

The Early Church

Book of Acts

I. Jesus ascends (goes up) to Heaven.

Vocabulary:

life: opposite of death

appeared: was seen by someone

apostles: 12 special followers of Jesus

fill them: control, guide, give power

chosen : picked

proved: showed to be true

baptized with water: to put water on someone – is a symbol of sins forgiven

baptized with the Holy Spirit: the Holy Spirit will live inside someone

Holy Spirit: third person of the Trinity

witnesses: people who have seen something or someone

Jesus Christ, God's Son, died on a cross. He came back to life. Many people saw Jesus. Jesus proved that He was alive. He appeared to His apostles. Jesus had chosen these men. He told the apostles about God's kingdom.

Read: Acts 1: 2-3

Jesus told His apostles to stay in Jerusalem. He wanted them to receive a wonderful gift. God would send them the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would fill them. They would be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

Read: Acts 1: 4-5

Jesus was getting ready to go to Heaven. He told the apostles that He would give them the Holy Spirit. The Spirit would give them power. Jesus told the apostles to tell people about Him. He said, "You will be my witnesses." The apostles were to tell people about Jesus in Jerusalem, in cities near Jerusalem, and everywhere on earth.

Read: Acts 1: 8

The apostles watched Jesus go up to Heaven. Two men dressed in white clothes stood beside the apostles. The two men asked why the apostles were looking at the sky. The two men in white said that Jesus was in Heaven. They reminded the apostles that Jesus would return someday.

Read: Acts 1: 9-11

Questions

1. After Jesus died, what happened to Him?
2. What gift did Jesus want to give the apostles?
3. What would the Holy Spirit give to the apostles?
4. Who were the apostles supposed to tell about Jesus?
5. Who stood with the apostles when Jesus went to Heaven?
6. What did the two men in white say to the apostles?

II. The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost

Vocabulary:

Pentecost: a Jewish celebration. The people celebrated by eating food together. (50 days after Passover)

believers: people who believe in Jesus as Savior

ability: the power

amazed: very surprised

gathered: came together

reminded: to tell again

performed: to do something

raised: lifted up

honored: greatly respected

responsible for: guilty of

ashamed: felt guilty

sinning: doing bad things

The believers were together in a house. They were celebrating Pentecost. A loud sound came from Heaven. It felt like a strong wind. The wind came into their house. Flames of fire appeared. God sent the Holy Spirit to the people in the house. The believers began to speak in other languages. The Holy Spirit gave them the ability to do this.

Read Acts 2: 1-4 (page 1154)

Jews from all over the world came to Jerusalem. They came to celebrate Pentecost. A crowd gathered outside the house. The Jews in the crowd came from different countries. They heard the sounds coming from the house. The crowd was amazed. Each person heard his own language spoken. The people inside the house were from Galilee. How could they speak languages that they didn't know? Some people said that they were just drunk with wine.

Read Acts 2: 5-13

One of the apostles named Peter spoke to the crowd. He told them that the people were not drunk. He told them that it was the Holy Spirit.

Read Acts 2: 14-17

Peter told the crowd about Jesus. He reminded them that Jesus had performed many miracles. It was God's plan for Jesus to die. But God raised Jesus from the dead. King David was an honored king of the Jews. He died long before Jesus was born. Peter reminded the crowd that King David knew that Jesus would come to earth. King David knew that Jesus would die but that God would raise Him from the dead. The apostles were witnesses. They saw Jesus after He was raised.

Read Acts 2: 22-24, 29-33

Peter told the crowd that they were responsible for Jesus' death. But God made Jesus Lord of all. The people felt ashamed. They wanted to know what they should do. Peter told them to stop sinning and to be baptized in Jesus' name. God would give them the Holy Spirit. Many people in the crowd accepted Jesus and became Christians.

Read Acts 2: 36-41

The new believers spent much time studying about God. All the Christian believers shared everything.

Read Acts 2: 42-47

Questions

1. What were the apostles celebrating?
2. What happened while they were together?
3. What did the crowd hear? Why was this amazing?

4. What did Peter say to the crowd?

5. Why did Peter talk about King David?

6. How did the people respond?

III. Peter heals a disabled beggar

Vocabulary:

temple: Jewish place of worship (church)

disabled: someone who is physically challenged

beggar: poor person who asks for money

healed: made well (no longer sick or injured)

rejected: did not accept

sins: thoughts or actions which are wrong

prophet: someone who receives a message from God and tells others

Two of the apostles (Peter and John) went to the temple to pray. On the way, they met a disabled beggar. This man could not walk. He was born that way. He had to beg because he couldn't work. He asked Peter and John for money.

Read Acts 3: 1-5 (pg 1155)

Peter told the beggar that he didn't have money. What Peter had was much better. He told the beggar to stand up and walk. Peter healed the beggar in the name of Jesus. The beggar was very happy. He praised God for healing him. All the people around saw the beggar. The people knew that he couldn't walk. They were amazed to see the beggar walking around.

