paul had used and put them on those who were sick. The sick people were healed, and evil spirits left them.

Some Jews also were travelling around forcing evil spirits out of people. The seven sons of Sceva, one of the leading priests, were doing this. These Jews tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus to make the evil spirits go out of people. They all said, "By the same Jesus that Paul talks about, I order you to come out!"

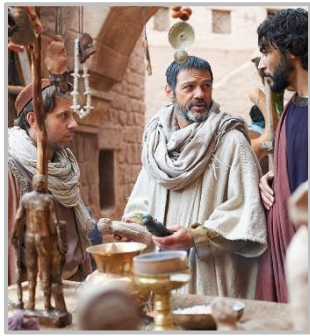
But one time an evil spirit said to these Jews, "I know Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?"

Then the man who had the evil spirit inside him jumped on these Jews. He was much stronger than all of them. He beat them up and tore their clothes off. They all ran away from that house.

All the people in Ephesus, Jews and Greeks, learned about this. They were all filled with fear and gave great honour to the Lord Jesus. Many of the believers began to confess, telling about all the evil things they had done. Some of them had used magic. These believers brought their magic books and burned them before everyone. These books were worth about 50,000 silver coins. This is how the word of the Lord was spreading in a powerful way, causing more and more people to believe.



After this, Paul made plans to go to Jerusalem. He planned to go through the regions of Macedonia and Achaia, and then go to Jerusalem. He thought, "After I visit Jerusalem, I must also visit Rome." Timothy and Erastus were two of his helpers. Paul sent them ahead to Macedonia. But he stayed in Asia for a while.



Paul explains:
'the gods that people make
by hand are not real'.

Trouble in Ephesus about 'the Way'

But during that time there was some trouble in Ephesus about the Way. This is how it all happened: There was a man named Demetrius. He worked with silver. He made little silver models that looked like the temple of the goddess Artemis. The men who did this work made a lot of money.

Demetrius had a meeting with these men and some others who did the same kind of work. He told them, "Men, you know that we make a lot of money from our business. But look at what this man Paul is doing. Listen to what he is saying. He has convinced many people in Ephesus and all over Asia to change their religion. He says the gods that people make by hand are not real. I'm afraid this is going to turn people against our business. But there is also another problem. People will begin to think that the temple of the great goddess Artemis is

not important. Her greatness will be destroyed. And Artemis is the goddess that everyone in Asia and the whole world worships."

When the men heard this, they became very angry. They shouted, "Great is Artemis, the goddess of Ephesus!" The whole city was thrown into confusion. The people grabbed Gaius and Aristarchus, men from Macedonia who were traveling with Paul, and rushed all together into the stadium. Paul wanted to go in and talk to the people, but the Lord's followers did not let him go. Also, some leaders of the country who were friends of Paul sent him a message telling him not to go into the stadium.



Several ancient
coins portray the
Temple of Artemis.

Some people were shouting one thing and others were shouting something else. The meeting was very confused. Most of the people did not know why they had come there. Some Jews made a man named Alexander stand before the crowd, and they told him what to say. Alexander waved his hand, trying to explain things to the people. But when the people saw that Alexander was a Jew, they all began shouting the same thing.



Ephesus Stadium

Some Bible commentators think, but do not know for sure, that the 'stadium' (or 'theatre') mentioned in Acts 19:29, 31 is referring to the above stadium. It was first constructed in about the third century BC and then later enlarged in the Roman period. The stadium could hold 25,000 people (24,000 seated and 1,000 standing). It's about a mile from the Temple of Artemis site.

someone might see this trouble today and say we are rioting. We could not explain all this trouble, because there is no real reason for this meeting." After the city clerk said this, he told the people to go home.



Temple of Artemis, Ephesus

(Artist's impression)

There are said to be seven wonders of the ancient world: The Great Pyramid, The Hanging Gardens of Babylon, The Colossus at Rhodes, The Lighthouse at Alexandria, The Statue of Zeus, The Mausoleum at Halicarnassus and The Temple of Artemis (also called the Temple of Diana). The first temple was built in the 8th century BC, but was destroyed by a flood, a subsequent temple was destroyed by a fire. The temple above was begun in about the 4th century BC. The site of the temple can still be seen.

For two hours they continued shouting, "Great is Artemis of Ephesus! Great is Artemis of Ephesus! Great is Artemis ...!"

Then the city clerk persuaded the people to be quiet. He said, "Men of Ephesus, everyone knows that Ephesus is the city that keeps the temple of the great goddess Artemis. Everyone knows that we also keep her holy rock. No one can deny this, so you should be quiet. You must stop and think before you do anything else.

