

ACTS 10-18

Acts 10:1 Now, *there was* a certain man in Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion from the cohort [about 600 soldiers] called Italica,

Acts 10:2 A devout [godly] man and one who respects [fears] God [proselyte of the gate] together with his entire household, who continues to provide an abundance of charity to the people and who offer prayers to God continually.

Acts 10:3 He saw in a vision, clearly, sometime around the ninth hour [about 3:00 PM], an angel of the Lord, who came face-to-face to him and said to him: “Cornelius.”

Acts 10:4 And after he fixed his gaze upon him and as he was becoming afraid, he replied: “What is it, Sir?” Then he said to him: “Your prayers and your charitable giving have ascended [into heaven] as a memorial before God.”

Acts 10:5 So now, dispatch men to Joppa and send for [escort] Simon, one who is called [surnamed] Peter.

Acts 10:6 He will be lodging [entertained as a house-guest] with a man, Simon the tanner, whose house is near the sea.

Acts 10:7 And when the angel who had spoken to him departed, and he summoned two of his house slaves, as well as a devout [spiritually-minded] soldier who was devoted to him [engaged as a body guard, assigned to him as an aide-de-camp, attached to him like an adjutant or personal assistant],

Acts 10:8 And after he explained all these things to them, he sent them to Joppa.

Acts 10:9 Now on the following day, as they were traveling to their destination and were approaching the city, Peter went up [climbed the stairs] on the housetop to pray about the sixth hour,

Acts 10:10 And he became hungry and wished to eat. But while they were preparing their lunch, a trance [visionary experience] came over him,

Acts 10:11 And he saw heaven open up and an object was descending which was like a great [large] sheet [linen cloth] being lowered by four corners to the earth,

Acts 10:12 In which there were all manner of quadrupeds [four-footed animals] and reptiles of the earth and birds of the heaven.

Acts 10:13 Then a voice came face-to-face to him: “Peter, stand up, kill, and eat.”

Acts 10:14 But Peter replied: “Certainly not, Sir, because I have never eaten anything ceremonially unclean or religiously impure.”

Acts 10:15 The voice *spoke* again, for the second time, face-to-face to him: “What God has cleansed, you, stop declaring ceremonially unclean.”

Acts 10:16 And this occurred three times. Then the object was taken up into heaven.

Acts 10:17 Now, while Peter was perplexed within himself, concerning what the vision meant, behold, he saw the men who had been sent [dispatched] by Cornelius, standing before the gate [entrance] and inquiring at the house of Simon,

Acts 10:18 And they inquired by calling out whether Simon, the one called [surnamed] Peter, was lodged there.

Acts 10:19 And while Peter was pondering about the vision, the Spirit said to him: “Look, three men are searching for you.

Acts 10:20 Therefore, after standing up, climb down [the stairs to the roof] and proceed with them without hesitating, because I have sent them.”

Acts 10:21 Then Peter, after climbing down face-to-face to the men, said: “Behold, I am the man you are searching for. What *is* the reason for *your* being present here?”

Acts 10:22 And they replied: “Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous man who respects God and who is recommended by the entire Jewish nation [Israel], was directed by a holy angel to summon you to his house and to listen to your words.”

Acts 10:23 So, after inviting them in, he received them as guests [hospitality]. And on the next day, after rising, he departed with them. In addition, some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

Acts 10:24 Now, on the following day, they entered Caesarea and Cornelius was waiting for them with expectation, having called together his relatives and close friends.

Acts 10:25 And as Peter was about to enter and Cornelius was about to meet him, he respectfully welcomed *him* by prostrating at his feet.

Acts 10:26 But Peter raised him up, saying: “Stand up. I myself am also a man.”

Acts 10:27 And while he was conversing with him, he entered and found many [Gentile believers in Jesus Christ who were becoming Jewish proselytes] gathered together.

Acts 10:28 And he affirmed [confirmed their suspicions] face-to-face to them: “You all understand [are acquainted with the precept] that it is unlawful for a Jewish man to associate with [become joined together] or approach [make an agreement with] a Gentile, but God has shown [explained to] *me* that no man should be called common [ordinary] or unclean [ceremoniously impure].

Acts 10:29 Consequently, therefore, without raising any objection, and since you sent for *me*, I have come. However, I must ask, for what reason did you send for me?”

Acts 10:30 And Cornelius replied: “Four days ago, I was praying in my home about the ninth hour, and behold, a man stood before me in splendid and radiant clothing,

Acts 10:31 And confirmed: “Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your charitable contributions have been remembered [memorialized] in the sight of God.

Acts 10:32 Now, send delegates to Joppa and summon Simon to yourself, who is surnamed Peter. He is being entertained as a guest in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.

Acts 10:33 Therefore, I immediately sent for you and you have done well by making a public appearance. Consequently, we have all come together before God at this present time to hear about all the things that have been prescribed to you by the Lord.

Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “On the basis of authoritative truth [irrefutable evidence from the Lord], I am in the process of perceiving and comprehending that God is not one who shows partiality.

Acts 10:35 Instead, the one who fears and respects Him and carries out righteousness in every nation is acceptable to Him.

Acts 10:36 The message which He sent to the sons of Israel [Jews: The Church does not yet exist], proclaiming peace through Jesus Christ, this One is the Lord over all.

Acts 10:37 You know the [Messianic kingdom] message which was shared throughout the whole of Judea, beginning with Galilee, accompanied by the baptism which John preached,

Acts 10:38 How God anointed Him - Jesus from Nazareth - with the Holy Spirit and power, Who traveled from place to place, performing good works [as a divine benefactor] and curing all manner of those [types and categories, not every single person on earth] who were oppressed [exploited] by the Devil, because God was with Him.

Acts 10:39 Now we [Jewish believers, the remnant, new Israel] *are* witnesses to all these things which He did - both in the open country [suburbs] of the Jews and in Jerusalem [inner city] - Whom they murdered, indeed, by hanging upon a wooden cross.

Acts 10:40 God raised this One [Jesus] up on the third day and appointed Him to become objectively identifiable [manifest, spiritually visible as the Messiah],

Acts 10:41 Not to all people, but to witnesses who were appointed beforehand by God, to us [apostles and those in their inner circle of friends], everyone who ate with and drank with Him after He rose from the dead.

Acts 10:42 Then He instructed [challenged] us to preach to the people and to warn them *that* this is the One [the Messiah] who was appointed by God *to be* the judge of the living and the dead.

Acts 10:43 All the prophets testified about this One, that each one who believed in Him would receive forgiveness [remission] of sins through His Name.

Acts 10:44 While Peter was speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message [gospel, Word].

