

# English: Unlocked Literal Bible for 1 Timothy, Acts

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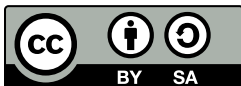
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## Acts

### Chapter 1

<sup>1</sup> The former account I wrote, Theophilus, told all that Jesus began to do and to teach, <sup>2</sup> until the day that he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he presented himself alive to them with many convincing proofs. For forty days he appeared to them, and he spoke about the kingdom of God.

<sup>4</sup> When he was meeting together with them, he commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, about which he said, "You heard from me <sup>5</sup> that John indeed baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days."

<sup>6</sup> When they were assembled together they asked him, "Lord, is this the time you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons which the Father has determined by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

<sup>9</sup> When the Lord Jesus had said these things, as they were looking up, he was raised up, and a cloud hid him from their eyes. <sup>10</sup> While they were looking intensely to heaven as he went, suddenly, two men stood by them in white clothing. <sup>11</sup> They said, "You men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will return in the same manner as you saw him going into heaven."

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain that is called Olives, which is near to Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. <sup>13</sup> When they arrived, they went up into the upper chamber, where they were staying. They were Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> They all were devoted with one purpose to prayer, together with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

<sup>15</sup> In those days Peter stood up in the midst of the brothers, about 120 names, and said, <sup>16</sup> "Brothers, it was necessary that the scripture should be fulfilled, that the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who guided the ones who arrested Jesus.

<sup>17</sup> For he was one of us and received a share of this ministry." <sup>18</sup> (Now this man bought a field with the earnings he received for his wickedness, and there he fell headfirst, and his body burst open, and all his intestines poured out.

<sup>19</sup> All those living in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language "Akeldama," that is, "Field of Blood.")

<sup>20</sup> "For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

'Let his field be made desolate,  
and do not let even one person live there';  
'Let someone else take his position of leadership.'

<sup>21</sup> It is necessary, therefore, that one of the men who accompanied us all the time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup> beginning from the baptism of John to the day that he was taken up from us, become a witness with us of his resurrection." <sup>23</sup> They put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias.

<sup>24</sup> They prayed and said, "You, Lord, know the hearts of all people, so reveal which of these two is the one whom you have chosen <sup>25</sup> to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned away to go to his own place." <sup>26</sup> They cast lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

## Chapter 2

<sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in the same place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the rush of a violent wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> There appeared to them tongues like fire that were distributed, and they sat upon each one of them. <sup>4</sup> They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them the ability.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were Jews who were living in Jerusalem, godly men, from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> When this sound was heard, the multitude came together and was confused because everyone heard them speaking in his own language. <sup>7</sup> They were amazed and marveled; they said, "Really, are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"

<sup>8</sup> Why is it that we are hearing them, each in our own language in which we were born? <sup>9</sup> Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and those who live in Mesopotamia, in Judea and Cappadocia, in Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, in Egypt and the parts of Libya toward Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, <sup>11</sup> Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our languages about the mighty works of God."

<sup>12</sup> They were all amazed and perplexed; they said to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup> But others mocked and said, "They are full of new wine."

<sup>14</sup> But Peter stood with the eleven, raised his voice, and declared to them, "Men of Judea and all of you who live at Jerusalem, let this be known to you; pay attention to my words. <sup>15</sup> For these people are not drunk as you assume, for it is only the third hour of the day.

<sup>16</sup> But this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> 'It will be in the last days,' God says,  
 'I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.  
 Your sons and your daughters will prophesy,  
 your young men will see visions,  
 and your old men will dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup> Surely on my servants  
 and my female servants in those days  
 I will pour out my Spirit, and they will prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in the sky above  
 and signs on the earth below,  
 blood, fire, and vapor of smoke.

<sup>20</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness  
 and the moon to blood  
 before the great and remarkable  
 day of the Lord comes.

<sup>21</sup> It will be that everyone who calls  
 on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

<sup>22</sup> Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited to you by God with the mighty deeds and wonders and signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know. <sup>23</sup> This man was handed over by God's predetermined plan and foreknowledge; and you, by the hand of lawless men, put him to death by nailing him to a cross. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him up, freeing him from the agonies of death, because it was impossible for him to be held by it.

<sup>25</sup> For David says about him,  
 'I saw the Lord always before my face,  
 for he is beside my right hand  
 so that I should not be moved.

<sup>26</sup> Therefore my heart was glad  
 and my tongue rejoiced.  
 Also, my flesh will live in hope.

<sup>27</sup> For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
 neither will you allow

your Holy One to see decay.

<sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your face.'

<sup>29</sup> Brothers, it is proper for me to speak to you confidently about the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup> Therefore, he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of the fruit of his loins on his throne. <sup>31</sup> He saw what was to happen in the future and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see decay.

<sup>32</sup> This Jesus—God raised him up, of which we all are witnesses. <sup>33</sup> Therefore, having been exalted to the right hand of God and having received the promised Holy Spirit from the Father, he has poured out what you see and hear.

<sup>34</sup> For David did not ascend to the heaven, but he says,

"The Lord said to my Lord,

"Sit at my right hand

<sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies  
the footstool for your feet."

<sup>36</sup> Therefore, let all the house of Israel certainly know that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were pierced in their hearts, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what must we do?"

<sup>38</sup> Then Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is to you and to your children and to all who are far off, as many people as the Lord our God will call."

<sup>40</sup> With many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." <sup>41</sup> Then they received his word and were baptized, and there were added in that day about three thousand souls. <sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers.

<sup>43</sup> Fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common, <sup>45</sup> and they sold their property and possessions and distributed them to all, according to the needs anyone had.

<sup>46</sup> So day after day they devoted themselves with one purpose in the temple. They also broke bread in homes, and they shared food together with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people, and every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Chapter 3

<sup>1</sup> Now Peter and John were going up into the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. <sup>2</sup> Now a man who was lame from his mother's womb was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful. They would place him there every day so he could ask those who were going into the temple for alms. <sup>3</sup> When he saw Peter and John about to enter the temple, he asked them for alms.

<sup>4</sup> Peter, fastening his eyes upon him, with John, said, "Look at us." <sup>5</sup> The lame man looked at them, expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup> But Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have, I will give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

<sup>7</sup> Taking him by the right hand, Peter raised him up, and immediately the man's feet and ankles were made strong. <sup>8</sup> Leaping up, the lame man stood and began to walk; and he entered with Peter and John into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God.

<sup>9</sup> All the people saw him walking and praising God. <sup>10</sup> They noticed that it was the man who had been asking people for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement because of what had happened to him.

<sup>11</sup> As he was holding on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly marveling. <sup>12</sup> When Peter saw this, he answered the people, "You Israelite men, why do you marvel? Why do you fix your eyes on us, as if we made him walk by our own power or godliness?

<sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. He is the one whom you handed over and rejected before the face of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup> You rejected the Holy and Righteous One, and you asked instead for a murderer to be given to you.

<sup>15</sup> You killed the Founder of life, whom God raised from the dead—and we are witnesses of this. <sup>16</sup> On the basis of faith in his name, his name made this man, whom you see and know, strong. The faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

<sup>17</sup> Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup> But the things which God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ should suffer, he has now fulfilled.

<sup>19</sup> Repent, therefore, and turn, so that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup> so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that he may send the Christ who has been appointed for you, Jesus.

<sup>21</sup> He is the One heaven must receive until the time of the restoration of all things, about which God spoke from ancient times by the mouth of his holy prophets. <sup>22</sup> Moses indeed said, 'The Lord God will raise up a prophet like me from among your brothers. You must listen to everything he tells you. <sup>23</sup> It will happen that every person who does not listen to that prophet will be completely destroyed from among the people.'

<sup>24</sup> Yes, and all the prophets from Samuel and those who came after him, they spoke out and announced these days.

<sup>25</sup> You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your ancestors, as he said to Abraham, 'In your seed all the families of the earth will be blessed.'<sup>26</sup> After God raised up his servant, he sent him to you first, in order to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."

## Chapter 4

<sup>1</sup> As Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them. <sup>2</sup> They were deeply troubled because Peter and John were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. <sup>3</sup> They laid hands on them and put them in custody until the next morning, since it was now evening. <sup>4</sup> But many of the people who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men who believed was about five thousand.

<sup>5</sup> It came about on the next day that their rulers, elders, and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> Annas the high priest was there, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and all who were relatives of the high priest. <sup>7</sup> When they had set Peter and John in their midst, they asked them, "By what power, or in what name, have you done this?"

<sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "You rulers of the people, and elders, <sup>9</sup> if we are on trial today concerning a good deed done to a sick man, and by what means this man was healed, <sup>10</sup> let it be known to you all and to all the people of Israel that this man stands before you healthy in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, but whom God raised from the dead.

<sup>11</sup> Jesus Christ is the stone which you builders rejected but which has been made the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup> There is no salvation in any other person, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

<sup>13</sup> Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were ordinary, uneducated men, they were surprised, becoming aware that Peter and John had been with Jesus. <sup>14</sup> Because they saw the man who was healed standing with them, they had nothing to say against this.

<sup>15</sup> But after they had commanded the apostles to leave the council meeting, they talked among themselves. <sup>16</sup> They said, "What should we do with these men? For a remarkable sign has been done through them, and this is evident to everyone who lives in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. <sup>17</sup> But in order that it spreads no further among the people, let us warn them not to speak anymore to anyone in this name." <sup>18</sup> Then they called them in and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

<sup>19</sup> But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is proper in the sight of God to obey you rather than him, you judge. <sup>20</sup> We are not able to stop speaking about the things we have seen and heard."

<sup>21</sup> After further warning Peter and John, they let them go. They were unable to find any excuse to punish them, because all of the people were glorifying God for what had been done. <sup>22</sup> The man who had experienced this sign of healing was more than forty years old.

<sup>23</sup> After they were set free, Peter and John came to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. <sup>24</sup> When they heard it, they raised their voices with one purpose to God and said, "Lord, you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them. <sup>25</sup> You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David,

"Why did the Gentile nations rage,  
and the peoples imagine useless things?"

<sup>26</sup> You said,  
"The kings of the earth set themselves together,  
and the rulers gathered together  
against the Lord, and against his Christ."

<sup>27</sup> Indeed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, gathered together in this city against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. <sup>28</sup> They gathered together to do all that your hand and your plan had decided in advance would happen.

<sup>29</sup> Now, Lord, look upon their warnings and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness. <sup>30</sup> Stretch out your hand to heal and to give signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." <sup>31</sup> After they had prayed, the place where they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

<sup>32</sup> The great number of those who believed were of one heart and soul. No one said that anything he possessed was his own, but they had everything in common. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles were proclaiming their testimony about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

<sup>34</sup> There was no person among them who lacked anything, for all who owned title to lands or houses sold them and brought the money from the things that were sold <sup>35</sup> and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each one according to their need.

<sup>36</sup> Joseph, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite, a man from Cyprus, <sup>37</sup> sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.



## Chapter 5

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a piece of property, <sup>2</sup> and he kept back part of the sale money (his wife also knew it), and brought the other part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.

<sup>3</sup> But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the price of the land? <sup>4</sup> While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own, and after it was sold, was it not under your authority? Why did you put it in your heart to do this? You have not lied to men, but to God." <sup>5</sup> Hearing these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last, and great fear came upon all who heard it. <sup>6</sup> The young men arose and wrapped him up, and they carried him out and buried him.

<sup>7</sup> After about three hours, his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. <sup>8</sup> Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." She said, "Yes, for so much."

<sup>9</sup> Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." <sup>10</sup> She immediately fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in, they found her dead, and carried her out and buried her beside her husband. <sup>11</sup> Great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard these things.

<sup>12</sup> Many signs and wonders were taking place among the people through the hands of the apostles. They were all together in Solomon's Porch. <sup>13</sup> But none of the rest had the courage to join them; however, they were held in high esteem by the people.

<sup>14</sup> Still more believers were being added to the Lord, multitudes of men and women, <sup>15</sup> so that they even carried the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, so that as Peter came by, his shadow might fall on some of them. <sup>16</sup> There also came together a great number of people from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

<sup>17</sup> But the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees); and they were filled with jealousy <sup>18</sup> and laid hands on the apostles, and held them in custody in the common prison.

<sup>19</sup> Yet during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison and led them out, and said, <sup>20</sup> "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life." <sup>21</sup> When they heard this, they entered into the temple about daybreak and taught. But the high priest came, and those who were with him, and called the council together, all the elders of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have the apostles brought.

<sup>22</sup> But the officers that went did not find them in the prison, and they returned and reported, <sup>23</sup> "We found the prison securely shut and the guards standing at the door, but when we had opened it, we found no one inside."

<sup>24</sup> Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were much perplexed concerning them as to what would come of it. <sup>25</sup> Then someone came and told them, "The men whom you put in the prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people."

<sup>26</sup> So the captain went with the officers and brought them back, but without violence, for they feared the people, that they might be stoned. <sup>27</sup> When they had brought them, they set them before the council. The high priest interrogated them, <sup>28</sup> saying, "We ordered you with a command not to teach in this name, and yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and desire to bring this man's blood upon us."

<sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup> The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him to his right hand to be a Prince and a Savior, to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup> We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

<sup>33</sup> When the council members heard this, they were furious and they wanted to kill the apostles. <sup>34</sup> But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law who was honored by all the people, stood up in the council and gave a command to take the men outside for a little while.