"You brought these men here, but they have not said anything bad against our goddess. They have not stolen anything from her temple. We have courts of law and there are judges. Do Demetrius and those men who work with him have a charge against anyone? They should go to the courts. Let them argue with each other there.

"Is there something else you want to talk about? Then come to the regular town meeting of the people. It can be decided there. I say this because

Paul had ‘Many Words of Encouragement’

When the trouble stopped, Paul invited the Lord’s followers to come visit him. After encouraging them, he told them goodbye and left for Macedonia. On his way through Macedonia he had many words of encouragement for the followers in various places. Then he went to Greece and stayed there three months.

Paul was ready to sail for Syria, but some Jews were planning something against him. So he decided to go back through Macedonia to Syria. These men were travelling with him: Sopater, the son of Pyrrhus, from the city of Berea; Aristarchus and Secundus, from the city of Thessalonica; Gaius, from the city of Derbe; Timothy; and two men from Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus. These men went first, ahead of Paul. They waited for us in the city of Troas. We sailed from the city of Philippi after the Festival of Unleavened Bread. We met these men in Troas five days later and stayed there seven days.



Eutychus Falls from a Window

On Sunday we all met together to eat the Lord’s Supper. Paul talked to the group. Because he was planning to leave the next day, he continued talking until midnight. We were all together in a room upstairs, and there were many lights in the room. There was a young man named Eutychus sitting in the window. Paul continued talking, and Eutychus became very, very sleepy. Finally, he went to sleep and fell out of the window. He fell to the ground from the third floor. When the people went

down and lifted him up, he was dead.

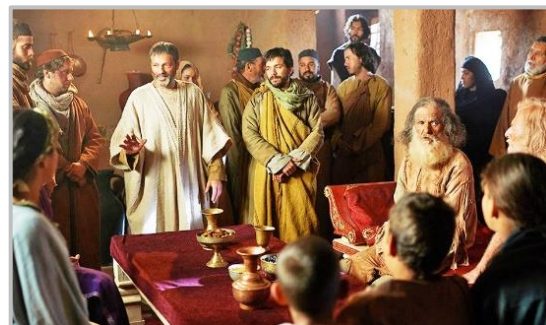
Paul went down to where Eutychus was, knelt down beside him, and put his arms around him. He said to the other believers, “Don’t worry. He is alive now.” Then Paul went upstairs again, broke off some pieces of bread and ate. He spoke to them a long time. It was early morning when he finished, and then he left. The Lord’s followers took Eutychus home alive, and they were all greatly comforted.

We went on ahead of Paul and sailed for the city of Assos, planning to meet him there. This is what he told us to do because he wanted to go by land. When he caught up with us at Assos, we took him on board, and we all sailed to Mitylene. The next day, we sailed away from there and came to a place near the island of Chios. Then the next day, we sailed to the island of Samos. A day later, we came to the city of Miletus. Paul had already decided not to stop at Ephesus. He did not want to stay too long in Asia. He was hurrying because he wanted to be in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost if possible.

Paul Speaks to the Elders from Ephesus

In Miletus Paul sent a message back to Ephesus, telling the elders of the church in Ephesus to come to him.

When they came, Paul said to them, “You know about my life from the first day I came to Asia. You know the way I lived all the time I was with you. The Jews planned things against me, and this gave me much trouble. But you know that I always served the Lord, sometimes with tears. I never thought about myself first. I always did what was best for you. I told you the Good News about Jesus in public before the people and also taught in your homes. I told everyone – Jewish and non-Jewish people – to change and turn to God. I told them all to believe in our Lord Jesus.



**‘I told them all
to believe in
our Lord
Jesus.’**

Acts 20:21, ERV

“But now I must obey the Spirit and go to Jerusalem. I don’t know what will happen to me there. I know only that in every city the Holy Spirit tells me that troubles and even jail wait for me. I don’t care about my own life. The most important thing is that I finish my work. I want to finish the work that the Lord Jesus gave me to do – to tell people the Good News about God’s grace.

“And now listen to me. I know that none of you will ever see me again. All the time I was with you, I told you the Good News about God’s kingdom. So today I can tell you one thing that I am sure of: God will not blame me if some of you are not saved. I can say this because I know that I told you everything that God wants you to know. Be careful for yourselves and for all the people God has given you. The Holy Spirit gave you the work of caring for this flock. You must be shepherds to the church of God, the people he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, some men will come into your group. They will be like wild wolves and will try to destroy the flock. Also, men from your own group will begin to teach things that are wrong. They will lead some of the Lord’s followers away from the truth

'Grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance.'

Acts 20:32, NKJV

to follow them. So be careful! And always remember what I did during the three years I was with you. I never stopped reminding each one of you how you should live, counselling you day and night and crying over you.

