

THE THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY



Ron Adair

Lesson 10 for September 8, 2018

Paul faced many trials during his third missionary journey. However, money, sorcery, paganism and politics cannot stop the Gospel when the messenger is willing to give his life “for the name of the Lord Jesus.” (Acts 21:13)

2. Ephesus. Acts 19

- ❖ The disciples of John
- ❖ Miracles
- ❖ Diana of the Ephesians

1. Galatia and Phrygia. Acts 18:23-28

- ❖ Apollos

3. Macedonia, Achaia and Troas. Acts 20:1-12

Acts 20:1-12

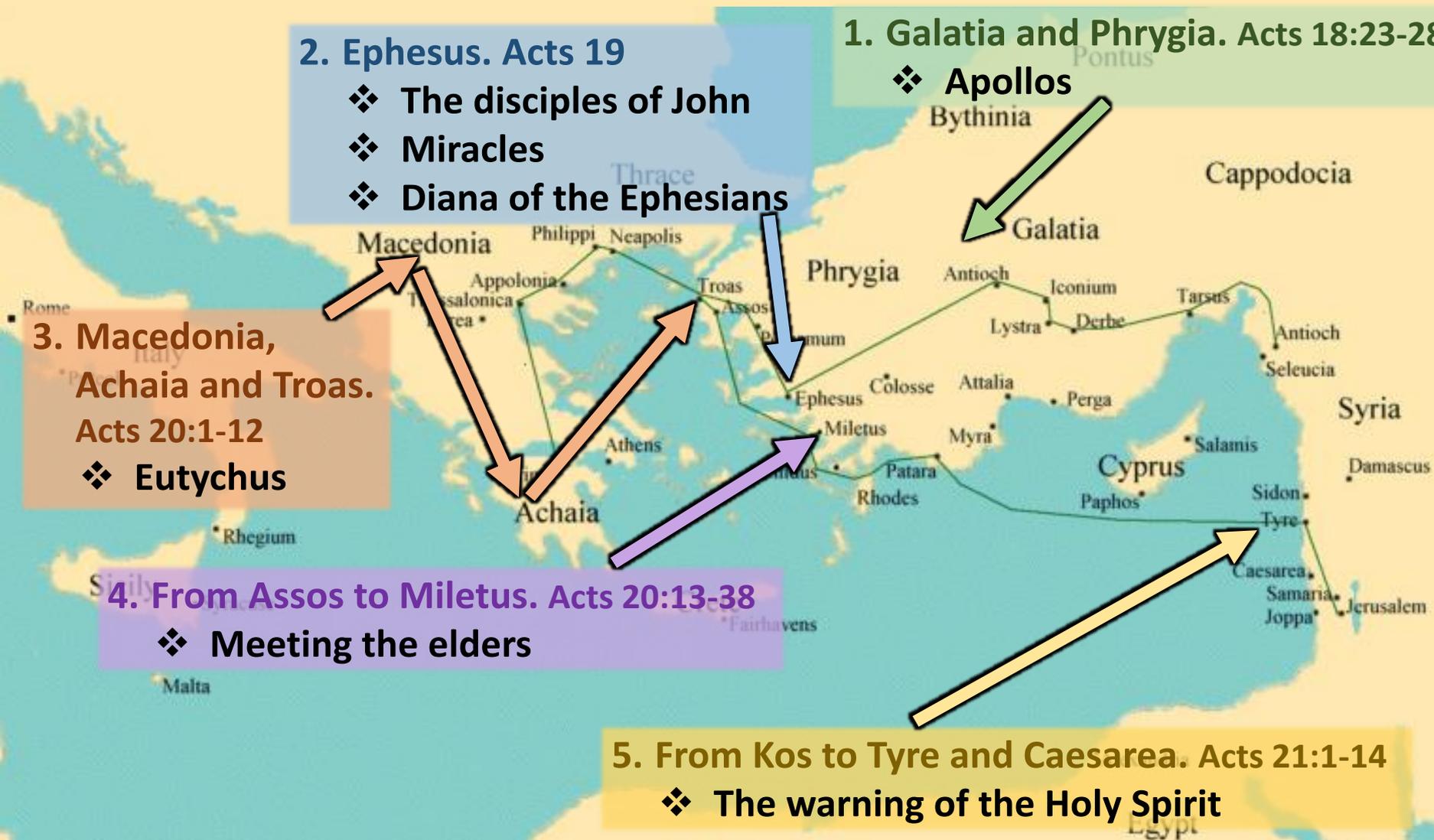
- ❖ Eutychus

4. From Assos to Miletus. Acts 20:13-38

- ❖ Meeting the elders

5. From Kos to Tyre and Caesarea. Acts 21:1-14

- ❖ The warning of the Holy Spirit



APOLLOS

"Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus." (Acts 18:24)



