

Acts

¹ I wrote the previous book, Theophilus, concerning all the things which Jesus began both to do and teach, ²until the day that he was taken up, after he had given orders through the Holy Spirit to his chosen apostles, ³to whom he presented himself alive after his suffering by many convincing proofs, being seen by them for forty days, and speaking the things about God's kingdom. ⁴He assembled with them, and commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Father's promise, which "you heard from me, ⁵that John indeed immersed in water, but in a few days you will be immersed in the Holy Spirit."

⁶Those who gathered with him asked him, "Lord, are you restoring Israel's kingdom at this time?" ⁷He said to them,

It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has placed in his own authority, ⁸but when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will receive power, and you will be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

⁹He said these things, and while they were looking, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him up, out of their sight. ¹⁰As they were staring into heaven, while he was going away, behold! Two men in white clothing stood by them, ¹¹and said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing and peering into heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven."

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olives, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey. ¹³They came in, and went to the upstairs room, where they were staying: Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew,

James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴All these were devoting themselves unitedly in prayer with the women, and with Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

¹⁵And in those days Peter stood up among the brothers (about one hundred and twenty), and said,

¹⁶Men, brothers, the scripture must be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through the mouth of David predicted about Judas (who was the leader for those who seized Jesus), ¹⁷because he was numbered among us, and received a place in this service. ¹⁸He acquired a field with the wages of wrongdoing, and falling headfirst, he burst open in the middle, and all his entrails were poured out. [¹⁹This has become known to all who live in Jerusalem, and that field is called in their language Akeldama, that is, "The Field of Blood."] ²⁰It is written in the book of Psalms, "Let his house be empty, and let no one live in it," and "Let another take his overseership." ²¹It is therefore necessary to choose one of those who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us ²²(beginning from the immersion of John until the day that he was taken up from us), to become a witness with us of his resurrection.

²³They put two forward, Joseph (called Barsabbas, who was surnamed Justus) and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed, and said,

You, Lord, knower of all hearts, show clearly of these two the one whom you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this service and apostleship from which Judas turned away to go to his own place.

²⁶They gave lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was added to the eleven apostles.

2 The day of Pentecost came, and they were all together at the same place. ²Suddenly a sound came from heaven as of a rushing, violent wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

³Divided tongues as of fire appeared to them, and rested on each one of them. ⁴All were filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit was inspiring them.

⁵Now Jews were dwelling in Jerusalem, devout men, from every nation under heaven. ⁶This sound was heard, and the multitude came together, and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷They were amazed and were wondering, saying,

Behold! Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? ⁸How do we hear, each one of us in his own language, in which we were born? ⁹Parthians and Medes and Elamites and those who live in Mesopotamia, and in Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰and in Phrygia and Pamphylia, in Egypt and portions of Libya about Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and Proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them speaking in our languages the mighty acts of God!

¹²They were all amazed and greatly perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others were sneering, saying, "They are full of new wine." ¹⁴Peter stood up with the eleven, raised his voice, and declared to them,

Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ears to my words: ¹⁵these men are not drunk as you imagine, for it is nine o'clock; ¹⁶but this is what has been spoken through Joel the prophet, ¹⁷"It shall be in the last days, says God, I will pour out of my Spirit on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. Your young men shall see appearances, and your older men shall have visions in dreams. ¹⁸In those days I will pour out of my Spirit on my bondservants and on my bondmaidens." And they shall prophesy.

¹⁹"I will give wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth below, blood and fire and clouds of smoke. ²⁰The sun shall be

turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes. ²¹Everyone who calls on the Lord's name shall be saved."

²²Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus the Nazarene has been attested by God through miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him among you, as you yourselves know. ²³The One who was delivered up by God's decision and foreknowledge, you have nailed to the cross and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴God brought the pains of his death to an end, and raised him up, because death could not hold him.

²⁵David spoke about him, "I foresaw the Lord always before me, because he is at my right hand, that I should not be moved. ²⁶My heart rejoiced and my tongue was glad; and my flesh also will yet live in hope, ²⁷for you will not abandon my corpse in the grave, neither will you allow your Holy One to experience decay. ²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life; you will fill me with joy with your presence."

²⁹Men, brothers, it is necessary to speak boldly to you of the patriarch David, that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰He was a prophet, and he knew that God had sworn to him to set one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹He foresaw Christ's resurrection and spoke of it, that he was not left in the grave, neither did his flesh experience decay.

³²God raised up Jesus, of whom we all are witnesses. ³³He has been exalted to God's right hand, and has received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, and he has poured out what you see and hear. ³⁴David did not go to heaven, but he himself said, "The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand, ³⁵until I make your enemies your footstool.'" ³⁶Therefore let all the house of Israel know certainly that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.

³⁷They heard this, and were stabbed in their heart, and cried out to Peter and the other apostles, "Men, brothers, what should we do?"
³⁸Peter said to them,

Change your hearts, and let each one of you be immersed in the name of Jesus Christ, into forgiveness of your sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹The promise is to you and to your children and to all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God may call.

⁴⁰Then he testified and exhorted them with many other words, saying, "Be saved from this crooked generation." ⁴¹The ones who gladly accepted his message were immersed, and about three thousand souls were added in that day. ⁴²They were holding fast to the teaching of the apostles and to the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers.

⁴³Fear came on every soul, and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together, and had all things in common. ⁴⁵They sold their possessions and goods, and distributed them to all, as anyone needed. ⁴⁶They spent much time everyday in the temple with one mind, and broke bread from house to house, sharing food in gladness and singleness of heart, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. The Lord was adding together daily the ones who were being saved.

3 Now at the three o'clock hour of prayer, Peter and John were going up to the temple. ²A certain man who was lame from birth was being carried, whom they were placing daily at the temple gate called Beautiful, to ask a gift from those going into the temple. ³When he saw Peter and John were about to enter the temple, he started begging them for a gift.

⁴Peter, with John, looked at him intently, and said, "Look at us."
⁵He was giving close attention to them, expecting to receive something

from them. ⁶But Peter said, "I do not have silver and gold, but I give you what I have: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk." ⁷And he took him by the right hand and raised him, and instantly his feet and ankles were strengthened. ⁸He jumped and stood and started walking, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹And all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰and they recognized that it was he who had been sitting for a gift at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

¹¹While he was holding to Peter and John, all the people ran to them on Solomon's porch and were utterly astonished. ¹²Peter saw the people, and said to them,

Men, Israelites, why are you marveling at this, or why are you looking intently at us, as if by our own power or godliness we had made him to walk? ¹³The God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied before Pontius Pilate, when he wanted to release him. ¹⁴You denied the Holy and Righteous One, and you asked that a murderer be granted to you. ¹⁵You killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of whom we are witnesses.

¹⁶Because of faith in his name, his name has made this man strong whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which is through his name has given him this soundness before all of you. ¹⁷And now, brothers, I know that you and your rulers did this unknowingly, ¹⁸and in this way God fulfilled the things which he announced long ago by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ should suffer.

¹⁹Change your hearts therefore, and turn, so that your sins may be wiped away, ²⁰that seasons of refreshment may come from the face of the Lord, and that he may send to you the One who has been appointed for you, Christ Jesus, ²¹whom heaven must hold until the times of the restoration of all things, of which God spoke

from the beginning through the mouth of his holy prophets.

²²Moses indeed said, "The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to whatever he says to you. ²³And every soul who does not listen to that Prophet shall be destroyed from the people." ²⁴All the prophets who have spoken – from Samuel and his successors – proclaimed these days. ²⁵You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, "And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed." ²⁶God first raised up his Servant for you, and sent him to you, blessing each one of you who turns from your evils.

4 While they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³They laid hands on them, and put them in prison until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who had heard the message believed, and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.

⁵On the next day, their rulers and the elders and the scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶and the high priest Annas, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and those of the family of the high priest. ⁷They set them in their midst, and were asking, "By whose power or by whose name have you done this?" ⁸Then Peter, who was filled with the Holy Spirit, answered,

Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we today are being examined about an act of kindness for this helpless man, by what means he has been made whole, ¹⁰then let it be known to every one of you, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ, the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by him this man stands before you healthy.

¹¹This is the stone which has been counted as nothing by you builders, which has become the keystone, ¹²and salvation is in no other, for neither is there any other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

¹³They observed the boldness of Peter and John, and realized that they were uneducated and untrained men, and marveled, recognizing that they had been with Jesus. ¹⁴And since they saw the man standing with them who had been healed, they had nothing to say. ¹⁵Then they ordered them to go outside of the council, and conferred with one another, ¹⁶saying,

What shall we do to these men? The extraordinary sign done by them is known to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷But that it be not spread more among the people, let us warn them not to speak anymore in this name to anyone.

¹⁸They called them, and commanded that under no condition were they to teach or to speak in Jesus' name. ¹⁹Peter and John replied, "You decide if it is right before God to listen to you rather than God, ²⁰for we can only speak what we have seen and heard," ²¹Again they warned them, and released them, since they did not find a way to punish them on account of the people, for everyone was praising God because of what had happened. ²²The man on whom this miraculous healing had been done was more than forty years old.

²³They were released, and went to their own, and told what the chief priests and the elders had said. ²⁴When they heard this, with one mind they lifted their voice to God, and prayed,

Master, who made heaven and earth and the sea and all things in them, ²⁵who said (through the Holy Spirit by the mouth of David, our father and your servant), "Why have the nations become furious, and the peoples plotted senseless things? ²⁶The

kings of the earth have appeared, and the rulers have come together, against the Lord and his Christ."

²⁷Indeed, they have come together in this city against your holy Servant Jesus, whom you anointed, even Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the nations and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸to do the things that your hand and will determined beforehand would happen. ²⁹And now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to your slaves to speak your message with all boldness, ³⁰while you stretch out your hand for healings and signs and wonders through the name of your holy Servant Jesus.

³¹After they prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken; all were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke God's message boldly.

³²Now those who believed were united in heart and soul, and no one said that any of his possessions was his own, but all things were common to them. ³³The apostles continued to testify with great power of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was on all of them.

³⁴No one among them lacked anything, for whoever owned lands or houses sold them, and brought the money for the things sold, ³⁵and laid it at the apostles' feet. Then the money was distributed to each one according to his need. ³⁶Joseph, whom the apostles called Barnabas (by interpretation, "The Son of Exhortation"), a Levite and a Cyprian by race, ³⁷had a field, and sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

5 A certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a piece of property, ²and kept back part of the price (his wife also was aware of it), and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. ³Then Peter said,

Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart that you should lie to

the Holy Spirit, and keep back part of the price of the land?

⁴Before you sold it, was it not yours? After you sold it, was it not at your disposal? Why have you contrived this scheme in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God.

⁵Ananias heard these words, and fell down and died, and great fear came on all who heard about it. ⁶The young men arose, wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him.

⁷About three hours later, his wife walked in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸Peter asked her, "Tell me, were you paid this much for the land?" She replied, "Yes, this much." ⁹Peter said to her, "Why did you agree to put the Lord's Spirit to the test? Behold! The feet of those who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." ¹⁰She instantly fell down at his feet and died; and the young men came in and found her dead, and carried her out, and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹And great fear came on all the called-out people, and on everyone who heard these things.