"Now I am putting you in God's care. I am depending on the message about his grace to make you strong. That message is able to give you the blessings that God gives to all his holy people. When I was with you, I never wanted anyone's money or fine clothes. You know that I always worked to take care of my own needs and the needs of the people who were with me. I always

showed you that you should work just as I did and help people who are weak. I taught you to remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'You will have a greater blessing when you give than when you receive.'"

'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

Acts 20:35, NKJV

When Paul finished speaking, he knelt down, and they all prayed together. They cried and cried. They were especially sad because Paul had said they would never see him again. They hugged him and kissed him. Then they went with him to the ship to say goodbye.

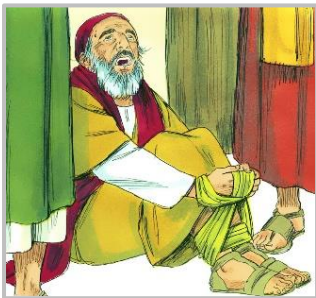


After we said goodbye to the elders, we sailed away straight to Cos island. The next day we went to the island of Rhodes, and from there we went to Patara. There we found a ship that was going to the area of Phoenicia. We got on the ship and sailed away.

We sailed near the island of Cyprus. We could see it on the north side, but we did not stop. We sailed to the country of Syria. We stopped at Tyre because the ship needed to unload its cargo there. We found the Lord's followers there and stayed with them for seven days. They warned Paul not to go to Jerusalem because of what the Spirit had told them. But when our time there was up, we returned to the ship to continue our trip. All the followers, even the women and children, came with us to the seashore. We all knelt down on the beach, prayed, and said goodbye. Then we got on the ship, and the followers went home.

We continued our trip from Tyre and went to the city of Ptolemais. We greeted the believers there and stayed with them one day. The next day we left Ptolemais and went to the city of Caesarea. We went into the home of Philip and stayed with him. He had the work of telling the Good News. He was one of the seven helpers. He had four unmarried daughters who had the gift of prophesying.

Agabus Borrows Paul's Belt



After we had been there for several days, a prophet named Agabus came from Judea. He came to us and borrowed Paul's belt. He used it to tie his own hands and feet. He said, "The Holy Spirit tells me, 'This is how the Jews in Jerusalem will tie up the man who wears this belt. Then they will hand him over to people who don't know God.'"

When we heard this, we and the other followers there begged Paul not to go to Jerusalem. But he said, "Why are you crying and making me feel so sad? I am willing to be put in jail in Jerusalem. I am even ready to die for the name of the Lord Jesus!"

We could not persuade him to stay away from Jerusalem. So we stopped begging him and said, "We pray that what the Lord wants will be done."

After this, we got ready and left for Jerusalem. Some of the followers of Jesus from Caesarea went with us. These followers took us to the home of Mnason, a man from Cyprus, who was one of the first people to be a follower of Jesus. They took us to his home so that we could stay with him. The brothers and sisters in Jerusalem were very happy to see us.'



Paul Goes to Jerusalem

See if you can memorise the following:

'Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."' Acts 20:35, NKJV

Word Search

PAUL JERUSALEM
THIRD MISSIONARY
JOURNEY PTOLEMAIS
DERBE ANTIOCH
ICONIUM LYSTRA
EPHESUS ANTIOCH
TROAS CORINTH
BEREA PHILIPPI
ATHENS THESSALONICA
ASSOS NEOPOLIS
RHODES MITYLENE
KIOS MILETUS
KOS SAMOS
PATARA CAESAREA
TYRE ARISTARCHUS

P	H	I	L	I	I	P	P	I	L	I	H	P	X	Q
A	T	H	E	N	A	H	C	O	I	T	N	A	Q	X
S	N	E	H	T	A	E	H	C	O	I	T	N	A	Z
S	Y	T	A	S	E	D	O	H	R	H	O	D	E	C
O	R	R	I	C	K	N	H	T	N	I	R	O	C	A
O	A	P	A	U	I	C	O	N	S	U	M	K	R	E
S	N	A	A	U	O	N	B	S	P	O	K	I	O	R
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K	I	S	O	L	R	M	I	L	E	T	U	S	P	S
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E	S	S	A	S	T	N	A	R	T	S	Y	L	U	A
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O	A	T	R	S	I	A	M	E	L	O	T	P	E	T
J	I	D	S	I	L	O	P	O	E	N	T	Y	R	D
M	E	L	A	S	U	R	E	J	X	X	O	R	Y	T

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Bible abbreviations: *ERV*: Easy-to-Read Version. *NKJV*: New King James Version.

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