Acts 10:45 And the believers of the circumcision, as many as traveled and arrived with Peter, were astonished, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had also been poured out upon the Gentiles,

Acts 10:46 For they [Jews] heard them [Gentiles] speaking languages and magnifying God.

Acts 10:47 Then Peter asked with discernment: “Does anyone [accompanying Jews] have the ability [have a good reason] to forbid water so that these [Gentile believers] may not be baptized, who are of such a quality *as to* have received the Holy Spirit, even as we [Jews]?”

Acts 10:48 Then he ordered them [Gentile believers] to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards, they asked him to remain several days.

Acts 11:1 Now, the apostles and the brethren [Jews] who resided throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also received the Word of God.

Acts 11: 2 And when Peter went up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision [contentious, legalistic Jews] challenged [disputed] him face-to-face,

Acts 11:3 Accusing: “You went inside, face-to-face with uncircumcised men, socializing and eating with them.”

Acts 11:4 So, Peter began at the beginning, explaining to them in order, one event after another, declaring:

Acts 11:5 I myself was in the city of Joppa in the process of praying, when I saw in a trance a vision – a certain object like a great sheet [linen cloth] was descending, being lowered by four corners from heaven. As a matter of fact, it appeared before me,

Acts 11:6 And as I fixed my eyes upon it, I observed and saw four-footed animals of the earth [quadrupeds] and wild beasts and reptiles and birds from the sky.

Acts 11:7 Then I also heard a voice which said: “Peter, after you stand up, kill and start eating.”

Acts 11:8 But I replied: “Certainly not, Lord, because nothing common or unclean has ever entered into my mouth.”

Acts 11:9 But a second time a voice out of heaven answered with discernment: “The things *which* God has cleansed, you, stop calling *them* unclean.”

Acts 11:10 In fact, this happened three times, then everything was withdrawn back into heaven.

Acts 11:11 And behold, immediately three men [Gentiles, probably proselytes] arrived at the house in which we were residing, having been sent on a mission from Caesarea face-to-face to me.

Acts 11:12 And the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing. Furthermore, these six brethren [three Gentiles, three Jews] also came with us and we entered into the house of the man [Cornelius].

Acts 11:13 Then he reported to us how he saw an angel in his house, who stood and said: “Send *men* on a mission to Joppa and bring Simon back with *you*, the one surnamed [cognomen] Peter,

Acts 11:14 Who will speak words [kingdom gospel] face-to-face to you, by which you [as a proselyte] and your entire household [other proselytes] shall be saved [become part of *new* Israel].

Acts 11: 15 Then, when I myself began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them even as upon us at the beginning [at Pentecost].

Acts 11:16 Then I remembered the word of the Lord when He said: “John baptized by means of water, but on the other hand, you will be baptized by means of the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 11:17 Therefore, since God gave the gift to them equally, just as also to us [Jews] who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, then as for me, what power do I possess to withstand God?

Acts 11: 18 And after hearing these things, they were silent and began glorifying God, saying: “So then, God has also given repentance to the Gentiles resulting in life [as part of *new* Israel].”

Acts 11:19 However, to be sure, those [Jewish believers] who were scattered abroad [outside of Israel, but still in the commonwealth] due to the affliction which materialized because of Stephen [as an extension of his persecution unto death], traveled as far away as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, communicating the Word [that Jesus was the Messiah] to nobody except only Jews.

Acts 11:20 Now there were certain ones among them, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who when they arrived in Antioch, also began speaking face-to-face to the Hellenists [Greek-speaking Jews], preaching the good news [kingdom gospel] about the Lord Jesus.

Acts 11:21 And the hand of the Lord was with them [witnesses from Jerusalem]. Furthermore, a large number [of Hellenistic Jews], having believed, turned to the Lord.

Acts 11:22 Eventually, the word concerning them was heard by the ears of the assembly which was at Jerusalem and they dispatched Barnabas to travel as far away as Antioch,

Acts 11:23 Who, after making a public appearance and seeing the grace of God, rejoiced [inner happiness] and encouraged all [remnant of Jewish believers] with a conscientious and well-thought-out [in the mentality of their soul] plan to live in close fellowship with the Lord [as part of *new* Israel],

Acts 11:24 For he was a good man – full of the Holy Spirit and doctrine – and a large multitude [of Jewish believers] was added to the Lord.

Acts 11:25 Then he departed for Tarsus to find Saul.

Acts 11:26 And when he found *him*, he brought *him* to Antioch. And it came to pass *that* for an entire year they even came together with them [believing Jews] in an assembly and taught many people and the disciples [Jewish followers of Jesus Christ] in Antioch for the first time were nicknamed Christians [a derogatory label at that time].

Acts 11:27 Furthermore, in these days, prophets [men who brought a divine message to the people from the Twelve Apostles] came down to Antioch from Jerusalem,

Acts 11:28 And one of them, named Agabus, indicated through the Spirit *that* a great famine was about to come over the entire empire, which would begin during the time of Claudius.

Acts 11:29 Subsequently, each one of the disciples [Jewish believers], according to his financial ability, determined (each one of them) to send support to those brethren [Jewish believers, i.e., those who were also part of *new* Israel] who were residing in Judea,

Acts 11:30 Which [determination to send financial support] they in fact did by sending it face-to-face to the elders [probably heads of house-assemblies in Judea] by the hand [personal delivery by carriers] of Barnabas and Saul.

Chapter 12

Acts 12:1 Now, at this particular point in time, King Herod laid hands on some from the assembly [the believing remnant, *new* Israel] for the purpose of mistreating [torment or oppress] *them*.

Acts 12:2 In fact, he murdered Jacob [James, the son of Zebedee], the brother of John, with a sword.

Acts 12:3 Then, after seeing [observing their reaction] that it was agreeable to the Jews [unbelieving, *old* Israel], he proceeded to arrest Peter also. Now, the days of unleavened bread had begun.

Acts 12:4 Consequently, after arresting *him*, he put him away in jail, having handed *him* over to four squads of soldiers [16 men] for the purpose of guarding him, according to *his* plan to bring him before the people after the Passover.

Acts 12:5 Therefore, on the one hand, Peter was continually guarded in jail, but on the other hand, prayer was constantly made face-to-face to God by the assembly [remnant of believing Jews, *new* Israel] on his behalf.

Acts 12:6 Now, when Herod was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers that night, being securely bound by two chains. In addition, guards, in front of the entrance, were watching over the jail.

Acts 12:7 And behold, an angel of the Lord appeared and a light illuminated the jail. Then, tapping Peter on the shoulder, he began raising him up as he said: "Get up, quickly." And his chains fell off *his* hands.