<sup>35</sup> Then he said to them, "Men of Israel, pay close attention to what you propose to do with these people. <sup>36</sup> For before these days, Theudas rose up claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who had been obeying him were scattered and came to nothing. <sup>37</sup> After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census and drew away some people after him. He also perished, and all who had been obeying him were scattered.

<sup>38</sup> Now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or work is of men, it will be overthrown. <sup>39</sup> But if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; you may even find that you are fighting against God." So they were persuaded.

<sup>40</sup> Then they called the apostles in and beat them and commanded them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. <sup>41</sup> They went away from before the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the Name. <sup>42</sup> Thereafter every day, in the temple and from house to house, they were continuously teaching and proclaiming the good news that the Christ is Jesus.

Chapter 6

<sup>1</sup> Now in these days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, a complaint by the Grecian Jews began against the Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of help.

<sup>2</sup> The twelve called the multitude of the disciples to them and said, "It is not right for us to give up the word of God in order to serve tables. <sup>3</sup> You should therefore choose, brothers, seven men from among yourselves, men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. <sup>4</sup> As for us, we will always continue in prayer and in the ministry of the word."

<sup>5</sup> Their speech pleased the whole multitude. So they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte from Antioch. <sup>6</sup> The believers brought these men before the apostles, who prayed and then placed their hands upon them.

<sup>7</sup> So the word of God continued to spread, and the number of disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly, and a large number of the priests became obedient to the faith.

<sup>8</sup> Now Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. <sup>9</sup> But there arose some people who belonged to the synagogue called the synagogue of the Freedmen, of the Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia. These people were debating with Stephen.

<sup>10</sup> But they were not able to stand against the wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen spoke. <sup>11</sup> Then they bribed some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God."

<sup>12</sup> They stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes, and they approached Stephen and seized him and brought him before the council. <sup>13</sup> They brought false witnesses, who said, "This man does not stop speaking words against this holy place and the law. <sup>14</sup> For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs that Moses handed down to us." <sup>15</sup> Everyone who sat in the council fixed their eyes on him and saw his face was like the face of an angel.

## Chapter 7

<sup>1</sup> The high priest said, "Are these things true?" <sup>2</sup> Stephen said,

"Brothers and fathers, listen to me: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran;

<sup>3</sup> he said to him, 'Leave your land and your relatives, and go into the land that I will show you.'

<sup>4</sup> "Then he left the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran; from there, after his father died, God brought him into this land, where you live now. <sup>5</sup> He gave none of it as an inheritance to him, no, not even enough to set a foot on. But he promised—even though Abraham had no child yet—that he would give the land as a possession to him and to his descendants after him.

<sup>6</sup> God was speaking to him like this, that his descendants would live for a while in a foreign land, and that the inhabitants there would bring them into slavery and mistreat them for four hundred years. <sup>7</sup> 'But I will judge the nation that they serve,' said God, 'and after that they will come out and worship me in this place.' <sup>8</sup> Then God gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision, so Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day; Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of the twelve patriarchs.

<sup>9</sup> "Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him into Egypt; but God was with him <sup>10</sup> and rescued him from all his tribulation. He gave Joseph favor and wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who appointed him governor over Egypt and over all his household.

<sup>11</sup> "Now a famine and great tribulation came over all Egypt and Canaan, and our fathers could find no food. <sup>12</sup> But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers on their first trip. <sup>13</sup> On their second trip Joseph made himself known to his brothers, and Joseph's family became known to Pharaoh.

<sup>14</sup> Joseph sent his brothers back to invite Jacob his father to come to Egypt, along with all his relatives, seventy-five persons in all. <sup>15</sup> So Jacob went down into Egypt, and he died, he and our fathers. <sup>16</sup> They were carried over to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham had bought for a price in silver from the sons of Hamor in Shechem.

<sup>17</sup> "As the time of the promise approached, the promise that God had made to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt, <sup>18</sup> until there arose another king over Egypt, a king who did not know about Joseph. <sup>19</sup> He deceived our people and mistreated our fathers, forcing them to expose their newborn infants so they would not be kept alive.

<sup>20</sup> "At that time Moses was born; he was very beautiful before God and was nourished for three months in his father's house. <sup>21</sup> When he was placed outside, Pharaoh's daughter adopted him and raised him as her own son.

<sup>22</sup> Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and works.

<sup>23</sup> "But when he was about forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the descendants of Israel. <sup>24</sup> Seeing an Israelite being mistreated, Moses defended him and avenged him who was oppressed by striking the Egyptian: <sup>25</sup> he thought that his brothers would understand that God, by his hand, was giving them salvation, but they did not understand.

<sup>26</sup> On the next day he appeared to them when they were fighting, and he tried to make peace between them, saying, 'Men, you are brothers; why are you wronging one another?'

<sup>27</sup> "But the one who had wronged his neighbor pushed him away, and said, 'Who appointed you a ruler and a judge over us?' <sup>28</sup> Would you like to kill me, as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?"

<sup>29</sup> Moses ran away after hearing this statement; he became a foreigner in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons.

<sup>30</sup> "When forty years were past, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush.

<sup>31</sup> When Moses saw the fire, he marveled at the sight; and as he approached to look at it, the voice of the Lord came, saying, <sup>32</sup> 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob.' Moses trembled and did not dare to look.

<sup>33</sup> "The Lord said to him, 'Take off the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. <sup>34</sup> I have certainly seen the oppression of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their groaning, and I have come down to rescue them; now come, I will send you to Egypt.'

<sup>35</sup> "This Moses whom they rejected, when they said, 'Who appointed you a ruler and a judge?'—he was the one whom God sent as both a ruler and deliverer. God sent him by the hand of the angel who appeared to Moses in the bush. <sup>36</sup> Moses led them out of Egypt, after doing miracles and signs in Egypt and at the Sea of Reeds, and in the wilderness during forty years.

<sup>37</sup> "It is the same Moses who said to the people of Israel, 'God will raise up a prophet for you from among your brothers, a prophet like me.'

<sup>38</sup> This is the man who was in the assembly in the wilderness with the angel who had spoken to him on Mount Sinai, who was with our fathers, and who received living words to give to us.

<sup>39</sup> "But our fathers refused to obey him; they pushed him away from themselves, and in their hearts they turned back to Egypt. <sup>40</sup> At that time they said to Aaron, 'Make us gods who will lead us. As for this Moses, who led us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him.'

<sup>41</sup> So they made a calf in those days and brought a sacrifice to the idol, and rejoiced because of the work of their hands. <sup>42</sup> But God turned and gave them up to worship the stars in the sky, as it is written in the book of the prophets,

'Did you bring me offerings and sacrifices  
during the forty years in the wilderness, house of Israel?

<sup>43</sup> You accepted the tabernacle of Molech  
and the star of the god Rephan,  
and the images that you made to worship them:  
and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.'

<sup>44</sup> "Our fathers had the tabernacle of the testimony in the wilderness, just as God commanded when he spoke to Moses, that he should make it like the pattern that he had seen. <sup>45</sup> Later, our fathers, under Joshua, received the tabernacle and brought it with them when they took possession of the land. God took the land from the nations and drove them out before the face of our fathers. The tabernacle remained in the land until the time of David, <sup>46</sup> who found favor in the sight of God, and he asked if he might find a dwelling place for the house of Jacob [1](#) .

<sup>47</sup> But it was Solomon who built the house for God.

<sup>48</sup> "However, the Most High does not live in houses made with hands, as the prophet says,

<sup>49</sup> 'Heaven is my throne,  
and the earth is the footstool for my feet.  
What kind of house can you build for me? says the Lord,  
or what is the place for my rest?

<sup>50</sup> Did my hand not make all these things?"

<sup>51</sup> "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit; you act just as your fathers acted. <sup>52</sup> Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed the prophets who appeared in advance of the coming of the Righteous One; and you have now become the betrayers and murderers of him also, <sup>53</sup> you people who received the law that angels had ordained, but you did not keep it."

<sup>54</sup> Now when the council members heard these things, they were furious in their hearts and they ground their teeth at Stephen. <sup>55</sup> But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked up intently into heaven and saw the glory of God; and he saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> Stephen said, "Look, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

<sup>57</sup> At this the council members covered their ears, and shouting out with a loud voice, they rushed at him with one purpose. <sup>58</sup> They forced him out of the city and began to stone him. The witnesses laid down their outer clothing at the feet of a young man named Saul.

<sup>59</sup> As they were stoning Stephen, he was calling out to the Lord and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup> He knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

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<sup>1</sup>The phrase: the house of Jacob, is found in many ancient copies. Other ancient texts have the phrase: the God of Jacob .

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## Chapter 8

<sup>1</sup> Saul was in agreement with his death.

So there began on that day a great persecution against the church that was in Jerusalem; and the believers were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

<sup>2</sup> Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. <sup>3</sup> But Saul tried to destroy the church. He would enter house after house, drag off both men and women, and put them in prison.

<sup>4</sup> Yet the believers who had been scattered went about preaching the word. <sup>5</sup> Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ.

<sup>6</sup> Crowds of people were giving close attention to what was being said by Philip; with one mind they heard him, and they saw the signs he did. <sup>7</sup> Unclean spirits came out of many who were possessed, crying out with a loud voice, and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. <sup>8</sup> So there was much joy in that city.

<sup>9</sup> But there was a certain man in the city named Simon, who had earlier been practicing sorcery; he used to astonish the people of Samaria while claiming that he was an important person. <sup>10</sup> All the Samaritans, from the least to the greatest, paid attention to him; they said, "This man is that power of God which is called Great." <sup>11</sup> They listened to him because he had astonished them for a long time with his sorceries.

<sup>12</sup> But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the gospel about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. <sup>13</sup> Even Simon himself believed, and after he was baptized he stayed with Philip constantly. When he saw signs and mighty works taking place, he was amazed.

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John. <sup>15</sup> When they had come down, they prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>16</sup> For until that time, the Holy Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

<sup>18</sup> Now when Simon saw that the Holy Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money. <sup>19</sup> He said, "Give me this authority, too, that whoever I place my hands on might receive the Holy Spirit."

<sup>20</sup> But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish along with you, because you thought to obtain the gift of God with money. <sup>21</sup> You have no part or allotted portion in this matter, because your heart is not right with God. <sup>22</sup> Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord, so that he might perhaps forgive you for the intention of your heart. <sup>23</sup> For I see that you are in the poison of bitterness and in the bonds of unrighteousness."

<sup>24</sup> Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me, so that nothing you have said may happen to me."

<sup>25</sup> When they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, proclaiming the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

<sup>26</sup> Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip and said, "Arise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This road is in a desert.) <sup>27</sup> He arose and went. Behold, there was a man from Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. He was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship. <sup>28</sup> He was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>29</sup> The Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and stay close to this chariot."

<sup>30</sup> So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

<sup>31</sup> Then he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" He invited Philip to come up into the chariot and sit with him.

<sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture which the Ethiopian was reading was this,

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb before his shearer is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation  
justice was taken away from him.  
Who can give a full account of his descendants?  
For his life was taken from the earth."

<sup>34</sup> So the eunuch asked Philip, and said, "I beg you, tell me who is the prophet speaking about, himself, or someone else?" <sup>35</sup> Philip began to speak, and beginning with this scripture he proclaimed the gospel about Jesus to him.

<sup>36</sup> As they went on the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, there is water here. What prevents me from being baptized?" <sup>37</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>38</sup> So the Ethiopian commanded the chariot to stop. They went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and Philip baptized him.

<sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, but went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> But Philip appeared at Azotus and he went through that region, proclaiming the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

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<sup>1</sup>The best ancient copies do not have Acts 8:37, Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may be baptized." The Ethiopian answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" .

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## Chapter 9

<sup>1</sup> But Saul, still speaking threats even of murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters for the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> As he was traveling, it happened that as he came near to Damascus, suddenly there shone all around him a light out of heaven; <sup>4</sup> and he fell upon the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

<sup>5</sup> Saul replied, "Who are you, Lord?" The Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting; <sup>6</sup> but rise, enter into the city, and it will be told you what you must do." <sup>7</sup> The men who traveled with Saul stood speechless, hearing the voice, but seeing no one.

<sup>8</sup> Saul arose from the ground, and when he opened his eyes, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> For three days he was without sight, and he neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias!" He said, "See, I am here, Lord."

<sup>11</sup> The Lord said to him, "Arise, and go to the street which is called Straight, and at the house of Judas ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. <sup>12</sup> He has seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in and laying his hands on him, so that he might see again."

<sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> He has authority from the chief priests to put in bonds everyone here who calls upon your name."

<sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine, to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel; <sup>16</sup> for I will show him how much he must suffer for the cause of my name."

<sup>17</sup> So Ananias departed, and entered into the house. Laying his hands on him, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road when you were coming, has sent me so that you might receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup> Immediately something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he received his sight; he arose and was baptized; <sup>19</sup> and he ate and was strengthened.

He stayed with the disciples in Damascus for several days.

<sup>20</sup> Right away he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying that he is the Son of God. <sup>21</sup> All who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who destroyed those in Jerusalem who called on this name? He has come here to take them bound to the chief priests." <sup>22</sup> But Saul became more and more powerful, and he was causing distress among the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

<sup>23</sup> After many days, the Jews planned together to kill him. <sup>24</sup> But their plan became known to Saul. They watched the gates day and night in order to kill him. <sup>25</sup> But his disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall, lowering him in a basket.

<sup>26</sup> When he had come to Jerusalem, Saul attempted to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. <sup>27</sup> But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles, and he told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the road and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how at Damascus Saul had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus.

