

Acts of the Holy Spirit

Chapter 20

Paul Sets Course for Jerusalem

v.1–6 - Paul Completes His Ministry in Greece and sets course for Jerusalem, stopping along the way.

v.7–16 - Paul restored the life of a youth after falling out of a window while at Troas (North of Ephesus).

v.17-35 From Miletus (South of Ephesus), Paul speaks to the Ephesian elders speaking of his future prospects, warned of coming heresies, and encouraged a proper attitude toward material goods. The letters of Paul to Timothy a decade later attest to the false teachers who were ravaging the church there.

Chapter 21

The Arrest in Jerusalem

Acts 21:17–23:35

v.17–26 -When Paul arrived in Jerusalem, the Christians rejoiced over the success of his Gentile mission but expressed concern over rumors that he was teaching Jews to abandon their ancestral laws and customs. To disprove the rumors, they asked Paul to participate publicly in a Jewish custom, as specified in OT law (Num. 6:1–21).

v. 21:27–39 - Paul was attacked in the temple by a mob falsely charging that he had violated the temple. Paul was rescued by the Romans. After he defended himself before the Jewish crowd and the Sanhedrin, a plot against his life prompted the Roman tribune to send him to the governor in Caesarea.

Chapter 22

Paul Reveals His Roman Citizenship.

v. 22:22–29 - As the riot against Paul resumed, the tribune took him into the barracks and stretched him on the rack for “examination” by torture. Paul stopped the proceedings by revealing his Roman citizenship.

Chapter 23

Zealous Jews Plot against Paul.

v. 23:12–22 - Paul’s nephew informed the tribune of a plot to kill him by 40 zealous Jews.

v. 23:23–35- Paul is delivered to the governor Felix. To protect Paul, Lysias the tribune sent him under cover of night and heavy guard to the governor in Caesarea.

Chapter 24

Paul Appears before Felix

v.1–27. The closest thing to an actual trial for Paul took place before Felix when the Jewish contingent arrived from Jerusalem bringing their charges against him. Felix was not persuaded, and he dismissed the court but continued to hold Paul in custody, frequently conversing with him privately (hoping for a bribe).

v.27 Felix seems to have recognized Paul’s innocence. Tragically, he was more concerned about currying the favor of his constituents than administering justice. Paul was kept in prison for another two years.