Acts 12:8 Then the angel said face-to-face to him: "Get dressed and put on your sandals." And he did this [complied, did exactly what he was told without question]. Then he said to him: "Throw your cloak around *you* and follow me."

Acts 12:9 Consequently, after coming out, he followed him but could not comprehend that what was happening [jail break] by means of an angel was real, but rather was convinced he was seeing a vision.

Acts 12:10 Now, after they had exited past the first guard and second, they approached towards the iron gate which leads into the city, which opened for them of its own accord, and after exiting, they proceeded down one street and immediately the angel withdrew from him.

Acts 12:11 Then Peter, after re-establishing in himself [regaining composure, coming to his senses], said: "Now I know with certainty that the Lord dispatched His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from each expectation of the Jewish people.

Acts 12:12 And after coming to a firm realization [of what had just happened], he went to the home of Mary, the mother of John, the one surnamed Mark, where many were gathered together and praying.

Acts 12:13 And when he knocked on the gate of her courtyard, a female slave, named Rhoda, approached when she heard *it*.

Acts 12:14 And when she fully recognized the voice of Peter, she failed to open the gate due to a state of joy and excitement, but instead ran inside and reported that Peter was standing at the gate.

Acts 12:15 But they replied face-to-face to her: “You are out of your mind [raving mad].” But she insisted that it was so [stood her ground]. Then they suggested it must be his messenger [guardian angel].

Acts 12:16 Meanwhile, Peter continued knocking. And when they opened *the gate*, they saw him and were astonished.

Acts 12:17 Then, after signaling to them with his hand to keep quiet, he related to them in detail how the Lord brought him out of jail. Then he said: “Report these things to James and the brethren.” And after departing, he proceeded to another location.

Acts 12:18 Now, when daylight arrived, there was no small disturbance among the soldiers regarding what had happened to Peter.

Acts 12:19 Furthermore, after Herod searched for him, but did not find *him*, and questioned the guards, he commanded *that* they be led away [to trial, prison, or execution]. Subsequently, having come down from Judaea to Caesarea, he spent some time *there*.

Acts 12:20 Meanwhile, he was extremely angry with the Tyreans and Sidonians. However, with one mind and purpose, they approached face-to-face to him and, having befriended [ingratiated, allied themselves with] Blastus, the king’s chamberlain, they asked for peace, because their country received logistical support from the king [Herod].

Acts 12:21 Consequently, on a scheduled day, Herod, after clothing himself in royal apparel and sitting on the judgment seat, delivered a public address face-to-face to them.

Acts 12:22 And the crowd began to shout: “*He has* the voice of a god and not of man.”

Acts 12:23 But an angel of the Lord immediately struck him, because he did not give glory to God. Consequently, as he was being eaten by worms [intestinal tapeworms, sometimes a foot or two long], he died.

Acts 12:24 Subsequently [due to the king’s death], the word of God continued to increase [spreading the message] and would continue to be multiplied [gaining adherents].

Acts 12:25 Furthermore, Barnabas and Saul, after completing the financial distribution service [ministry to the poor] in Jerusalem, returned [to Antioch], and took along with them John, who was surnamed Mark.

Chapter 13

Acts 13:1 Now, there were prophets and teachers in Antioch at the assembly which was there – Specifically: Barnabas and Simeon, the one called Niger, and Lucius the Cyrenian, and Manaen, the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

Acts 13:2 Now, as they were ministering on behalf of their Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said: “Now, set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work which I have called them.”

Acts 13:3 Then, after fasting and praying and laying hands on them [Barnabas and Saul], they sent them away.

Acts 13:4 Consequently, therefore, after being sent forth by the Holy Spirit, they departed to Selucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

Acts 13:5 And when they arrived in Salamis, they began proclaiming the Word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. Furthermore, they included John as an assistant.

Acts 13:6 Now when they had passed through the entire island as far as Paphos, they discovered a particular man, a sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, who *had* the name Bar-jesus,

Acts 13:7 Who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man, having summoned Barnabas and Saul to himself, wanted to hear the Word of God.

Acts 13:8 But Elymas [a Persian mullah or deity], the sorcerer, for that *is* his name translated, opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

Acts 13:9 But Saul, who was also *called* Paul, filled by the Holy Spirit, fixing his eyes upon and looking intently at him,

Acts 13:10 Said: “O full of every type of deceit and treachery and every type of unscrupulousness and wickedness, son of the Devil, enemy of every type of righteousness, will you not stop perverting the honorable ways [teachings, conduct] of the Lord?”

Acts 13:11 So, now, behold, the Lord’s hand [anthropomorphism for divine judgment] is upon you and you will be blind, not seeing the sun for a long period of time.” And immediately fading eyesight began to fall upon him, then darkness. And as he tried to walk about, he had to ask for someone to lead him by the hand.

Acts 13:12 Then the proconsul, having seen that which had just occurred, believed, being amazed and overwhelmed at the teaching about the Lord.

Acts 13:13 Then, after setting sail from Pathos, they arrived with Paul in Perga [a city] of Pamphilia [a province]. However, John, having withdrawn from them, returned to Jerusalem.

Acts 13:14 Then, after passing through Perga, they arrived in Pisidian Antioch, and having entered into the synagogue on the day of the sabbath, they sat down.

Acts 13:15 And after a reading from the law [Hebrew] and the prophets [LXX], the rulers of the synagogue sent for them and said: “Men, brethren, if one of you [either Paul or Barnabas] has a word of exhortation for the people, you may speak.”

Acts 13:16 Then Paul, rising and motioning with *his* hand, said: “Men, Israelites [Jewish citizens], and those who fear God [proselytes of righteousness], listen to *me*.

Acts 13:17 The God of this people Israel selected our fathers [ancestors] and lifted up His people during their sojourn [alien residence] in the land of Egypt, and with a raised arm He brought them out of it,

Acts 13:18 And for about forty years, He put up with them [their ungrateful and rebellious behavior] in the wilderness,

Acts 13:19 Then, after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan [the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites], He gave the land to them as an inheritance,

Acts 13:20 For about four hundred and fifty years. Then, after these things, He provided them with judges until the time of Samuel the prophet.

Acts 13:21 From there, they requested a king, so God gave them Saul, the son of Kish, a man from the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years.

Acts 13:22 Then, before removing him, He raised up David for the purpose of *becoming* their king, concerning whom He also bore testimony, saying: ‘I found David, the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who will do all manner of things according to My desires.’