Read Acts 3: 6-10

A crowd of people came around Peter, John and the beggar. Peter began to talk to the people. He asked them why they were so surprised. Peter told the crowd that God healed the man. He told them that God had sent Jesus. But the people rejected Jesus. The people wanted Jesus killed. God brought Jesus back to life. It was faith in Jesus that healed the beggar.

Read Acts 3: 11-16

It was important for Jesus to die. It was part of God's plan. Jesus died for our sins. Peter told the crowd to stop sinning. Peter reminded the crowd that Moses talked about a Prophet – this was Jesus.

Read Acts 3: 17-26

Questions

1. Where were Peter and John going? What were they going to do?

2. Who did Peter and John meet?

3. What did Peter do to the beggar?

4. How did the beggar respond?

5. A. God sent _____.
B. The people _____ Jesus.
C. Faith in _____ healed the beggar.
D. Jesus died _____.

IV. Peter and John appeared before the Jewish leaders

Vocabulary:

caused: to make something happen

alone: only, nobody else

obey God: to what God tells you

miracle: something special that only God can do

courage: not afraid

Sanhedrin: Jewish court of law

outstanding: wonderful, special

The Jewish leaders were angry. They wanted to know how Peter and John got the power to heal. Peter reminded them about Jesus – that they caused His death. The Jesus that they killed, God brought to life. This Jesus alone has the power to save.

Read Acts 4: 5-10,12

The leaders were surprised. They knew that Peter and John were only fishermen without education. The Jewish leaders talked about what to do. They knew that the beggar had been healed. All the people saw this miracle. But the Jewish leaders wanted this to stop. They told Peter and John never to say anything about Jesus or to use His name. Peter said that he and John had to obey God. They had to speak about Jesus.

Read Acts 4: 13-22

Peter and John met with their fellow believers. They told them what had happened. All the believers began to pray. They asked God to give them courage. They wanted God to keep on using them. They wanted to keep on doing miracles in Jesus' name.

Read Acts 4: 23-24, 29-31

Questions

1. What did the Jewish leaders want Peter to tell them?
2. What did Peter say?
3. Why were the Jewish leaders surprised?
4. What did the Jewish leaders say to Peter and John?
5. Peter and John had to obey God. They had to speak _____.
6. What did the believers ask God for?

V. The believers shared all things

Vocabulary:

agreed: say or believe the same thing

united: together, like one person

nickname: not a real name – for example: Bill instead of William

lied: did not tell the truth

received: were given

confronted: asked about the truth

reminded: told again

jealous: envy

temple courtyard: the ground outside the temple

confused: couldn't understand

whipped: hit with a leather strap

suffered: to have pain

The believers agreed with one another. Their minds and hearts were united. The believers cared for each other. They gave money and the things that they owned to anybody who needed help. One man named Joseph was so caring and loving that they gave him a nickname. They called him Barnabas which means someone who helps.

Read Acts 4: 32-37 (pg 1157)

A man named Ananias and his wife, Sapphira sold land that they owned. Ananias gave the money to the apostles but he lied. He told the apostles that this was the total amount of money they received. But they kept some money for themselves. Peter told Ananias that he had lied to God. Ananias fell down and died.

Sapphira also met with Peter. He asked her if she and her husband had sold the land. She also lied about the amount. When Peter confronted her, she also died.

Read Acts 5: 1-11

The apostles kept on performing miracles in the name of Jesus. The believers continued to meet together. People who saw the believers respected them. More and more people became believers. The people also

wanted to be healed. They wanted their friends and loved ones healed. They began to follow the apostles.

Read Acts 5: 12-16

Many of the Jewish leaders were jealous of the apostles. They put the apostles in prison. During the night, an angel came to the apostles. The angel opened the prison door. He told the apostles to go to the temple courtyard and tell about Jesus. The apostles did what the angel told them to do. The Jewish leaders sent officers to get the apostles from prison. They were gone!! When the officers got to the prison, they found the door locked but no one inside. The Jewish leaders were confused.

Read Acts 5: 17-24

Someone told the Jewish leaders that the apostles were at the temple preaching. The apostles were again brought to the Jewish leaders. They reminded the apostles that they were not to speak about Jesus. Peter told them that the apostles had to obey God. Peter told them that they put Jesus to death. But God raised Him. Jesus now has a place of honor with God. The Jewish leaders were angry. They wanted to kill the apostles. One leader named Gamaliel disagreed. He told the leaders to be careful. Many famous people in the past had followers. In all cases, the followers finally stopped. Gamaliel told the leaders to let the apostles go. If the teachings of Jesus were not really from God, the followers would not continue. But if the teachings were from God, the leaders would not be able to stop them.

Read Acts 5: 25-39

The Jewish leaders decided not to kill the apostles. Instead, they whipped them. They also told them not to speak in Jesus' name. The apostles were happy. They had suffered for Jesus. They continued to do what God wanted them to – they kept teaching about Jesus.

