



**The Acts of the Apostles**

**The Journey – 2020**  
Jim Hoffman

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48 AD	The Council at Jerusalem	Acts 15
49 AD	Paul's Second Missionary Journey	Acts 15:36
49 AD	Paul in Philippi	Acts 16
49 AD	Paul in Thessalonica, Berea, Athens	Acts 17
51 AD	Paul in Corinth	Acts 18
54 AD	Paul in Ephesus	Acts 19
57 AD	Paul in Macedonia and Greece	Acts 20
59 AD	Paul Returns to Jerusalem	Acts 21 - 23
60 AD	Paul imprisoned in Caesarea	Acts 24
62 AD	Paul Before Festus	Acts 25
62 AD	Paul Before Agrippa	Acts 26
62 AD	Paul Sails for Rome	Acts 27
62 AD	The Shipwreck	Acts 27:13
62 AD	Paul Ashore at Malta	Acts 28
62 AD	Paul Preaches at Rome	Acts 28:11

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The Acts of the Apostles

• Acts 19:8 **Then Paul went to the synagogue and preached boldly for the next three months, arguing persuasively about the Kingdom of God.** 9 But some became stubborn, rejecting his message and publicly speaking against the Way. **So Paul left the synagogue and took the believers with him. Then he held daily discussions at the lecture hall of Tyrannus.** 10 This went on for the next two years, **so that people throughout the province of Asia—both Jews and Greeks—heard the word of the Lord.** (seven churches in Revelation?)

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The Acts of the Apostles

• **“Then Paul went to the synagogue and preached boldly for the next three months, arguing persuasively about the Kingdom of God”**

• This is what Paul was called to do and what we see as we follow him in Acts is that he never wavered from what he knew God called him to do. (what an example)

• We should admire him for his resolute indifference to the opposition he faced – he even expected it.

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The Acts of the Apostles

So, what has God called you to do?

Bear in mind that sometimes greatness is found in the simplest of things like a cup of cold water given in Jesus’ name.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

• **“So Paul left the synagogue and took the believers with him. Then he held daily discussions at the lecture hall of Tyrannus”**

• 1st Corinthians 16:8 In the meantime, I will be staying here at Ephesus until the Festival of Pentecost. 9 There is a wide-open door for a great work here, although many oppose me.

• Later on, when Paul writes to the church at Corinth it is probable that the wide open door he alludes to is the availability of the Tyrannus’ lecture hall.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

• In some translations this lecture hall is referred to as a school, so it was probably tailor made for Paul’s bible teaching.

• Other than synagogues this is perhaps the first building used by the church that we find in the New Testament.

• We are not told how it all worked, but we can guess that for one reason or another this building, owned by Tyrannus, had excess capacity.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

• Paul probably rented it from Tyrannus or bartered in some fashion for some space. (Tyrannus means “tyrant” so he probably didn’t give Paul the space free of charge)

• Paul needed to move out or was perhaps forced out of the synagogue as his base of operations and we know this by what is said in verse #9.

• The responses to the gospel do not seem to change – some believed, some said “not yet”, and some were angry.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- **Acts 19:9** But some became stubborn, rejecting his message and publicly speaking against the Way.
- Christianity was first called “the Way” in chapter 9 when Paul was going to Damascus to arrest anyone who was part of “the Way”.
- What the opponents of Christianity did not know was that Jesus and Paul actually collaborated on that name that others used to denigrate Christianity. ☺

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### The Acts of the Apostles

**John 14:6** Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

**Acts 9:1** Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord’s followers. So he went to the high priest. **2** He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them—both men and women—back to Jerusalem in chains.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- **Acts 19:11** God gave Paul the power to perform unusual miracles. **12** When handkerchiefs or aprons that had merely touched his skin were placed on sick people, they were healed of their diseases, and evil spirits were expelled.
- What Paul was exhibiting was almost certainly what 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12 describes as “the power to perform miracles” – one of the gifts of the Spirit.
- What the Lord had given Paul seems to be more like miracles on steroids – Luke even describes Paul’s power as “unusual”.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- Miracles are rare. When was the last time you saw a miracle that you could validate? (TV does not count)
- So if miracles are rare, then how rare do you suppose “unusual miracles” are?
- For example – the sweat bands and aprons Paul wore as he formed leather into tent panels caused healing in people they touched! (probably dirty, knarly cloth)

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- And wait, there is more – if people who were possessed by evil spirits came in contact with these articles from Paul they were delivered from the demons.
- So what was God doing with the sort of display we read about here with Paul’s garments?
- He was doing what he has been doing since Pentecost – he is authenticating the message of the Way, the gospel that shows Jesus to be the Christ.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 19:13 A group of Jews was traveling from town to town casting out evil spirits. They tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus in their incantation, saying, “I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!” **14 Seven sons of Sceva, a leading priest, were doing this. 15 But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, “I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?” 16 Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, and attacked them with such violence that they fled from the house, naked and battered. 17 The story of what happened spread quickly all through Ephesus, to Jews and Greeks alike. A solemn fear descended on the city, and the name of the Lord Jesus was greatly honored.**

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- **Acts 19:13 A group of Jews was traveling from town to town casting out evil spirits.**
- We should think of this group of Jews as a traveling “show” where they went town to town and claimed to be able to cast out demons. (probably for a fee)
- It seems they showed up in Ephesus just in time to see or at least hear about the unusual miracles being effectuated through Paul. (like Simon in Acts 8 they wanted to do the same miracles)

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- **“They tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus in their incantation, saying, “I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!”**
- This is a great example of people wanting the power of God without actually wanting God – just his power.
- These Jews wanted to be known for miracles and casting out demons, but they did not want to be known for being like the Miracle Worker.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- As we might expect this does not go well – they confront a demon possessed man thinking that they will be successful just by dropping a name.
- The demon in the man says, “I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?”.
- I don’t think the demon was saying he didn’t know their names so much as the demon was saying “you are a nobody with no power whatsoever over me”.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- The seven sons of Sceva get trounced by this one man possessed by a demon and he sends them packing - beaten, bloodied, and stripped of their clothing.
- A word to the wise – do not mess with the occult or demons if you do not know God.
- **“The story of what happened spread quickly all through Ephesus, to Jews and Greeks alike – of course it did because in Ephesus everyone was interested in “spiritual” things.**

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- **“A solemn fear descended on the city, and the name of the Lord Jesus was greatly honored”**
- Is it not interesting that God uses the humiliation of the seven sons of Sceva to bring about a holy reverence for his name and a genuine fear of God on the city?
- **Proverbs 16:6 By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil.**

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## Questions

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