Acts 13:23 God brought to Israel from the lineage of this man (according to the promise) a deliverer [Savior], Jesus,

Acts 13:24 When John was proclaiming beforehand to every citizen [Jews only] of Israel (prior to His face-to-face entrance) [beginning of his ministry] a baptism accompanied by repentance.

Acts 13:25 And while John was fulfilling his course [ministry], he repeatedly asked: ‘Who do you suppose I am? I myself am not *He* [the Messiah]. But behold, He is coming after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to unloose.’

Acts 13:26 Men, brethren, sons of the family of Abraham and those among you who have profound respect for God, the message of this deliverance was sent to us,

Acts 13:27 Because those who live in Jerusalem including their rulers, who did not understand Him [comprehend who He was] or the declarations of the prophets which were read publicly during each sabbath, fulfilled these [declarations of the prophets] by condemning *Him*,

Acts 13:28 And though they found no legal evidence for death [supporting the death penalty], they asked Pilate to kill Him.

Acts 13:29 And when they fulfilled all the things which were written about Him and took *Him* down from the cross, they laid *Him* in a tomb.

Acts 13:30 But God raised Him out from the dead ones [resurrection].

Acts 13:31 He was seen on many days by those who had come up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now witnesses of Him face-to-face to the people.

Acts 13:32 But, as for us, we are bringing good news [Kingdom material] to you with reference to the promise which was made face-to-face to *our* fathers,

Acts 13:33 For God fulfilled the same [promise] to their descendants, when He raised up Jesus for us [the Jews who were alive at the very moment Paul was speaking], as it is indeed written in the second Psalm: ‘You are My Son. I Myself have begotten You today [the day Jesus was resurrected].’

Acts 13:34 And now that He [God the Father] has raised Him [Jesus] out from the dead ones, no longer destined to return to corruption, in this manner He has spoken: ‘I will give to you the holy things of David [promises encompassed by the royal Davidic Covenant], the dependable things.’

Acts 13:35 Furthermore, in another *psalm*, he [David] also said: ‘You [God the Father] will not allow Your Holy One [Jesus] to experience corruption [guaranteed bodily resurrection],’

Acts 13:36 To be sure, on the one hand, David, after he had served [administered over in an official capacity] his own generation according to the plan of God, passed away [metaphor for physical death] and was placed [buried] face-to-face with his ancestors and experienced corruption,

Acts 13:37 But on the other hand, He [Jesus] whom God raised, did not experience corruption [decomposition].

Acts 13:38 Therefore, let it be known to you, men, brethren, that through this One [Jesus], the forgiveness [remission] of sins is being proclaimed to you, and with reference to all the things you were not able through the law of Moses to be justified [pronounced and treated by God as righteous],

Acts 13:39 By this One [Jesus], each believing one will be justified [beginnings of the *gospel of the grace of God*].

Acts 13:40 Therefore, beware *that* that which was spoken by the prophets [great disaster] does not come upon *you*:

Acts 13:41 ‘Keep your eyes open, scoffers, and be amazed, since you may perish [divine discipline], because I Myself will accomplish a work in your days [destruction of Jerusalem and Israel in 70 A.D.], a work which you will not believe though someone repeatedly declares to you the details.’”

Acts 13:42 Now, as they [Paul and Barnabas] were departing, they [the proselytes in the synagogue] repeatedly pleaded with them [Paul and Barnabas] to continue speaking these words [more details on the same topic] to them on the next sabbath.

Acts 13:43 Then, after the synagogue was dismissed, many of the Jews and God-fearing proselytes [of the gate] followed Paul and Barnabas, who were speaking to them, trying to persuade them to continue abiding by the grace of God [change in protocol away from the law].

Acts 13:44 And when the sabbath arrived, almost the entire city [including proselytes] was gathered to hear the word of the Lord.

Acts 13:45 Consequently, the Jews, when they saw the crowd of people, became full of jealousy and spoke against [contradicted] the things which were proclaimed by Paul, saying abusive and derogatory things.

Acts 13:46 Then Paul and Barnabas, speaking fearlessly and courageously, said: “To you [Jewish leadership] it was necessary for the word of God to be spoken first, since now you have rejected it [Kingdom gospel which highlighted their Messiah] and have judged yourselves not worthy of eternal life. Behold, we are now turning to the Gentiles.

Acts 13:47 For the Lord commanded us as follows: ‘I have appointed [commissioned] you to be a light to the Gentiles in order that you *may bring* salvation to the end of the earth.’”

Acts 13:48 Subsequently, after hearing *this*, the Gentiles rejoiced and magnified the word of the Lord. Furthermore, as many as were ordained to eternal life [preordination and election come before faith], believed.

Acts 13:49 And the word of the Lord was carried [disseminated] throughout the entire region.

Acts 13:50 However, the Jews [primarily the rabbinical leadership of the synagogue] aroused and incited prominent, God-fearing women and the most important men of the city and instigated persecution against Paul and Barnabas and forcibly expelled them from their district.

Acts 13:51 Subsequently, after shaking off the dust from their feet [sign of indignation], they [Paul and Barnabas] came to Iconium.

Acts 13:52 And the adherents [converts, students under Paul's tutelage who believed in Christ] were continually filled with inner happiness and the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 14

Acts 14:1 Now it came to pass in Iconium, after they [Paul and Barnabas] entered the synagogue of the Jews together and began speaking in their customary fashion, that a large crowd of both Jews and Gentiles [proselytes] believed.

Acts 14:2 But the unbelieving Jews [old Israel] stirred-up and angered the minds [by lies, slander, and character assassination] of the Gentiles [unbelievers] against their brethren [new Israel].

Acts 14:3 However, they [Paul and Barnabas] remained for a long time, speaking fearlessly on behalf of the Lord, who testified to and confirmed the message about His grace by providing signs and wonders repeatedly performed through their hands.

Acts 14:4 But the population of the city was divided. In fact, on the one hand, some were with the Jews [old Israel, Judaism]; on the other hand, some *were* with the apostles [new Israel, Christianity].

Acts 14:5 Consequently, when a plot materialized between the Gentiles and the Jews [two groups of unbelievers] along with their rulers [politico-religious leaders], to treat *them* [Paul and Barnabas] arrogantly and spitefully and to stone them,

Acts 14:6 And they became aware of it, they fled and took refuge in the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra, and Derbe, including the surrounding area [ministered in the suburbs],

Acts 14:7 And they were engaged in proclaiming the good news there.

Acts 14:8 Now a particular man, powerless with reference to feet, crippled from his mother's womb [at birth], who had never walked, was residing in Lystra.

Acts 14:9 This man was listening to Paul speak, who, fixing his eyes on him and observing that he possessed the faith to be healed [primed by the Holy Spirit],

Acts 14:10 Said with a loud voice: "Stand up straight on your feet." And he leaped up and began walking around.