Read Acts 5: 40-42

Questions

1. How did the believers help one another?
2. What does “Barnabas” mean?
3. What did Ananias and Sapphira do that lead to their death?
4. Why did the Jewish leaders put the apostles in prison?
5. How did the apostles get out of prison?
6. Why did the Jewish leaders decide not to kill the apostles?

VI. Leaders were chosen to help the widows

Vocabulary:

cultures: different lifestyles in different countries

complained: argued

widows: women whose husbands have died

wisdom: great knowledge and experience

picked: chosen

Gentile believer: non-Jewish believer

synagogue: Jewish place of worship

argue: disagree

The Christian church began to grow. Many different people from different countries came together. However, this meant that there were different cultures that came together to worship Christ. Problems began to happen between believers. Jewish believers from Greece complained that their widows were being ignored. The apostles decided that some men who had Godly wisdom should be picked from the church. These men would take care of the widows and any other needs within the church.

Read Acts 6: 1-4 (page 1159)

The believers chose seven men. These men included Stephen, Philip, and a Gentile believer named Nicolas. The apostles placed their hands on these men and prayed for them. The number of believers continued to grow. Even some Jewish priests began to believe in Jesus.

Read Acts 6: 5-7

Stephen's faith was very strong. He was filled with God's power. Stephen performed many miracles. Stephen spent a lot of time in Jewish synagogues discussing God's word. When Stephen spoke, he was filled with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Because of this, the Jewish leaders couldn't argue against him.

Read Acts 6: 8-10

The Jewish leaders found some people who would lie about Stephen. These people told everyone that Stephen was saying things against Moses and God. People began to believe these lies. The leaders of the synagogues

had Stephen arrested. They took him before the Jewish court of law (Sanhedrin). Some people continued to lie about Stephen. They even told their lies in front of the court. They claimed that Stephen spoke against the synagogue and the law. When the people in the courtroom looked at Stephen, his face was bright - like an angel.

Read Acts 6: 11-15

Questions

1. What problems did the Christian church have?
2. How were the problems solved?
3. What kind of men were chosen to help with the church?
4. What was special about Stephen?
5. The Jewish leaders couldn't argue with Stephen. What did they do to get rid of Stephen?

VII. Stephen speaks before the court and is killed.

Vocabulary:

appeared: was present, came

high priest: a man in high position in the Jewish church

accusers: people who are saying things about someone

pilgrimage: a journey to a better place

famine: a time where there is no food

rescue: save

newly born: just born

burning bush: a bush that was on fire but was not destroyed

Israelites: people of Israel

When Stephen appeared before the court, the high priest asked him if his accusers were telling the truth about him.

Stephen began to remind the Jewish leaders of their Jewish history and faith. He told them about Abraham and God's promise to him. He reminded them of Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. Stephen told them about the pilgrimage to Egypt during the famine. He told them how God had chosen Moses to rescue the people of Israel.

Read Acts 7: 1, 8, 11-13 (1159)

The king of Egypt was very evil. He was killing all the newly born Jewish babies. To keep him safe, Moses' mother hid him in the grasses by the river. The king's daughter found Moses and kept him as her son. When he was 40 years old, Moses left Egypt and went to Midian.

Read Acts 7: 18–23 (1160)

Forty years later, an angel appeared to Moses in a burning bush. God called out from the bush, "I am the God of your fathers. I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Moses was afraid. God told Moses that where he was standing was holy ground. God had heard the cries of His people in Egypt. God sent Moses back to Egypt to rescue the people of Israel.

Read Acts 7: 30-35

Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt and performed many miracles. Moses spoke God's message to the people. He presented the people of Israel with God's ten commandments. But the people would not obey Moses.

Read Acts 7: 36-39

Stephen told the priests and the Jewish court that they were just like the Israelites of Moses' time. They refused to obey God. They killed the prophets and now they had killed Jesus.

Read Acts 7: 51-53 (1161)

The people in the Jewish court became very angry with Stephen. But Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit. He looked up to heaven and said that he saw Jesus and God standing together. When the priest and Jewish officials heard this, they were furious!! They grabbed Stephen and took him out of the city. They began to throw stones at him to kill him. As Stephen was dying, he prayed to God to receive him. Stephen asked that the people would not be blamed for his death.

Read Acts 7: 57-60

Questions

1. From Acts chapter 6, what was Stephen accused of?
2. How did Stephen answer the high priest?
3. Where did Moses live when he was young?

4. How did Moses learn that God wanted him to save the people of Israel?

5. How did the people of Israel respond to Moses?

6. What did Stephen say about the Israelites of Moses' time and the Jewish court leaders?

7. How did the Jewish leaders in the court respond to Stephen?

VIII. The Church is scattered.

Vocabulary:

present: there

stoned: threw stones at

attacked: to be harmed

scattered: to go in different directions

persecute: to treat unfairly or unjustly

magician: someone who performs magic

accepting: believing in

laying their hands on: putting their hands on

bitter spirit: unhappy, acts unkindly

A man named Saul was present while the people stoned Stephen. He thought Stephen's death was good. The church in Jerusalem began to be attacked. Members of the church scattered from Jerusalem to other regions. The believers began to preach Christ wherever they went. Saul continued to persecute the church. He sent many people to prison.