The first 1,500 miles of Paul's third missionary journey are covered in one sentence.

He went through the region of Galatia and Phrygia to Ephesus, strengthening all the churches.

Apollos was an eloquent preacher in Ephesus even before Paul arrived.

He was a disciple of John the Baptist and he preached that Jesus was the Messiah. Priscilla and Aquila taught him more about the Gospel.

Then they gave him letters of recommendation to work in Corinth.

Don't wait until you know everything about Jesus before talking about Him. Speak about what you already know.



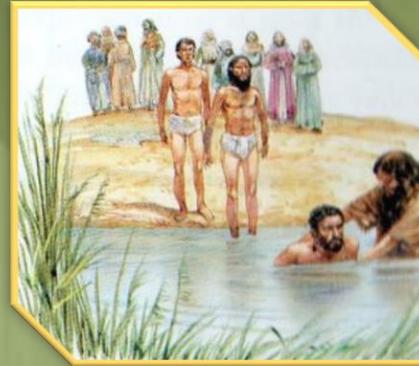
THE DISCIPLES OF JOHN

“And asked them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’ They answered, ‘No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.’” (Acts 19:2 NIV)

In Ephesus, Paul met 12 men who were disciples of John the Baptist. When Paul told them about Jesus, they wanted to be baptized in His name. Then, they received the Holy Spirit, spoke in tongues and prophesied.

They weren't as eloquent as Apollos, but they also spoke about Jesus. They became more efficient in their missionary work after learning more about the Gospel.

On the other hand, the Jews rejected Paul's message. Paul taught the Gentiles in the school of Tyrannus for two years.



MIRACLES

"Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul." (Acts 19:11)