<sup>28</sup> He was with them, going in and out around Jerusalem. He spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus <sup>29</sup> and debated with the Grecian Jews; but they kept trying to kill him. <sup>30</sup> When the brothers learned of this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus.

<sup>31</sup> So then, the church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up; and, walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, the church grew in numbers. <sup>32</sup> Now it came about that, as Peter went throughout the whole region, he came down also to God's holy people who lived in the town of Lydda.

<sup>33</sup> There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been in his bed for eight years, for he was paralyzed. <sup>34</sup> Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and make your bed," and right away he got up. <sup>35</sup> So everyone who lived in Lydda and in Sharon saw the man and they turned to the Lord.

<sup>36</sup> Now there was in Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha (which is translated "Dorcas"). This woman was full of good works and merciful deeds that she did for the poor. <sup>37</sup> It came about in those days that she fell sick and died; when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room.

<sup>38</sup> Since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, pleading with him, "Come to us without delay." <sup>39</sup> Peter arose and went with them. When he had arrived, they brought him to the upper room, and all the widows stood by him weeping, showing him the tunics and garments that Dorcas had made while she had been with them.

<sup>40</sup> Peter put them all out of the room, knelt down, and prayed; then, turning to the body, he said, "Tabitha, arise." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. <sup>41</sup> Peter then gave her his hand and raised her up; and when he called God's holy people and the widows, he presented her alive to them. <sup>42</sup> This matter became known throughout all Joppa, and many people believed on the Lord. <sup>43</sup> It happened that Peter stayed for many days in Joppa with a man named Simon, a tanner.

## Chapter 10

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a certain man in the city of Caesarea, Cornelius by name, a centurion of what was called the Italian Company of Soldiers. <sup>2</sup> He was a devout man, one who feared God with all his household, gave many alms to the people, and prayed to God constantly.

<sup>3</sup> About the ninth hour of the day, he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God coming to him. The angel said to him, "Cornelius!" <sup>4</sup> Cornelius stared at the angel and was very afraid and said, "What is it, sir?"

The angel said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have gone up as a memorial offering into God's presence.

<sup>5</sup> Now send men to the city of Joppa to bring a man named Simon who is called Peter. <sup>6</sup> He is staying with a tanner named Simon, whose house is by the seaside."

<sup>7</sup> When the angel who spoke to him had left, Cornelius called two of his house servants, and a devout soldier from among those who served him. <sup>8</sup> Cornelius told them all that had happened and sent them to Joppa.

<sup>9</sup> Now on the next day at about the sixth hour, as they were on their journey and were approaching the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray. <sup>10</sup> He then became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while the people were cooking some food, a trance came on him, <sup>11</sup> and he saw the sky open and a certain container descending, something like a large sheet coming down to the earth, let down by its four corners. <sup>12</sup> In it were all kinds of four-footed animals and things that crawled on the earth, and birds of the sky.

<sup>13</sup> Then a voice spoke to him: "Rise, Peter, kill and eat."

<sup>14</sup> But Peter said, "Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that was defiled and unclean."

<sup>15</sup> But the voice came to him again a second time: "What God has made clean, you must not call defiled." <sup>16</sup> This happened three times; then the container was immediately taken back up into the sky.

<sup>17</sup> Now while Peter was very confused about what the vision that he had seen could mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius stood before the gate, after they had asked their way to the house. <sup>18</sup> They called out and asked whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there.

<sup>19</sup> While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. <sup>20</sup> Arise and go down and go with them. Do not hesitate to go with them, because I have sent them."

<sup>21</sup> So Peter went down to the men and said, "I am he whom you are seeking. Why have you come?"

<sup>22</sup> They said, "A centurion named Cornelius, a righteous man and one who fears God, and is well spoken of by all the nation of the Jews, was instructed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house, so he could listen to a message from you." <sup>23</sup> So Peter invited them to come in and stay with him.

On the next morning he got up and went with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him.

<sup>24</sup> On the following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius was waiting for them; he had called together his relatives and his close friends.

<sup>25</sup> It came about that when Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet to worship him. <sup>26</sup> But Peter helped him up, saying, "Stand up! I too am a man."

<sup>27</sup> While Peter was talking with him, he went in and found many people gathered together. <sup>28</sup> He said to them, "You yourselves know that it is not lawful for a Jewish man to associate with or to visit a foreigner. But God has shown me that I should not call any man defiled or unclean. <sup>29</sup> That is why I came without arguing, when I was sent for. So I ask you why you sent for me."

<sup>30</sup> Cornelius said, "Four days ago at this very hour, I was praying at the ninth hour in my house; and see, a man stood before me in bright clothing. <sup>31</sup> He said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard by God, and your alms have reminded God about you. <sup>32</sup> So send someone to Joppa, and call to you a man named Simon who is called Peter. He is staying in the house of a tanner named Simon, by the seaside.' <sup>33</sup> So at once I sent for you. You are kind to have

come. Now then, we are all here present in the sight of God to hear everything that you have been instructed by the Lord to say." <sup>3</sup>

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter opened his mouth and said, "Truly I understand that God is not partial. <sup>35</sup> Instead, in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

<sup>36</sup> You know the message that he sent to the people of Israel, when he announced the good news about peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all—<sup>37</sup> you yourselves know the events that took place, which occurred throughout all Judea, beginning in Galilee, after the baptism that John announced; <sup>38</sup> the events concerning Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

<sup>39</sup> We are witnesses of all the things Jesus did, both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him up on the third day and caused him to be seen, <sup>41</sup> not by all the people, but to the witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

<sup>42</sup> He commanded us to proclaim to the people and to testify that this is the one who has been chosen by God to be the Judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> About him all the prophets testify, that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all of those who were listening to his message. <sup>45</sup> The people who belonged to the circumcision group of believers—all of those who came with Peter—were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out also on the Gentiles.

<sup>46</sup> For they heard these Gentiles speaking in tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, <sup>47</sup> "Can anyone keep water from these people so they should not be baptized, these people who have received the Holy Spirit as well as we?" <sup>48</sup> Then he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay with them for several days.

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<sup>1</sup>Some ancient copies have, two men are looking for you or some men are looking for you .

<sup>2</sup>Some ancient copies add: When he comes, he will speak to you .

<sup>3</sup>Instead of instructed by the Lord to say, some ancient copies have, instructed by God to say .

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## Chapter 11

<sup>1</sup> Now the apostles and the brothers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.

<sup>2</sup> When Peter had come up to Jerusalem, they who belonged to the circumcision group criticized him; <sup>3</sup> they said, "You associated with uncircumcised men and ate with them!"

<sup>4</sup> But Peter started to explain the matter to them in detail, saying, <sup>5</sup> "I was praying in the city of Joppa, and in a trance I saw a vision of a container coming down, like a large sheet let down from heaven by its four corners. It descended to me. <sup>6</sup> I gazed at it and I thought about it. I saw the four-legged animals of earth, wild beasts, things that crawled, and birds of the sky.

<sup>7</sup> Then I heard a voice say to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat!'

<sup>8</sup> I said, 'Not so, Lord; for nothing unholy or unclean has ever entered into my mouth.'

<sup>9</sup> But the voice answered again from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call defiled.' <sup>10</sup> This happened three times, and then everything was taken back up into heaven again.

<sup>11</sup> "Behold, right away there were three men standing in front of the house where we were; they had been sent from Caesarea to me. <sup>12</sup> The Spirit commanded me to go with them, and that I should make no distinction regarding them. These six brothers went with me, and we went into the man's house. <sup>13</sup> He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send men to Joppa and bring back Simon who is called Peter. <sup>14</sup> He will speak to you a message by which you will be saved—you and all your household.'

<sup>15</sup> As I began to speak to them, the Holy Spirit came on them, just as on us in the beginning. <sup>16</sup> I remembered the words of the Lord, how he said, 'John indeed baptized with water; but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

<sup>17</sup> Then if God gave to them the same gift as he gave to us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I, that I could oppose God?"

<sup>18</sup> When they heard these things, they said nothing in response, but they glorified God and said, "Then God has given repentance for life to the Gentiles also."

<sup>19</sup> Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that arose over Stephen spread as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the word only to Jews. <sup>20</sup> But some of them, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, came to Antioch and spoke also to Greeks, proclaiming to them the gospel about the Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup> The hand of the Lord was with them; a great number believed and turned to the Lord.

<sup>22</sup> News about them came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas as far as Antioch. <sup>23</sup> When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad and he encouraged them all to remain with the Lord with purpose of heart. <sup>24</sup> For he was a good man and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith, and many people were added to the Lord.

<sup>25</sup> Barnabas then went out to Tarsus to search carefully for Saul. <sup>26</sup> When he found him, he brought him to Antioch. It came about that for an entire year they gathered together with the church and taught many people. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

<sup>27</sup> Now in these days some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. <sup>28</sup> One of them, Agabus by name, stood up and indicated by the Spirit that a great famine would occur over all the world. This happened in the days of Claudius.

<sup>29</sup> So the disciples, as each one was able, determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brothers in Judea.

<sup>30</sup> They did this; they sent money to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

## Chapter 12

<sup>1</sup> Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some who belonged to the church so that he might mistreat them. <sup>2</sup> He killed James the brother of John with the sword.

<sup>3</sup> After he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. That was during the days of unleavened bread. <sup>4</sup> After arresting him, he put him in prison, assigning him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him; he was intending to bring him to the people after the Passover.

<sup>5</sup> So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer was made earnestly to God for him by those in the church. <sup>6</sup> On the night before Herod was going to bring him out for trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison.

<sup>7</sup> Behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared by him, and a light shone in the prison cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him and said, "Get up quickly," and his chains fell off his hands. <sup>8</sup> The angel said to him, "Gird yourself and put on your sandals." Peter did so. The angel said to him, "Put on your outer garment and follow me."

<sup>9</sup> So Peter followed the angel and went out. He did not know that what was done by the angel was real. He thought he was seeing a vision. <sup>10</sup> After they had passed by the first guard and the second, they came to the iron gate that led into the city; it opened for them by itself. They went out and went down a street, and the angel left him right away.

<sup>11</sup> When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I truly know that the Lord has sent his angel and delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from everything the Jewish people were expecting." <sup>12</sup> When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying.

<sup>13</sup> When he knocked at the door of the gate, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. <sup>14</sup> When she recognized Peter's voice, out of joy she failed to open the gate; instead, she came running into the room; she reported that Peter was standing at the gate. <sup>15</sup> So they said to her, "You are insane." But she insisted that it was so. They said, "It is his angel."

<sup>16</sup> But Peter continued knocking, and when they had opened the door, they saw him and were amazed. <sup>17</sup> Peter motioned to them with his hand to be silent, and he told them how the Lord had brought him out of prison. He said, "Report these things to James and the brothers." Then he left and went to another place.

<sup>18</sup> Now when it became day, there was no small disturbance among the soldiers over what had happened to Peter.

<sup>19</sup> After Herod had searched for him and could not find him, he questioned the guards and ordered them to be put to death.

Then Herod went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there.

<sup>20</sup> Now Herod was very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon. They went to him with one purpose, and after persuading Blastus, the king's assistant, to help them, they asked for peace because their country received its food from the king's country. <sup>21</sup> On a set day Herod dressed himself in royal clothing and sat on a throne; he made a speech to them.

<sup>22</sup> The people shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man!" <sup>23</sup> Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give God the glory; he was eaten by worms and died.

<sup>24</sup> But the word of God increased and multiplied.

<sup>25</sup> So when Barnabas and Saul had completed their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, <sup>1</sup> bringing with them John, also called Mark.

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<sup>1</sup>Some ancient copies read, they returned to Jerusalem .

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## Chapter 13

<sup>1</sup> Now in the church in Antioch, there were some prophets and teachers. They were Barnabas, Simeon (who is called Niger), Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch), and Saul. <sup>2</sup> While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul, to do the work to which I have called them." <sup>3</sup> After they had fasted, prayed, and laid their hands on these men, they sent them off.

<sup>4</sup> So Barnabas and Saul, having been sent out by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia; from there they sailed away to Cyprus. <sup>5</sup> While they were in the city of Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John for an assistant.

<sup>6</sup> When they had gone through the whole island to Paphos, they found a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet, whose name was Bar-Jesus. <sup>7</sup> This magician associated with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, who was an intelligent man. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul, because he sought to hear the word of God. <sup>8</sup> But Elymas "the magician" (that is how his name is translated) opposed them; he tried to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

<sup>9</sup> But Saul, who is also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, stared at him intensely <sup>10</sup> and said, "You son of the devil, you are full of all kinds of deceit and wickedness. You are an enemy of every kind of righteousness. You will never stop twisting the straight paths of the Lord, will you?"

<sup>11</sup> Now look, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will become blind. You will not see the sun for a while." Immediately there fell on Elymas a mist and darkness; he started going around seeking people to lead him by the hand. <sup>12</sup> After the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, because he was astonished at the teaching about the Lord.

<sup>13</sup> Now Paul and his friends set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. But John left them and returned to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> Paul and his friends traveled from Perga and came to Antioch of Pisidia. There they went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down. <sup>15</sup> After the reading of the law and the prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, "Brothers, if you have any message of encouragement for the people here, say it."