¹²Many signs and wonders were done through the hands of the apostles among the people. They were all together in Solomon's porch. ¹³None of the others dared to unite with them, but the people esteemed them highly. ¹⁴Now the number of those who believed continued to grow, with multitudes both of men and women being added. ¹⁵The sick were being carried into the streets on small beds and stretchers, so that Peter's shadow might fall on anyone of them when he passed by. ¹⁶A multitude was gathering from the cities around Jerusalem, carrying the sick and those who were troubled with unclean spirits, and they were all being cured.

¹⁷But the high priest stood up, and all those with him (who were of the sect of the Sadducees), and were filled with jealousy. ¹⁸They arrested the apostles, and put them into the public prison. ¹⁹However, during the night, the Lord's angel opened the prison doors, led them out, and said to them, ²⁰"Go and stand and speak in the temple to the people all the

words of this life." ²¹After they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak, and began teaching.

Then the high priest and those with him came, and called together the council, that is, all the council of the elders of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. ²²But the officers who went did not find them in the prison; they returned and reported, ²³saying, "We found the prison absolutely secure, and the guards were standing at the doors; but when we opened the doors, we found no one inside." ²⁴As they heard these words, both the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were extremely perplexed about what this might mean.

²⁵Then a certain one arrived, and announced to them, "Behold! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people." ²⁶The captain then left with the officers, and began leading them, but not with force, for they were afraid that the people might stone them. ²⁷They brought them and made them to stand before the council, and the high priest asked them, ²⁸saying,

Did we not give you strict orders not to teach in this name? But behold! You have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and you wish to bring this man's blood upon us.

²⁹Peter and the apostles replied,

It is necessary to obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered, having hanged him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him, the Prince and Savior, to his right hand, to give a change of heart to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses of these sayings, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.

³³Those who heard these things were furious, and decided to kill them.

³⁴A certain Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was highly respected by all the people, stood up in the-council, and

commanded that the men be put outside briefly. ³⁵Then he said to them,

Men, Israelites, be careful about what you are going to do to these men, ³⁶for before these days, Theudas stood up, saying that he was somebody, to whom about four hundred men joined themselves. He was killed, and all, as many as were obeying him, were dispersed, and they came to nothing. ³⁷After him Judas the Galilean stood up in the days of the census, and incited his followers to revolt. He also died, and all of the ones who had obeyed him were scattered.

³⁸I now tell you, stay away from these men, and dismiss them, because if this movement or undertaking is of human origin, it will come to nothing, ³⁹but if it is from God, you cannot stop them, lest you be found fighting God.

He persuaded them, ⁴⁰and they summoned and flogged the apostles, and commanded them not to speak in Jesus' name, and then released them.

⁴¹They rejoiced as they went away from the presence of the council, because they had been counted worthy to suffer for the sake of the name. ⁴²Every day in the temple, and from house to house, they kept on teaching and spreading the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

6 In those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Grecian Jews complained to the Hebrews, that their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution. ²The twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples, and said,

It is not right for us to forsake the message of God to serve tables. ³Brothers, choose from yourselves seven reputable men who are full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will set over this need; ⁴and we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the message.

⁵The proposal pleased all the multitude, and they chose Stephen, a

man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip and Prochorus and Nicanor and Timon and Parmenas and Nicholas, a proselyte from Antioch. ⁶They set these before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷God's message continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem was multiplying, and a large crowd of the priests was obedient to the faith.

⁸Now Stephen, who was full of grace and power, was doing wonders and great signs among the people. ⁹However, certain ones stood up and started arguing with Stephen (they were of the synagogue called Freedmen, and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia, and from Asia), ¹⁰but they could not stand against his wisdom and the Spirit by whom he was speaking. ¹¹Then they bribed men to say, "We have heard him speaking blasphemous words against Moses and God." ¹²They aroused the people and the elders and the scribes, and came upon him, and seized him, and brought him before the council. ¹³They set up false witnesses, saying,

This man unceasingly speaks against this holy place and the law, ¹⁴for we have heard him saying that this Jesus, the Nazarene, will destroy this place and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us.

¹⁵All those sitting in the council looked at him intently, and saw his face as the face of an angel.

7 The high priest asked, "Are these things so?" ²He replied,

Men, brothers and fathers, listen. The glorious God appeared to our father Abraham in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, ³and said to him, "Go out from your land, and from your relatives, and come into the land which I will show you." ⁴Then he left the land of the Chaldeans, and lived in Haran. From there, God made

him move – after his father's death – to this land where you now live.

⁵However, he gave him no inheritance in it (not even enough space for a foot); but promised to give it to him (even when he had no child) and to his offspring after him. ⁶God spoke in this manner, "His offspring will be foreigners in a strange land, and they will enslave them, and mistreat them for four hundred years. ⁷I will judge the nation that enslaves them," God said, "and after these things, they will come out and serve me in this place."

⁸God gave him a covenant of circumcision, and Abraham fathered Isaac, and circumcised him on the eighth day; and Isaac fathered Jacob, and Jacob the twelve patriarchs. ⁹When the patriarchs became jealous, they sold Joseph into Egypt; but God was with him, ¹⁰and delivered him from all his sufferings, and gave him grace and wisdom before Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, who set him to rule over Egypt and all his house.

¹¹A famine and intense suffering came on the whole of Egypt and Canaan, and our fathers could not find food. ¹²When Jacob heard that there was food in Egypt, he first sent our fathers. ¹³Joseph was made known to his brothers on their second trip, and Joseph's race became known to Pharaoh. ¹⁴Joseph sent an invitation to Jacob his father, and all his relatives, seventy-five people. ¹⁵Jacob went to Egypt, where he and our fathers died. ¹⁶They were taken back to Shechem and placed in the tomb which Abraham bought with silver from Hamor's sons in Shechem.

¹⁷As the time of the promise which God had declared to Abraham approached, the people increased and multiplied in Egypt, ¹⁸until a king arose who did not know Joseph. ¹⁹He took advantage of our race by trickery, and cruelly forced our fathers to throw out their infants, so that they might not live.

²⁰Moses was born at that time, and he was well-pleasing to God. He was nourished in his father's house for three months, ²¹and

when he had been placed outside, Pharaoh's daughter adopted him and brought him up as her own son. ²²Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in his words and deeds.

²³When he was about forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Israel. ²⁴He saw a certain one being treated unjustly, and he retaliated and brought justice to the one being mistreated, striking the Egyptian. ²⁵He was thinking that his brothers would understand that God was giving deliverance to them by his hand, but they had not understood this.

²⁶The next day, when he saw two fighting, he tried to make peace between them, and said, "Men, you are brothers. Why are you doing wrong to each other?" ²⁷But the wrongdoer pushed him away, saying, "Who appointed you a ruler and judge over us?" ²⁸Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?" ²⁹At this answer, Moses ran away, and became an exile in the land of Midian, where he fathered two sons.

³⁰After forty years, the Lord's angel appeared to him in a flaming thorn-bush in the desert of mount Sinai. ³¹Moses looked and marveled at the sight. As he came near to observe, the Lord spoke to him, ³²"I AM the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob." Moses trembled, and did not dare look. ³³The Lord said to him, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you stand is holy. ³⁴I have certainly seen the cruel suffering of my people in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and I have come to deliver them. And now come: I will send you to Egypt."

³⁵By the hand of the angel who appeared in the thorn-bush, God sent this Moses (whom they had refused, saying, "Who appointed you a ruler and judge?") both as a ruler and a redeemer. ³⁶This one led them out, and did wonders and signs in the land of Egypt and at the Red Sea, and in the desert for forty years.

³⁷This is the Moses who said to the children of Israel, "From

your brothers God will raise up for you a Prophet like me." ³⁸This is he who was among the called-out people in the desert, with the angel (who spoke to him in mount Sinai) and our fathers, who received living oracles to give to us. ³⁹Our fathers did not want to obey; they rejected him, and turned back to Egypt in their hearts; ⁴⁰and they said to Aaron, "Make gods for us who will go before us, because as to this Moses, we do not know what has happened to him."

⁴¹They made a calf in those days, and brought a sacrifice to the idol, and were rejoicing in their handiwork. ⁴²So God turned away and gave them up to worship the stars of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets, "Did you offer slain animals and sacrifices to me forty years in the desert, house of Israel? ⁴³You received the shrine of Moloch and the star of your god Rephan, images which you crafted for them to worship, and I will remove you beyond Babylon."

⁴⁴The tabernacle of the testimony with our fathers in the desert was to be made according to the pattern which the One who spoke to Moses commanded. ⁴⁵Our fathers brought it with Joshua into the possession of the nations, which God drove out in front of our fathers until the days of David. ⁴⁶He found favor with God, and asked to find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob.

⁴⁷Now Solomon built a house for him, ⁴⁸but the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands, as the prophet said, ⁴⁹"Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me?" says the Lord, or "What is the place of my rest? ⁵⁰Did not my hand make all these things?"

⁵¹Stubborn and insensitive in hearts and ears! You always fight the Holy Spirit: as your fathers did, so do you! ⁵²Which of the prophets have your fathers not persecuted? And you killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One, of whom you have now become the betrayers and murderers. ⁵³You received the

law ordained by angels, but you did not keep it."

⁵⁴After they heard these things, they became infuriated, and began to gnash against him with their teeth. ¹⁵Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, fixed his eyes on heaven, and saw God's splendor and Jesus standing at God's right hand. ⁵⁶He loudly exclaimed, "Behold! I see heaven opened, and the Son of man standing at God's right hand."

⁵⁷They shrieked loudly, stopped their ears, and rushed on him with one mind. ⁵⁸They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. Witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹As they were stoning Stephen, he was saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰He bowed on his knees, and loudly cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." After he said this, he fell asleep.

8 Now Saul approved of his murder. On that day a great persecution came on the called-out people in Jerusalem, and all were scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ²Godly men buried Stephen, and made intense lamentation over him. ³Now Saul was trying to destroy the called-out people, entering every house, dragging out both men and women, and committing them to jail.

⁴Those therefore who were scattered went about proclaiming the message. ⁵Now Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and was preaching Christ to them. ⁶The crowds were united in giving careful attention to the things Philip said, and in watching the signs he was doing. ⁷Unclean spirits were crying loudly, and going out of many people, and large numbers of paralytics and cripples were healed, ⁸and there was great rejoicing in that city.

⁹Now a certain man named Simon had been practicing magic in the city, and had amazed the Samaritan nation, saying that he himself was great. ¹⁰All of the people, from the least to the greatest, were following him, saying, "This man is God's power called GREAT." ¹¹They were all

following him, because he had amazed them for a long time with his magical arts.

¹²But when they believed Philip, as he proclaimed the good news about God's kingdom, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were immersed, both men and women. ¹³Simon himself also believed, and was immersed, and continued to keep close company with Philip. As he observed the signs and great miracles that were being done, he was amazed.

¹⁴The apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received God's message, and they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵They went down, and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶for he had not yet fallen on any of them (only they had been immersed into the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then they placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

¹⁸Simon saw that the Spirit was given by the laying on of the apostles' hands, and he brought money to them, ¹⁹saying, "Give to me also this power, that the one on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." ²⁰But Peter replied to him,

May your silver perish with you, because you have supposed that you could obtain God's gift with money. ²¹You have neither a portion nor a share in this matter, for your heart is not right with God. ²²Therefore change your heart in regard to this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord, in the hope that the intent of your heart shall be forgiven you, ²³for I see that you are in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

²⁴Simon pleaded, "You pray to the Lord for me, that none of what you have said happens to me." ²⁵They testified and spoke the Lord's message, and returned to Jerusalem, and proclaimed the good news in many Samaritan villages.