Read Acts 8: 1-4 (1161)

One believer named Philip went to Samaria. He preached about Christ and performed miracles. A magician named Simon lived in Samaria. He amazed the people but his magic was evil. Many people followed Simon and thought that he was powerful.

Read Acts 8: 5-11 (1162)

Philip told the people about God and Jesus Christ. Many people believed and were baptized. Simon also believed and he followed Philip everywhere. When the apostles heard that people were accepting Christ, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. Peter and John prayed for the new believers to receive the Holy Spirit. They placed their hands on the believers.

Read Acts 8: 12-17

Simon saw the apostles laying their hands on people. He wanted this power also. He tried to buy the power from the apostles. Peter told Simon the magician that trying to buy power was wrong. Peter told him that he was

sinning against God. Simon needed to pray for forgiveness. Peter told Simon that he had a bitter spirit. Simon asked the apostles to pray for him.

Read Acts 8: 18-25

God sent Philip to the desert. As he traveled, Philip met a man from Ethiopia. The Ethiopian worked for the Queen of Ethiopia. The Ethiopian was reading Isaiah in his chariot. The Holy Spirit sent Philip to meet the Ethiopian. Philip asked the Ethiopian if he understood what he was reading. The Ethiopian said that he needed someone to explain things. The Ethiopian was reading Isaiah 53: 7,8. He didn't know whom the scripture was referring to. Philip told him about Jesus. Philip baptized the Ethiopian. Philip traveled back towards Jerusalem.

Read Acts 8: 26-40

Questions

1. What did Saul do to the church in Jerusalem?
2. What happened to the believers in the Jerusalem church?
3. What did Simon do for a living?
4. Why did Peter and John lay hands on the people?
5. What did Simon do that was wrong?

6. Why did Philip visit the Ethiopian?

IX. Saul becomes a believer.

Vocabulary:

capture – to take prisoner

sure - certain

vision – like a dream

concerned – worried, upset

Gentiles – non-Jewish people

laid hands – placed his hands on

heal – to make well again

escape – to get away

boldly – without fear

Saul continued to persecute the followers of Jesus. He said that they should die. Saul wanted to capture believers in Damascus. On his way to Damascus, a bright light appeared to Saul. A voice called to Saul and asked, Why are you persecuting Me? Saul wasn't sure who was calling him. The voice said that He was Jesus – Saul was persecuting Him. Jesus told Saul to go into the city and He would send someone to help him.

Read Acts 9: 1-6 (1163)

All the men with Saul heard the sound but didn't see anyone. After the light disappeared, Saul couldn't see. The other men had to lead him to the city. Saul remained blind for three days. The Lord also appeared to Ananias. He was a believer who lived in Damascus. In a vision, Jesus told Ananias to go to Saul. Saul was praying. Jesus told Ananias to place his hands on Saul so that he could see again.

Read Acts 9: 7-12

Ananias was concerned. He had heard many bad things about Saul. He knew that Saul was coming to Damascus to capture believers. Jesus told Ananias to go. The Lord was going to use Saul to reach both Gentiles and Jews for Christ. Ananias obeyed the Lord. He found Saul and laid his hands on him. Ananias told Saul that Jesus had appeared to him and sent Ananias to heal Saul's eyes. Saul was able to see again. He was baptized.

Read Acts 9: 13-19

Saul began to preach about Jesus in the synagogues. Everyone was amazed. They knew that Saul persecuted people who believed in Jesus. Now, he was preaching about this same Jesus. The Jews became very angry. They planned to kill Saul. Saul and the other believers knew about the plans to kill Saul. The believers helped Saul escape from Damascus.

Read Acts 9: 20-25

Saul traveled to Jerusalem. He tried to join the believers in Jerusalem. The Christian believers were afraid. They didn't trust Saul. One believer, named Barnabas, took Saul to the apostles. Barnabas told them about Saul. He told them that Jesus had appeared to Saul. He also told them that Saul had preached boldly in Jerusalem.

Read Acts 9: 26-27

Saul stayed in Jerusalem. He continued to preach about Jesus. The Jews in this city became angry also. They planned to kill Saul. The believers sent Saul to Tarsus. After this, the church enjoyed a time of peace. The believers were able to worship and grow in the Lord.

Read Acts 9: 28-31

Questions

1. What happened to Saul on the road to Damascus?
2. What did Jesus tell Saul to do?
3. After Jesus appeared to Saul, what physical problem did Saul have?
4. Who was Ananias? What did God tell him to do?