<sup>16</sup> So Paul stood up and motioned with his hand; he said, "Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. <sup>17</sup> The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and exalted the people when they stayed in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm he led them out of it. <sup>18</sup> For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. <sup>19</sup>

After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave our people their land for an inheritance. <sup>20</sup> All these events took place over 450 years. After all these things, God gave them judges until Samuel the prophet.

<sup>21</sup> Then the people asked for a king, and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man from the tribe of Benjamin, to be king for forty years. <sup>22</sup> After God removed him from the kingship, he raised up David to be their king. It was about David that God testified, saying, 'I have found David son of Jesse to be a man after my heart, who does all I want him to do.'

<sup>23</sup> From this man's descendants God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised to do. <sup>24</sup> Before the arrival of Jesus, John proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. <sup>25</sup> As John was finishing his work, he said, 'Who do you think I am? I am not the one. But listen, one is coming after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.'

<sup>26</sup> Brothers, children of the offspring of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, it is to us that the message about this salvation has been sent. <sup>27</sup> For they who live in Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize him, and they fulfilled the voices of the prophets that are read every Sabbath by condemning him.

<sup>28</sup> Even though they found no reason for the death penalty, they called on Pilate to kill him. <sup>29</sup> When they had completed all the things that were written about him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb.

<sup>30</sup> But God raised him from the dead. <sup>31</sup> He was seen for many days by those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. These people are now his witnesses to the people.

<sup>32</sup> So we tell you the good news: The promise that came to our fathers <sup>33</sup> God has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm:

'You are my Son,  
today I have become your Father.'

<sup>34</sup> As to his raising him from the dead, never to return to decay, he has spoken in this way:

'I will give you the holy and sure blessings  
promised to David.'

<sup>35</sup> This is why he also says in another Psalm,  
'You will not allow your Holy One  
to see decay.'

<sup>36</sup> For when David had served the purpose of God in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was laid with his  
fathers and his body experienced decay. <sup>37</sup> But he whom God raised up experienced no decay.

<sup>38</sup> So let it be known to you, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. The law of  
Moses could not make you righteous. <sup>39</sup> But by this man God makes righteous everyone who believes.

<sup>40</sup> So then be careful that the thing the prophets spoke about does not happen to you:

<sup>41</sup> 'Look, you despisers,  
and be astonished and then perish;  
For I am doing a work in your days,  
a work that you would never believe,  
even if someone announces it to you.'"

<sup>42</sup> As Paul and Barnabas left, the people begged them that they might speak these same words again the next  
Sabbath. <sup>43</sup> When the synagogue meeting ended, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and  
Barnabas, who were speaking to them and persuading them to continue in the grace of God.

<sup>44</sup> On the next Sabbath, almost the whole city was gathered together to hear the word of the Lord. <sup>45</sup> When the  
Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with envy and spoke against the things that were said by Paul and insulted  
him.

<sup>46</sup> But Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should first be spoken  
to you. Seeing you push it away from yourselves and consider yourselves unworthy of eternal life, see, we will  
turn to the Gentiles. <sup>47</sup> For so has the Lord commanded us, saying,

'I have appointed you as a light for the Gentiles,  
that you should bring salvation  
to the uttermost parts of the earth.'"

<sup>48</sup> As the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. As many as were appointed to  
eternal life believed. <sup>49</sup> The word of the Lord was spread out through the whole region.

<sup>50</sup> But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up  
persecution against Paul and Barnabas and threw them out of their region. <sup>51</sup> But Paul and Barnabas shook off the  
dust from their feet against them. Then they went to the city of Iconium. <sup>52</sup> And the disciples were filled with joy  
and with the Holy Spirit.

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<sup>53</sup> Some ancient copies read, For about forty years he cared for them in the wilderness .

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## Chapter 14

<sup>1</sup> It came about in Iconium that Paul and Barnabas entered together into the synagogue of the Jews and spoke in such a way that a great multitude both of Jews and of Greeks believed. <sup>2</sup> But the Jews who were disobedient stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and made them bitter against the brothers.

<sup>3</sup> So they stayed there for a long time, speaking boldly with the Lord's power, while he gave evidence about the message of his grace. He did this by granting signs and wonders to be done by the hands of Paul and Barnabas. <sup>4</sup> But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews, others with the apostles.

<sup>5</sup> Both Gentiles and Jews (together with their leaders) made an attempt to mistreat them and to stone them, <sup>6</sup> but as soon as they learned about this, they fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and the surrounding region, <sup>7</sup> where they continued to proclaim the gospel.

<sup>8</sup> At Lystra a certain man sat, powerless in his feet, a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked. <sup>9</sup> This man heard Paul speaking. Paul fixed his eyes on him and saw that he had faith to be made well. <sup>10</sup> So he said to him in a loud voice, "Stand up on your feet." Then the man jumped up and walked around.

<sup>11</sup> When the multitude saw what Paul had done, they raised their voice, saying in the dialect of Lycaonia, "The gods have become like men and come down to us." <sup>12</sup> They called Barnabas "Zeus," and Paul "Hermes," because he was the main speaker. <sup>13</sup> The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought oxen and wreaths to the gates; he and the multitudes wanted to offer sacrifice.

<sup>14</sup> But when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of it, they tore their clothing and quickly went out into the crowd, crying out, <sup>15</sup> "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are human beings, with the same nature as you. We are telling you good news that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them. <sup>16</sup> In the past ages, he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways.

<sup>17</sup> But still, he did not leave himself without witness, in that he did good and gave you the rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts with food and gladness." <sup>18</sup> Even with these words, Paul and Barnabas barely kept the multitudes from sacrificing to them.

<sup>19</sup> But some Jews from Antioch and Iconium came and persuaded the crowds. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking that he was dead. <sup>20</sup> Yet as the disciples were standing around him, he got up and entered the city. The next day, he went to Derbe with Barnabas.

<sup>21</sup> After they had proclaimed the gospel in that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, to Iconium, and to Antioch. <sup>22</sup> They kept strengthening the souls of the disciples and encouraging them to continue in the faith, saying, "We must enter into the kingdom of God through many tribulations."

<sup>23</sup> When they had appointed for them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they entrusted them to the Lord, in whom they had believed. <sup>24</sup> Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. <sup>25</sup> When they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. <sup>26</sup> From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work which they had now completed.

<sup>27</sup> When they arrived in Antioch and gathered the church together, they reported all the things that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles. <sup>28</sup> They stayed for a long time with the disciples.

## Chapter 15

<sup>1</sup> Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and taught the brothers, saying, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." <sup>2</sup> This brought Paul and Barnabas into a sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas, along with some others from among them, were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to meet with the apostles and elders about this question.

<sup>3</sup> They therefore, being sent by the church, passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria and announced the conversion of the Gentiles. They brought great joy to all the brothers. <sup>4</sup> When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all the things that God had done with them.

<sup>5</sup> But certain men who believed, who belonged to the group of Pharisees, stood up and said, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to command them to keep the law of Moses." <sup>6</sup> So the apostles and the elders gathered together to consider this matter.

<sup>7</sup> After much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brothers, you know that a good while ago God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. <sup>8</sup> God, who knows the heart, has testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. <sup>9</sup> He made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.

<sup>10</sup> Now therefore why do you test God, that you should put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? <sup>11</sup> But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they were."

<sup>12</sup> All the multitude kept silent while they listened to Barnabas and Paul report the signs and wonders God had worked among the Gentiles through them.

<sup>13</sup> After they stopped speaking, James answered, saying,

"Brothers, listen to me.

<sup>14</sup> Simon has told how God first graciously helped the Gentiles in order to take from them a people for his name.

<sup>15</sup> The words of the prophets agree with this, as it is written,

<sup>16</sup> 'After these things I will return,  
and I will build again the tabernacle of David,  
which has fallen down;  
I will set up and restore its ruins again,  
<sup>17</sup> so that the remnant of men may seek the Lord,  
including all the Gentiles called by my name.'

<sup>18</sup> This is what the Lord says,  
who has done these things  
that have been known from ancient times. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, I have decided that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God. <sup>20</sup> But we will write to them that they must keep away from the pollution of idols, from sexual immorality, and from the meat of strangled animals, and from blood. <sup>21</sup> For Moses has been proclaimed in every city from ancient generations and he is preached in the synagogues every Sabbath."

<sup>22</sup> Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, who were leaders of the brothers, and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas.

<sup>23</sup> They wrote this with their hands,

<sup>24</sup> Because we have heard that certain men have gone out from us, with no orders from us, and have disturbed you with words that upset your souls, <sup>25</sup> it seemed good to us, who have come to one mind, to choose men and to send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, <sup>26</sup> men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>27</sup> Therefore we have sent Judas and Silas, who will report to you the same things in their own words. <sup>28</sup> For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: <sup>29</sup> that

you abstain from things sacrificed to idols, blood, things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you avoid these things, you will do well.

<sup>30</sup> So they, when they were dismissed, came down to Antioch; after they gathered the multitude together, they delivered the letter. <sup>31</sup> When they had read it, they rejoiced because of the encouragement. <sup>32</sup> Judas and Silas, also prophets, encouraged the brothers with many words and strengthened them.

<sup>33</sup> After they had spent some time there, they were sent away in peace from the brothers to those who had sent them. <sup>34</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>35</sup> But Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch, teaching and preaching (along with many others) the word of the Lord.

<sup>36</sup> After some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return now and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." <sup>37</sup> Barnabas wanted to also take with them John, who was called Mark. <sup>38</sup> But Paul thought it was not good to take Mark, who had left them in Pamphylia and did not go further with them in the work.

<sup>39</sup> Then there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. <sup>40</sup> But Paul chose Silas and left, after he was entrusted by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. <sup>41</sup> Then he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

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<sup>1</sup> There are some copies of the ancient Greek text that have a slightly different meaning, This is what the Lord says, to whom are known all his deeds from ancient times .

<sup>2</sup> The best ancient copies do not have verse 34 (See: Acts 15:40), But it seemed good to Silas to remain there .

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## Chapter 16

<sup>1</sup> Paul also came to Derbe and to Lystra, and behold, a certain disciple named Timothy was there, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. <sup>2</sup> He was well spoken of by the brothers who were at Lystra and Iconium. <sup>3</sup> Paul wanted him to travel with him, so he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews that were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

<sup>4</sup> As they were going along through the cities, they were passing along the decrees to obey that were decided on by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup> So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in number daily.

<sup>6</sup> Paul and his companions went through the regions of Phrygia and Galatia, since they had been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the word in the province of Asia. <sup>7</sup> When they came near Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus prevented them. <sup>8</sup> So passing by Mysia, they came down to the city of Troas.

<sup>9</sup> A vision appeared to Paul in the night: A man of Macedonia was standing there, begging him and saying, "Come over into Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup> When Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

<sup>11</sup> Setting sail therefore from Troas, we made a straight course to Samothrace, and the next day we came to Neapolis. <sup>12</sup> From there we went to Philippi, which is a city of Macedonia, the most important city in the district and a Roman colony, and we stayed in this city for several days.

<sup>13</sup> On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we thought there would be a place of prayer. We sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.

<sup>14</sup> A certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God, listened to us. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup> When she and her house were baptized, she pleaded with us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay in my house." And she persuaded us.

<sup>16</sup> It came about that, as we were going to the place of prayer, a certain slave girl who had a spirit of divination encountered us. She brought her masters much gain by fortunetelling. <sup>17</sup> This woman followed after Paul and us and shouted, saying, "These men are servants of the Most High God. They proclaim to you the way of salvation." <sup>18</sup> She did this for many days. But Paul, being greatly annoyed by her, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out at that same hour.

<sup>19</sup> When her masters saw that their hope of profit was now gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. <sup>20</sup> When they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are causing trouble in our city. They are Jews. <sup>21</sup> They proclaim customs that are not lawful for Romans to accept or practice."

<sup>22</sup> Then the crowd rose up together against Paul and Silas; the magistrates tore their garments off them and commanded them to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> When they had laid many blows upon them, they threw them into prison and commanded the jailer to guard them securely. <sup>24</sup> After he got this command, the jailer threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

<sup>25</sup> Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains were unfastened.

<sup>27</sup> The jailer was awakened from sleep and saw the open prison doors; he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, because he thought that the prisoners had escaped.

<sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, because we are all here."

<sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights and rushed in and, trembling for fear, fell down before Paul and Silas, <sup>30</sup> and brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

<sup>31</sup> They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

<sup>32</sup> They spoke the word of the Lord to him, together with everyone in his house. <sup>33</sup> Then the jailer took them at the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he and those in his entire house were baptized immediately. <sup>34</sup> Then as he brought Paul and Silas up into his house and he set food before them, he rejoiced greatly with those of his house, that he had believed in God.

<sup>35</sup> Now when it was day, the magistrates sent word to the guards, saying, "Let those men go."

<sup>36</sup> The jailer reported the words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent word to me to let you go. Now therefore come out, and go in peace."

<sup>37</sup> But Paul said to them, "They have publicly beaten us without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens—and they threw us into prison. Do they now want to send us away secretly? No! Let them come themselves and lead us out."

<sup>38</sup> The guards reported these words to the magistrates, and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Romans, they were afraid. <sup>39</sup> The magistrates came and apologized to them and brought them out, asking them to go away from the city.

<sup>40</sup> So Paul and Silas went out of the prison and came to the house of Lydia. When Paul and Silas saw the brothers, they encouraged them and then departed from the city.

## Chapter 17

<sup>1</sup> Now when they had passed through the cities of Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to the city of Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> Paul, as his custom was, went to them, and for three Sabbath days reasoned with them from the scriptures.