²⁶The Lord's angel spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go

southward on the road which goes from Jerusalem to the abandoned Gaza." ²⁷He arose and went, and behold! An important Ethiopian officer (the treasurer for Candace, Ethiopia's queen), who had been to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸was returning, and, while sitting in his chariot, was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go and join this chariot." ³⁰Philip ran and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He answered, "Indeed, how can I, unless some one shall guide me?" Then he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture which he was reading was this,

He was led like a sheep to slaughter, and as a lamb before his shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ³³In his humble situation his justice was taken away. Who will describe his posterity? Because his life was taken from the earth.

³⁴The officer asked Philip, "I beg you, of whom is the prophet saying this: of himself, or of someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this scripture, proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And as they were going down the road, they came to a certain water, and the officer exclaimed, "Look! Water! What hinders my being immersed?" [³⁷Philip replied, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." He answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son."]³⁸He ordered the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, both Philip and the officer, and he immersed him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the officer saw him no more, but he joyfully continued his journey. ⁴⁰Then Philip was found at Azotus, and as he passed through, he proclaimed the good news in all of the cities, until he came into Caesarea.

9 Saul, still breathing threatening and murder against the Lord's disciples, went to the high priest, ²and asked from him letters for the

Damascus synagogues, in order that, if he found any who were of the Way (either men or women), he might lead them bound to Jerusalem. ³As he neared Damascus, all of a sudden a light from heaven shined around him. ⁴He fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" He answered,

I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. ⁶But arise, and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do. ⁷The men accompanying him stood speechless, indeed hearing the voice, but seeing no one. ⁸Saul arose from the earth, and opened his eyes, but he could not see. They led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus, ⁹where he remained sightless for three days, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰A certain disciple named Ananias was in Damascus, and the Lord spoke to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Behold! I am here, Lord." ¹¹The Lord said to him,

Arise and go to the street called Straight, and ask for Saul of Tarsus in Judah's house. Behold! He is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming and laying hands on him, that he may see.

¹³Ananias replied,

Lord, I have heard about this man from many people, what cruel things he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. ¹⁴And he has authority here from the chief priests to bind all those who call on your name.

¹⁵The Lord said to him,

Go, because this one is a chosen instrument to me to carry my

name both to nations and to kings and to the children of Israel. ¹⁶I will show him what he must suffer for the sake of my name.

¹⁷Ananias departed, entered the house, laid his hands on him, and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me that you might see again, and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

¹⁸Some things like scales immediately fell from his eyes, and he could see again. He arose, and was immersed. ¹⁹After he received food, he was strengthened. He stayed with the disciples in Damascus for some days, ²⁰and was immediately preaching in the synagogues that Jesus is God's Son. ²¹All those who heard were confounded, and were asking,

Is not this the man who destroyed those in Jerusalem who were calling on this name? And has he not come here to lead them bound to the chief priests?

²²Saul became stronger and stronger, and bewildered the Jews in Damascus, proving that Jesus is the Christ.

²³After many days, the Jews conspired to kill him, ²⁴but their plot became known to Saul. ²⁴They were closely watching even the gates, both day and night, that they might kill him. ²⁵But the disciples took him during the night, and let him down through the wall, lowering him in a basket.

²⁶He went to Jerusalem, and tried to unite with the disciples. However, they all were afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. ²⁷But Barnabas took him to the apostles, and related to them that while on the road he had seen the Lord, who had talked to him, and that in Damascus he had spoken boldly in Jesus' name. ²⁸While he was with them he was going in and out of Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the Lord's name. ²⁹He talked and reasoned with the Grecian Jews who were attempting to kill him. ³⁰The brothers learned this, and escorted him down to Caesarea, and sent him to Tarsus.

³¹The called-out people throughout all of Judea and Galilee and

Samaria had peace, and were built up. They walked in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, and continued to multiply. ³²As Peter was going through all the area, he went down to the saints living in Lydda. ³³He found there a certain man named Aeneas, paralyzed and bedfast for eight years. ³⁴Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ is healing you. Arise and make your bed." He immediately stood up. ³⁵All of those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

³⁶In Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha (which means "Dorcas"), a woman who did many good works and acts of charity. ³⁷In those days she became ill and died; they bathed her and placed her in an upper room.

³⁸Now Lydda was near Joppa, and after the disciples heard that Peter was there, they sent to him two men who implored, "Do not delay to come to us." ³⁹Peter arose and went with them; when he arrived, they took him to the upper room, where all the widows were weeping and showing coats and garments which Dorcas had made. ⁴⁰Peter asked everyone to leave, knelt and prayed, turned to the body, and said, "Tabitha, arise!" She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand, and raised her up; he called the saints and widows, and presented her alive. ⁴²This became known in all of Joppa, and many believed on the Lord. ⁴³Then he stayed in Joppa for many days with a tanner named Simon.

10 In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a captain of the regiment of soldiers from Italy. ²He was a devout and God-fearing man, with all his family; he did many deeds of charity for the people, and prayed to God constantly. ³About three o'clock in the afternoon he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God coming to him, who said, "Cornelius." ⁴He looked straight at him, was afraid, and asked, "What is it, Lord?" The angel said to him,

Your prayers and your deeds of charity have ascended as a memorial before God. ⁵Send men now to Joppa, and summon a man named Simon Peter. ⁶He is staying with a tanner named Simon, whose house is beside the sea.

⁷The angel who spoke to him departed, and he called two house servants and a devout soldier from those who were his personal attendants. ⁸He related all things to them, and sent them to Joppa.

⁹The next day, as they were going along the road and were approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof about noon to pray. ¹⁰He became hungry and was wishing to eat. While they were preparing the meal, he had a vision: ¹¹he saw heaven opened, and something like a large sheet was being lowered by its four comers to the earth. ¹²In this object were all kinds of four-footed animals and reptiles of the earth and birds of heaven. ¹³A voice commanded him, "Arise, Peter, kill and eat." ¹⁴But Peter replied, "By no means, Lord, because at no time have I eaten anything common and unclean." ¹⁵The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call common what God has cleansed." ¹⁶After this happened three times, the object was quickly received into heaven.

¹⁷While Peter was deeply confused about the meaning of the vision, behold! The men whom Cornelius sent had inquired about Simon's house, and were standing at the gate. ¹⁸They called and asked if Simon Peter was staying there. ¹⁹While Peter was trying to understand the vision, the Spirit spoke to him,

Behold! Three men are looking for you. ²⁰Arise, go down, and accompany them without hesitation, because I have sent them.

²¹Peter went down to the men, and said, "Behold! I am the one you are seeking. Why are you here?" ²²They replied,

Captain Cornelius, an upright and God-fearing man, who is highly regarded by the entire Jewish nation, was instructed by a

holy angel to bring you to his house, and to hear words from you.

²³He invited them in, and lodged them.

The next day Peter arose and went with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa went along. ²⁴On the following day, when they arrived in Caesarea, Cornelius was expecting them, and had invited his relatives and close friends. ²⁵As Peter was entering, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. ²⁶But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up, for I myself am also a man." ²⁷While he was talking with him, he entered, and found many people gathered, ²⁸and he said to them,

You know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or to approach one of a different nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any human being common or unclean. ²⁹So I came without hesitation when I was summoned. Therefore I ask, why have you sent for me?

³⁰Cornelius replied,

Four days ago, at this very hour, three o'clock, I was praying in my house, and behold! A man in bright clothing stood before me, ³¹and said, "Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your deeds of charity have been remembered before God. ³²Send to Joppa and ask for Simon Peter. He is staying in the house of Simon a tanner beside the sea." ³³I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind to come. Now therefore we are all present before God to hear all of the things commanded you by the Lord.

³⁴Then Peter opened his mouth and said,

I indeed realize that God is not partial; ³⁵in every nation he who reveres him and works righteousness is welcomed by him. ³⁶The message which he sent to the children of Israel, proclaiming the

good news of peace through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all, ³⁷you know that message, which spread throughout all of Judea, beginning from Galilee after the immersion which John preached, ³⁸the message about Jesus from Nazareth: that God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and power, who went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, because God was with him.

³⁹We are witnesses of all of the things he did, both in the country of the Jews, and in Jerusalem, who killed him by hanging him on a tree. ⁴⁰God raised him on the third day, and made him visible, ⁴¹not to all of the people, but to witnesses who had been chosen before by God: to us, who ate and drank with him after he was raised from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that this One was ordained by God to be the Judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All of the prophets testify to this One, that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

⁴⁴While Peter was yet speaking these words, the Holy Spirit descended upon all of those listening to the message. ⁴⁵The believing brothers of the circumcision who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles; ⁴⁶they were hearing them as they spoke in languages and praised God. Then Peter spoke, ⁴⁷"Can anybody forbid water, that these should not be immersed, who also like us have received the Holy Spirit?" ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be immersed in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for certain days.

11 Then the apostles and the Judean brothers heard that the Gentiles had received God's message. ²After Peter returned to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision were contending with him, ³saying, "You went to uncircumcised men, and ate with them." ⁴Peter began an orderly

explanation of what had happened, saying,

⁵I was praying in the city of Joppa, and in a trance I saw something like a large sheet coming down, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came to me. ⁶I looked carefully at it, and saw the four-footed animals of the earth and the wild beasts and the reptiles and the birds of heaven. ⁷And I heard a voice saying to me, "Arise, Peter, kill and eat." ⁸I replied, "By no means, Lord, because nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth." ⁹The voice from heaven spoke a second time, "Do not call common the things God has cleansed." ¹⁰This happened three times, and everything was again drawn up into heaven.

¹¹And behold! Immediately three men stood before the house where we were, who had been sent from Caesarea for me. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them without hesitation. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³He told us that he had seen the angel standing in his house, who said, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter, ¹⁴who will speak words to you by which you and all your house will be saved."

¹⁵As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them, even as on us at the beginning, ¹⁶and I remembered the Lord's statement, "John indeed immersed in water, but you will be immersed in the Holy Spirit." ¹⁷If therefore God gave them a gift equal to the one that he gave to us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to withstand God?

¹⁸They heard these things, and were quiet, and praised God, saying, "Then God has given a change of heart into life also to the Gentiles."

¹⁹Those who had been scattered – in the suffering which came at the time of Stephen's murder – went as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, declaring the message to no one except the Jews. ²⁰However,

some people of Cyprus and Cyrene, who had gone to Antioch, were speaking also to the Greeks, proclaiming the good news about the Lord Jesus. ²¹And the Lord's hand was with them, and a large number of those believed and turned to the Lord.

²²This report came to the ears of the called-out people in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch, ²³who, when he arrived, and saw God's grace, rejoiced and exhorted everyone to abide in the Lord with purpose of heart. ²⁴(He was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.) A large number was added to the Lord.

²⁵Then he went to Tarsus to look for Saul. He found him, and brought him to Antioch, ²⁶where they met with the called-out people for a full year, and taught a large number, and, first in Antioch, by a divine revelation, they called the disciples "Christians".

²⁷Now in those days, prophets from Jerusalem came down to Antioch. ²⁸One of them, by the name of Agabus, arose and signified by the Spirit that a great famine was about to come on all the world (which came in the days of Claudius). ²⁹Then the disciples – each as he was prospering – determined to help their brothers in Judea, ³⁰which they did, and sent it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

12 At that time King Herod arrested certain ones among the called-out people in order to mistreat them. ²He killed James, John's brother, with a sword. ³When he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter (during the days of unleavened bread), ⁴whom he seized and imprisoned, and assigned four squads of soldiers to guard him, planning to bring him before the people after the Passover. ⁵Peter was being kept in prison, and while he was there, the called-out people prayed to God constantly for him.