5. Why was Ananias concerned? Did he obey God?

6. What happened when Saul began to preach about Jesus?

7. Did the Christians in Jerusalem believe in Saul's new faith?

8. What happened when Saul began to preach in Jerusalem?

X. Cornelius – a Gentile – becomes a believer

Vocabulary:

Caesarea: a town north of Jerusalem

regularly: routinely, as a normal pattern

poor: people with no money

servants: someone who is paid to clean, cook, or take care of a family

roof: top of the house

fixed: made, prepared

sheet: made of cotton/ covers beds

reptiles: snakes, turtles, lizards

considered: thought to be

unclean: something God does not accept

A man called Cornelius lived in Caesarea. He was a Roman officer who worshiped God. Cornelius prayed regularly and gave to the needy. An angel came to Cornelius in a vision. Cornelius was afraid but he knew the angel was from God. God had heard his prayers. God knew that Cornelius gave to the poor. God told Cornelius to send for Simon Peter. Cornelius called to his servants. He told them what happened and sent them to Peter.

Read Acts 10:1-8 (page 1164)

Peter went to the roof of the house to pray. Peter was hungry. While the food was being fixed, Peter had a vision. He saw a large sheet coming down from heaven. On the sheet were animals with four feet, birds, and reptiles. A voice told Peter to kill the animals and eat them. Peter replied that he could not do this. These animals were considered “unclean”. In Jewish history, there were many laws about what people could eat and what they couldn’t. Animals like reptiles were unclean. They were not pure enough for people to eat. The voice said to Peter “Don’t say anything is not pure that God has made clean”. This vision happened 3 times.

Read Acts 10: 9-16

As Peter was thinking about the vision, the men sent by Cornelius arrived at his house. The Holy Spirit told Peter to go down and let the men in. The Holy Spirit said that these men had been sent to him from God. Peter went down from the roof and met the men. He asked them why they had come. The men told Peter about Cornelius. They told him that

Cornelius was a good man who worshiped God. An angel had appeared to him. The angel told Cornelius to invite Peter to his home.

Read Acts 10: 17-23

Peter went with the men to the home of Cornelius. When Peter first spoke with Cornelius, he told him that Jews were not allowed to interact with non-Jews (Gentiles). But God showed Peter that he should not say that a person is not pure. Peter asked why Cornelius had sent for him.

Read Acts 10: 24-29

Cornelius told Peter that he had been praying when an angel appeared. The angel told him to send for Peter. Peter said that he now understood that God treats everyone the same. Peter began to tell Cornelius about Jesus. He told Cornelius about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Cornelius and all who were in his house accepted Jesus and were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Read Acts 10: 30-48

Questions

1. Who was Cornelius? Why did the angel appear to him?
2. When Peter was on the roof, what happened to him?
3. Why did Peter say that he couldn't eat the animals?

4. What did God tell Peter?

5. Men came to Peter's house. What did they tell Peter?

6. What did Peter say to Cornelius when he first met him?

7. Peter told Cornelius about Jesus. What happened to Cornelius and his family?

XI. Gentiles become believers also.

Vocabulary:

complained: speaking against something

praised: gave thanks

Cyprus: an island in Greece

Antioch: a city in Turkey

Greeks: people from Greece

among: within a group

pleased: happy with

food shortage: not enough food for the people

When Peter returned to Jerusalem, the believers complained about Peter spending time with non-Jews. Peter told them about his vision and about Cornelius. Peter told them that he told Cornelius about Jesus. Not only did Cornelius and his family accept Jesus, but the Holy Spirit also came to this family. When the Jewish believers heard this, they praised God. They knew that God wanted Gentiles to become believers too.

Read Acts 11: 1-3/ 15-18

Believers who were in Cyprus and Antioch began to preach to Greeks as well as Jews. They told the Greeks about Jesus. Many people believed.

Read Acts 11: 19-21

Barnabas was sent to Antioch. He went there to see what God was doing among the Greeks. Barnabas was pleased about the new believers in Antioch. Barnabas got Saul and brought him to Antioch. Together they spent time with the church in Antioch. The believers continued to grow in number. The believers were called “Christians” for the first time.

Read Acts 11: 22-26

Some prophets came to Antioch from Jerusalem. They warned the people that there would be a food shortage in the Roman world. The believers in Antioch wanted to help. They sent gifts to the believers in Judea.

Read Acts 11: 27-30

Questions

1. What did the believers in Jerusalem think about Peter's visit with Cornelius?
2. How did Peter explain his visit?
3. Did Peter's explanation change the minds of the believers?
4. What did Barnabas do?
5. What did the prophets from Jerusalem say?

XII. An angel helps Peter escape from prison

Vocabulary:

regions: different areas of a country or countries

watching over: in charge of

trial: to go before the court/judge

chained: metal links attached to someone

guards: people who are in charge of a prisoner

struck: hit

cloak: a loose thin coat

finally: at last

bewildered: confused

King Herod was the ruler of Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and other regions. King Herod persecuted the church. He arrested many believers. King Herod arrested Peter and put him in prison. The king had 4 groups of soldiers watching over Peter. King Herod wanted to put Peter on trial. While Peter was in prison, the believers prayed for him.