<sup>3</sup> He was opening the scriptures and explaining that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise again from the dead. He said, "This Jesus whom I proclaim to you is the Christ." <sup>4</sup> Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, including a large number of devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women.

<sup>5</sup> But the unbelieving Jews, being moved with jealousy, took certain wicked men from the marketplace, gathered a crowd together, and set the city in an uproar. Assaulting the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring Paul and Silas out to the people. <sup>6</sup> But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and certain other brothers before the officials of the city, crying, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also. <sup>7</sup> These men whom Jason has welcomed act against the decrees of Caesar; they say that there is another king—Jesus."

<sup>8</sup> They troubled the crowd and the officials of the city who heard these things. <sup>9</sup> But after they took security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

<sup>10</sup> That night the brothers sent Paul and Silas to Berea. When they arrived there, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. <sup>11</sup> Now these people were more noble than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with all readiness of mind, examining the scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. <sup>12</sup> Therefore many of them believed, including some influential Greek women and many men.

<sup>13</sup> But when the Jews of Thessalonica learned that Paul was also proclaiming the word of God at Berea, they went there and stirred up and troubled the crowds. <sup>14</sup> Then immediately, the brothers sent Paul to go to the sea, but Silas and Timothy stayed there. <sup>15</sup> Those who were leading Paul took him as far as the city of Athens. As they left Paul there, they received from him instructions for Silas and Timothy to come to him as quickly as possible.

<sup>16</sup> Now while Paul was waiting for them in Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw the city full of idols. <sup>17</sup> So he reasoned every day in the synagogue with the Jews and others who worshiped God, as well as in the marketplace with those who happened to be there.

<sup>18</sup> But also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. Some said, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others said, "He seems to be one who calls people to follow strange gods," because he was proclaiming the gospel about Jesus and the resurrection.

<sup>19</sup> They took Paul and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know this new teaching which you were speaking?" <sup>20</sup> For you bring some strange things to our ears. Therefore, we want to know what these things mean."

<sup>21</sup> (Now all the Athenians and the strangers living there spent their time in nothing but either telling or listening about something new.)

<sup>22</sup> So Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus and said,

"You men of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way.

<sup>23</sup> For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' What therefore you worship in ignorance, this I announce to you.

<sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, since he is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples built with hands. <sup>25</sup> Neither is he served by men's hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives people life and breath and everything else.

<sup>26</sup> From one man he made every nation of people to live on the surface of the earth, having determined their appointed seasons and the boundaries of their living areas, <sup>27</sup> so that they should search for God and perhaps they may feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is not far from each one of us.

<sup>28</sup> For in him we live and move and have our being, just as one of your own poets has said: 'For we also are his offspring.'

<sup>29</sup> "Therefore, since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the qualities of deity are like gold, or silver, or stone—images created by the art and imagination of man.

<sup>30</sup> Therefore God overlooked the times of ignorance, but now he commands all men everywhere to repent. <sup>31</sup> This is because he has set a day when he will judge the world in righteousness by the man he has appointed. God has given proof of this man to everyone by raising him from the dead."

<sup>32</sup> Now when the men of Athens heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked Paul; but others said, "We will listen to you again about this matter." <sup>33</sup> After that, Paul left them. <sup>34</sup> But certain men joined him and believed, including Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

## Chapter 18

<sup>1</sup> After these things Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. <sup>2</sup> There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to them, <sup>3</sup> and because he worked at the same trade, he stayed with them and labored, for they were tentmakers by trade.

<sup>4</sup> So Paul reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, trying to persuade both Jews and Greeks. <sup>5</sup> Now when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself to the word, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. <sup>6</sup> But when the Jews opposed and insulted him, Paul shook out his garment at them and said to them, "May your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

<sup>7</sup> Then he left from there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a man who worshiped God. His house was next to the synagogue. <sup>8</sup> Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with all his household; and many of the Corinthians who heard about it believed and were baptized.

<sup>9</sup> The Lord said to Paul in the night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent. <sup>10</sup> For I am with you, and no one will try to harm you, for I have many people in this city." <sup>11</sup> Paul lived there for a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

<sup>12</sup> But when Gallio became governor of Achaia, the Jews rose up with one mind against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat; <sup>13</sup> they said, "This man persuades people to worship God contrary to the law."

<sup>14</sup> Yet when Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to the Jews, "You Jews, if indeed it were a matter of wrong or a wicked crime, it would be reasonable to put up with you. <sup>15</sup> But since these are questions about words and names and your own law, settle it yourselves. I do not wish to be a judge of these matters."

<sup>16</sup> Gallio made them leave the judgment seat. <sup>17</sup> So they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the judgment seat. But Gallio did not care what they did.

<sup>18</sup> Paul, after staying there for many more days, left the brothers and sailed for Syria with Priscilla and Aquila. Before he left the seaport, Cenchreae, he had his hair cut off because of a vow he had taken. <sup>19</sup> When they came to Ephesus, Paul left Priscilla and Aquila there, but he himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

<sup>20</sup> When they asked Paul to stay a longer time, he declined. <sup>21</sup> But taking his leave of them, he said, "I will return again to you if it is God's will." He then set sail from Ephesus.

<sup>22</sup> When Paul had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the Jerusalem church and then went down to Antioch. <sup>23</sup> After having spent some time there, Paul departed and went through the regions of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

<sup>24</sup> Now a certain Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, came to Ephesus. He was eloquent in speech and mighty in the scriptures. <sup>25</sup> Apollos had been instructed in the teachings of the Lord. Being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, but he knew only the baptism of John. <sup>26</sup> Apollos began to speak boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

<sup>27</sup> When he desired to pass over into Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples in Achaia to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who believed by grace. <sup>28</sup> Apollos powerfully refuted the Jews in public debate, showing by the scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.



## Chapter 19

<sup>1</sup> It came about that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to the city of Ephesus, and found certain disciples there. <sup>2</sup> Paul said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

They said to him, "No, we did not even hear about the Holy Spirit."

<sup>3</sup> Paul said, "Into what then were you baptized?"

They said, "Into John's baptism."

<sup>4</sup> So Paul replied, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance. He told the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus."

<sup>5</sup> When the people heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> Then when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. <sup>7</sup> In all they were about twelve men.

<sup>8</sup> Paul went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. <sup>9</sup> But when some Jews were hardened and disobedient, they began to speak evil of the Way before the crowd. So Paul left them and took the disciples with him, reasoning with them every day in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. <sup>10</sup> This continued for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

<sup>11</sup> God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, <sup>12</sup> so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick and their illnesses left them and the evil spirits came out of them.

<sup>13</sup> But there were Jewish exorcists traveling through the area. They called on the name of the Lord Jesus so they could have power over evil spirits when they said, "By the Jesus whom Paul proclaims, I command you to come out." <sup>14</sup> The Jewish high priest, whose name was Sceva, had seven sons who were doing this.

<sup>15</sup> An evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" <sup>16</sup> The evil spirit in the man leaped on the exorcists and subdued them and beat them up. Then they fled out of that house naked and wounded. <sup>17</sup> This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived at Ephesus. They became very afraid, and the name of the Lord Jesus was honored.

<sup>18</sup> Also, many of the believers came and confessed and gave a full account of the evil things they had done. <sup>19</sup> Many who practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of everyone. When they counted the value of them, it was fifty thousand pieces of silver. <sup>20</sup> So the word of the Lord spread very widely in powerful ways.

<sup>21</sup> Now after these things were completed, Paul decided in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia on his way to Jerusalem; he said, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome." <sup>22</sup> Paul sent to Macedonia two of those who served him, Timothy and Erastus. But he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

<sup>23</sup> At about that time there was no small disturbance in Ephesus concerning the Way. <sup>24</sup> A certain silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in much business for the craftsmen. <sup>25</sup> So he gathered together the workmen of that occupation and said, "Men, you know that in this business we make much money.

<sup>26</sup> You see and hear that, not only at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people. He is saying that gods made by hands are not gods. <sup>27</sup> Not only is there danger that our trade will be discredited, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis might be regarded as worthless, and her greatness would be brought to nothing, she whom all Asia and the world worship."

<sup>28</sup> When they heard this, they were filled with anger and cried out, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians." <sup>29</sup> The whole city was filled with confusion, and the people rushed with one mind into the theater. They had seized Paul's travel companions, Gaius and Aristarchus, who came from Macedonia.

<sup>30</sup> Paul wanted to enter in among the crowd of people, but the disciples prevented him. <sup>31</sup> Also, some of the officials of the province of Asia who were his friends sent him a message pleading with him not to enter the theater. <sup>32</sup> Some people were shouting one thing, and some another, for the crowd was in confusion. Most of them did not even know why they had come together.

<sup>33</sup> Some of the crowd advised Alexander, whom the Jews were pushing forward. So Alexander motioned with his hand, wanting to give a defense to the assembly. <sup>34</sup> But when they recognized that he was a Jew, they all cried out for about two hours with one voice, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians."

<sup>35</sup> When the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, "You men of Ephesus, what man is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great Artemis and of the image which fell down from heaven? <sup>36</sup> Seeing then that these things are undeniable, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. <sup>37</sup> For you have brought these men to this court who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of our goddess.

<sup>38</sup> Therefore, if Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have an accusation against anyone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. Let them accuse one another. <sup>39</sup> But if you are seeking anything more, it should be resolved in the regular assembly. <sup>40</sup> For we are in danger of being accused of rioting today, and there is no cause we can give to justify this uproar." When he had said this, he dismissed the assembly. <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Some Greek copies number this last sentence as verse 41.

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## Chapter 20

<sup>1</sup> After the uproar was over, Paul sent for the disciples and after he encouraged them, he said farewell and left to go into Macedonia. <sup>2</sup> When he had gone through those regions and had spoken many words of encouragement to them, he came to Greece. <sup>3</sup> After he had spent three months there, a plot was formed against him by the Jews as he was about to sail for Syria, so he decided to return through Macedonia.

<sup>4</sup> Accompanying him as far as Asia were Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea; Aristarchus and Secundus, both from the Thessalonian believers; Gaius of Derbe; Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus from Asia. <sup>5</sup> But these men had gone before us and were waiting for us at Troas. <sup>6</sup> We sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and in five days we came to them in Troas. There we stayed for seven days.

<sup>7</sup> On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul spoke to the believers. He was planning to leave the next day, so he prolonged his message until midnight. <sup>8</sup> There were many lamps in the upper room where we had come together.

<sup>9</sup> In the window was sitting a young man named Eutychus, who fell into a deep sleep. As Paul spoke even longer, this young man, still sleeping, fell down from the third story and was picked up dead. <sup>10</sup> But Paul went down, stretched himself out on him, and embraced him. Then he said, "Do not be upset any more, for he is alive."

<sup>11</sup> Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking with them much longer until dawn, he left.

<sup>12</sup> They brought back the boy alive and were greatly comforted.

<sup>13</sup> We ourselves went ahead of Paul by ship and sailed away to Assos, where we planned to take Paul on board. This is what he himself desired to do, because he planned to go by land. <sup>14</sup> When he met us at Assos, we took him onto the ship and went to Mitylene.

<sup>15</sup> Then we sailed from there and arrived the next day opposite the island of Chios. The following day we touched at the island of Samos, and the day after we came to the city of Miletus. <sup>16</sup> For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not spend any time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem for the day of Pentecost, if it were at all possible for him to do so.

<sup>17</sup> From Miletus he sent men to Ephesus and called to himself the elders of the church. <sup>18</sup> When they had come to him, he said to them, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I always spent my time with you. <sup>19</sup> I kept serving the Lord with all lowliness of mind and with tears, and in trials that happened to me because of the plots of the Jews. <sup>20</sup> You know how I did not keep back from declaring to you anything that was useful, and how I taught you in public and from house to house, <sup>21</sup> testifying to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus.

<sup>22</sup> Now look, I am going to Jerusalem, compelled by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup> except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that chains and afflictions await me. <sup>24</sup> But I do not consider my life valuable to myself, if only I may finish the race and complete the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

<sup>25</sup> Now look, I know that you all, among whom I went about proclaiming the kingdom, will see my face no more. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I testify to you this day, that I am innocent of the blood of any man. <sup>27</sup> For I did not hold back from declaring to you the whole will of God.

<sup>28</sup> Therefore be careful about yourselves, and about all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers. Be careful to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood. <sup>29</sup> I know that after my departure, vicious wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. <sup>30</sup> Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth to draw away the disciples after them.

<sup>31</sup> So be on guard. Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each one of you night and day with tears. <sup>32</sup> Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are being sanctified.

<sup>33</sup> I coveted no man's silver, gold, or clothing. <sup>34</sup> You yourselves know that these hands served my own needs and the needs of those who were with me. <sup>35</sup> In all things I gave you an example of how you should help the weak by laboring, and of how you should remember the words of the Lord Jesus, words that he himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

<sup>36</sup> After he had spoken in this way, he knelt down and prayed with them all. <sup>37</sup> There was a lot of crying and they embraced Paul and kissed him. <sup>38</sup> They were in anguish most of all because of what he had said, that they would never see his face again. Then they escorted him to the ship.

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<sup>38</sup> Instead of with his own blood , some ancient copies read, with the blood of his own Son .

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## Chapter 21

<sup>1</sup> When we had gone away from them and set sail, we took a straight course to the city of Cos, and the next day to the city of Rhodes, and from there to the city of Patara. <sup>2</sup> When we found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail.