⁶Now on the night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound by two chains, while guards at the door were keeping the prison secure. ⁷Behold! The Lord's angel appeared, and shined a light in the cell. He touched Peter's side, and

aroused him, saying, "Stand up quickly." The chains fell from his hands,⁸ and the angel said to him, "Fasten your belt, and put on your sandals." He did this, and the angel said, "Put on your coat, and follow me."⁹ He went out and followed him, but he did not know that it was an angel who was doing this; he thought that he was having a vision.¹⁰ They went beyond the first and second guards, and came to an iron gate leading into the city, which opened to them by itself. They went out and passed along one street, and immediately the angel left him.

¹¹After Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I indeed know that the Lord sent his angel to deliver me from the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the Jews."¹² After he considered the situation, he went to the home of Mary (the mother of John who is called Mark), where many were gathered, and were praying.¹³ He knocked on the gate's door, and a servant-girl named Rhoda came to answer.¹⁴ She recognized Peter's voice, and was so overjoyed that she did not open the door, but ran and announced that Peter was standing before the gate.¹⁵ They said to her, "You are out of your mind." But she continued to insist that it was so. They were saying, "It is his angel."¹⁶ Meanwhile, Peter kept on knocking. Then they opened the door and saw him, and were amazed.¹⁷ He urged them with his hand to be quiet, told them how the Lord had brought him out of prison, and said, "Tell these things to James and the brothers." Then he departed and went to another place.

¹⁸When day came, there was no little stir among the soldiers about what had happened to Peter.¹⁹ Herod searched for him unsuccessfully, examined the guards, and commanded that they be put to death. Then he departed from Judea, and spent some time in Caesarea.

²⁰Now Herod was very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and they came to him as a group (having persuaded Blastus, the king's butler), and were asking for peace, since their food came from the king's country.²¹ Now on the appointed day, Herod was regally clad and sat on the place of judgment, and delivered a speech to them.²² The people were crying out, "This is the voice of God, not of a man."²³ The Lord's

angel instantly struck him, because he did not give the glory to God, and he became worm-eaten, and died.

²⁴The Lord's message continued to increase and multiply. ²⁵After Barnabas and Saul had finished their service, they returned from Jerusalem to Antioch, and took with them John, who is called Mark.

13 Now among the called-out people in Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas and Symeon (who was called Niger), Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who was a foster-brother of Herod the tetrarch), and Saul. ²While they were serving the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart now for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³Then, after they had fasted and prayed and laid hands on them, they sent them away. ⁴They, having been sent by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia, and from there sailed to Cyprus.

⁵In Salamis they proclaimed God's message in the synagogues of the Jews, and John was their assistant. ⁶They passed through the whole island to Paphos, and found a Jew named Bar-jesus, who was a sorcerer and a false prophet. ⁷He was with the proconsul Sergius Paulus, a man of understanding, who summoned Barnabas and Saul, because he wanted to hear God's message. ⁸And the sorcerer (Elymas, by interpretation) was opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. ⁹Then Saul (who is also Paul) was filled with the Holy Spirit, and stared at him, ¹⁰and said,

You son of the devil, full of all treachery and wickedness, you enemy of all that is right, will you not stop perverting the Lord's right ways? ¹¹And now behold! The Lord's hand is on you, and you will be blind, not seeing the sun for a time.

Immediately, mistiness and darkness fell on him, and he went around trying to find someone to lead him by his hand. ¹²After the proconsul saw what happened, then he believed, being amazed at the Lord's

teaching.

¹³Then Paul and his companions sailed from Paphos, and landed at Perga of Pamphylia. However, John left them and returned to Jerusalem.

¹⁴They passed on from Perga to Antioch of Pisidia, where they entered the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down. ¹⁵After the reading of the law and the prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, "Men, brothers, if you have a message of encouragement for the people, speak." ¹⁶Then Paul arose, motioned with his hand, and said,

Men, Israelites, and those who revere God, listen. ¹⁷The God of this people Israel chose our fathers, and raised up the people during their sojourn in Egypt, and led them out with a strong arm. ¹⁸He tenderly carried them in the desert as a nursing father for about forty years. ¹⁹He destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, and gave them the land. ²⁰And after these things he gave them judges for about four hundred and fifty years until Samuel the prophet.

²¹Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul – Kish's son, a Benjaminite – for forty years. ²²After God removed him, he raised up as a king for them David, of whom he spoke and testified, "I have found David, Jesse's son, a man after my heart, who will do all of my wishes."

²³According to promise, he has brought a Savior to Israel from this man's offspring: Jesus! ²⁴Before the coming of this One, John preached beforehand the immersion of a change of heart to all the people of Israel. ²⁵And as John was completing his work, he said, "Who do you think I am? I am not he, but behold! One comes after me whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."

²⁶Men, brothers, children of Abraham's family, and those among you who revere God, the message of this salvation has been sent to us. ²⁷Since the inhabitants of Jerusalem and their rulers knew neither him nor the utterances of the prophets, which are read

every sabbath, they have fulfilled the prophets in condemning him. ²⁸Though they found no cause of death in him, they still asked Pilate that he be killed. ²⁹When they had fulfilled everything that was written about him, they took him down from the tree, and placed him in a tomb. ³⁰But God raised him from the dead, ³¹and he was seen for many days by those who walked with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who now are his witnesses to the people. ³²And we are proclaiming to you the good news of the promise given to the fathers, ³³which God has fulfilled to us, their children, when he raised Jesus up, as it is written in the second psalm: "You are my Son. I have begotten you today."

³⁴Since he raised him from the dead (and he is no longer subject to decay), he has spoken in this manner, "I will give to you the sure mercies of David." ³⁵He also said in another place, "You will not allow your Holy One to see decay." ³⁶David indeed died, after he had served God's will in his own generation, and was gathered to his fathers, and saw decay; ³⁷but the One whom God raised did not see decay.

³⁸Therefore, brothers, may you know that forgiveness of sins is being proclaimed to you through this One, and from all things from which you could not be justified by Moses' law, ³⁹by this One everyone who believes is justified. ⁴⁰Be careful, so that what was spoken by the prophets does not happen to you: ⁴¹"Behold, despisers! Wonder and perish! I perform a work in your days, a work you will by no means believe, though it be declared to you."

⁴²As they were leaving, they were requesting that these words be spoken to them the next sabbath. ⁴³After the synagogue was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who spoke with them, persuading them to continue in the grace of God.

⁴⁴On the next sabbath, nearly all the city was gathered to hear the Lord's message. ⁴⁵But the Jews saw the crowds, and were filled with

jealousy; they spoke contemptuously and contradicted the things Paul was saying. ⁴⁶However, Paul and Barnabas announced boldly,

It was necessary that God's message be spoken first to you, but since you thrust it away, and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold! We turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷The Lord therefore has commanded us, "I have placed you as a light of the Gentiles, so that you might be for salvation to the end of the earth."

⁴⁸Then the Gentiles who were listening began to rejoice and praise the Lord's message, and as many as were disposed for eternal life believed.

⁴⁹The Lord's message continued to spread throughout the whole country.

⁵⁰But the Jews stirred up devout, reputable women and the city's prominent men, and raised a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and threw them out of their borders. ⁵¹However, they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and went to Iconium, ⁵²and the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

14 In Iconium they went together to the Jewish synagogue, and spoke in such a way that a large multitude of both Jews and Greeks believed. ²But the Jews who were disobedient stirred up the Gentiles, and poisoned their minds against the brothers. ³They stayed for a long time, speaking boldly about the Lord, who was testifying to the message of his grace, and granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. ⁴The people of the city were divided, some were with the Jews, some with the messengers. ⁵Both the Gentiles and the Jews, and their rulers, planned to molest and stone them. ⁶They were aware of it, and fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra and Derbe, and the surrounding region, ⁷where they continued to proclaim the good news.

⁸In Lystra a certain crippled man was sitting; he was lame from birth, and had never walked. ⁹Paul looked intently at the man who was listening to him speak, and saw that he had faith to be healed, ¹⁰and spoke loudly, "Stand up straight on your feet." And he leaped up and

began to walk. ¹¹The crowds saw what Paul had done, and lifted their voice and said in the Lycaonian language, saying, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" ¹²And they called Barnabas "Zeus," and Paul "Hermes," because he was the principal speaker.

¹³The priest of Zeus (whose temple was in front of the city) brought bulls and wreaths to the gates, wanting with the multitudes to offer sacrifices. ¹⁴The messengers Barnabas and Paul heard of it, and tore their clothes, and leaped into the crowd, crying out, ¹⁵and saying,

Men, why are you doing these things? We also are human beings like you in every way. We are proclaiming the good news to you, that you should turn from these vain things to the living God, who made heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, ¹⁶who in past generations allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. ¹⁷Yet he did not leave himself without a witness, for he continued to do good, sending rain and fruitful seasons from heaven, filling your hearts with food and gladness.

¹⁸Though they said these things, they scarcely restrained the crowds from offering sacrifices to them.

¹⁹But the Jews from Antioch and Iconium came and turned the crowds against them. They stoned Paul, and dragged him outside the city, thinking he had died. ²⁰The disciples encircled him, and he stood up and went into the city, and on the next day he went with Barnabas to Derbe.

²¹They proclaimed the good news in that city, and made many disciples, and returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, ²²strengthening the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, saying, "We must undergo many troubles to enter God's kingdom." ²³With prayer and fasting they appointed for them elders in every congregation, and committed them to the Lord, in whom they had believed.

²⁴They passed through Pisidia, and arrived in Pamphylia. ²⁵They spoke the word in Perga, and went down to Attalia; ²⁶and from there they sailed to Antioch, where God's grace had entrusted to them the work which they accomplished. ²⁷After they arrived, they called the congregation together, and reported the things God had done with them, and that he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. ²⁸And they stayed no short time with the disciples.

15 Now certain ones who came down from Judea were teaching the brothers, saying, "If you are not circumcised according to Moses' custom, you cannot be saved." ²Paul and Barnabas disputed and debated with them at length, and they appointed Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them to go up to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem about this question.

³The congregation helped them on their way, and they went through both Phoenicia and Samaria, declaring fully the conversion of the Gentiles, and bringing great joy to all the brothers. ⁴They arrived in Jerusalem, and were welcomed by the congregation and the apostles and the elders, and related the things that God had done with them.

⁵But certain ones of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep Moses' law." ⁶Then the apostles and the elders came together to consider this problem. ⁷After much discussion, Peter arose, and said to them,

Men, brothers, you know that long ago God made a choice among you, that the Gentiles would hear the message of the gospel through my mouth and believe. ⁸And God, who knows hearts, has testified by giving to them the Holy Spirit, even as he did to us; ⁹and he made no difference between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. ¹⁰Now therefore why are you trying God by laying a yoke on the disciples' neck, which neither our fathers nor

we could carry? ¹¹But we believe that we shall be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, even as they.

