

Book of Acts Ch 16-19.5

# ACTS [of the Holy Spirit]

# Where Are We?

- Chapters 1-7

## Formation of the Church

- Pentecost & Jerusalem Church

- Chapters 8-12

## Transition of the Church

- Set apart from Judaism
- Inclusion of Gentiles

- Chapters 13-29

## Expansion of the Church

- Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> Missionary Trip

→ • Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup>

→ • Paul's 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Return to Jerusalem

- Appeal to Caesar & Voyage to Rome

# As Was Foretold...

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea and Samaria**, and to the **ends of the earth**.”

- Jerusalem → Ch. 1-7
- Judea & Samaria → Ch. 8-11:18
- Ends of the Earth → Ch. 11:18-end

# Themes in Acts 8 & Beyond

- **PAUL GOES STRAIGHT TO THE SYNAGOGUES**

- Salamis, Cyprus (13:5)
- Pisidian Antioch (13:14)
- Iconium (14:1)
- Thessalonica (17:1)
- Berea (17:10)
- Athens (17:17)
- Corinth (18:4)
- Ephesus (18:19, 19:8)
- Note: God-fearing Greeks and Gentiles were often in attendance also

# Themes for Acts 16-19.5

- Paul strategically chooses locations of ministry where Gospel can spread
  - Antioch (13:14)
  - Thessalonica (17:1)
  - Athens (17:15)
  - Ephesus (19:10)
- Suffering for the Gospel
  - 2 Corinthians 4:8-18

# Summary of Acts 16-19.5

- Chapter 15.9

- Paul & Barnabas split over John Mark
- Paul takes Silas
- Barnabas takes John Mark

- Chapter 16

- Paul finds Timothy who joins Paul and Silas
- Timothy circumcised because father was Greek (buy why?)
- They delivered message from Jerusalem council wherever they went
- Holy Spirit prevents entering Asia and Bithynia
- Paul's vision and calling to Macedonia, Luke joins them

# Summary of Acts 16-19.5

- Chapter 16 (con't)

- Trip to Philippi, Lydia's conversion
  - Lydia likely wealthy, a God-fearing Gentile
- Paul releases fortune-telling demon from slave girl
- Slave girl's master upset, no more profit
- Paul & Silas beaten and arrested
  - Note: vs. 21, Christianity not recognized by Rome
- Praising God in prison
- Earthquake, cells open, jailer about to kill himself
- Jailer and family converted
- Magistrates release Paul & Silas
- Paul wants an escort (why?)

# Summary of Acts 16-19.5

- Chapter 17

- Arrival in Thessalonica, preaching in synagogue
- Jews form a riot
- Jason guilty by association
  - Accusation: Another ruler besides Caesar
- Arrival in Berea, preaching in synagogue
- Bereans receptive, testing Paul's message
- Thessalonica Jews come after Paul
- Paul leaves ahead for Athens



# Summary of Acts 16-19.5

- Chapter 17 (con't)

- Arrival in Athens, lots of idols!
- Preaching in synagogue
- Epicurean and Stoic disputers bring Paul to Areopagus
  - Athens a cultural center for new ideas and religions
- Paul addresses crowd where they are:
  - "To the unknown god"
  - Counters stoicism: God is single Creator
  - Counters epicureanism: God ordained times and places
  - Quotes Grecian literature
- Resurrection of Christ not accepted by all the crowd

# Summary of Acts 16-19.5

- Chapter 18

- Arrival in Corinth, preaching in synagogue
- Meeting and working with Priscilla and Aquila, God-fearing tent-makers
- Jews reject the Gospel, Paul goes to the Gentiles
- Lord speaks to Paul in vision, "Do not be afraid"
- Paul stays in Corinth for 1.5 years
- Paul brought before Gallio, but Gallio immediately dismisses the case
- Paul leaves Priscilla and Aquila in Ephesus, preaches in synagogue before shortly leaving for Jerusalem, Antioch, then starts 3<sup>rd</sup> journey
- Apollos preaches boldly, gets further instruction from Priscilla and Aquilla
  - Goes on to refute the Jews vigorously

# Summary of Acts 16-19.5

- Chapter 19.5

- On his 3<sup>rd</sup> journey, Paul returns to Ephesus
- Ephesians first hear about Holy Spirit and receive Him
- Paul preaches in synagogue, moves to lecture hall at Tyrannus
- Miracles performed
- Overly zealous healers get whooped by evil spirit
- People in fear of God, repent, burn scrolls of sorcery
- Paul decides to visit Jerusalem and then Rome

# First to the Jew, then to the Gentile

- **Why Did Paul Go to the Synagogue First?**
  - Inclusion of the Jews
  - Gentiles also present, so not always excluded
    - 13:16, 14:1, 17:4, 17:12, 17:17, 18:4
  - Jews given spiritual responsibility
    - First commissioned to be Light to the World (Deut. 4:5-6, Acts 13:47, Is. 49:6)
    - Entrusted with God's words (Rom. 3:1-2)
  - Israel is God's chosen people
    - Israel as God's chosen son (Ex. 4:22-23, Hos. 11:1)
    - God's covenants, laws with the Jews (Rom. 9:1-5)
  - Jews have a stumbling block (Rom. 9:30-33)
  - Paul's love for the Jews, they outright rejected their Messiah (Rom. 10:1-3)

