



## The Acts of the Apostles

The Journey – 2020  
Jim Hoffman

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

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**The Acts of the Apostles**

- Acts 21:30 The whole city was rocked by these accusations, and a great riot followed. Paul was grabbed and dragged out of the Temple, and immediately the gates were closed behind him. 31 As they were trying to kill him, word reached the commander of the Roman regiment that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. 32 He immediately called out his soldiers and officers and ran down among the crowd. When the mob saw the commander and the troops coming, they stopped beating Paul. 33 Then the commander arrested him and ordered him bound with two chains. He asked the crowd who he was and what he had done. 34 Some shouted one thing and some another. Since he couldn't find out the truth in all the uproar and confusion, he ordered that Paul be taken to the fortress. 35 As Paul reached the stairs, the mob grew so violent the soldiers had to lift him to their shoulders to protect him. 36 And the crowd followed behind, shouting, "Kill him, kill him!" NLT

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**The Acts of the Apostles**

- "Then the commander arrested him and ordered him bound with two chains. He asked the crowd who he was and what he had done. Some shouted one thing and some another."
- Is this typical or what? For the most part the people didn't even know what they were to be in an uproar over.
- When evil men are out of arguments this is what we get from them – I'm surprised mankind hasn't evolved beyond this by now. ☺ (2<sup>nd</sup> Tim 3:13 But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will deceive others and will themselves be deceived.)

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**The Acts of the Apostles**

- Acts 21:37 As Paul was about to be taken inside, he said to the commander, "May I have a word with you?" "Do you know Greek?" the commander asked, surprised. 38 "Aren't you the Egyptian who led a rebellion some time ago and took 4,000 members of the Assassins out into the desert?" 39 "No," Paul replied, "I am a Jew and a citizen of Tarsus in Cilicia, which is an important city. Please, let me talk to these people." 40 The commander agreed, so Paul stood on the stairs and motioned to the people to be quiet. Soon a deep silence enveloped the crowd, and he addressed them in their own language, Aramaic. NLT

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The Acts of the Apostles

- Two quick notes –
  - Paul was first assumed to be a particular Egyptian terrorist who 5 years prior had tried to overthrow the Roman rule of Jerusalem.
  - Paul was multilingual – Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic.

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The Acts of the Apostles

- Paul said, **“Please, let me talk to these people”**. (remember how that went for Eutychus) 😊😊
- On a serious note Paul is relentless – he has just been beaten up by the same mob he wants to evangelize.
- Acts 20:24 **But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.** NLT

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The Acts of the Apostles

“If I am unwilling to give my life to what God assigned to me, then what will I say to him on the day I stand before him and give an account?”

This is epitome of clear thinking.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

• Acts 22:1 “Brothers and esteemed fathers,” Paul said, “listen to me as I offer my defense.” 2 When they heard him speaking in their own language, the silence was even greater. 3 Then Paul said, “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, and I was brought up and educated here in Jerusalem under Gamaliel. As his student, I was carefully trained in our Jewish laws and customs. I became very zealous to honor God in everything I did, just like all of you today. 4 And I persecuted the followers of the Way, hounding some to death, arresting both men and women and throwing them in prison. 5 The high priest and the whole council of elders can testify that this is so. For I received letters from them to our Jewish brothers in Damascus, authorizing me to bring the followers of the Way from there to Jerusalem, in chains, to be punished. NLT

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- This is one of three times Paul’s testimony of how he came to believe upon Christ is recorded for us – do you think it might be important? (Acts 9, 22, and 26)
- Now that we’ve been staring at the timeline of Acts for the last 38 weeks here is an interesting fact.
- It was actually 11 years from the time of Paul’s conversion until God started to use him as an apostle. (converted 37 AD and begins 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey 48 AD)

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- Be patient, keep training, and be available!
  - A little boy had only a lunch.
  - Mary Magdalene had just her hair and tears.
  - The thief on the cross served Christ but hours.
  - Esther seemed to have just event of service.
  - Caleb was 80 when he helped to conquer Canaan.
  - Moses was 80 when he really got busy for the Lord.
  - Simeon isn’t mentioned until he was an old man.

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The Acts of the Apostles

**What if the godly life you live now causes things to be said at your funeral that lead many to Christ?**

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The Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 22:3b **I became very zealous to honor God in everything I did, just like all of you today. 4 And I persecuted the followers of the Way, hounding some to death, arresting both men and women and throwing them in prison.**
- Paul is confessing to murder and in doing so hopes to establish his credibility with the audience of Jews.
- What does it say about the Jew in Paul's audience that his confession adds to his credibility?

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The Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 22:6 **"As I was on the road, approaching Damascus about noon, a very bright light from heaven suddenly shone down around me. 7 I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' 8 "'Who are you, lord?' I asked. "And the voice replied, 'I am Jesus the Nazarene, the one you are persecuting.' 9 The people with me saw the light but didn't understand the voice speaking to me. 10 "I asked, 'What should I do, Lord?' "And the Lord told me, 'Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told everything you are to do.'" NLT**

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- **“I asked, ‘What should I do, Lord?’ ‘And the Lord told me, ‘Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told everything you are to do’”**
- A couple of points here – a very normal rational response to someone who has saved your life (let alone your soul) is, “what can I do for you?”.
- If you meet someone who claims to know Christ but has no desire to serve him, they should be prayed for as though they are lost.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- Another lesson for us is this – Paul wasn’t given God’s 10-year strategic plan for his life, but he got just his first step, **“Get up and go into Damascus”**.
- Paul didn’t say, “but wait, when do I get my sight back or, once I get to Damascus where I am supposed to go, or how will I get there without sight?”.
- In God’s providence that all got worked out, but the fact is Paul didn’t question step #1 of God’s instruction.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- Just take the next step of obedience you know and then wait for the next step you don’t know.
- That should be exciting, but it is often not what we want because we want to know where he is leading – that, my friend, is a lack of trust in the one leading us.
- When children are very young, they tend to follow instructions one step at a time because they trust their parents – that should be us with Christ.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

As children grow and mature, they trust their parents less because they've come to understand their parents are fallible.

