

Uproar in Jerusalem

Acts 21

Roughly 60 AD

End of 3rd Missionary Journey

Paul has just tearfully left the Ephesian Elders

He has been warned multiple times of the problems that will await him in Jerusalem

1. All Aboard to Jerusalem – Acts 21:1-17

- 1 – Cos: birthplace of Hippocrates (c460-377BC) & famous medical school. Luke = Doc.
 - Rhodes: known for Roses; 105ft tall bronze statue; earthquake destroyed; 7 wonders
 - Luke not writing a travel brochure
- 2 – joyed to find ocean bound ship
- 3 – Crete: P&B started 1st journey there a decade prior
- 4 – finding – LG city, SM group; landed 1st day
- 5 – 1st mention of children in congregation
- 7 – Ptolemais – 10 mi N of Mt. Carmel (Acco)
- 8 – principal seaport of Palestine, 60mi to Jerusalem [2 days]
- 9 – daughters might be well known
- 10 – not common name; prob. Of 11:28
- 11 – graphic lesson
- 12 – Luke joined in
- 13 – break: crush into powder, Esther 4:16; did not die in Jerusalem
- 14 – God’s will be done
- 15 – got luggage & mind ready
- 16 – impossible to find lodging at Passover
- 17 – Shortly before Pentecost
- We: Luke, Timothy, Paul, at least 6 brethren (20:4-5)

2. Avoid Criticism – Acts 21:18-26

- 18 – last time Luke uses 1st person to 27:1
- 19 – 15:4 recounted 1st journey; prob. Told 2nd & 3rd – official end of 3rd journey

- 20 – gives God the glory; Paul **was** zealous – might have made him nervous
- 21 – repeated so much blown out of proportion
- 22 – elders knew, others needed to hear
- 23 – commanded Paul to do; Nazarite vow
- 24 – purification – to enter the Temple (from Gentile area was requested to cleanse)
- 25 – to the benefit of the Jewish Christians
- 26 – Paul came to Jerusalem to bring **peace** and he was accused of promoting **disharmony**

3. Arrest & Defense – Acts 21:27-40

- 27 – almost, did not finish. Jews (Eph.?) rejected him [19:8-9], plotted against [20:18-19], & rioted [19:23-41]
- 28 – in Court of the Women; Jews held Nation, Scriptures, Temple sacred. Paul accused of dishonoring, destroying, & defiling.
- 29 – when you hate you assume the worst
- 30 – 27 yrs. after Pentecost; like taking out of church
- 31 – God used an irreligious power to subdue a religious people. Rm. 13:3,4 – protect innocent
- 32 – at least 2 centurions, 200 men
- 33 – not to protect but to quell the riot
- 34 – most of mob didn't know what was done
- 35 – alarmed Paul might be escaping
- 36 – [22:22] Away! Almost 30 years earlier in the same area the crowd said the same of Jesus and demanded His death
- 37 – Paul was the only calm one
- 38 – Josephus: 3 yrs. earlier and Egyptian led army to top of Mt. Olives, threatened to make Jerusalem fall like Jericho; Felix
- 39 – as a Jew, he had a right to be in Temple. Tarsus – reputation to not stir up trouble.
- 40 – Paul at top of stairway, soldiers between him & crowd, torn clothes, dusty, bloody, bruised – raises his hand and all are quiet as he speaks in their native tongue.
- Rest of the story? Next lesson: Acts 22

Lessons:

1. Always make your plans around when & where you will be worshipping God!
2. Sometimes we cannot avoid criticism. Remember, if we are doing what is right the criticism and criticizer do not matter.
3. Paul had to go to Jerusalem to fulfill God's will; we must always seek to do God's will even if it might be difficult or scary.
4. God plus one is always a majority.

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