

Acts 21

Chapter 21 of 28 · 40 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Paul's Journey to Jerusalem

¹ And it came to pass, that after we were gotten from them, and had launched, we came with a straight course unto Coos, and the day following unto Rhodes, and from thence unto Patara:

² And finding a ship sailing over unto Phenicia, we went aboard, and set forth.

³ Now when we had discovered Cyprus, we left it on the left hand, and sailed into Syria, and landed at Tyre: for there the ship was to unlade her burden.

⁴ And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem.

⁵ And when we had accomplished those days, we departed and went our way; and they all brought us on our way, with wives and children, till we were out of the city: and we kneeled down on the shore, and prayed.

⁶ And when we had taken our leave one of another, we took ship; and they returned home again.

⁷ And when we had finished our course from Tyre, we came to Ptolemais, and saluted the brethren, and abode with them one day.

⁸ And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

⁹ And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.

¹⁰ And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus.

11 And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.

12 And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem.

13 Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

14 And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done.

15 And after those days we took up our carriages, and went up to Jerusalem.

16 There went with us also certain of the disciples of Caesarea, and brought with them one Mnason of Cyprus, an old disciple, with whom we should lodge.

Paul Visits James

17 And when we were come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly.

18 And the day following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present.

19 And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry.

20 And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law:

21 And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs.

22 What is it therefore? the multitude must needs come together: for they will hear that thou art come.

23 Do therefore this that we say to thee: We have four men which have a vow on them;

24 Them take, and purify thyself with them, and be at charges with them, that they may shave their heads: and all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; but that thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the law.

25 As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written and concluded that they observe no such thing, save only that they keep themselves from things offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication.

26 Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple, to signify the accomplishment of the days of purification, until that an offering should be offered for every one of them.

Paul Arrested in the Temple

27 And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him,

28 Crying out, Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men every where against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place.

29 (For they had seen before with him in the city Trophimus an Ephesian, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.)

30 And all the city was moved, and the people ran together: and they took Paul, and drew him out of the temple: and forthwith the doors were shut.

31 And as they went about to kill him, tidings came unto the chief captain of the band, that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.

32 Who immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down unto them: and when they saw the chief captain and the soldiers, they left beating of Paul.

33 Then the chief captain came near, and took him, and commanded him to be bound with two chains; and demanded who he was, and what he had done.

34 And some cried one thing, some another, among the multitude: and when he could not know the certainty for the tumult, he commanded him to be carried into the castle.

35 And when he came upon the stairs, so it was, that he was borne of the soldiers for the violence of the people.

36 For the multitude of the people followed after, crying, Away with him.

37 And as Paul was to be led into the castle, he said unto the chief captain, May I speak unto thee? Who said, Canst thou speak Greek?

38 Art not thou that Egyptian, which before these days madest an uproar, and leddest out into the wilderness four thousand men that were murderers?

39 But Paul said, I am a man which am a Jew of Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city: and, I beseech thee, suffer me to speak unto the people.

40 And when he had given him licence, Paul stood on the stairs, and beckoned with the hand unto the people. And when there was made a great silence, he spake unto them in the Hebrew tongue, saying,

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Believe — πιστεύω (Pisteuo)

To believe, trust, have faith

The Greek **pisteuo** (πιστεύω) means to believe or trust—active reliance upon Christ. 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish' (John 3:16).

Blood — αἷμα (Haima)

Blood

The Greek **haima** (αἷμα) denotes blood. Christ's blood 'cleanseth us from all sin' (1 John 1:7), securing 'eternal redemption' (Hebrews 9:12) through His once-for-all sacrifice. Believers have been 'purchased with his own blood' (Acts 20:28).

God — Θεός (Theos)

God

The Greek **Theos** (Θεός) refers to deity, used both for the one true God and false gods. Context determines whether it denotes the Father specifically or the Godhead generally.

Holy — ἅγιος (Hagios)

Holy, sacred, set apart

The Greek **hagios** (ἅγιος) denotes holiness—moral purity and separation unto God. Believers are called 'saints' (hagioi), those set apart for God through Christ's sanctifying work.

Law — νόμος (Nomos)

Law

The Greek **nomos** (νόμος) denotes law—particularly the Mosaic law. While believers are not under law but under grace (Romans 6:14), Christ fulfilled the law (Matthew 5:17) and wrote it on believers' hearts (Hebrews 8:10).