Acts 14:11 And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they raised their Lycaonian voice, saying: "The gods, after assuming the likeness of men, have come down face-to-face to us."

Acts 14:12 And they began calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, since he himself was the one who was leading the discourse.

Acts 14:13 Now the priest of Zeus, whose temple was located at the entrance to the city, having brought oxen and garlands to the gates, wanted to offer a sacrifice together with the crowds.

Acts 14:14 But the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, when they heard *about this* and ripped their clothes, rushed out into the crowd, shouting,

Acts 14:15 And saying: “Men, why are you doing these things? Indeed, we are men with the same nature as you, proclaiming the good news that you should turn from these futile [*mataiotes*: empty, inanimate] things, to God who is alive, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all the things in them,

Acts 14:16 Who in generations which have passed, permitted all the nations to proceed with their lifestyles [pagan way of living].

Acts 14:17 And yet He did not neglect to leave Himself a witness, in that He conferred benefits [logistical grace blessings] by providing rain from heaven and fruitful seasons to you and attempts to satisfy the mentality of your soul with spiritual nourishment and cheerfulness.

Acts 14:18 And by saying these things, they restrained the crowds with some difficulty with the result that they did not offer a sacrifice to them.

Acts 14:19 Then Jews [conspirators] from Antioch and Iconium arrived, and after persuading the crowds and stoning Paul, they dragged him out of the city, thinking he was dead.

Acts 14:20 However, after the disciples [students, adherents] surrounded him and he stood up, he entered into the city, and on the next day, he departed with Barnabas for Derbe.

Acts 14:21 Then, after proclaiming the good news to that city and after making a large number of adherents [converts, students who believed in Christ], they returned to Lystra and Iconium and Antioch,

Acts 14:22 For the purpose of strengthening the souls of the adherents and encouraging *them* to abide [think and live] by doctrine, and that it may be necessary for us to enter into the royal power of God [experiential sanctification through the filling of the Spirit] through outside pressures [trials & tribulations].

Acts 14:23 And after selecting overseers [elderly gentlemen] for them [new believers] according to each assembly, and having prayed along with fasting, they commended them on behalf of the Lord, on Whom they had believed.

Acts 14:24 Then, after passing through Pisidia, they appeared publicly in Pamphylia,

Acts 14:25 And after speaking in Perga, they went down to Attalia,

Acts 14:26 And from there, they sailed to Antioch, from which place they were originally commissioned by the grace of God for the work which they had completed [circuitous, evangelistic journey].

Acts 14:27 And when they arrived at their destination and had gathered the assembly [body of Christians] together, they reported on the many things that God had accomplished with them, especially that He opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

Acts 14:28 And they remained with the adherents [student disciples] not a short time.

Chapter 15

Acts 15:1 Now certain men, having arrived from Judea, began teaching the brethren, that if you were not circumcised after the custom of Moses, you were not able to be saved [become a Christian].

Acts 15:2 Consequently, because Paul and Barnabas had no small dispute and contentious debate face-to-face with them [legalistic Christians], they determined *that* Paul and Barnabas and certain others from among them [grace-oriented believers] should go up face-to-face to the apostles [the Twelve representing the tribes of Israel] and overseers [elders] in Jerusalem concerning this controversial question.

Acts 15:3 Therefore, on the one hand, having been assisted on their journey by the assembly, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles and establishing [providing the basis for] great inner happiness to all the brethren.

Acts 15:4 On the other hand, when they arrived in Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the assembly [new believers] and the apostles [the Twelve representing the tribes of Israel] and the overseers [elders], and they reported on the many things God had accomplished with them.

Acts 15:5 But certain ones rose up from the religious sect of the Pharisees who believed [in Jesus Christ], claiming that it was necessary to circumcise them [the Gentiles] and command *them* to keep the law of Moses [impose Jewish restrictions upon them].

Acts 15:6 So, the apostles and overseers gathered together [convened: Jerusalem Council] for the purpose of looking into this matter [circumcision and keeping the Mosaic Law].

Acts 15:7 And after there was considerable debate, Peter, as he stood up, said face-to-face to them: “Men, brethren, you understand [are familiar with the situation] that in former days, God made a choice [election before time] among us *that* by my mouth, Gentiles heard the gospel message and believed.

Acts 15:8 Furthermore, God, the Knower of hearts and minds, testified favorably towards them by giving *them* the Holy Spirit, just as also to us.

Acts 15:9 In fact, he made no distinction [none whatsoever] between both of us [Jerusalem Jews and commonwealth of Israel Jews] and them [Gentiles], since He purified [cleansed] the mentality of their souls by means of faith.

Acts 15:10 Now, therefore, why are you putting God on trial [testing and interrogating Him] by putting a yoke upon the neck of the adherents [student disciples], which neither our fathers nor we have been strong enough to carry [endure]?

Acts 15:11 Instead, we believe that we [Jews] have been saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ [without the law] in the same manner as even they.

Acts 15:12 Then the entire assembly [council] became silent and began listening to Barnabas and Paul as they reported in detail the great attesting miracles and wonders *which* God had performed among the Gentiles through them.

Acts 15:13 Then, after they became silent among themselves, James responded, saying: “Men, brethren, listen to me.

Acts 15:14 Simeon [Peter] reported in detail how God visited [divine oversight function] for the purpose of selecting [for salvation] out from the Gentiles a people for His name.

Acts 15:15 And the words of the prophets agree with this just as it stands written [Amos 9:11-12]:

Acts 15:16 ‘After these things [after the gathering out of the Gentiles] I will return and I will build again the tabernacle of David [during the Millennium] which has fallen down and has been torn apart. I will build it again and I will restore it,

Acts 15:17 In order that the remainder of mankind, even all manner of Gentiles, may seek out the Lord, upon those on whom My Name has been invoked,’ says the Lord Who created these things,

Acts 15:18 Intimately known [and selected] from eternity past.

Acts 15:19 Therefore, as for me, I conclude that we do not trouble [antagonize] those from among the Gentiles who are turning [conversion] to God.

Acts 15:20 However, for the purpose of instructing them, they should make it a practice [as a means of furthering social life with Jews] to abstain from the pollutions of idols, including [a short, itemized list] from illicit sex and from a strangled animal and from blood,

Acts 15:21 For Moses, who from past generations has been publicly proclaimed throughout the city, is preserved as he is being publicly read by someone in synagogues on every Sabbath [don’t eliminate the wisdom of the Mosaic Law entirely].”