We should follow the exact opposite trajectory of obedience to Christ because as time passes, he proves he is infallible.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

• Acts 22:11 "I was blinded by the intense light and had to be led by the hand to Damascus by my companions. 12 A man named Ananias lived there. He was a godly man, deeply devoted to the law, and well regarded by all the Jews of Damascus. 13 He came and stood beside me and said, 'Brother Saul, regain your sight.' And that very moment I could see him!" 14 "Then he told me, 'The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and hear him speak. 15 For you are to be his witness, telling everyone what you have seen and heard. 16 What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord.'" NLT

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### The Acts of the Apostles

• "The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and hear him speak."

• Because God knew how Paul would respond to his call, he was appointed by God to know his will, and to see and hear Jesus.

• A great, but unanswerable question here is why wasn't Paul "onboarded" with Jesus like the rest of the disciples were in Jesus' ministry? (wouldn't that have been cleaner?)

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- If you and I were arranging all of this we would have done it much more efficiently, but not doubt far less effectively. 😊
- Apparently, God wanted a sophisticated Jew, a Pharisee who would be far more skilled in the Word and in the Law than your average fisherman.
- The gospel was going to the Jew first, but because of their assumed familiarity with the “truth” it was going to take someone very “Jewish” to contend with them.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- It is also this event that qualified Paul as an apostle for it is here where we see the “call” and “commissioning” of him by the risen Christ.
- While the scriptures are less than crystal clear on the qualifications of an apostle, most conservative theologians teach what I identify above.
- If the scriptures are unclear on apostleship, maybe it’s just not that important that we know. 😊

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- **“What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord.”**
- Once his mission was clear he is told to get moving! (get up and be baptized)
- So his first step was to go to Damascus and wait – his next step is to submit himself to water baptism as evidence of his faith in Jesus Christ.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

• Acts 22:17 “After I returned to Jerusalem, I was praying in the Temple and fell into a trance. 18 I saw a vision of Jesus saying to me, ‘Hurry! Leave Jerusalem, for the people here won’t accept your testimony about me.’” 19 “‘But Lord,’ I argued, ‘they certainly know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. 20 And I was in complete agreement when your witness Stephen was killed. I stood by and kept the coats they took off when they stoned him.’ 21 “But the Lord said to me, ‘Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles!’” 22 The crowd listened until Paul said that word. Then they all began to shout, “Away with such a fellow! He isn’t fit to live!” 23 They yelled, threw off their coats, and tossed handfuls of dust into the air. NLT

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- Here in chapter 22 we are given more information about Paul’s testimony than was given in Acts 9 – he had a vision from God while praying in the temple.
- The new information comes out as he is giving his testimony in his own words – in Acts 9 it is Luke writing **about** Paul’s conversion.
- Here in Acts 22 it is Paul telling it in his own words so surprise, different words are used!

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- When he is done testifying there could be lots to debate, but there can be no legitimate debates over what he experienced.
- The lesson for us is that while others may be unimpressed with our Romans road theology and want to debate it, what debate can there be over your conversion experience?
- They may not believe you, but there is no rational debate to be had – they cannot definitively say that what you claim happened did not happen.

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- **“The crowd listened until Paul said that word (Gentile). Then they all began to shout, “Away with such a fellow! He isn’t fit to live!”**
- From the Mishnah (the oral law) we learn the 1<sup>st</sup> century Jew thought Gentiles were made to fuel the fires of hell thus making God’s judgment hotter.
- It was even against Jewish teachings to assist a gentile mother in giving birth because she would bring another gentile into the world. (racist)

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 22:24 The commander brought Paul inside and ordered him lashed with whips to make him confess his crime. He wanted to find out why the crowd had become so furious. 25 When they tied Paul down to lash him, Paul said to the officer standing there, “Is it legal for you to whip a Roman citizen who hasn’t even been tried?” 26 When the officer heard this, he went to the commander and asked, “What are you doing? This man is a Roman citizen!” 27 So the commander went over and asked Paul, “Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?” “Yes, I certainly am,” Paul replied. 28 “I am, too,” the commander muttered, “and it cost me plenty!” Paul answered, “But I am a citizen by birth!” 29 The soldiers who were about to interrogate Paul quickly withdrew when they heard he was a Roman citizen, and the commander was frightened because he had ordered him bound and whipped. 30 The next day the commander ordered the leading priests into session with the Jewish high council. He wanted to find out what the trouble was all about, so he released Paul to have him stand before them. NLT

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### The Acts of the Apostles

- **“Is it legal for you to whip a Roman citizen who hasn’t even been tried?”**
- Paul certainly took his share of punishment from Rome, but he also used Roman law to defend himself.
- Two things – 1) it was illegal to whip a Roman citizen without being convicted and 2) it was punishable by death to illegitimately claim Roman citizenship.

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The Acts of the Apostles

The next event for Paul is exactly what he wanted – he would get to stand before the Jewish high council, and they would be required to hear him out.

Who is it that we would like to hear us out?

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