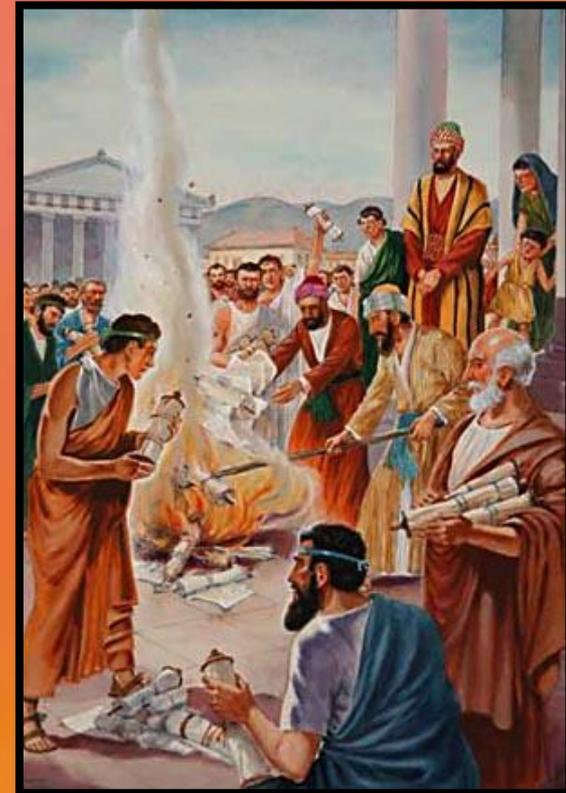
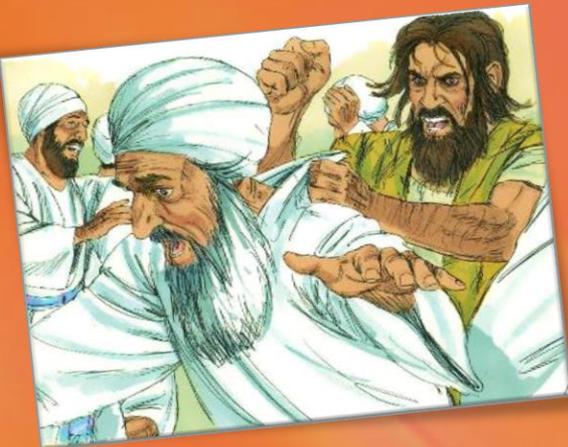
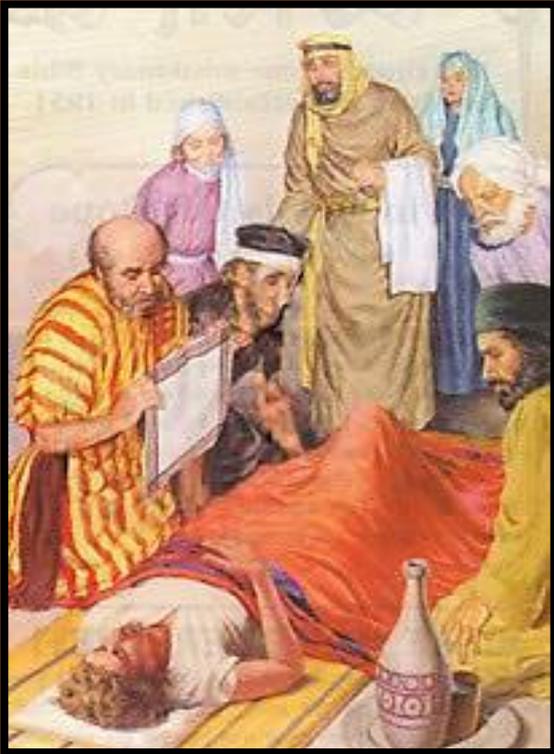
Were people healed because they touched Paul's clothes? It sounds like superstition, doesn't it?

This actually happened, and even demons were cast out that way.

God used methods they could understand because they didn't fully know the truth.

They willingly burnt their expensive books on sorcery. That shows that they had rejected superstition and embraced the truth.

The fame of Paul's healing miracles spread. Some Jewish exorcists tried to cast demons out "by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." In this case, God didn't allow a miracle to take place.



DIANA OF THE EPHESIANS

"Now when they heard this, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, 'Great is Diana of the Ephesians!'" (Acts 19:28)