Acts 15:22 Afterwards, it was decided by the apostles and overseers along with the entire assembly, to send men who were selected from among them to Antioch together with Paul and Barnabas: Judas, the one who was called Barsabbas, and Silas, men who were considered to be leaders [a supporting delegation respected among the people] among the brethren.

Acts 15:23 Writing through their hands [an introductory letter]: “The apostles, overseers, and brethren send greetings to the brethren among the Gentiles from Antioch and Syria and Cilicia.

Acts 15:24 Since we heard that certain men [not sanctioned] from among us [Jerusalem officials] appeared to have confused you with words [a contradictory message], upsetting [confusing] your souls, whom we did not give orders [delegate authority],

Acts 15:25 It seemed good to us, having arrived at a unanimous agreement [one accord, single purpose], to send men face-to-face to you who were selected in addition to our beloved, Barnabas and Paul,

Acts 15:26 Men who have jeopardized [hazarded] their lives on behalf of the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 15:27 We have sent, therefore, Judas and Silas, and they themselves will report the same things [that are in this letter] *to you* by mouth.

Acts 15:28 For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit as well as to us to place no excessive burden [reference to circumcision and the Mosaic Law] upon you except for these necessary things [to foster an ongoing, friendly social life with Jews]:

Acts 15:29 You must abstain from food offered to idols and blood from strangled animals and illicit sex, which if you keep yourselves, you will do fine. Farewell.”

Acts 15:30 So, then, after they were dismissed, they went down to Antioch and when they had gathered the assembly together, they delivered the letter.

Acts 15:31 And after reading it aloud in public, they became immensely happy due to the encouragement.

Acts 15:32 In addition, both Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, through considerable discourse, encouraged and strengthened the brethren.

Acts 15:33 Then, after staying for a time, they were sent off with peace [prayer for health and welfare] from the brethren to those [Jerusalem Council] who had sent them.

34 NA

Acts 15:35 Paul and Barnabas, however, remained with many others of a different kind [Gentiles] in Antioch, teaching [pastoring] and preaching [evangelizing] the word of the Lord.

Acts 15:36 Then, after several days, Paul said face-to-face to Barnabas: “Now, let us return *and* visit our brethren, according to each city [one-by-one] in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, *to see* how they are doing [status update].”

Acts 15:37 However, Barnabas wanted to take along John, who was also called Mark.

Acts 15:38 Now Paul began to consider his worthiness, because he had deserted them at Pamphylia and did not travel with them on the task, and as a result he would not take him along.

Acts 15:39 Consequently, a sharp disagreement arose with the result that they became separated from one another [split-up], and Barnabas, taking Mark along with him, set sail for Cyprus.

Acts 15:40 Meanwhile, Paul, after selecting Silas [a seasoned veteran], departed, having been committed to the grace of the Lord by the brethren.

Acts 15:41 Subsequently, he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the assemblies.

Chapter 16

Acts 16:1 Eventually, he also came to Derbe and Lystra, and behold, a certain student lived there named Timothy, a son of a Jewish woman, a believer, and a Greek father,

Acts 16:2 Who was well recommended by the brethren in Lystra and Iconium.

Acts 16:3 Paul wanted this one [Timothy in contrast to John Mark] to travel with him. However, before taking him along, he circumcised *him* because of the Jews who lived in those regions, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

Acts 16:4 Furthermore, as they walked through cities, they handed down the resolutions for them [Gentiles] to keep, which were proposed [for a continuing, strong social life] by the apostles and overseers in Jerusalem.

Acts 16:5 So then, the assemblies [in the Derbe and Lystra region] were made stronger with reference to doctrine and they increased in number daily.

Acts 16:6 Then they passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, being forbidden by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Word in Asia.

Acts 16:7 And after they appeared before the public at Mysia, they made an attempt to travel into Bithynia, but the Spirit from Jesus would not permit them.

Acts 16:8 Consequently, after passing through Mysia, they came down to Troas.

Acts 16:9 Then a vision appeared to Paul during the night. A man, who was a Macedonian, appeared and repeatedly invited him by saying: "Come over into Macedonia and help us."

Acts 16:10 Now after he saw the vision, we immediately began deliberations [planning the trip] to depart for Macedonia, united in the proposition that God had called us to preach the good news to them.

Acts 16:11 Subsequently, after setting sail from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothracia, and on the next day to Neapolis [a common sequential sea route],

Acts 16:12 And from there to Philippi, which was the chief city with reference to the district of Macedonia, a colony [of Rome]. As a matter of fact, we remained in this city, spending time there for several days.

Acts 16:13 Now on the day of the sabbaths [they met there once a week], we departed outside the gate along the river where we had planned to engage in prayer. And after sitting down, we began to speak to the women who had gathered together there.

Acts 16:14 As it turns out, a certain woman named Lydia, a business woman dealing in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who worshipped God, was listening, whose mentality of the soul the Lord had opened, was trying to pay close attention to the things which were being spoken by Paul.

Acts 16:15 Now after she and her household were baptized, she appealed *to us*, saying: "If you judge me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, abide *there*." In fact, she strongly urged us [hospitality].

Acts 16:16 And it came to pass that as we were proceeding to a place of prayer, a young slave girl who possessed a spirit of divination approached us, which brought her masters [handlers: perhaps a husband and wife] considerable business by fortune-telling.

Acts 16:17 This girl, making it a habit to follow Paul and us, cried out, saying repeatedly: "These men, who are proclaiming the way of salvation to you, are slaves of the Most High God."

Acts 16:18 Furthermore, she kept on doing this for many days. Then Paul, who became greatly annoyed, turned to the spirit and said: "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to depart from her," and it departed the same hour.

Acts 16:19 Now, when her masters saw that their prospect for business profit was gone, and they had seized Paul and Silas, they dragged *them* into the marketplace before the civic rulers,

Acts 16:20 And when they brought them to the magistrates, they said: "These men, being Jews, are agitating and causing confusion in our city.

Acts 16:21 In fact, they are proclaiming customs [ethics, habits] which are not permissible for us to accept favorably nor practice [as pagans], since we are Roman citizens."

Acts 16:22 And the crowd joined in the attack against them [Paul and Silas] and the magistrates [representatives of the corrupt judicial system], ripping their clothes, gave the command to beat *them* with rods.

Acts 16:23 Then the crowd, after inflicting many wounds upon them, cast *them* into jail, urging the guard of the jail [warden] to keep them secure,

Acts 16:24 Who, when he received such an order, cast them into the inner sanctum of the jail and secured [locked] their feet in wooden stocks.

Acts 16:25 Now around midnight, as Paul and Silas were praying, they began to sing praises to God. Moreover, the prisoners were listening to them.