Read Acts 12: 1-5

The night before Peter's trial, he was chained between two guards. Two more guards were at the door. An angel appeared as a bright light. The angel struck Peter and woke him up. The angel told Peter to get up. As Peter stood up, the chains fell off. The angel told Peter to put on his clothes, sandals, and cloak. Peter followed the angel but he thought this was a vision. The angel and Peter went passed the two guards at the door. They continued through the gate of the prison into the city. They walked down a street. Then the angel left Peter.

Read Acts 12: 6-10

After the angel left, Peter realized that it was not a vision. He was standing in the street. He knew that an angel had rescued him from prison. Peter knew that God had saved him from King Herod. Peter went to Mary's house. Many believers were there praying for Peter. Peter knocked at the door. A servant heard Peter at the door. She didn't open the door. Instead, she ran to the believers. The servant told them that Peter was at the door. The believers couldn't understand this. They thought it was Peter's angel. Peter kept knocking and, finally, someone opened the door. When they saw

that it was Peter, they were amazed. Peter explained how God had saved him from prison. The guards at the prison were bewildered. They couldn't find Peter anywhere. King Herod had the guards put to death.

Read Acts 12: 11-19

King Herod had a meeting with the people living in Tyre and Sidon. Herod was angry with them. The people wanted to make peace with Herod. When they met, King Herod wore his royal robes. He made a speech to the people. The people began to shout, "This is the voice of a god, not a man". King Herod didn't correct them. He refused to give God the glory. An angel of the Lord struck Herod down. He died.

Read Acts 12: 20-25

Questions

1. What did King Herod do to Peter?
2. When Peter was in prison, how was he guarded?
3. An angel appeared to Peter. What did the angel do and say?
4. Did Peter know that the angel was rescuing him?

5. When Peter was out of prison, where did he go?

6. What did the servant do when she heard Peter's voice? Did the people in the house believe the servant?

7. Why was King Herod killed?

XIII. Paul's (Saul) 1st missionary journey

Vocabulary:

evil: bad

magician: a person who performs magic

false prophet: someone who says that they speak for God, but they lie

governor: highest official in a state or city

confronted: to honestly tell someone a problem

devil: Satan

played tricks: dishonest

strike him blind: sudden loss of vision

share: to tell something

slavery: people are forced to work

wise: knowledge and experience

offspring: descendants

recognize: to accept what someone is or has done

jealous: to have envy

honest: truthful

Saul and Barnabas left Antioch and began traveling. God was calling them to preach to many people. They went to Salamis, a city on the Island of Cyprus. In Salamis, Saul and Barnabas preached in synagogues. They traveled across the island to Paphos. There they met a man named Bar-Jesus. He was an evil magician and a false prophet. Bar-Jesus worked for the governor of Paphos, Sergius Paulus. Sergius sent for Saul and Barnabas. He wanted to hear about God.

Read Acts 13: 4-7 (page 1168)

Elymas (Bar-Jesus) was against Saul (Paul) and Barnabas. He didn't want Sergius to become a Christian. Paul confronted Elymas. He told Elymas that he was a child of the devil. Paul told him that he was God's enemy – he played tricks on people. Paul told Elymas that God would strike him blind. Darkness came over Elymas. When the governor saw what happened to Elymas, he became a believer.

Read Acts 13: 8-12

Paul and Barnabas sailed on to Perga (Southern Turkey) and then to Antioch (in Central Turkey). On the Sabbath, Paul and Barnabas went to a

synagogue. The rulers of the synagogue asked Paul and Barnabas to share a word from God. Paul told the people about their history. He reminded them that God had rescued them from slavery. Paul told them how God gave them wise kings to rule over them. King David was a man who really loved God. From King David's offspring, God would send Jesus the Messiah.

Read Acts 13: 13-17, 21-23

Paul told both Jews and Gentiles that salvation was for everyone. The Jewish leaders would not recognize Jesus as their Messiah. Jesus did nothing wrong but the Jewish leaders put Him to death. But God raised Him from the dead. Paul told the people that their sins could be forgiven because of Jesus.

Read Acts 13: 26-30, 34, 38

Many people who heard followed Paul and Barnabas. They continued talking with the two men. The next Sabbath day, almost everyone in the city came to hear about Jesus. The Jews became jealous. They didn't want Paul and Barnabas to get attention. Paul was honest with them. He told them that he brought the good news of Christ to the Jews first. But they refused to listen. Now Paul and Barnabas would bring the good news to the Gentiles. The Gentiles were happy to hear about Jesus. Many became believers. The Jews became angrier. The Jews tried to make people attack Paul and Barnabas. Paul and Barnabas left Antioch and traveled to Iconium.

Read Acts 13: 42-52

Questions

1. Why did Saul and Barnabas go to Cyprus?
2. Who was Bar-Jesus?
3. Why didn't Bar-Jesus (Elymas) want Sergius to listen to Paul?