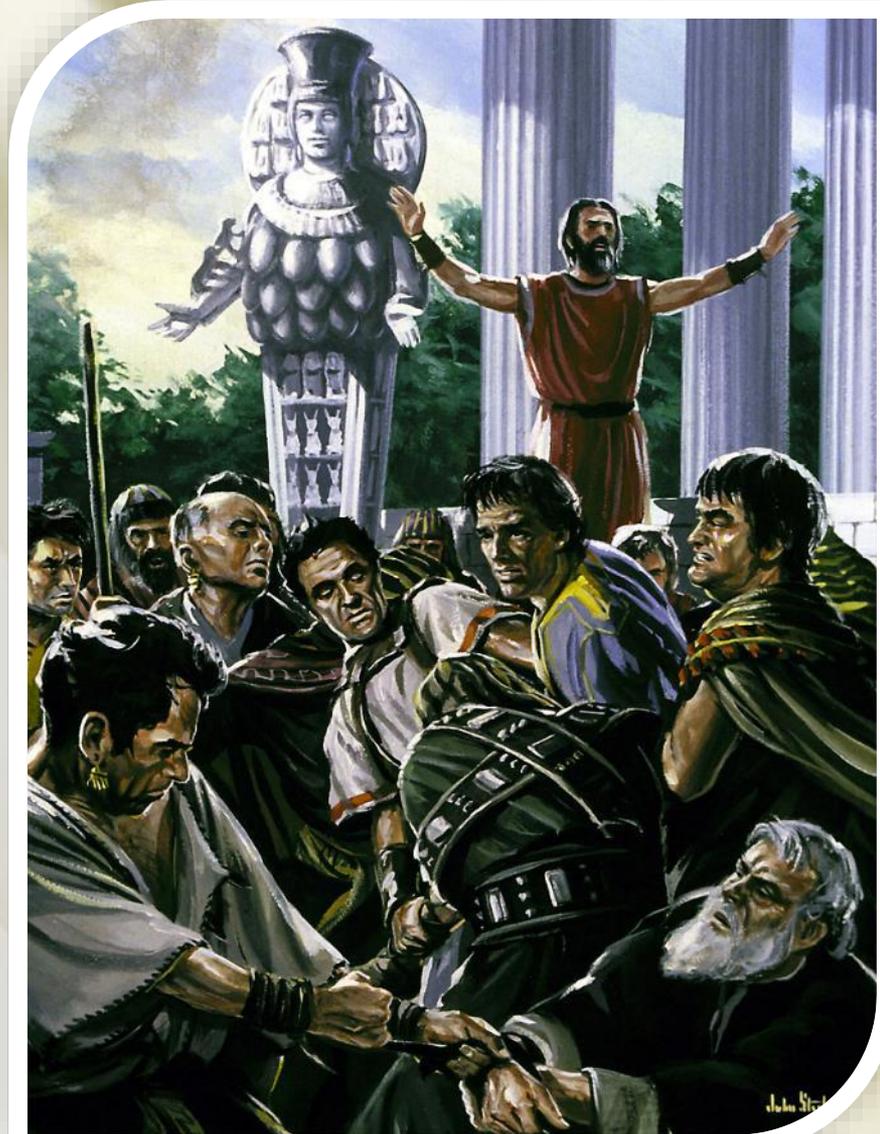


Paul had received an offering from the churches in Macedonia and Achaia for the church in Jerusalem. He decided to deliver it there himself.

That offering showed that the new multicultural churches supported the Jewish Christian community of believers.

Before Paul left Ephesus, Demetrius tried to keep him quiet by causing a serious quarrel.

Demetrius used religion as an excuse to cover his economic motive.



EUTYCHUS

"Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight." (Acts 20:7)

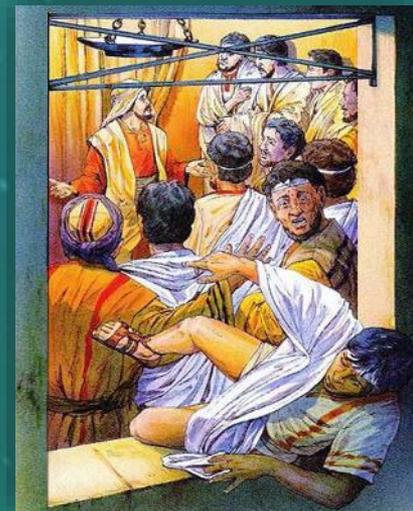


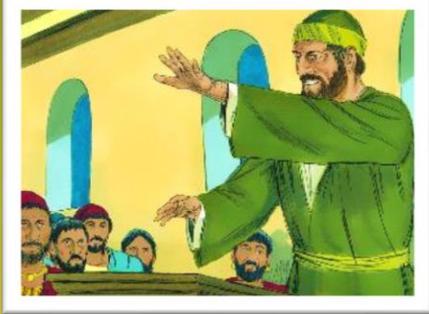
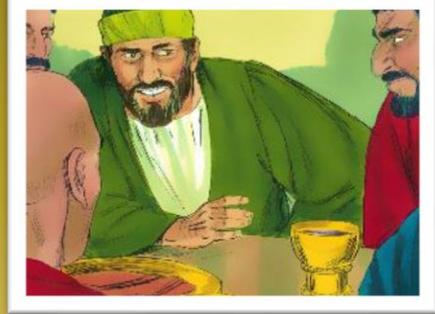
Some brothers from different churches travelled with Paul to deliver the offering to Jerusalem.

They stayed in Troas for seven days. The day before their departure, they gathered with the church to celebrate the Lord's Supper.

Etychus fell asleep, fell three stories from the window and died. Paul brought him back to life by the power of God.

The gathering ended at dawn. Paul said goodbye and continued on his journey over land. His companions travelled by boat to Assos.