<sup>3</sup> After sighting Cyprus, leaving it on the left side of the boat, we sailed on to Syria and landed at Tyre, where the ship was to unload its cargo. <sup>4</sup> After we found the disciples, we stayed there seven days. Through the Spirit they kept urging Paul not to go to Jerusalem.

<sup>5</sup> When our days there were over, we left and went on our way, and they all, with their wives and children, accompanied us out of the city. Then we knelt down on the beach, prayed, <sup>6</sup> and said farewell to each other. Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home.

<sup>7</sup> When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais. There we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for one day. <sup>8</sup> On the next day we left and went to Caesarea. We entered the house of Philip, the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and we stayed with him. <sup>9</sup> Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied.

<sup>10</sup> As we stayed there for some days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. <sup>11</sup> He came to us and took Paul's belt. With it he tied his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews in Jerusalem will tie up the man who owns this belt, and they will hand him over into the hands of the Gentiles.'"

<sup>12</sup> When we heard these things, both we and the people who lived in that place pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.

<sup>13</sup> Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready, not only to be tied up, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

<sup>14</sup> Since Paul would not be persuaded, we remained silent and then we said, "May the will of the Lord be done."

<sup>15</sup> After these days, we picked up our bags and went up to Jerusalem. <sup>16</sup> There also went with us some of the disciples from Caesarea. They brought with them a man named Mnason, a man from Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we would stay.

<sup>17</sup> When we had arrived in Jerusalem, the brothers welcomed us gladly. <sup>18</sup> The next day Paul went with us to James, and all the elders were present. <sup>19</sup> When he had greeted them, he reported one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.

<sup>20</sup> When they heard it, they glorified God, and they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands have believed among the Jews. They are all zealous to keep the law. <sup>21</sup> They have been told about you, that you teach all the Jews who live among the Gentiles to abandon Moses, and that you tell them not to circumcise their children, and not to walk according to the traditional ways.

<sup>22</sup> What should we do? They will certainly hear that you have come. <sup>23</sup> So do what we say to you. We have four men who made a vow. <sup>24</sup> Take these men and purify yourself with them, and pay their expenses for them, so that they may shave their heads. So everyone will know that the things they have been told about you are false. They will learn that you also live correctly, obeying the law.

<sup>25</sup> But concerning the Gentiles who have believed, we wrote about our decision that they should keep themselves from things sacrificed to idols, from blood, from what is strangled, and from sexual immorality." <sup>26</sup> Then Paul took the men, and the next day he purified himself along with them. Then they went into the temple, giving notice when the days of purification would be fulfilled and the offering would be presented for each of them.

<sup>27</sup> When the seven days were almost finished, some Jews from Asia, seeing Paul in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him. <sup>28</sup> They were shouting, "Men of Israel, help us. This is the man who teaches all men everywhere things that are against the people, the law, and this place. Besides, he has also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place." <sup>29</sup> For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, and they thought that Paul had brought him into the temple.

<sup>30</sup> All the city was excited, and the people ran together and laid hold of Paul. They dragged him out of the temple, and the doors were immediately shut. <sup>31</sup> As they were trying to kill him, news came up to the chief captain of the company of soldiers, that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.

<sup>32</sup> Right away he took soldiers and centurions and ran down to the crowd. When the people saw the chief captain and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. <sup>33</sup> Then the chief captain approached and laid hold of Paul, and commanded him to be bound with two chains. Then he asked who he was and what he had done.

<sup>34</sup> Some in the crowd were shouting one thing and others another. Since the captain could not learn the truth because of all the noise, he ordered that Paul be brought into the fortress. <sup>35</sup> When he came to the steps, he was carried by the soldiers because of the crowd's violence. <sup>36</sup> For the crowd of people followed after and kept shouting out, "Away with him!"

<sup>37</sup> As Paul was about to be brought into the fortress, he said to the chief captain, "Is it permitted for me to say something to you?"

The captain said, "Do you know Greek?"

<sup>38</sup> Are you not then the Egyptian who some time ago started a rebellion and led the four thousand men of the 'Assassins' out into the wilderness?"

<sup>39</sup> Paul said, "I am a Jew, from the city of Tarsus in Cilicia. I am a citizen of no unimportant city. I beg you, allow me to speak to the people."

<sup>40</sup> When the captain had given him permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned with the hand to the people. When there was a deep silence, he spoke to them in the Hebrew language. He said,

Chapter 22

<sup>1</sup> "Brothers and fathers, listen to my defense which I will now make to you."

<sup>2</sup> When the crowd heard Paul speak to them in the Hebrew language, they became quiet. He said,

<sup>3</sup> "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but educated in this city at the feet of Gamaliel. I was instructed according to the strict ways of the law of our fathers. I am zealous for God, just as all of you are today. <sup>4</sup> I persecuted this Way to the death, binding up and delivering to prison both men and women, <sup>5</sup> as the high priest and all the elders can testify. I received letters from them for the brothers in Damascus, and I went there to bring them back in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.

<sup>6</sup> It happened that when I was traveling and nearing Damascus, about noon suddenly a great light from heaven began to shine around me. <sup>7</sup> I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'

<sup>8</sup> I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?'

He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.'

<sup>9</sup> Those who were with me saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who spoke to me. <sup>10</sup> I said, 'What should I do, Lord?'

The Lord said to me, 'Arise and go into Damascus. There you will be told everything that has been appointed for you to do.'

<sup>11</sup> I could not see because of that light's brightness, and being led by the hands of those who were with me, I came into Damascus.

<sup>12</sup> There I met a man named Ananias, a devout man according to the law and well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there.

<sup>13</sup> He came to me, stood by me, and said, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' In that very hour I saw him.

<sup>14</sup> Then he said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One, and to hear the voice coming from his own mouth. <sup>15</sup> For you will be a witness for him to all men about what you have seen and heard. <sup>16</sup> Now why are you waiting? Arise, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

<sup>17</sup> After I had returned to Jerusalem, and while I was praying in the temple, a trance came on me. <sup>18</sup> I saw him say to me, 'Hurry and leave Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.'

<sup>19</sup> I said, 'Lord, they themselves know that I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you in every synagogue. <sup>20</sup> When the blood of Stephen your witness was spilled, I also was standing by and agreeing, and I was guarding the cloaks of those who killed him.' <sup>21</sup> But he said to me, 'Go, because I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'

<sup>22</sup> They listened to him until that statement. Then they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth, for it is not right that he should live." <sup>23</sup> As they were shouting, throwing off their cloaks, and throwing dust into the air, <sup>24</sup> the chief captain commanded Paul to be brought into the fortress. He ordered that he should be questioned with scourging, so that he himself might know why they were shouting against him like that.

<sup>25</sup> When they had tied him up with the thongs, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman and who has not been put on trial?"

<sup>26</sup> When the centurion heard this, he went to the chief captain and told him, saying, "What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman citizen."

<sup>27</sup> The chief captain came and said to him, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?"

Paul said, "Yes."

<sup>28</sup> The chief captain answered, "It was only with a large amount of money that I acquired citizenship."

But Paul said, "I was born a Roman citizen."

<sup>29</sup> Then the men who were going to question him left him immediately. The chief captain also was afraid, when he learned that Paul was a Roman citizen, because he had tied him up.

<sup>30</sup> On the next day, the chief captain wanted to know for certain about the Jews' accusations against Paul. So he untied his bonds and ordered the chief priests and all the council to meet. Then he brought Paul down and placed him in their midst.



## Chapter 23

<sup>1</sup> Paul looked directly at the council members and said, "Brothers, I have lived before God in all good conscience until this day." <sup>2</sup> The high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth.

<sup>3</sup> Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall. Are you sitting to judge me by the law, yet order me to be struck, against the law?"

<sup>4</sup> Those who stood by said, "Is this how you insult God's high priest?"

<sup>5</sup> Paul said, "I did not know, brothers, that he was high priest. For it is written, 'You must not speak evil of a ruler of your people.'"

<sup>6</sup> When Paul saw that the one part of the council were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he spoke loudly in the council: "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is because I have the hope of the resurrection of the dead that I am being judged." <sup>7</sup> When he said this, an argument began between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the crowd was divided. <sup>8</sup> For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, no angels, and no spirits, but the Pharisees acknowledge all of them.

<sup>9</sup> So a large uproar occurred, and some of the scribes belonging to the Pharisees stood up and argued, saying, "We find nothing wrong with this man. What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?" <sup>10</sup> When there arose a great argument, the chief captain feared that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, so he commanded the soldiers to go down and take him by force from among the council members, and bring him into the fortress.

<sup>11</sup> The following night the Lord stood beside him and said, "Have courage, for as you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome."

<sup>12</sup> When it became day, some Jews formed a conspiracy and put themselves under an oath, saying that they would not eat or drink anything until they had killed Paul. <sup>13</sup> There were more than forty men who formed this conspiracy.

<sup>14</sup> They went to the chief priests and the elders and said, "We have sworn a great oath to eat nothing until we have killed Paul. <sup>15</sup> Now, therefore, let the council formally request the chief captain to bring him down to you, as if you would decide his case more precisely. As for us, we are ready to kill him before he comes here."

<sup>16</sup> But Paul's sister's son heard that they were lying in wait, so he went and entered the fortress and told Paul.

<sup>17</sup> Paul called one of the centurions and said, "Take this young man to the chief captain, for he has something to report to him."

<sup>18</sup> So the centurion took the young man and brought him to the chief captain and said, "Paul the prisoner called me to him, and asked me to bring this young man to you. He has something to say to you."

<sup>19</sup> The chief captain took him by the hand to a private place and asked him, "What is it that you have to report to me?"

<sup>20</sup> The young man said, "The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring down Paul tomorrow to the council, as if they were going to ask more precisely about his case. <sup>21</sup> But do not be persuaded by them, because there are more than forty men who are lying in wait for him. They have put themselves under oath neither to eat nor to drink until they have killed him. Even now they are ready, waiting for your approval."

<sup>22</sup> So the chief captain let the young man go, after instructing him, "Tell no one that you have reported these things to me."

<sup>23</sup> Then he called to him two of the centurions and said, "Get two hundred soldiers ready to go as far as Caesarea, and seventy horsemen also, and two hundred spearmen. You will leave at the third hour of the night." <sup>24</sup> He also ordered them to provide animals which Paul could ride and to take him safely to Felix the governor.

<sup>25</sup> Then he wrote a letter like this: <sup>26</sup> "Claudius Lysias, <sup>27</sup> This man was arrested by the Jews and was about to be killed by them when I came upon them with soldiers and rescued him, since I learned that he was a Roman citizen.

<sup>28</sup> I wanted to know why they accused him, so I took him down to their council. <sup>29</sup> I learned that he was being accused about questions concerning their own law, but that there was no accusation against him that deserved death or imprisonment. <sup>30</sup> Then it was reported to me that there was a plot against the man, so I immediately sent him to you and instructed his accusers also to bring their charges against him in your presence.

<sup>31</sup> So the soldiers obeyed their orders. They took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris. <sup>32</sup> On the next day, most of the soldiers left the horsemen to go with him and they themselves returned to the fortress. <sup>33</sup> When the horsemen reached Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they also presented Paul to him.

<sup>34</sup> When the governor read the letter, he asked what province Paul was from. When he learned that he was from Cilicia, <sup>35</sup> he said, "I will hear you fully when your accusers come here." Then he commanded him to be kept in Herod's government headquarters.

## Chapter 24

<sup>1</sup> After five days, Ananias the high priest, certain elders, and an orator named Tertullus went there. These men brought charges against Paul before the governor. <sup>2</sup> When Paul stood before the governor, Tertullus began to accuse him and said to the governor, "Because of you we have great peace, and your foresight brings good reform to our nation; <sup>3</sup> so with all thankfulness we welcome everything that you do, most excellent Felix.

<sup>4</sup> So that I detain you no more, I beg you in your kindness to hear us briefly. <sup>5</sup> For we have found this man to be a pest and one who causes all the Jews throughout the world to rebel. He is a leader of the Nazarene sect. <sup>6</sup> He even tried to desecrate the temple, so we arrested him. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>7</sup> <sup>2</sup> <sup>8</sup> When you examine Paul about all these matters, you will be able to learn about all the things of which we are accusing him." <sup>9</sup> The Jews also joined in the accusation, affirming that these charges were true.

<sup>10</sup> But when the governor motioned for Paul to speak, Paul answered, "I understand that for many years you have been a judge to this nation, and so I gladly explain myself to you.

<sup>11</sup> You can learn for yourself that it has not been more than twelve days since I went up to worship in Jerusalem. <sup>12</sup> When they found me in the temple, I did not argue with anyone, and I did not stir up a crowd, either in the synagogues, or in the city. <sup>13</sup> They cannot prove to you the accusations they are now making against me.

<sup>14</sup> But I confess this to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I serve the God of our fathers, believing all things that are according to the law and that has been written in the prophets. <sup>15</sup> I have a hope in God, which these men also have, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. <sup>16</sup> So I always strive to have a blameless conscience before God and human beings.

<sup>17</sup> Now after many years I came to give alms to my nation and present sacrifices. <sup>18</sup> When I did this, certain Jews from Asia found me in a purification ceremony in the temple, not with a crowd or an uproar. <sup>19</sup> These men ought to be before you now and accuse me, if they have anything.

<sup>20</sup> Or else, these same men should say what wrong they found in me when I stood before the Jewish council, <sup>21</sup> unless it is about this one thing that I shouted out when I stood among them, 'It is concerning the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you today.'"