4. What happened to Elymas?

5. Where did Barnabas and Paul go next?

6. What did Paul tell the people about?

7. How did the Jewish people respond? How did the Gentiles respond?

XIV. Paul heals a crippled man

Vocabulary:

crippled: a person unable to walk

listening: to hear something or someone

to call ...by : to give someone a different name

Hermes: from Greek mythology – a messenger

Zeus: from Greek mythology – god of the sky

sacrifice: to give an offering usually an animal

upset: very unhappy

tear: to rip apart

turn away from: to stop following

turn to: begin following

provided: given

turnedagainst: to make someone dislike someone or something

dragged: to pull something along the ground

previous: before, in the past

encourage: to give someone hope

appoint: to select someone for a job

Paul and Barnabas traveled to Lystra. When Paul was preaching, he saw a crippled man. This man had never walked. The man believed what Paul was saying. Paul could see that the man had faith. He told the man to stand up. The crippled man stood up and began to walk. Many people had been listening to Paul. They saw what Paul did. The crowd began to say that the gods had come down. The people began to call Paul and Barnabas by the names of Greek gods, Hermes and Zeus. The people wanted to make a sacrifice to Paul and Barnabas.

Read Acts 14: 8-13 (page 1169)

Paul and Barnabas were very upset. They were so upset that they began to tear their clothes. Paul and Barnabas shouted at the crowd. They told them that they were not gods. Paul and Barnabas said that they were just humans. Paul told the people to turn away from their false gods and turn to the true God. God made the heavens and earth and all that lives there. Paul told them that God had provided them with rain and good crops.

Read Acts 14: 14-18

Some Jews came from Antioch to Lystra. They began to say bad things about Paul and Barnabas. They turned the people of Lystra against Paul. The crowd began to throw stones at Paul. They thought he was dead so the people dragged Paul out of the city. The believers brought Paul back into the city. Paul and Barnabas left for Derbe.

Read Acts 14: 19-20

Paul and Barnabas preached about Jesus in Derbe. Many people became believers. Paul and Barnabas returned to all the previous cities. They wanted to help encourage the believers in the Lord. Paul and Barnabas helped appoint leaders for the different churches. Afterwards, Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch. They told the believers all about their travels and all that God had done.

Read Acts 14: 21-28

Questions

1. Where did Paul and Barnabas go?
2. Who did they meet?
3. What did Paul say to the man?
4. How did the people respond to Paul and Barnabas?
5. How did Paul and Barnabas react to the crowd?

6. When the Jews from Antioch arrived, what did they do?

7. What did the people of Lystra do to Paul?

8. What did Paul and Barnabas do after they left Lystra?

XV. Paul's 2nd missionary journey/ Paul has a vision

Vocabulary:

directed: told to do something

vision: like a dream

Macedonia: an area of land above Greece

baptized: to place water on someone who has become a believer

served God: did what God says

officials: people in charge

beaten: hit

earthquake: the earth shakes

escaped: became free

jailer: in charge of the jail

bandaged: to cover a cut or sore with a cloth

wound: a cut in the skin

publicly: in front of everyone

Silas and Timothy joined Paul in his journey. They went through Galatia. The Holy Spirit directed them away from Asia Minor and Bithynia. One night, Paul had a vision. A man from Macedonia asked Paul to come. The men prepared to go to Macedonia. They went to the city of Philippi. Paul and the others were looking for a place to pray. They walked down to the river. They met some women. One woman that they met was Lydia. She was a businesswoman who sold cloth. Lydia worshiped God. She listened to Paul. Lydia accepted Jesus. She and her family were baptized.

Read Acts 16: 6-15

One day Paul and the others were going to pray. They met a female slave. She had a spirit that could tell the future. She made a lot of money for her owners. She followed Paul around. She told everyone that Paul served God. Paul told the spirit to leave the woman. The woman's owners were angry. The woman could no longer make money. The owners took Paul and Silas to the officials. They told the officials that Paul and Silas were causing trouble. They were doing things against the Roman law. Paul and Silas were beaten. They were put in prison.

Read Acts 16: 16-24

At night, Paul and Silas were praying and singing songs to God. Suddenly, there was an earthquake. All the prison doors came open. The jailer saw the open doors. He didn't know if the prisoners had escaped. He tried to kill himself. Paul called out "We are here". The jailer was afraid. He went to Paul. The jailer asked "What can I do to be saved?" Paul told him to believe in Jesus.

Read Acts 16: 25-32

The jailer cleaned and bandaged their wounds. The jailer and his family were baptized. They were very happy. The next morning the judges told the jailer to release Paul and Silas. Paul said this wasn't fair. They beat Paul and Silas publicly. They were Roman citizens. Paul wanted the officials to release them publicly. When the officials learned that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were afraid. They went to the prison to release Paul and Silas publicly. The officials told them to leave the city.