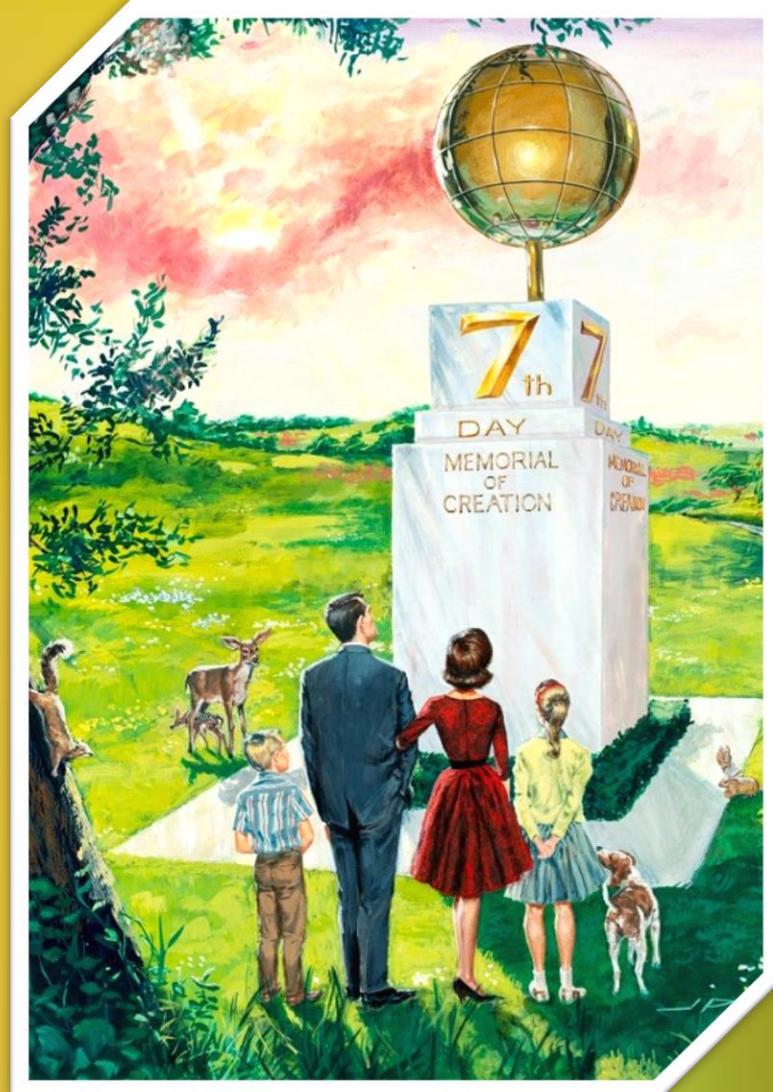
"Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight." (Acts 20:7)

Some people say that Paul taught that the Gentiles should gather on Sunday, because Luke mentioned they gathered on the first day of the week.

Nevertheless, that was a special gathering because Paul was departing "the next day," after having stayed in Troas for seven days.

Some time before, the Jews had rejected the message and the Gentiles asked Paul to teach them separately from the Jews (Acts 13:42-48)

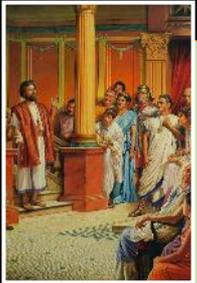
On that occasion, Paul didn't gather on Sunday but on Saturday. If Paul wanted the Christians to gather on Sunday, he could have done so at the time too.



MEETING THE ELDERS

"From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church." (Acts 20:17)

Paul was worried about what could happen in Jerusalem, so he wanted to meet with the elders of Ephesus. He was afraid he wouldn't see them again.



He reminded them how he had lived while staying with them.



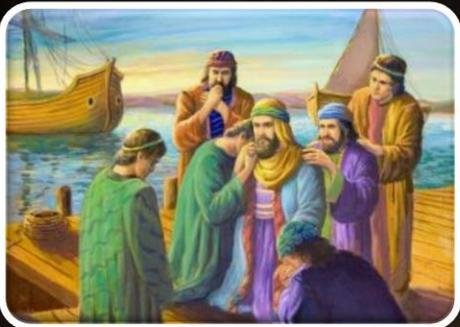
He assured them that he was not afraid of suffering for the Gospel.