<sup>22</sup> Then Felix, who was well informed about the Way, postponed the hearing. He said, "When Lysias the commander comes down from Jerusalem, I will decide your case." <sup>23</sup> Then he commanded the centurion that Paul should be kept in custody, but to have some freedom so that none of his friends would be prevented from attending to his needs.

<sup>24</sup> After some days, Felix returned with Drusilla his wife, who was Jewish, and he sent for Paul and he heard from him about faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup> But when Paul reasoned with him about righteousness, self-control, and the coming judgment, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for now. But when I have time later on, I will send for you."

<sup>26</sup> At the same time he hoped that Paul would give money to him, so he often sent for him and spoke with him. <sup>27</sup> But when two years passed, Porcius Festus became the governor after Felix, but Felix wanted to gain favor with the Jews, so he left Paul bound.

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<sup>1</sup>Some ancient copies add, We wanted to judge him according to our law .

<sup>2</sup>Some ancient copies have for verse 7 and the beginning of verse 8, 7 But Lysias, the officer, came and took him by force out of our hands, 8 commanding his accusers to come to you .

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## Chapter 25

<sup>1</sup> Now, Festus entered the province, and after three days, he went from Caesarea up to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> The chief priests and the prominent Jews brought their charges against Paul, and they asked Festus earnestly— <sup>3</sup> asking him to do them a favor against Paul—to summon him to Jerusalem, for they were preparing an ambush to kill him along the way.

<sup>4</sup> Festus answered that Paul was being held in custody at Caesarea, and that he himself was going there soon. <sup>5</sup> "Therefore, those who can," he said, "should go there with us. If there is something wrong with the man, you should accuse him."

<sup>6</sup> Festus stayed not more than eight or ten days and then he went down to Caesarea, and on the next day he sat on the judgment seat and commanded Paul to be brought to him. <sup>7</sup> When he arrived, the Jews from Jerusalem stood nearby, and they brought many serious charges which they could not prove.

<sup>8</sup> Paul defended himself and said, "I have committed no sin against the law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar."

<sup>9</sup> But Festus wanted to gain the favor of the Jews, and so he answered Paul and said, "Do you want to go up to Jerusalem and to be judged by me about these things there?" <sup>10</sup> Paul said, "I stand before the judgment seat of Caesar where I must be judged. I have wronged no Jews, just as you also very well know.

<sup>11</sup> Though if I have done wrong and if I have done what is worthy of death, I do not refuse to die. But if their accusations are nothing, no one can hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar." <sup>12</sup> After Festus talked with the council, he answered, "You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you will go!"

<sup>13</sup> Now after some days, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to pay an official visit to Festus. <sup>14</sup> After they had been there for many days, Festus presented Paul's case to the king; he said, "A certain man was left behind here by Felix as a prisoner. <sup>15</sup> When I was in Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews brought charges against this man to me, and they asked for a sentence of condemnation against him. <sup>16</sup> I answered them that it was not the custom of the Romans to hand over anyone before the accused had faced his accusers and received an opportunity to defend himself against the charges.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, when they came together here, I did not wait, but the next day I sat in the judgment seat and I ordered the man to be brought in. <sup>18</sup> When the accusers stood up, they charged him with nothing that I considered wickedness. <sup>19</sup> Instead, they had certain disputes with him about their own religion and about a certain Jesus who was dead, whom Paul claims to be alive. <sup>20</sup> I was perplexed about how to investigate this matter, and so I asked him if he would be willing to go to Jerusalem to stand trial there about these charges.

<sup>21</sup> But when Paul appealed to be kept in custody while awaiting the decision of the emperor, I ordered him to be held in custody until I could send him to Caesar." <sup>22</sup> Agrippa spoke to Festus: "I would also like to listen to this man." "Tomorrow," Festus said, "you will hear him."

<sup>23</sup> So on the next day, Agrippa and Bernice came with much ceremony; they came into the hall with the military officers and with the prominent men of the city. When Festus spoke the command, Paul was brought to them. <sup>24</sup> Festus said, "King Agrippa, and all you men who are here with us, you see this man; all the multitude of Jews appealed to me in Jerusalem and here also, and they shouted to me that he should no longer live.

<sup>25</sup> I found he had done nothing worthy of death; but because he appealed to the emperor, I decided to send him to Rome. <sup>26</sup> But I do not have anything certain to write to my lord. For this reason, I have brought him to you, especially to you, King Agrippa, so that I might have something more to write about the case. <sup>27</sup> For it seems unreasonable for me to send a prisoner and to not also state the charges against him."

## Chapter 26

<sup>1</sup> So Agrippa said to Paul, "You may speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense.

<sup>2</sup> "I consider myself happy, King Agrippa, to make my case before you today against all the accusations of the Jews, <sup>3</sup> especially because you are an expert in all the Jewish customs and questions. So I beg you to hear me patiently.

<sup>4</sup> Truly, all the Jews know how I lived from my youth in my own nation and at Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup> They have known about me from the beginning, if they are willing to admit it, that I lived as a Pharisee, the strictest party of our religion.

<sup>6</sup> Now I stand here to be judged because of my hope in the promise made by God to our fathers. <sup>7</sup> It is this promise that our twelve tribes hope to receive as they worship God earnestly night and day, and it is for this hope, king, that the Jews are accusing me. <sup>8</sup> Why should any of you judge it to be incredible that God raises the dead?

<sup>9</sup> Now indeed, I myself thought that I should do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. <sup>10</sup> I did these in Jerusalem. I locked up in prison many of God's holy people by the authority I received from the chief priests; and when they were killed, I cast my vote against them. <sup>11</sup> I punished them many times in all the synagogues, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. I was furiously enraged against them, and I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

<sup>12</sup> While I was doing this, I went to Damascus with authority and orders from the chief priests; <sup>13</sup> and on the way there, in the middle of the day, king, I saw a light from heaven that was brighter than the sun, and it shone around both me and the men who were traveling with me. <sup>14</sup> When we all fell to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me that said in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick a goad.'

<sup>15</sup> Then I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' The Lord replied, 'I am Jesus whom you persecute.' <sup>16</sup> Now get up and stand on your feet; because for this purpose I appeared to you, to appoint you to be a servant and a witness concerning the things that you know about me now and the things that I will show to you later; <sup>17</sup> and I will rescue you from the people and from the Gentiles to whom I am sending you, <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes and to turn them from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, so that they may receive from God the forgiveness of sins and the inheritance that I give to them who are sanctified by faith in me.'

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, King Agrippa, I did not disobey the heavenly vision; <sup>20</sup> but, to those in Damascus first, and then at Jerusalem, and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, I gave them the message that that they should repent and turn to God, doing deeds worthy of repentance. <sup>21</sup> For this cause the Jews arrested me in the temple and tried to kill me.

<sup>22</sup> Therefore I have received the help that comes from God until this very day, and I stand and testify to both small and great about nothing more than what the prophets and Moses said would happen— <sup>23</sup> that Christ must suffer, and by being the first to rise from the dead he would proclaim light to our own people and to the Gentiles."

<sup>24</sup> As Paul completed his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are insane; your great learning makes you insane." <sup>25</sup> But Paul said, "I am not insane, most excellent Festus, but I am declaring words of truth and sound judgment. <sup>26</sup> For the king knows about these things; and so I speak boldly to him, for I am persuaded that none of this is hidden from him; for this has not been done in a corner.

<sup>27</sup> Do you believe the prophets, King Agrippa? I know that you believe." <sup>28</sup> Agrippa said to Paul, "In a short time would you persuade me and make me a Christian?"

<sup>29</sup> Paul said, "I pray to God, that whether in a short or long time, not you only, but also all that hear me today, would be like me, but without these prison chains."

<sup>30</sup> Then the king stood up, and the governor, and Bernice also, and those who were sitting with them; <sup>31</sup> when they left the hall, they talked to one another and said, "This man does nothing worthy of death or of bonds."

<sup>32</sup> Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been freed if he had not appealed to Caesar."

## Chapter 27

<sup>1</sup> When it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they committed Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Augustan company of soldiers. <sup>2</sup> We boarded a ship from Adramyttium which was about to sail along the coast of Asia. So we went to sea. Aristarchus from Thessalonica in Macedonia went with us.

<sup>3</sup> The next day we landed at the city of Sidon, where Julius treated Paul kindly and allowed him to go to his friends to receive their care. <sup>4</sup> From there we went to sea and sailed under the lee of Cyprus, close to the island, because the winds were against us. <sup>5</sup> When we had sailed across the sea past Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra, a city of Lycia. <sup>6</sup> There, the centurion found a ship from Alexandria that was going to sail to Italy. He put us on it.

<sup>7</sup> When we had sailed slowly for many days and had finally arrived with difficulty near Cnidus and the wind no longer allowed us to go that way, we sailed along the sheltered side of Crete, opposite Salmone. <sup>8</sup> We sailed along the coast with difficulty, until we came to a certain place called Fair Havens, which is near the city of Lasea.

<sup>9</sup> We had now taken much time, the time of the Jewish fast also had passed, and it had now become dangerous to sail. So Paul warned them, <sup>10</sup> and said, "Men, I see that the voyage we are about to take will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives." <sup>11</sup> But the centurion was more persuaded by the master and by the owner of the ship than by those things that were spoken by Paul.

<sup>12</sup> Because the harbor was not easy to spend the winter in, most of the sailors advised to sail from there, and if by any means we could reach the city of Phoenix, to spend the winter there. Phoenix is a harbor in Crete, facing both southwest and northwest. <sup>13</sup> When a south wind began to blow gently, the sailors thought that they had what they needed. So they weighed anchor and sailed along Crete, close to the shore.

<sup>14</sup> But after a short time a wind of hurricane force, called the northeaster, began to beat down from the island. <sup>15</sup> When the ship was caught by the storm and could no longer head into the wind, we had to give way to the storm and were driven along by the wind. <sup>16</sup> We sailed along the lee of a small island called Cauda, and with difficulty we were able to secure the lifeboat.

<sup>17</sup> When they had hoisted the lifeboat up, they used its ropes to bind the hull of the ship. They were afraid that they should run upon the sandbars of Syrtis, so they lowered the sea anchor and were driven along. <sup>18</sup> We took such a violent battering by the storm that the next day they began throwing the cargo overboard.

<sup>19</sup> On the third day the sailors threw overboard the ship's equipment with their own hands. <sup>20</sup> When the sun and stars did not shine on us for many days, and the great storm still beat upon us, any more hope that we should be saved was abandoned.

<sup>21</sup> When they had gone long without food, then Paul stood up among the sailors and said, "Men, you should have listened to me, and not have set sail from Crete, so as to get this injury and loss. <sup>22</sup> Now I urge you to take courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only the loss of the ship.

<sup>23</sup> For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong, whom also I worship—his angel stood beside me <sup>24</sup> and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand before Caesar, and see, God in his kindness has given to you all those who are sailing with you.' <sup>25</sup> Therefore have courage, men! For I trust God that it will happen just as it was told to me. <sup>26</sup> But we must run aground upon some island."

<sup>27</sup> When the fourteenth night had come, as we were driven this way and that in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors thought that they were approaching some land. <sup>28</sup> They took soundings and found twenty fathoms; after a little while, they took more soundings and found fifteen fathoms. <sup>29</sup> They were afraid that we might crash on the rocks, so they lowered four anchors from the stern and prayed that morning would come soon.

<sup>30</sup> The sailors were looking for a way to abandon the ship and had lowered the lifeboat into the sea, and pretended that they would throw down the anchors from the bow. <sup>31</sup> But Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved." <sup>32</sup> Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the boat and let it drift away.

<sup>33</sup> When daylight was coming on, Paul encouraged them all to take some food. He said, "This day is the fourteenth day that you have been on constant guard and have gone without food—you have not eaten anything. <sup>34</sup> So I urge you to share some food, for this is necessary for you to survive. For not one of you will lose a single hair from his

head." <sup>35</sup> When he had said this, he took bread and he thanked God in the sight of everyone. Then he broke the bread and began to eat.

<sup>36</sup> Then they were all encouraged and they also took food. <sup>37</sup> We were 276 souls on the ship. <sup>38</sup> When they had eaten enough, they made the ship lighter by throwing out the wheat into the sea.

<sup>39</sup> When it was day, they did not recognize the land, but they saw a bay with a beach, and they discussed whether they could drive the ship onto it. <sup>40</sup> So they cut loose the anchors and left them in the sea. At the same time they loosed the ropes of the rudders and raised the foresail to the wind; and so they headed to the beach. <sup>41</sup> But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow was stuck there and remained unmovable, and the stern was broken up by the force of the waves.

<sup>42</sup> The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners so that none of them could swim away and escape. <sup>43</sup> But the centurion wanted to save Paul, so he stopped their plan; and he ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land. <sup>44</sup> Then the rest of the men should follow, some on planks, and some on other things from the ship. In this way it happened that all of us were brought safely to land.

## Chapter 28

<sup>1</sup> When we were brought safely through, we learned that the island was called Malta. <sup>2</sup> The native people offered to us not just ordinary kindness, but they lit a fire and welcomed us all because of the constant rain and cold.

<sup>3</sup> But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and placed them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened onto his hand. <sup>4</sup> When the native people saw the animal hanging from his hand, they said one to another, "This man certainly is a murderer who has been saved from the sea; Justice does not permit him to live."