¹²All of the people kept silent, and continued to listen as Barnabas and Paul told of the signs and wonders which God did through them among the Gentiles. ¹³After they finished, James replied, saying,

Men, brothers, hear me. ¹⁴Symeon has told how God first visited the Gentiles, to receive from them a people for his name. ¹⁵The words of the prophets agree with this, as it is written, ¹⁶"After these things I will return and rebuild the fallen tent of David, and I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up, ¹⁷so that the rest of the human family might seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles, on whom my name has been called, says the Lord who does these things, ¹⁸things known of old." ¹⁹So my judgment is that we should not trouble the ones from the Gentiles who have turned to God, ²⁰but that we should write them a letter to abstain from the defilements of idols, and from fornication, and from that which is strangled, and from blood. ²¹Moses has those who preach him in every city from generations of old, since he is read in the synagogues every sabbath.

²²Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders – with the whole congregation – to select some of the men, and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas: Judas (the one called Barsabbas) and Silas, leading men among the brothers; ²³and with them this letter:

The apostles, the elders, and the brothers, to the brothers among the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings! ²⁴Since we have heard that certain ones went out from us and disturbed you with words, unsettling your souls, to whom we gave no commandment, ²⁵it seemed good to us, when we came to one mind, to select men and send them to you with our beloved

Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶men who have risked their lives for the sake of the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷We therefore have also sent Judas and Silas, who will tell you the same things by word of mouth. ²⁸It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: ²⁹to abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things which are strangled, and from fornication; from which, if you keep yourselves, you will do well. Farewell.

³⁰They were sent away, and came down to Antioch, and gathered the multitude together, and delivered the letter. ³¹They read it, and rejoiced at the encouragement. ³²And both Judas and Silas, who themselves were also prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words. ³³After some time, they were dismissed with peace from the brothers to those who had sent them. ³⁴[But it seemed good to Silas to stay there.] ³⁵Then Paul and Barnabas stayed awhile in Antioch, teaching the Lord's message, and proclaiming the good news, along with many others.

³⁶After certain days, Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us now return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the Lord's message, to see how they are." ³⁷Barnabas wanted to take along John (the one called Mark), ³⁸but Paul did not think it was good to take the one who had left them in Pamphylia, and did not go with them to the work. ³⁹Then there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other, and Barnabas took Mark, and sailed to Cyprus; ⁴⁰while Paul chose Silas, and departed, after he had been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the congregations.

16 Now he came to Derbe and Lystra, and behold! A certain disciple was there named Timothy, the son of a faithful Jewish woman, and of a Greek father, ²who was well reported of by the brothers in

Lystra and Iconium. ³Paul wanted him to travel with him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews in those places, for everyone knew that his father was a Greek. ⁴As they were passing through the cities, they delivered the decrees that the apostles and elders in Jerusalem had decided that they should keep. ⁵The congregations continued to be strengthened in the faith, and were daily increasing in number.

⁶They passed through the country of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the message in Asia. ⁷They went by Mysia, and attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. ⁸They passed by Mysia, and went down to Troas. ⁹During the night, a vision appeared to Paul: a certain man of Macedonia was standing and begging him, and saying, "Cross over into Macedonia! Help us!" ¹⁰Because he saw the vision, we immediately tried to enter Macedonia, deciding that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹Then we sailed from Troas, and made a straight journey to Samothrace, and the next day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is the main city of the district of Macedonia, and is a colony. We stayed in that city certain days.

¹³Now on the sabbath, we went outside the gate beside a river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer. We sat down, and began speaking to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a merchant of purple cloth, of the city of Thyatira, a worshiper of God, was listening. The Lord opened her heart so that she gave close attention to the things being spoken by Paul. ¹⁵She was immersed, and her household, and she invited us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my house;" and she urged us.

¹⁶As we were going to the place of prayer, a servant-girl who was a medium met us. She had brought her masters considerable gain by her fortune telling. ¹⁷She was following Paul and us, and continued to cry

out, "These men who proclaim to you the way of salvation are slaves of the most high God." ¹⁸She continued to do this for many days, and Paul became annoyed, and turned to the spirit, and said, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her," and it came out of her in that very hour.

¹⁹Her masters saw that their hope of gain was gone, and they seized Paul and Silas, and dragged them into the market place before the rulers. ²⁰They led them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, are stirring up trouble in our city, ²¹proclaiming customs not lawful for us to receive or practice, since we are Romans." ²²The crowd stood together against them, and the magistrates tore their clothes, and commanded them to be flogged. ²³Many blows were laid on them, and they put them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. ²⁴Because he received this order, he put them into the inner prison, and secured their feet in stocks.

²⁵Paul and Silas were praying at midnight, and singing praises to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison-house were shaken, and at once all the doors were opened, and the chains of all of the prisoners were unfastened. ²⁷When the jailer awoke and saw the doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, thinking that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul called out with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹He asked for a light, rushed in, and fell trembling before Paul and Silas.

³⁰Then he led them outside, and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you and your household will be saved." ³²They spoke the Lord's message to him, and to everyone in his household. ³³He took them at that hour of the night and washed their wounds, and he and everyone in his household were immediately immersed. ³⁴Then he brought them into his house, and served them a meal; and he and all of his household rejoiced, having believed in God.

³⁵When day came the magistrates sent policemen, saying, "Release those men." ³⁶The jailer reported these words to Paul, "The magistrates have ordered your release. Now come out, and go peaceably." ³⁷But Paul answered them,

They have beaten us publicly, men who are Romans; and have put us in prison. Will they now secretly release us? No! But let them come themselves, and lead us out.

³⁸The policemen reported these words to the magistrates, who became afraid when they heard that they were Romans. ³⁹They came to them and apologized, and led them out, and asked them to leave the city. They went from the prison to Lydia, saw the brothers, encouraged them, and departed.

17 They went through Amphipolis and Apollonia, and came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ²According to his custom, Paul went to them, and reasoned with them from the scriptures for three sabbaths, ³explaining and demonstrating that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to be raised from the dead, and that "this Jesus, whom I am proclaiming to you, is the Christ."

⁴Some of them were persuaded, and joined company with Paul and Silas, and also a large number of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the prominent women. ⁵However, the jealous Jews took some of the crowd which loafed around the market place, gathered a mob, and began to incite an uproar in the city. They attacked Jason's house, trying to bring them out to the people. ⁶When they did not find them, they dragged Jason and certain brothers before the officials of the city, crying,

These men, who have unsettled the world, have come here, ⁷whom Jason has received. They all are acting contrary to Caesar's decrees, saying that Jesus is another king.

⁸They disturbed the crowd and the rulers as they were listening to

these things. ⁹They took a peace bond from Jason and the rest, and let them go.

¹⁰During the night the brothers with no delay sent Paul and Silas to Berea, where they went to the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹Now these were more high-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they willingly received the message, and examined the scriptures daily, to see whether or not these things were true. ¹²Many of them believed, and of the prominent Greek women and men, not a few.

¹³The Thessalonian Jews learned that God's message had also been proclaimed in Berea by Paul, and they came there also, and agitated and troubled the crowds. ¹⁴Then the brothers immediately sent Paul away as far as the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained in Berea. ¹⁵Those who were accompanying Paul went as far as Athens; and when they received a command for Silas and Timothy to come right away, they returned.

¹⁶While Paul waited in Athens for their arrival, his spirit was greatly stirred within him, because he observed that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷He continued to reason in the synagogue with the Jews and those who worshipped God, and every day in the market place with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were debating with him, and asked, "What does this carrier of tidbits wish to announce?" Others were saying, "He appears to be a proclaimer of strange gods," because he was bringing the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹They took hold of him, and brought him to the Areopagus, and were asking,

Can we understand this new teaching which is being spoken by you? ²⁰You are bringing certain strange things to our ears. We wish to know what these things are.

²¹All of the Athenians and the foreign visitors spent their time in nothing else but to tell or hear the latest thing. ²²Then Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus, and said,

Men! Athenians! I see that you are very religious in all things. ²³As I was walking about, noticing your places of worship, I found an altar with this inscription, TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. I introduce to you this one whom you worship without clear knowledge. ²⁴God, who made the world and everything in it, who is the Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made with hands; ²⁵neither is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything: he himself gives to everyone life and breath and all things.

²⁶From one he has made every nation of people to dwell on all of the face of the earth, having set appointed times, and the boundaries of their dwelling-places: ²⁷to seek God, if perhaps they might touch him, and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸We live and move and exist in him, as certain ones of your poets have said, "we are also his offspring."

²⁹Since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the divine nature is like something fashioned by the skill and thought of man, an image in gold or silver or stone. ³⁰God has overlooked the times of ignorance, but now he orders all men everywhere to change their hearts, ³¹since he has appointed a day in which he shall righteously judge the world by that man whom he has appointed; and he has given assurance to everyone by raising him from the dead.

³²When they heard of the resurrection from the dead, some were sneering, but others said, "We will hear you again about this." ³³So Paul left them. ³⁴However, certain men joined themselves to him, and believed, among whom were Dionysius the judge, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

18 After these things, he left Athens and went to Corinth. ²He found a certain Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, and Priscilla his

wife, who had recently come from Italy, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. He went to them, ³and, because he was of the same trade (tentmaking), he stayed with them, and began working. ⁴He continued to reason in the synagogue every sabbath, and to persuade both Jews and Greeks.

⁵When Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was wholly absorbed in preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. ⁶While they were disputing and reviling him, he shook his coat, and said to them, "Your blood is on your head. I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

⁷He left there and entered the house of a certain one named Titus Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. ⁸Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, with all his house; and many of the listening Corinthians believed and were immersed. ⁹During the night, the Lord spoke in a vision to Paul,

Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not be silent, ¹⁰for I am with you. No one will attack you to harm you, for many people in this city are mine.

¹¹He stayed there a year and six months, teaching God's message among them.

¹²While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews united and stood against Paul, and brought him before the judgment seat, ¹³saying, "This man is persuading the people to worship God contrary to the law."

¹⁴When Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio spoke to the Jews,

If indeed it was a specific crime or serious wrongdoing, O you Jews, I would bear with you. ¹⁵But if there are questions about a word and names and your own law, see to it yourselves; I will not judge these matters.

¹⁶Then he drove them away from the judgment seat. ¹⁷They all seized

Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and were beating him in front of the judgment seat, but none of these things was a concern to Gallio.

¹⁸After Paul had stayed yet many days, he said goodbye to the brothers, and began sailing towards Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila were with him. He had his hair cut in Cenchrea, for he was under a vow. ¹⁹They arrived in Ephesus, where he left them, but he himself went to the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews. ²⁰They asked him to stay longer, but he did not consent. ²¹He said good-bye, and promised, "I will again come to you, God willing," and sailed from Ephesus, ²²and landed at Caesarea. He went up and greeted the congregation, and went down to Antioch. ²³After he had spent a certain time there, he left, and went through the country of Galatia and Phrygia, going from one place to another, strengthening all the disciples.

²⁴Then an Alexandrian Jew named Apollos arrived in Ephesus. He was an eloquent man who was well versed in the scriptures. ²⁵He had been instructed in the Lord's way, and – being zealous in spirit – spoke and taught accurately the things about Jesus, though he only understood John's immersion. ²⁶He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. Priscilla and Aquila heard him, and took him aside, and explained God's way to him more accurately.

²⁷He was planning to go to Achaia, and the brothers encouraged him, and wrote to the disciples to receive him. He arrived, and was of much service to those who had believed through the grace. ²⁸He continued vigorously to debate publicly with the Jews, showing by the scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

19 Now while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul went through the inland country to Ephesus, where he found certain disciples. ²He asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit after you believed?" They replied, "We did not hear that there is a Holy Spirit." ³He inquired, "Into what were you immersed?" They answered, "Into John's immersion." ⁴Paul said, "John's immersion was of a change of heart, saying to the

people that they should believe on the One coming after him, that is, on Jesus." ⁵After they heard this, they were immersed into the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶Paul placed his hands on them, and the Holy Spirit came on them, and they were speaking in languages and prophesying. ⁷There were about twelve men in all.