Acts 16:26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the jail were shaking and tottering. Furthermore, all the doors were immediately opened and all the bonds [shackles, chains] were unfastened.

Acts 16:27 And the guardian of the jail [warden], having roused himself from sleep and seeing the doors of the jail opened, drawing out his sword as a result, was about to kill himself [Roman suicide], supposing that the prisoners had escaped.

Acts 16:28 But Paul shouted with a loud voice, saying: "Don't inflict any harm upon yourself, for we are all here."

Acts 16:29 Then, after asking for a light [torch], he rushed in and when he appeared, trembling, he fell down before Paul and Silas,

Acts 16:30 And after bringing them outside, he asked: "Sirs, what must I do in order to be saved?"

Acts 16:31 And they replied: "Believe on the Lord Jesus, you as well as [likewise] your household, and you will be saved."

Acts 16:32 Then they communicated the Word of the Lord to him, together with all those in his household.

Acts 16:33 And after taking them into his care in that same hour of the night, he cleaned their wounds and he himself, as well as everyone affiliated with him, immediately had their hands and feet washed.

Acts 16:34 And after bringing them into his house, he placed food before *them* and rejoiced, having come to a settled belief in God with his entire household.

Acts 16:35 Subsequently, when daylight arrived, the magistrates dispatched the lictors [policemen, executioners], issuing the following command: “Release these men.”

Acts 16:36 Then the guard of the jail reported these words face-to-face to Paul: “The magistrates have issued a commission [proclamation] that you should be discharged [set free, pardoned] now, therefore, since you are being released, you may proceed in peace.”

Acts 16:37 But Paul replied face-to-face to them: “After beating us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman men, they cast *us* into jail, and now they want to throw us out secretly. No, indeed, but rather let them come themselves. They must release us.”

Acts 16:38 Consequently, the lictors reported these words to the magistrates and they became afraid when they heard that they [Paul and Silas] were Romans.

Acts 16:39 And so, when they arrived, they appealed to them [attempted to conciliate, called out and pleaded with] and asked *them* to depart from the city.

Acts 16:40 In conclusion, after they departed from jail, they went face-to-face to Lydia and when they saw the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.

Chapter 17

Acts 17:1 Now after they traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica where there was a Jewish synagogue.

Acts 17:2 And Paul, according to his custom, entered face-to-face to them and for three sabbaths he led a discussion with them on the basis and source of the [prophetic] Scriptures,

Acts 17:3 Interpreting and demonstrating [pointing-out] that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and rise again from the dead and that this Man is Jesus Christ, whom I myself am proclaiming to you.

Acts 17:4 And certain ones out from them came to believe and became attached to Paul and Silas, particularly a large crowd of God-fearing Gentiles [proselytes of the gate] and not a few prominent women.

Acts 17:5 But the Jews [an influential group of legalistic Jews with criminal personalities], becoming filled with jealousy and having brought into their circle of acquaintances [gathered together a group of conspirators] certain evil-intentioned men [arrogant, spoiled-rotten, wicked] characterized by laziness and indolence [idlers, rabble], formed a mob and threw the city into disorder and chaos [riot, public disturbance]. Furthermore, after attacking [assault] the household of Jason [trespassing], they conducted a search for the purpose of perp-walking them [Paul, Silas and Timothy] in front of the people.

Acts 17:6 But when they did not find them [Paul and Silas], they began dragging out Jason and certain brethren before the civic magistrates, shouting: “These men, who are also turning the Roman world upside down [causing trouble, subversives, revolutionaries], are here, in this place,

Acts 17:7 Whom Jason was and still is entertaining as guests. Furthermore, all of them are practicing *things* contrary to Caesar's decrees, claiming there is a different king: Jesus."

Acts 17:8 And they stirred up [troubled, disturbed] the crowd and the civic magistrates when they heard these things.

Acts 17:9 Consequently, after obtaining a security bond [bail, extortion money] from Jason and the others, they released them.

Acts 17:10 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away at night to Berea, who, when they arrived, went into the synagogue of the Jews.

Acts 17:11 Now, these men were openminded [spiritual aristocracy] compared to those in Thessalonica, who were such that they welcomed the Word with all readiness, daily examining and investigating the Scriptures [diligent research], to determine if these things *were* so.

Acts 17:12 Consequently, many of them indeed came to believe, especially prominent [high social standing], Greek women, and not a few men.

Acts 17:13 But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the Word of God was being proclaimed by Paul in Berea, they also came before the public, stirring up [causing trouble, agitating] and confusing [disturbing] the crowds.

Acts 17:14 Consequently, at that time, the brethren immediately sent Paul away, proceeding towards *and* as far as the sea. Meanwhile, both Silas and Timothy remained there.

Acts 17:15 Then, those who were put in charge of [rescuing and guiding] Paul led *him* as far as Athens, and after receiving a directive [communication from Paul] for Silas and Timothy, that they should come face-to-face to him as soon as possible, they departed [left Athens for Berea].

Acts 17:16 Now, while Paul was waiting for them [Silas and Timothy] in Athens, his spirit became aroused and irritated in himself, as he observed with an analytical and judicious eye the city which was full of images and idols [pagan culture].

Acts 17:17 Consequently, to be sure, he began a discussion [reasoning, debating] in the synagogue of the Jews, especially with the God-fearers [proselytes of the gate], and in the marketplace throughout each day, face-to-face with those who happened to be there.

Acts 17:18 Furthermore, certain men, particularly from the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers, repeatedly quarreled with him and some of them said: "What is this ragpicker [seed picker] trying to assert?" Others, however, claimed that he believed in strange divinities [demons, gods], because he was a preacher that was continuously preaching Jesus and the resurrection.

Acts 17:19 And after grabbing him, they led *him* to the Aereopagus [famous Athenian religious court] and asked: "May we come to know what this new teaching *is* which you have been expounding,

Acts 17:20 For you are conveying astonishing things to our ears? Therefore, we want to understand what these things are meant to be."

Acts 17:21 Now, all Athenians (and the foreigners who were visiting there) spent their leisure time on the next meaningless topic, discussing or listening to the latest thing.

Acts 17:22 Then Paul, after standing up in the middle of the Aereopagus, said: “Men, Athenians, I have observed *that* in all respects, you *are* a comparatively religious people [it may be paganism, but it’s something].

Acts 17:23 For as I passed through [the streets of Athens] and carefully observed your objects of worship, I also discovered an altar, upon which was written: ‘To an Unknown God.’ Accordingly, that which you are ignorantly worshipping, this One [Jesus Christ is the Unknown God] I myself am proclaiming.