<sup>5</sup> But then he shook the animal into the fire and suffered no harm. <sup>6</sup> They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they watched him for a long time and saw that nothing was wrong with him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

<sup>7</sup> Now in a nearby place there were lands belonging to the chief man of the island, a man named Publius. He welcomed us and kindly provided for us for three days. <sup>8</sup> It happened that the father of Publius was lying afflicted with a fever and dysentery. When Paul went to him, he prayed, placed his hands on him, and healed him. <sup>9</sup> After this happened, the rest of the people on the island who were sick also came and were healed. <sup>10</sup> The people also honored us with many honors. When we were preparing to sail, they gave us what we needed.

<sup>11</sup> After three months we set sail in a ship that had spent the winter at the island, a ship of Alexandria, with "the twin gods" as its figurehead. <sup>12</sup> After we landed at the city of Syracuse, we stayed there three days.

<sup>13</sup> From there we sailed and arrived at the city of Rhegium. After one day a south wind sprang up, and in two days we came to the city of Puteoli. <sup>14</sup> There we found some brothers and were invited to stay with them for seven days. In this way we came to Rome. <sup>15</sup> From there the brothers, after they heard about us, came to meet us as far as the Market of Appius and the Three Taverns. When Paul saw the brothers, he thanked God and took courage.

<sup>16</sup> When we entered Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself with the soldier who was guarding him.

<sup>17</sup> Then it came about that after three days Paul called together those men who were the leaders among the Jews. When they had come together, he said to them, "Brothers, although I have done nothing wrong against the people or the customs of our fathers, I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. <sup>18</sup> After they questioned me, they wished to set me free, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case.

<sup>19</sup> But when the Jews spoke against their desire, I was forced to appeal to Caesar, although it is not as if I were bringing any accusation against my nation. <sup>20</sup> For this reason, therefore, I called upon you that I might see you and speak with you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am now wearing this chain."

<sup>21</sup> Then they said to him, "We neither received letters from Judea about you, nor did any of the brothers come and report or say anything bad about you. <sup>22</sup> But we want to hear from you what you think about this sect, because it is known by us that it is spoken against everywhere."

<sup>23</sup> When they had appointed a day for him, more people came to him at his dwelling place. He presented the matter to them, and testified about the kingdom of God. He tried to persuade them about Jesus, both from the law of Moses and from the prophets, from morning until evening. <sup>24</sup> Some were convinced about the things which were said, while others did not believe.

<sup>25</sup> When they did not agree with one another, they left after Paul had spoken this one word: "The Holy Spirit spoke well through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers.

<sup>26</sup> He said, 'Go to this people and say,  
"Hearing you will hear, but you will never understand;  
seeing, you will see, but you will never know.

<sup>27</sup> For the heart of this people has become dull,  
and with their ears they hardly hear,  
and they have shut their eyes.  
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
and hear with their ears,  
and understand with their heart and turn again,  
and I would heal them.'"



<sup>28</sup> Therefore, you should know that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will listen." <sup>29</sup> <sup>1</sup>

<sup>30</sup> Paul lived for two whole years in his own rented house, and he welcomed all who came to him. <sup>31</sup> He was proclaiming the kingdom of God and was teaching the things about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness without being hindered.

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<sup>1</sup>Acts 28:29—Some ancient copies have verse 29: When he had said these things, the Jews went away. They were having a great dispute among themselves.

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## 1 Timothy

### Chapter 1

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior and Christ Jesus our hope,

<sup>2</sup> to Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

<sup>3</sup> As I urged you to do when I was leaving for Macedonia, remain in Ephesus so that you can command certain people not to teach a different doctrine. <sup>4</sup> Neither should they pay attention to stories and endless genealogies. These promote arguments rather than the plan of God, which is by faith.

<sup>5</sup> Now the goal of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from a sincere faith. <sup>6</sup> Some people have gone astray from these things and have turned to worthless talk. <sup>7</sup> They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not understand what they are saying or what they so confidently affirm. <sup>8</sup> But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully.

<sup>9</sup> We know this: that law is not set in place for a righteous man, but for lawless and rebellious people, for ungodly people and sinners, and for those who are unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers and mothers, for murderers, <sup>10</sup> for sexually immoral people, for those who practice homosexuality, for those who kidnap people for slaves, for liars, for false witnesses, and for whatever else is opposed to truthful teaching. <sup>11</sup> This instruction is according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

<sup>12</sup> I thank Christ Jesus our Lord. He strengthened me, for he considered me faithful, and he appointed me to service. <sup>13</sup> I was a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a violent man. But I received mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief. <sup>14</sup> And the grace of our Lord overflowed with the faith and the love that is in Christ Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> This message is reliable and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. <sup>16</sup> But for this reason I was given mercy, so that in me, the chief, Christ Jesus might demonstrate all patience. He did this as an example for those who would believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup> Now to the king of the ages, the immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>18</sup> I am placing this command before you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that you might fight the good fight, <sup>19</sup> holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have shipwrecked their faith. <sup>20</sup> Such are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered over to Satan so that they may be taught not to blaspheme.

Chapter 2

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, first of all, I urge that humble requests, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may live a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup> This is good and acceptable before God our Savior. <sup>4</sup> He desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

<sup>5</sup> For there is one God, and there is one mediator for God and man, the man Christ Jesus. <sup>6</sup> He gave himself as a ransom for all, as the testimony at the right time. <sup>7</sup> For this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

<sup>8</sup> Therefore, I want men in every place to pray and to lift up holy hands without anger or arguing. <sup>9</sup> In the same way, the women are to dress with proper clothing, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothing, <sup>10</sup> but with what is proper for women who proclaim godliness through good works.

<sup>11</sup> A woman should learn in silence and with all submission. <sup>12</sup> I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man, but to live in quietness.

<sup>13</sup> For Adam was formed first, then Eve. <sup>14</sup> Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. <sup>15</sup> However, she will be saved through bearing children, if they continue in faith and love and sanctification with self-control.

Chapter 3

<sup>1</sup> This saying is trustworthy: If someone desires to be an overseer, he desires a good work. <sup>2</sup> Therefore the overseer must have a good reputation. He must be a husband of one wife. He must be moderate, sensible, orderly, and hospitable. He must be able to teach. <sup>3</sup> He must not be addicted to wine, not a brawler but instead gentle, peaceful. He must not be a lover of money.

<sup>4</sup> He should manage his own household well, and he should make sure his children obey and respect him in every way. <sup>5</sup> For if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for a church of God?

<sup>6</sup> He should not be a new convert, so that he does not swell with pride and fall into condemnation as the devil. <sup>7</sup> He must also have a good reputation with those outside, so that he does not fall into disgrace and the trap of the devil.

<sup>8</sup> In the same way, deacons should be dignified, not double-talkers. They should not drink too much wine or be greedy. <sup>9</sup> They should keep the mystery of the faith with a clean conscience. <sup>10</sup> They should also be approved first, and then they should serve because they are blameless.

<sup>11</sup> In the same way, their wives should be dignified, not slanderers, but sober and faithful in all things. <sup>12</sup> Deacons must be husbands of one wife. They must manage well their children and household. <sup>13</sup> For those who have served well acquire for themselves a good standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

<sup>14</sup> As I write these things to you, I hope to come to you soon. <sup>15</sup> But if I delay, I am writing so that you may know how to conduct yourself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

<sup>16</sup> We all agree that the mystery of godliness is great:

"He was revealed in the flesh,  
was vindicated by the Spirit,  
was seen by angels,  
was proclaimed among nations,  
was believed on in the world,  
and was taken up in glory."

Chapter 4

<sup>1</sup> Now the Spirit clearly says that in later times some people will leave the faith and pay attention to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons <sup>2</sup> by the hypocrisy of liars, their own consciences having been seared.

<sup>3</sup> They will forbid people to marry and require them to abstain from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. <sup>4</sup> For every creation of God is good, and nothing received with thanksgiving is to be rejected. <sup>5</sup> For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

<sup>6</sup> If you place these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Jesus Christ. For you are being nourished by the words of faith and by the good teaching that you have followed. <sup>7</sup> But reject profane stories loved by old women. Instead, train yourself in godliness. <sup>8</sup> For bodily training is a little useful, but godliness is useful for all things. It holds promise for this life now and the life to come.

<sup>9</sup> This message is trustworthy and worthy of full acceptance. <sup>10</sup> For it is for this that we labor and struggle. For we hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, but especially of believers.

<sup>11</sup> Instruct the people and teach these things. <sup>12</sup> Let no one despise your youth, but be an example for the believers in speech, conduct, love, faithfulness, and purity. <sup>13</sup> Until I come, attend to the reading, to the exhortation, and to the teaching.

<sup>14</sup> Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the elders. <sup>15</sup> Care for these things. Be in them, so that your progress may be evident to all people. <sup>16</sup> Give careful attention to yourself and to the teaching. Continue in these things. For by doing so, you will save yourself and those who listen to you.

Chapter 5

<sup>1</sup> Do not rebuke an older man. Instead, exhort him as if he were a father. Exhort younger men as brothers, <sup>2</sup> older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, in all purity.

<sup>3</sup> Honor widows, the real widows. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show honor in their own household. Let them repay their parents, because this is pleasing to God.

<sup>5</sup> But she who is a real widow, who is left all alone, has set her hope in God and continues in offering earnest appeals and prayers night and day, <sup>6</sup> but the woman who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.

<sup>7</sup> Instruct them in these things as well, so that they may be blameless. <sup>8</sup> But if someone does not provide for his own relatives, especially for those of his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

<sup>9</sup> Let a woman be enrolled as a widow who is not younger than sixty years old, a wife of one husband. <sup>10</sup> She must have a reputation for doing good deeds, whether it is that she has cared for children, or has been hospitable to strangers, or has washed the feet of God's holy people, or has relieved the afflicted, or has been devoted to every good work.

<sup>11</sup> But as for younger widows, refuse to enroll them in the list. For when they give in to bodily desires against Christ, they want to marry. <sup>12</sup> In this way they incur condemnation because they set aside their first commitment.

<sup>13</sup> At the same time, they also learn to be lazy and they go around from house to house. They not only become lazy, but they also talk nonsense and are busybodies, saying things they should not say.

<sup>14</sup> I therefore want younger widows to marry, to bear children, to manage the household, and to give no opportunity for the enemy to slander us. <sup>15</sup> For some have already turned aside after Satan. <sup>16</sup> If any believing woman has widows, let her help them, so that the church will not be burdened, so that it might help the real widows.

<sup>17</sup> Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor with the word and in teaching. <sup>18</sup> For the scripture says, "You must not put a muzzle on an ox while it threshes the grain" and "The laborer is worthy of his wages."

<sup>19</sup> Do not receive an accusation against an elder unless there are two or three witnesses. <sup>20</sup> Correct sinners before all so that the rest may be afraid.

<sup>21</sup> I solemnly command you, before God and Christ Jesus and the chosen angels, to keep these commands without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism. <sup>22</sup> Place hands hastily on no one. Do not share in the sins of another person. You should keep yourself pure.

<sup>23</sup> You should no longer drink water. Instead, you should take a little wine for the stomach and your frequent sicknesses. <sup>24</sup> The sins of some people are openly known, and they go before them into judgment. But some sins follow later. <sup>25</sup> In the same way, some good works are openly known, but even the others cannot be hidden.

## Chapter 6

<sup>1</sup> Let all who are under the yoke as slaves regard their own masters as worthy of all honor. They should do this so that the name of God and the teaching might not be blasphemed. <sup>2</sup> The slaves who have believing masters should not show them disrespect because they are brothers. Instead, they should serve them all the more. For those who receive the benefit are believers and beloved. Teach and declare these things.

<sup>3</sup> If anyone teaches false doctrine and does not agree with the truthful words of our Lord Jesus Christ and with godly teaching, <sup>4</sup> he is proud and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and arguments about words that result in envy, strife, insults, evil suspicions, <sup>5</sup> and constant conflict between people who have morally corrupt minds. They have lost the truth and they think that godliness is a way to get more money. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Now godliness with contentment is great gain, <sup>7</sup> for we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. <sup>8</sup> Instead, let us be satisfied with food and clothing.

<sup>9</sup> Now those who desire to become wealthy fall into temptation, into a trap. They fall into many foolish and harmful desires, and into whatever else sinks people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people who desire it have been misled away from the faith and have pierced themselves with much grief.

<sup>11</sup> But you, man of God, flee from these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faithfulness, love, endurance, and gentleness. <sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the everlasting life to which you were called, and about which you gave the good confession before many witnesses.

<sup>13</sup> I give these orders to you before God, who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus, who testified before Pontius Pilate and made the good confession, <sup>14</sup> to keep the command without spot or blame until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>15</sup> God will reveal Christ's appearing at the right time—God, the blessed and only Sovereign, the King who reigns and the Lord who rules. <sup>16</sup> Only he has immortality and dwells in inapproachable light. No man sees him or is able to view him. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

<sup>17</sup> Instruct the rich in this world not to be proud and not to hope in riches, which are uncertain. Instead, they should hope in God. He offers to us all the true riches to enjoy. <sup>18</sup> Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, and to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup> In that way they will store up for themselves a good foundation for what is to come, so that they will take hold of real life.

<sup>20</sup> Timothy, protect what was given to you. Avoid the profane and empty talk and the conflicting ideas of what is falsely called knowledge. <sup>21</sup> Some men proclaim these things and so they have gone astray from the faith. May grace be with you.

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<sup>1</sup> Some old copies add the exhortation, Stay away from such things. But the best ancient copies do not.

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