⁸He entered the synagogue, and continued to speak boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of God's kingdom. ⁹Because certain ones were stubborn and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the multitude, Paul left them, separated the disciples, and reasoned daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰He did this for two years, so that everyone who lived in Asia heard the Lord's message, both Jews and Greeks.

¹¹God continued to do powerful signs by Paul's hands. ¹²Handkerchiefs and aprons were being taken from his body to those who were sick, and their illnesses were leaving them, and the evil spirits were going out.

¹³Certain itinerant Jewish exorcists attempted to use the name of the Lord Jesus over the ones who had evil spirits, saying, "I command you by the Jesus whom Paul is preaching." ¹⁴Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. ¹⁵The evil spirit replied, "I know Jesus, and I understand Paul, but who are you?" ¹⁶The man possessed by the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered and conquered all of them, so that they ran out of the house, naked and wounded.

¹⁷This became known to everyone who lived in Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks, and they became afraid, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. ¹⁸Many of those who believed came, confessing, and telling of their practices. ¹⁹A large number who had practiced magic brought their books (valued at ten thousand dollars), and burned them publicly. ²⁰So, according to the power of the Lord, the message was growing and becoming strong.

²¹When these things were finished, Paul determined in his spirit, after passing through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying,

"After I have been there, I must also see Rome." ²²He sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, but he himself stayed awhile in Asia.

²³Then no little disturbance arose about the Way. ²⁴A certain silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, was bringing much business to the craftsmen. ²⁵He brought together these men and the workmen of the same trade, and said,

Men, you understand that we have our prosperity by this trade. ²⁶You are seeing and hearing that, not only in Ephesus, but in nearly all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and misled many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. ²⁷Not only is there a danger that this trade of ours may come into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Artemis is accounted as nothing; and her majesty, which all Asia and the world worship, has been brought low.

²⁸They heard this, became angry, and were shouting, saying, "Artemis of the Ephesians is great!" ²⁹The city was filled with commotion; they united and rushed into the theater, and seized Gaius and Aristarchus of Macedonia, Paul's traveling companions. ³⁰Paul was wanting to go among the mob, but the disciples would not allow him. ³¹Some of the leaders of Asia who were his friends sent to him and begged him not to go into the theater. ³²Some were shouting one thing, some another, for the gathering had become confused; and most of them did not know why they had come together. ³³Some of the crowd told Alexander (whom the Jews put forward) who motioned with his hand, and was wanting to make a defense to the people. ³⁴But after they realized that he was a Jew, an outcry came from everyone continually for about two hours, shouting, "Artemis of the Ephesians is great!"

³⁵After the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said,

Men! Ephesians! Who among men does not know that the city

of Ephesus is the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis, and of the image fallen from heaven? ³⁶Since these things are not disputed, you must keep quiet and do nothing reckless. ³⁷You have brought these men who are neither temple robbers nor blasphemers of our goddess.

³⁸If therefore Demetrius and his fellow-craftsmen indeed have a charge against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them sue one another. ³⁹If you are seeking anything further, it will be decided in a lawful assembly. ⁴⁰We are in danger of being charged with riot concerning this day, for there is no excuse we can give to account for this uproar.

⁴¹After he said these things, he dismissed the gathering.

20 The disturbance stopped, and Paul sent for the disciples and encouraged them, and said good-bye, and departed for Macedonia. ²He went through those parts, encouraged them with many words, and went to Greece, ³where he stayed three months. Because of a Jewish plot against him, as he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. ⁴Sopater, a son of Pyrrhus, a Berean, was traveling with him as far as Asia; and Aristarchus and Secundus, of the Thessalonians; and Gaius, of Derbe; and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus, of Asia. ⁵They went ahead of us, and were waiting for us at Troas.

⁶After the days of unleavened bread, we sailed from Philippi, and came to them in five days at Troas, where we stayed seven days. ⁷On Sunday we assembled to break the loaf, and Paul conducted a discussion with them, intending to leave the next day, and he extended his message until midnight.

⁸Now there were many lamps in the upper room where we had gathered. ⁹While Paul continued to speak, a certain young man, named Eutychus, who was sitting in a window, was being overcome by a deep

sleep. He was overcome, and fell down from the third floor, and was taken up dead. ¹⁰Paul went down, fell upon him, and embraced him, and said to the disciples, "Do not be worried, for he is alive!" ¹¹Then he went up, broke the loaf, and ate, and talked for a long while, until daybreak, and left. ¹²They took the young man away alive, and were greatly comforted.

¹³We went ahead to the ship, and sailed from there to Assos, where we intended to take Paul aboard; he had arranged this, since he intended to travel by land. ¹⁴He met us at Assos, and we took him aboard, and went to Mitylene. ¹⁵We sailed from there, and on the next day we were opposite Chios, and the following day we arrived at Samos, and on the morrow at Miletus. ¹⁶Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not lose time in Asia, for he was hurrying, so that he might be in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, if at all possible.

¹⁷He sent from Miletus to Ephesus to invite the elders of the called-out people. ¹⁸They came, and he said,

You understand how I was with you all the time, from my first day after I arrived in Asia. ¹⁹I served the Lord with all humility, with tears, and with trials which came on me by the schemes of the Jews. ²⁰I kept silent about none of those things that were profitable, in order to proclaim to you and to teach you in public and from house to house, ²¹declaring – both to Jews and Greeks – a change of heart toward God, and faith toward Jesus our Lord.

²²Now behold! I am compelled in my spirit to go to Jerusalem, though I do not know what will happen to me, ²³except that the Holy Spirit is declaring in every city that bonds and distresses await me. ²⁴I consider my life of no account, of no value to me, as I complete my course, and the ministry, which I received from the Lord Jesus: to declare the gospel of God's grace.

²⁵Now behold! I know that none of you – among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom – will see my face any more.

²⁶Therefore I declare to you this very day that I am pure from the blood of all. ²⁷I have not kept silent about anything, in order to proclaim all of God's plan for you. ²⁸Guard yourselves, and all of the flock, over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, to shepherd the Lord's called-out people, whom he bought with his own blood.

²⁹I know that, after I depart, fierce wolves will come among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and that men will arise from among you yourselves, and will speak depraved things, in order to lead disciples away after them. ³¹Watch, therefore, remembering that for three years, night and day, I never stopped warning each one of you with tears.

³²Now I commit you to God, and to the message of his grace, which can build you up, and give you an inheritance among all who are set apart to his service. ³³I coveted no man's silver or gold or clothing. ³⁴You yourselves know that these hands supplied the things that were necessary for me, and for those with me. ³⁵In everything I have shown you that you must help the weak by working in this manner, and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, who said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

³⁶He said these things, knelt down, and prayed with them all. ³⁷Then they all began to weep loudly, and they fell on Paul's neck, and they were kissing him tenderly. ³⁸They were deeply distressed, especially by his word that they were not going to see his face again, and they accompanied him to the ship.

21 We parted from them, set sail, and made a straight course to Cos, and on the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. ²We found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia; we boarded and sailed. ³Then we came in sight of Cyprus, and left it behind on the left, and sailed toward Syria, and landed at Tyre, for the ship was unloading its cargo there.

⁴We found the disciples, and stayed there seven days. They were urging Paul through the Spirit not to set foot in Jerusalem.

⁵When our time was up, we went out, and were going along, and all of the people – including the women and children – were accompanying us out of the city; and we kneeled on the beach and prayed. ⁶We said good-bye to one another, and boarded the ship, and they returned to their homes.

⁷We completed the voyage from Tyre, and arrived at Ptolemais, where we greeted the brothers and stayed one day. ⁸On the next day, we departed and sailed to Caesarea, where we entered the home of Philip the evangelist (one of the seven), and stayed with him. ⁹Now Philip had four virgin daughters who were prophesying.

¹⁰While we were remaining for some days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹He came to us, took Paul's belt, tied his own feet and hands, and said, "The Holy Spirit says, 'The Jews of Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt in this manner, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" ¹²When we heard these things, both we and those of Caesarea were pleading with him not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³Then Paul replied, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but to die in Jerusalem for the sake of the name of the Lord Jesus." ¹⁴He was not persuaded, and we became quiet, and said, "May the Lord's will be done."

¹⁵After these days we made preparations, and went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁶Some disciples of Caesarea went with us, bringing Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we would stay. ¹⁷When we came to Jerusalem, the brothers received us warmly.

¹⁸The next day Paul was going in with us to James, and all the elders came. ¹⁹He greeted them, and related in order the things God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. ²⁰They heard these things, and were praising God, and then said to Paul,

Brother, you are aware that many thousands of the Jews have believed, and that everyone is zealous for the law. ²¹They have been told about you, that you are teaching rebellion against Moses to the Jews who live among the Gentiles, telling them neither to circumcise their children, nor to keep the customs. ²²What should be done? They will surely hear that you have come. ²³Do what we tell you: there are four men with us who are under a vow; ²⁴take them and be purified with them, and pay their expenses, so that they might shave their heads. Then everyone will know that what they have been told about you is nothing, and that you yourself walk orderly, keeping the law. ²⁵We wrote a letter about the Gentiles who have believed, that they abstain from meat offered to idols, and from blood, and from that which is strangled, and from fornication.

²⁶The next day Paul took the men, and was purified with them, and entered the temple, to give notice of the completion of the days of the purification, until the sacrifice was brought for each one of them. ²⁷When the seven days were almost completed, some Asian Jews who had seen him in the temple stirred up all the people, seized him, ²⁸and were shouting,

Men! Israelites! Help! This is the man who is teaching all men everywhere against the people and the law and this place. Besides, he has brought Greeks into the temple, defiling this holy place.

²⁹They had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, and were surmising that Paul had taken him into the temple.

³⁰The whole city was shaken, and the people rushed together and grabbed Paul, and were dragging him out of the temple, and the doors were immediately shut. ³¹As they were seeking to kill him, word reached the chief captain of the regiment that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. ³²He immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down upon

them; and when they saw the chief captain and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. ³³Then the chief captain approached him, and took hold of him, and ordered that he be bound with two chains; then he began asking who he was and what he had done. ³⁴Some were shouting one thing, some another; and when he could not know the reason because of the uproar, he commanded that Paul be brought into the barracks.

³⁵When he was on the steps, he was lifted up by the soldiers, because of the violence of the crowd; ³⁶the multitude of the people was following, crying, "Kill him!" ³⁷As he was about to be led into the barracks, Paul asked the chief captain, "May I speak with you?" He replied, "Do you know Greek? ³⁸Are you not the Egyptian who previously incited a riot, and led four thousand assassins into the desert?" ³⁹Paul answered, "I am a Jew, a citizen of Tarsus in Cilicia, an important city. I beg you to permit me to speak to the people." ⁴⁰Permission was granted, and Paul stood on the steps, and beckoned with his hand to the people. When silence prevailed, he addressed them in the Hebrew language, saying,

22 "Men, brothers, and fathers, hear now my defense before you."
²They noticed that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, and they became very quiet. He continued,

³I am a Jew, having been born in Tarsus of Cilicia, and brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, having been instructed according to the strictness of our fathers' law, being zealous for God, as all of you are today. ⁴I persecuted this Way to death, binding and delivering to jail both men and women, ⁵as also the high priest testifies about me, and all of the council of the elders. I received letters from them, and I went to the brothers in Damascus to lead the ones there bound to Jerusalem for punishment.