Acts 17:24 The God who created the universe and all the things in it, this One who currently exists as Lord over heaven and earth, does not reside in temples made by human hands [omnipresence],

Acts 17:25 Neither is He served by human hands as though He needs anything, since He Himself has given life and breath and all things to all people.

Acts 17:26 Furthermore, He created from one person [Adam] every nation of mankind for the purpose of living on the entire surface of the earth, having fixed and determined [well defined] the times [ages] and borders [fixed boundaries] of their habitation, which He previously prescribed [appointed],

Acts 17:27 So that they might seek God, assuming as a consequence [of His logistical grace benefits], that they should indeed reach out and find Him, since He is always present and available, indeed, not far away from each one of us,

Acts 17:28 For in Him we keep on functioning [living life] and are being motivated [moving, aroused by our Creator] and continue to exist [being, in a human body], as some of your own poets have also similarly said: ‘For we are also His offspring [descendants].’

Acts 17:29 Therefore, since we are the offspring [descendants] of God, we ought never [are not indebted or obligated] to think that the divine Being has materialistic qualities like gold or silver or stone carved by the artistic skill and creative idea of man.

Acts 17:30 However, although God has historically [as has been the case in pre-Christian times] overlooked the times of ignorance, now He commands all men everywhere to repent [change their minds],

Acts 17:31 In view of the fact that He [God the Father] has established a day in which He [God the Father] is destined to judge the world’s inhabitants with righteousness by means of the Man [Jesus Christ] whom He [God the Father] appointed, after providing a guarantee to all that He [God the Father] raised [resurrected] Him [Jesus Christ] out from the dead ones.”

Acts 17:32 Now, after hearing of a resurrection out from the dead ones, on the one hand, some mocked and sneered, but on the other hand, others said: “We will listen to you about this yet again.”

Acts 17:33 Without further ado, Paul departed out from their midst.

Acts 17:34 But certain men, becoming followers of him, believed, among whom, namely, *was* Dionysius, a judge of the Areopagus, and a woman named Damaris, and others together with them.

Chapter 18

Acts 18:1 After these things [events in Athens], having been escorted out of Athens, he came to Corinth.

Acts 18:2 And after locating a certain Jew named Aquila, originating from the people of Pontus (and his wife Priscilla), who came from Italy because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome, he approached them.

Acts 18:3 And since they practiced the same trade [occupation], he lived with and worked for them, for they were skilled tentmakers [Cilician goat-hair tents].

Acts 18:4 Meanwhile, he conducted theological discussions in the synagogue during each sabbath and continued to persuade [tried repeatedly to convince them that his gospel was true] Jews and Greeks.

Acts 18:5 Then, when both Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul became completely absorbed and occupied with the Word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah.

Acts 18:6 But when they opposed and slandered *him*, he shook off *his* clothing *and* said face-to-face to them: “Your blood *is* upon your own head [I’ve done all I can do to change your mind]. I myself *am* ceremonially and morally clean. From now on, I will go to the Gentiles.”

Acts 18:7 Consequently, after moving out from there [the synagogue], he entered the house of a certain man named Titus Justus, who worshipped God [proselyte of the gate], whose house was next door to the synagogue.

Acts 18:8 Subsequently, Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord along with his entire household. Also, many of the Corinthians [Jews], after hearing [reiteration of the Kingdom gospel after Paul was no longer allowed in the synagogue], were believing and being baptized.

Acts 18:9 Then the Lord said [as a matter of encouragement] to Paul during the night by a vision: “Stop being afraid, but continue communicating; in fact, don’t ever stop speaking,

Acts 18:10 Because I myself am with you and no one will lay a hand on you for the purpose of harming you, for there is a large number of My people [the elect] in this city.”

Acts 18:11 And he settled *there* for a year and six months, teaching the Word of God among them.

Acts 18:12 Now, when Gallio [brother of Seneca, Nero’s Stoic tutor] was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews rose up [conspired] against Paul with one accord and brought him to the judicial bench [tribunal],

Acts 18:13 And said: “This person is persuading men to worship God in a manner contrary to the law [Judaism].”

Acts 18:14 But when Paul was about to open his mouth [in self-defense], Gallio said face-to-face to the Jews: “If it was a misdeed [accidental wrong-doing, misdemeanor] or an evil-intentioned [premeditated] criminal matter [felony], Oh Jews, then I would patiently listen to your complaint.

Acts 18:15 But since it is a bundle of controversial issues [theological questions] about a word [*anastasis*: resurrection] and names [Jesus, Messiah] and *is* related to your law [Mosaic], you yourselves should see to *it*. I myself do not wish to be a judge over these things [religious disagreements].”

Acts 18:16 Then he drove them away from his judicial bench.

Acts 18:17 Consequently, after they all seized Sosthenes, the chief ruler of the synagogue, they began beating *him* in front of the judicial bench. Furthermore, none of these things [seizing, beating] concerned Gallio.

Acts 18:18 Now Paul, after remaining *there* yet a considerable number of days for the purpose of saying farewell to the brethren, sailed away to Syria, and with him *was* Priscilla and Aquila. After getting a severe haircut [shaved his head Roman-style similar to modern-day Marines, sheared like a sheep] in Cenchrea, for he made a vow,

Acts 18:19 Then he came to Ephesus and left them there while he entered into the synagogue. He conducted discussions with the Jews,

Acts 18:20 But when they asked *him* to remain for a longer time, he did not consent,

Acts 18:21 But after bidding them farewell and saying: “I will return face-to-face to you once again, if God wishes,” he set sail from Ephesus.

Acts 18:22 Then, after arriving in Caesarea, and going up and greeting the assembly, he went down to Antioch.

Acts 18:23 Then, after spending some time *there*, he departed, going through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, one after the other, strengthening all the students.

Acts 18:24 Now a certain Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian native, an educated man, arrived in Ephesus, who was strong in the scriptures [Old Testament].

Acts 18:25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord [how to prepare for the Messianic Kingdom], and with a zealous spirit, was carefully speaking and teaching things concerning Jesus, although only being acquainted with John’s baptism [still preaching the Kingdom gospel].

Acts 18:26 Accordingly, he began to speak freely and boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and carefully explained [provided a timely update] to him the way [grace gospel] of God.

Acts 18:27 And when he wanted to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, encouraging the students to receive him, who, when he arrived, greatly assisted those who had believed by grace [article emphasizes *the* special grace of God imparted].

Acts 18:28 For he made it a practice to vigorously and completely refute the Jews in public, demonstrating [pointing out] by means of the Scriptures that the Messiah was and continues to be Jesus.