Lord — Κύριος (Kurios)

Lord, Master

The Greek **Kurios** (Κύριος) means 'lord' or 'master,' used both for human masters and divinely for God the Father and Jesus Christ. Its application to Jesus affirms His deity, as it translates YHWH in the Septuagint.

Prophet — προφήτης (Prophētēs)

Prophet

The Greek **prophētēs** (προφήτης) denotes a prophet—one who speaks forth God's message. Jesus was recognized as 'a prophet mighty in deed and word' (Luke 24:19), fulfilling and surpassing the prophetic office.

Spirit — πνεῦμα (Pneuma)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Greek **pneuma** (πνεῦμα) means spirit, wind, or breath—the immaterial aspect of persons. The Holy Spirit (Pneuma Hagion) is the third person of the Trinity, dwelling in believers.

CROSS REFERENCES

Acts 21:1 **Parallel theme:** Luke 5:4; 1 Thessalonians 2:17

Acts 21:3 **Parallel theme:** Acts 4:36; 12:20; 21:16; Matthew 4:24

Acts 21:5 **Prayer:** Acts 9:40; 20:36. **Parallel theme:** Acts 15:3; 20:38

Acts 21:6 **Parallel theme:** John 19:27

Acts 21:7 **Parallel theme:** Hebrews 13:24

Acts 21:8 **Parallel theme:** Acts 6:5; 9:30; 16:10; 16:13; Ephesians 4:11; 2 Timothy 4:5.

References Paul: Acts 28:16

Acts 21:9

Prophecy: Acts 2:17; 13:1; Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4; 2 Kings 22:14; Nehemiah 6:14; Joel 2:28; Luke 2:36; Revelation 2:20

Acts 21:10 **Parallel theme:** Acts 11:28

Acts 21:11 **Parallel theme:** Acts 21:33; 1 Kings 22:11. **Holy:** Acts 20:23

Acts 21:13 **References Jesus:** Acts 20:24; 2 Peter 1:14. **Parallel theme:** Acts 5:41; 9:16; Philippians 2:17; Colossians 1:24; 2 Timothy 4:6; Revelation 3:10; 12:11. **References Paul:** Acts 20:37

Acts 21:14 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 26:39; 26:42; Luke 22:42

Acts 21:16 **Parallel theme:** Acts 21:8; Psalms 92:14; Proverbs 16:31

Acts 21:17 **References Jerusalem:** Acts 15:4

Acts 21:18 **Parallel theme:** Acts 11:30; 15:13; Galatians 1:19

Acts 21:19 **References God:** Acts 14:27. **Parallel theme:** Acts 1:17

Acts 21:20

Parallel theme: Acts 15:1; Romans 10:2; Galatians 1:14. **Word:** Acts 22:3. **Glory:** Acts 11:18. **Faith:** Acts 15:5

Acts 21:21 **Parallel theme:** Acts 21:28

Acts 21:23 **Parallel theme:** Acts 18:18

Acts 21:24

Parallel theme: Acts 18:18; 21:26; 24:18; Exodus 19:14. **Word:** 1 Corinthians 9:20

Acts 21:25 **Blood:** Acts 15:29

Acts 21:26 **Temple:** Acts 24:18. **Parallel theme:** Acts 21:24; 1 Corinthians 9:20

Acts 21:27 **Temple:** Acts 24:18; 26:21. **Parallel theme:** Acts 13:50

Acts 21:28 **Parallel theme:** Acts 21:21

Acts 21:29 **Parallel theme:** Acts 20:4

- Acts 21:30** **Temple:** Acts 26:21. **Parallel theme:** 2 Corinthians 11:26
- Acts 21:32** **Parallel theme:** Acts 23:27; Isaiah 3:15
- Acts 21:33** **Parallel theme:** Acts 12:6; 20:23; 21:11; 22:29; 28:20; Ephesians 6:20
- Acts 21:34** **Parallel theme:** Acts 19:32; 21:37; 22:24; 23:10; 23:16
- Acts 21:36** **Parallel theme:** Acts 7:54; 22:22; Luke 23:18; John 19:15; 1 Corinthians 4:13
- Acts 21:38** **Parallel theme:** Matthew 24:26
- Acts 21:39** **Parallel theme:** Acts 6:9; 9:11; 22:3
- Acts 21:40** **Parallel theme:** Acts 12:17; 21:35; 22:2; 26:14; John 5:2. **Creation:** Acts 19:33
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