⁶As I was approaching Damascus about noon, a great light unexpectedly flashed around me, ⁷and I fell to the ground and

heard a voice speaking to me, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁸I answered, "Who are you, Lord?" He said to me, "I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting." ⁹Those with me saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of the one talking to me. ¹⁰I asked, "What shall I do, Lord?" The Lord replied to me, "Arise, go into Damascus, and there you will be told about all of the things which have been appointed for you to do."

¹¹Since I could not see, because of the glory of that light, I was led by the hand of those with me, and I came to Damascus. ¹²A certain Ananias (a devout man according to the law, who had a good reputation among all of the Jews living there) ¹³came to me, stood by me, and said to me, "Brother Saul, look up." In that same hour I could see!

¹⁴He said, "The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will, and to see the Righteous One, and to hear the voice from his mouth, ¹⁵because you will be a witness for him to all people of the things you have seen and heard. ¹⁶Now, why do you delay? Arise, be immersed, and wash away your sins, having called on the Lord's name."

¹⁷When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I went into a trance. ¹⁸I saw him as he was speaking to me, "Leave Jerusalem as soon as possible, for they will not receive your testimony about me." ¹⁹I replied, "Lord, they themselves know that I was jailing and beating those in every synagogue who believe on you. ²⁰Also, when the blood of Stephen your martyr was being poured out, I myself was standing by and applauding and holding the coats of those who were killing him." ²¹He said to me, "Go! I will send you far away to the Gentiles."

²²They continued to listen to his speech up to this point, but then they lifted their voice, shouting, "Away with such a fellow from the earth! He should not live." ²³While they were shouting, and throwing off

their coats, and pitching dust into the air, ²⁴the chief captain ordered him to be brought into the barracks, having said that he would torture him with whips, so that he might know why they were shouting against him in this manner. ²⁵As they stretched him out for the straps, Paul asked a centurion who was standing by, "Is it lawful for you to whip an unconvicted Roman?" ²⁶After the centurion heard this, he went to the chief captain, and informed him, saying, "What are you about to do? This man is a Roman!" ²⁷The chief captain came to him and said, "Tell me, are you a Roman?" He replied, "Yes." ²⁸The chief captain answered, "I obtained this citizenship with a large sum of money." Paul replied, "I was Roman born." ²⁹Those who were about to flog him quickly backed away, and the chief captain was afraid when he learned that Paul was a Roman, and that he had bound him.

³⁰On the next day, since the chief captain wanted to know why he was being accused by the Jews, he released him, and ordered the chief priests and all of the council to assemble, and he brought Paul down and set him before them.

23 Paul looked straight at the council, and said, "Men! Brothers! I have lived before God, in all good conscience until this day." ²The high priest Ananias ordered those standing by to strike him on the mouth. ³Then Paul said to him, "God is going to strike you, you white-washed wall! Do you sit and judge me according to the law, and command me to be struck, contrary to the law?" ⁴Those standing by said, "Do you speak evil of God's high priest?" ⁵Paul replied, "Brothers, I was not aware that he is the high priest, for it is written, 'You shall not speak evil against the ruler of your people.'"

⁶When Paul became aware that one part was Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Men! Brothers! I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. I am being judged for the hope of the resurrection of the dead." ⁷When he said this, a dispute arose between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided: ⁸the

Sadducees indeed say there is neither a resurrection, nor an angel, nor a spirit, while the Pharisees profess all of them. ⁹A loud cry arose, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees were contending sharply, saying, "We find no evil in this man. What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?"

¹⁰After prolonged argument, the chief captain was afraid that Paul might be torn apart by them, and he ordered the soldiers to go down and take him away from their midst, and to bring him into the barracks.

¹¹During the next night, the Lord spoke to him, "Be courageous, for as you have declared the things about me in Jerusalem, so must you also testify in Rome."

¹²When day came, the Jews made a plot and placed themselves under a curse, that they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. ¹³There were more than forty who made this conspiracy. ¹⁴They went to the chief priest and to the elders, and said,

We have placed ourselves under a curse to taste of nothing until we have killed Paul. ¹⁵Now you inform the chief captain and the council that you are going to bring him down to them, as if to determine more exactly the things about him; and before he comes near, we are ready to kill him.

¹⁶The son of Paul's sister heard of the ambush, went to the barracks, and told Paul. ¹⁷Then Paul summoned one of the centurions, and said, "Take this young man to the chief captain, for he has something to report to him." ¹⁸He brought him to the chief captain, and said, "Paul the prisoner summoned me and asked me to bring to you this young man who has something to tell you." ¹⁹The chief captain took hold of his hand, took him aside privately, and inquired, "What do you have to tell me?" ²⁰He answered,

The Jews have conspired to ask you to bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though you are going to inquire more exactly

about him. ²¹Do not be persuaded by them, because more than forty of them are lying in wait, having placed themselves under a curse, neither to eat nor drink, until they have killed him; and they are now ready, expecting your promise.

²²So the chief captain dismissed the lad, after commanding, "Do not tell anyone that you have reported these things to me." ²³Then he summoned two of the centurions, and said,

Prepare two hundred soldiers to go as far as Caesarea, and seventy horsemen, and two hundred bow-men, for nine o'clock tonight. ²⁴Provide also some horses for Paul to ride on, so that they might deliver him safely to Felix the governor.

²⁵He wrote a letter in this manner,

²⁶Claudius Lysias to the most noble governor Felix, greeting. ²⁷This man had been seized by the Jews, and was about to be killed by them, when I came up with the soldiers and rescued him, having learned that he is a Roman. ²⁸Since I wanted to know why they were bringing accusations against him, I brought him down to their council. ²⁹I found that he was being charged about questions of their law, but accused of nothing deserving imprisonment or death. ³⁰However, when a plot against him was made known to me, I immediately sent him to you, having commanded his accusers to bring their charges against him before you.

³¹The soldiers, as they had been ordered, took Paul and brought him to Antipatris during the night. ³²The next day they let the horsemen accompany him, and they returned to their barracks. ³³The horsemen entered Caesarea, delivered the letter to the governor, and also brought Paul to him. ³⁴He read the letter, and asked his province. When he learned that he was from Cilicia, ³⁵he said, "I will hear you when your accusers come." Then he commanded him to be kept under guard in

Herod's residence.

24 After five days the high priest Ananias came down, with some of the elders, and a certain Tertullus, a lawyer who brought charges against Paul to the governor. ²When he was called, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying,

We have received much peace through you, and reforms have come to this nation through your foresight, ³which we receive in every way and everywhere, most noble Felix, with all thanksgiving. ⁴But that I might not detain you further, I beg you in your graciousness to hear us briefly.

⁵We have found this man to be a troublemaker who creates dissension among all of the Jews in the whole world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. ⁶When he tried to desecrate the temple, we arrested him, ⁸and you yourself can fully learn of all these things by questioning him about the matters of which we are accusing him.

⁹The Jews also joined in the attack, claiming that these things were so. ¹⁰After the governor had nodded to him, Paul replied, saying,

Since I know that you have judged this nation for many years, I cheerfully defend myself about these things. ¹¹You can ascertain that I went up to Jerusalem to worship not more than twelve days ago. ¹²They neither found me debating anyone in the temple, nor stirring up a crowd, either in the synagogues or in any city; ¹³and they cannot prove for you the things of which they are now accusing me. ¹⁴However, I acknowledge this to you: I serve the God of our fathers in the Way which they call a sect; I believe all of the things that are in harmony with the law, and which are written in the prophets; ¹⁵and I have a hope in God that there is going to be a resurrection both of the just and of the unjust, a hope

which these men themselves also share. ¹⁶I always do my best in this to have a clear conscience before God and man.

¹⁷After some years' absence I came and brought gifts and offerings to my nation. ¹⁸When they found me, I was purified in the temple, and there was no crowd and no disturbance. ¹⁹But certain Asian Jews ought to be here before you with their accusation, if they had anything against me. ²⁰Or let these men specify what wrong they found when I stood before the council, ²¹except concerning this one declaration which I have made while standing among them, "I am being judged before you today about the resurrection from the dead."

²²Since Felix knew quite accurately the things about the Way, he postponed them, saying, "When Lysias the chief captain comes down, I will decide your matters." ²³Then he ordered the centurion to hold him, but to give him some liberty, and not to forbid any of his friends to serve him.

²⁴After some days Felix and Drusilla, his Jewish wife, summoned Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁵While Paul was discussing righteousness, self-control, and the coming judgment, Felix became fearful and said, "Leave for now, and when I have an opportunity, I will summon you." ²⁶At the same time, he was hoping that money would be given to him by Paul. Very frequently he was summoning him, and was talking with him. ²⁷After two years, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, and since he wished to keep the gratitude of the Jews, Felix left Paul bound.

25 Three days after Festus came into the province, he went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem. ²The high priests and the Jewish leaders brought charges against Paul, and were appealing to Festus, ³requesting a favor against Paul, that Festus would summon him to Jerusalem. Their plot was to kill him on the way. ⁴Festus replied that Paul was being held

in Caesarea, and that he himself was going there soon. ⁵He answered,

Let those among you who have power accompany me, and make charges against him, if there is any wrong in this man.

⁶He spent not more than eight or ten days among them, and then went down to Caesarea, where he sat on the judgment seat the next day, and commanded that Paul be brought in. ⁷When he came in, the Jews, who had come down from Jerusalem, stood around him, and were making many serious charges, which they could not prove. ⁸Paul defended himself, saying, "Neither against the Jewish law, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar, have I done any wrong." ⁹But since Festus wished to favor the Jews, he asked, "Do you want to go up to Jerusalem to be judged there by me about these things?" ¹⁰Paul answered,

I am standing before Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged. I have not wronged the Jews in any way, as you well know. ¹¹If therefore I am doing wrong, or have done anything deserving death, I do not refuse to die. But if the things of which they accuse me are nothing, no one can hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar.

¹²Then Festus, having conferred with his advisers, replied, "You have appealed to Caesar. You shall go to Caesar."

¹³After certain days, king Agrippa and Bernice arrived in Caesarea to visit Festus. ¹⁴During their stay of several days, Festus set before the king the matters against Paul, saying,

A certain man has been left prisoner by Felix. ¹⁵When I was in Jerusalem, the chief priests and the Jewish elders informed me of him, and asked a sentence against him. ¹⁶I told them it is not customary for Romans to hand over any man, until the one being charged faces his accusers, and has an opportunity to defend

himself against the charge. ¹⁷Therefore, when they came, I did not delay, but sat on the judgment seat the next day, and ordered the man to be brought in. ¹⁸The accusers did not charge him with evil deeds, as I was expecting, ¹⁹but certain questions about their own religion, and about a certain Jesus who had died, but whom Paul was claiming to be alive. ²⁰I was at a loss about these things, and I asked if he might be willing to go to Jerusalem, and to be judged there about these things. ²¹However, when Paul appealed to be held in custody for the Emperor's decision, I ordered him to be held until I could send him up to Caesar.