He encouraged them to take care of the flock under their care.



He warned them of false teachers that would arise like wolves among them.



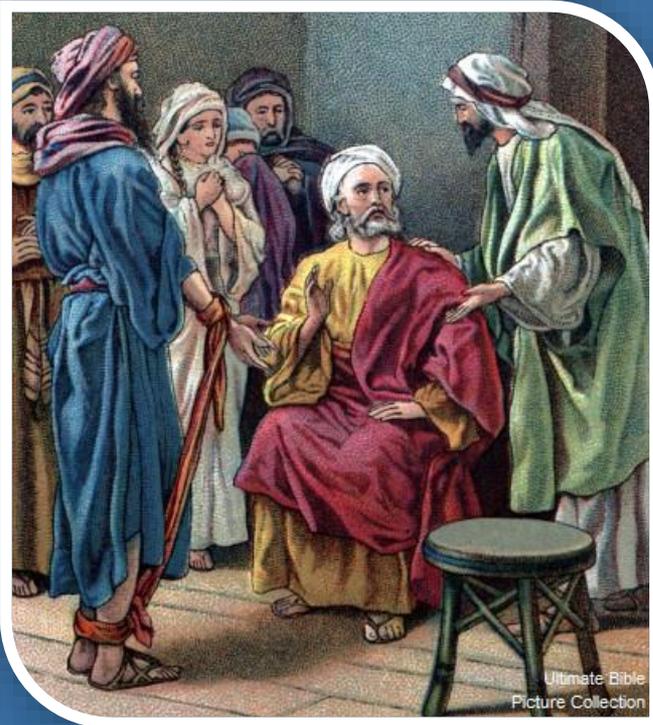
This was a moving farewell speech: "Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him." (Acts 20:37)



THE WARNING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“Then Paul answered, ‘What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.’” (Acts 21:13)

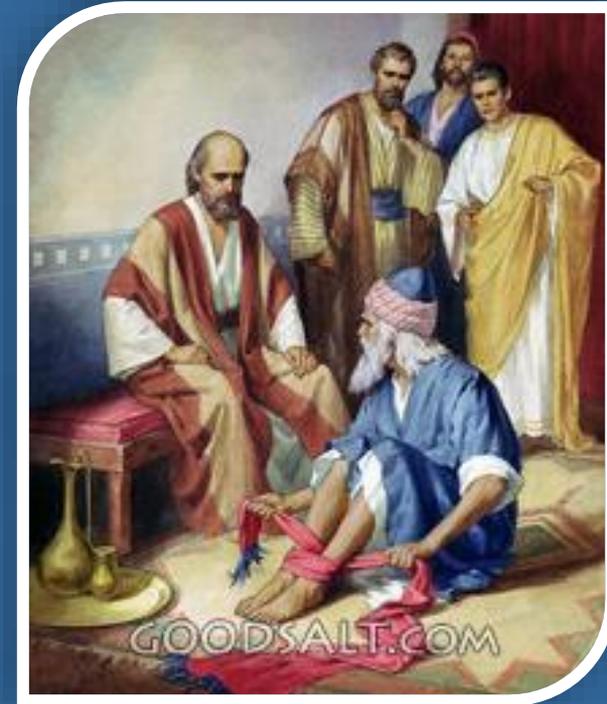
The Holy Spirit used some brothers in Tyre to warn Paul of the sufferings he would face in Jerusalem. They stayed in Philip’s home in Caesarea and they received a prophetic message from Agabus.



Agabus tied his own hands and feet together with Paul’s belt. He explained that the Jews would tie the belt’s owner and then hand him over to the Gentiles.

Paul’s companions tried to persuade Paul that he shouldn’t go to Jerusalem.

However, Paul believed that the Gospel and the unity of the Church were more important than his own personal safety and interests.



“Paul’s heart was filled with a deep, abiding sense of his responsibility; and he labored in close communion with Him who is the fountain of justice, mercy, and truth. He clung to the cross of Christ as his only guaranty of success. The love of the Saviour was the undying motive that upheld him in his conflicts with self and in his struggle against evil, as in the service of Christ he pressed forward against the unfriendliness of the world and the opposition of his enemies.”