²²Then Agrippa said to Festus, "I myself was wishing to hear the man." He replied, "You shall hear him tomorrow." ²³The next day, when Agrippa and Bernice came, they entered the auditorium with elaborate pageantry, accompanied by chief captains and prominent citizens of the city. When Festus gave the order, Paul was led in. ²⁴Festus said,

King Agrippa, and all men present with us, look at this man, against whom all of the multitude of the Jews has brought complaints, both in Jerusalem and here, crying that he must not live any longer. ²⁵I did not find that he had done anything deserving death, but since he had appealed to the Emperor, I determined to send him. ²⁶I do not have anything definite to write to my lord about him; so I have brought him before all of you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that – after a preliminary hearing – I might have something to write. ²⁷It seems unreasonable to me not to indicate the charges against a prisoner when you send him.

26 Agrippa said to Paul, "You may speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand, and began to defend himself,

²Concerning all things of which I am accused by the Jews, King

Agrippa, I consider myself fortunate to make a defense before you,³ especially since you are acquainted with all the customs, and also the controversies, among the Jews. So I beg you to hear me patiently.

⁴All the Jews indeed know my way of life from my youth, which has been from the beginning among my nation in Jerusalem.⁵ They have known me for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that according to the strictest party of our religion, I lived a Pharisee. ⁶And now I stand here being judged for the hope of the promise which God made to our fathers, ⁷which our twelve tribes hope to obtain by earnestly serving God night and day, concerning which hope I am accused by the Jews, O King!

⁸If God raises the dead, why is it judged with you to be unbelievable? ⁹I indeed thought that I ought to do many things against the name of Jesus, the Nazarene, ¹⁰which I did in Jerusalem, and also imprisoned many devout ones, after I received authority from the chief priests; and when they were condemned to death, I voted against them. ¹¹I continued to punish them often in all the synagogues, forcing them to blaspheme; and being furiously enraged at them, I continued to persecute them, even to foreign cities.

¹²As I was doing these things, I went to Damascus with authority and a commission from the chief priests. ¹³While I was on the way at midday, O King, I saw a heavenly light, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions. ¹⁴After we had all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking to me in the Hebrew language, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads." ¹⁵I asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The Lord answered, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶But get up, and stand on your feet, because this is the reason I have appeared to you: to appoint you a servant and a witness, both of the things which you have seen, and of those in which I will appear to

you, ¹⁷rescuing you from the people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you. ¹⁸You are to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God; so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are dedicated by faith in me."

¹⁹King Agrippa, I did not disobey the heavenly vision, ²⁰but I began calling upon those in Damascus first, then those in Jerusalem and all Judea, and among the Gentiles, to change their hearts and to turn to God, doing deeds in keeping with a change of heart. ²¹Because of these things, after the Jews arrested me in the temple, they were trying to kill me. ²²But I received help from God, and I stand until this day and testify both to the small and to the great, saying only those things which both the prophets and Moses said were going to happen: ²³that Christ must suffer, and that he would be the first to proclaim light, by the resurrection from the dead, both to the people and to the Gentiles.

²⁴While he was speaking these things in his defense, Festus spoke with a loud voice, "You are out of your mind, Paul. Much learning is driving you insane." ²⁵Paul replied,

I am not insane, most noble Festus, but I am declaring true and sensible words. ²⁶The king knows about these things, to whom I speak boldly, because I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner. ²⁷King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe.

²⁸Agrippa said, "In a short time are you persuading me to become a Christian?" ²⁹Paul replied,

I could wish to God that – whether in a short or a long time – not only you, but also everyone who hears me today would become as I am, except these bonds.

³⁰The king stood up, and the governor, and Bernice, and those sitting with them. ³¹After they left, they were talking with one another, saying, "This man has done nothing deserving death or bonds." ³²Agrippa said to Festus, "He could have been released, if he had not appealed to Caesar."

27 It was decided that we should sail to Italy, and they handed over Paul and certain other prisoners to a centurion named Julius, of the Emperor's regiment. ²We boarded a ship of Adramyttium, which was about to sail to ports of Asia, and we set sail; Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, was with us. ³The next day we put in at Sidon, and Julius extended kindness to Paul by letting him go to his friends to receive care. ⁴From there we lifted anchor and sailed under the shelter of Cyprus, because the winds were against us.

⁵We sailed across the open sea bordering Cilicia and Pamphylia, and landed at Myra of Lycia. ⁶There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship headed to Italy, and he put us aboard. ⁷We continued to sail slowly for many days, and came opposite Cnidus with great difficulty, because the wind would not allow us to get there. So we sailed under the shelter of Crete opposite Salmone. ⁸We were sailing along the coast with difficulty, and arrived at a certain place called Fair Havens, which was near the city of Lasea.

⁹After much time had elapsed, and sailing had become dangerous (the Fast had already passed), Paul advised, ¹⁰saying to them, "Men, I perceive that the voyage is going to be with extensive damage and loss, not only of the cargo, but also of the ship and our lives." ¹¹However, the centurion was persuaded more by the captain and the owner of the ship than by the things being said by Paul. ¹²Since the harbor was not suitable for wintering, the majority advised to depart, if in some way they could reach Phoenix to spend the winter there, where was a Cretan harbor that faced southwest and northwest. ¹³When a south wind blew gently, they thought that they had achieved their purpose; they lifted anchor and

coasted along as close as possible to Crete.

¹⁴After a little time, a typhoon called "The Northeaster" swept down, ¹⁵and the ship was caught, and could not head into the wind. We gave way, and were being driven. ¹⁶We ran under the shelter of a small island called Cauda, and with difficulty kept control of the ship's boat. ¹⁷They hoisted it aboard, and used the ropes to help brace the ship. They feared that they might run aground on the sand-banks of Syrtis, so they lowered the sail, and were being driven along. ¹⁸The next day, while we were being tossed violently by the storm, they were throwing things overboard, ¹⁹and on the third day, they threw away the gear of the ship with their own hands.

²⁰Neither the sun nor the stars appeared for many days, and we continued to have rainy and stormy weather. All hope that we would be saved was gradually abandoned. ²¹After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood among them and said,

Men, indeed you should have listened to me, and should not have sailed from Crete, to avoid this damage and loss. ²²But now I urge you to take courage; there will be no loss of life among you, only of the ship; ²³for this night, an angel of God (to whom I belong, and whom I serve) stood before me, ²⁴saying, "Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand before Caesar. And behold! God has given you all those sailing with you." ²⁵Men, take courage, for I trust God, that it will be as it has been told me. ²⁶But we must run aground on a certain island.

²⁷On the fourteenth night, while we were being driven about in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the sailors were suspecting that a certain land was near to them. ²⁸They took a sounding, and found one hundred and twenty feet. They sailed a little farther and took another sounding, finding ninety feet. ²⁹Because we were afraid that we might run aground somewhere on a rocky coast, they let down four anchors from the stern,

and were longing for day to come.

³⁰While the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, and had lowered the boat of the ship into the sea (in a pretense that they were going to lay out anchors from the bow), ³¹Paul warned the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these stay in the ship, you cannot be saved." ³²Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the ship's boat, and let it fall away. ³³While day was dawning, Paul encouraged everyone to receive food, saying,

This is the fourteenth day that you have been keeping watch, and have refused to eat. ³⁴I beg you to receive food; for this is for your health, and not a hair will be lost from anyone's head.

³⁵He said these things, took bread, thanked God before them all, and broke it, and began to eat. ³⁶They all were encouraged, and received food. ³⁷(In all, two hundred and seventy six men were aboard.) ³⁸After they were satisfied, they began to lighten the ship by throwing the grain into the sea.

³⁹When day came they did not recognize the land, but they saw a certain bay that had a beach, where they were planning to run the ship aground if possible. ⁴⁰They cut away the anchors, and let them go into the sea, and at the same time loosened the ropes of the rudders, and hoisted the foresail into the wind, and headed for the beach.

⁴¹They fell into crosscurrents, and ran the ship aground. The bow stuck fast, and remained immovable, but the stern was being broken by the violence of the waves. ⁴²The counsel of the soldiers was to kill the prisoners, so that none of them could swim away and escape. ⁴³But the centurion wanted to rescue Paul, and prohibited their plan, and ordered those who could swim to jump overboard, and first get to the land, ⁴⁴and then the rest, some on planks, and some on things from the ship. In this way they all escaped to the land.

28 After we escaped, we learned that the island is called Melita.

²The natives extended extraordinary kindness to us: they kindled a fire, and welcomed us all, because of the rain which was setting in, and because of the cold. ³Paul gathered a bundle of sticks, and placed it on the fire, and a snake came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand. ⁴The natives saw the animal hanging on his hand, and were saying to one another, "Surely this man is a murderer, whom Justice does not permit to live, even though he was delivered from the sea." ⁵However, when he had shaken the animal from his hand and into the fire, he suffered no harm. ⁶They were waiting for him to swell up, or suddenly to fall down dead; but after a long time, while they continued to wait and watch, when nothing happened to him, they changed their minds, and were saying that he was a god.

⁷Around that place were lands belonging to Publius, the chief of the island. He welcomed and entertained us hospitably for three days. ⁸It happened that the father of Publius was bedfast, suffering with fever and dysentery. Paul visited with him, prayed, laid his hands on him, and healed him. ⁹After this was done, the rest of the island's sick were also coming and were being healed. ¹⁰They greatly honored us, and before we sailed, they put supplies on board.

¹¹After three months, we sailed in an Alexandrian ship that had wintered in the island, a ship that was marked with the figurehead of the twin sons of Zeus. ¹²We put in at Syracuse, and stayed there three days. ¹³From there we made a circuit, and arrived in Rhegium. After one day, a south wind arose, and on the second day we entered Puteoli. ¹⁴There we found brothers, who invited us to stay seven days; and so we came to Rome.

¹⁵As soon as the brothers there heard the news about us, they came to meet us at the Forum of Appius, and the Three Taverns; when Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage. ¹⁶We entered Rome, and Paul was allowed to stay alone with the soldier who was guarding him.

¹⁷After three days, he summoned the leaders of the Jews to him. When they came, he began to speak to them,

Men, brothers, though I had done nothing against the people or the customs of our fathers, I was handed over from Jerusalem as a prisoner into Roman hands. ¹⁸After they had examined me, they were planning to release me, for there was no cause of death in me; ¹⁹but when the Jews continued to object, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar, though I had no accusation against my nation. ²⁰I have therefore asked to see you and to speak with you, because for the hope of Israel, I am bound with this chain.

²¹They replied to him,

We have neither received letters about you from Judea, nor has any of the brothers come to charge you, nor to speak evil of you. ²²But we want to hear from you what you are thinking, for indeed, as concerning this sect, we know that it is spoken against everywhere.

²³They set a day with him, and many came to the place where he was living. He was explaining God's kingdom to them, testifying and persuading them about Jesus, both from the law of Moses, and the prophets, from morning till evening. ²⁴Some were persuaded by the things being spoken, while others continued in their disbelief. ²⁵As they were leaving, they disagreed with one another, and Paul made one comment, saying,

The Holy Spirit has rightly spoken to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet, ²⁶saying, "Go to this people and say, 'In hearing, you will hear, but you will not at all perceive. ²⁷The heart of this people has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have closed their eyes, so that they may not see with their eyes, or hear with their ears, or understand with their heart, and should turn around, and I will heal them.'" ²⁸Let it therefore be known to you that this salvation from God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they

will listen.

³⁰Paul stayed in his own rented dwelling for two whole years, and received everyone who came to him, ³¹preaching God's kingdom, and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ, unhindered and with all boldness.