Read Acts 16: 33-40

Questions

1. Why did Paul go to Macedonia?
2. Who did Paul meet by the river? What happened to her?
3. Paul met a female slave. What did she say about Paul? What did Paul do?
4. Why were Paul and Silas put in prison?

5. What happened in the prison during the night?

6. Why was the jailer afraid? What happened to the jailer?

7. What happened that was unfair to Paul when the judges went to release Paul?

XVI. Paul's 2nd missionary journey – Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens

Vocabulary:

continued: kept going

raised: past tense of rise /to lift up/to become alive again

jealous: envy / to want something someone else has.

lie: opposite of truth

checked: to see if something is true

scripture: God's word

Epicureans: these men believed in happiness, pleasure is good, live for today

Stoics: these men believed in controlling their emotions. Self control was very important

statues: images made from stone or metal

unknown: something or someone you do not know

created: made

Paul and Silas continued on their journey to Thessalonica. Paul preached in the synagogue. He told the people all about Jesus. Paul explained that Jesus had died and God raised Him from the dead. Many people believed. But some men were jealous. These Jewish leaders did not want Paul to talk about Jesus. They told lies about them.

Read Acts 17: 1-9 (page 1173)

Paul and Silas went to Berea. The Bereans were happy to hear God's message. They listened to Paul and checked the scriptures. The Bereans wanted to make sure that Paul was telling the truth. The jealous men from Thessalonica came to Berea. They tried to turn the people away from God. The believers sent Paul to Athens.

Read Acts 17: 10-15

In Athens, Paul began to preach in the synagogues. He also talked to people in the market place. He talked to some men. These men were Epicureans and Stoics. The people of Athens loved to talk about new ideas. They wanted to know more about God and Jesus.

Read Acts 17: 16-21

Paul stood up in a meeting place. He told everyone that he knew they were religious. There were statues all over Athens to many gods. Paul looked at all the statues. He found a statue to an unknown god. Paul told them about the unknown God. Paul said He is the God of the universe. He made the heavens and the earth. This is the Holy God who gives people everything they need. God created all people from one man – Adam. We are all God’s children. But God is not made of gold, silver, or stone. He isn’t a statue made by man. God wants everyone to turn from their sins. Jesus died and God raised him from the dead. He will judge us.

Read Acts 17: 22-34

Questions

1. What happened in Thessalonica?
2. What did the Bereans think about God’s message?
3. What did the men from Thessalonica do in Berea?
4. Who were the men Paul talked to in Athens?
5. What statue did Paul talk about with the people of Athens?

6. What did Paul tell the people about the unknown god?

XVII. Paul goes to Corinth

Vocabulary:

ordered: told

Rome: a city in Italy

join: to come together

Christ: the anointed one/ the Messiah

vision: like a dream but you are awake

Governor: a ruler of a province or state

commit: to do something

crime: something against the government

to take care of: to solve

encouragement: support

strengthen: to make strong

Paul went to Corinth. There he met Aquila and Priscilla. They came from Italy. The Roman king ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul stayed with Aquila and Priscilla. To get money, they made tents. On the Sabbath, Paul preached in the synagogues. Silas and Timothy came to join Paul. Paul told the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. The Jews didn't believe Paul. They did not treat Paul well. Paul got angry with the Jews.

Read Acts 18: 1-6

Paul went to the home of Titus Justus. Crispus, the synagogue leader, became a believer. He and his family believed in Jesus. Many others became believers. God spoke to Paul in a vision. He told Paul to keep preaching. Paul stayed in Corinth for 1 year and a half.

Read Acts 18: 7-11

Gallio was the governor of Achaia. Achaia was a province in Greece. Corinth was a city in Achaia. The Jews came before Gallio. They wanted Paul to be arrested. They said Paul was preaching against the law. Gallio said that Paul did not commit a crime. This was a problem with Jewish law not the Roman law. Gallio told the Jews to take care of the problem themselves.

Read Acts 18: 12-17

Paul left Corinth. He traveled with Aquila and Priscilla to Ephesus. Paul did not stay there. He continued on to Jerusalem. From there, Paul traveled on to Antioch. He gave encouragement to all the believers.

Read Acts 18: 18-23

Aquila and Priscilla stayed in Ephesus. They met a man named Apollos. Apollos believed in God. He believed in Jesus. But Apollos had not been baptized. Aquila and Priscilla invited Apollos to their home. They told Apollos many things about God and Jesus. Apollos wanted to go to Achaia in Greece. He helped strengthen the believers.

Read Acts 18: 24-28

Questions

1. Who did Paul meet in Corinth?
2. What did they do to make money?
3. How did the Jews respond to Paul in Corinth?
4. What did God tell Paul?
5. Who was Gallio? Why didn't he arrest Paul?

6. Where did Paul go after he left Corinth?

7. Where did Apollos want to go? What did he do there?

XVIII. Paul goes to Ephesus

Vocabulary:

lecture hall: a place where people teach

models: small copies of an object or person

Artemis: in Greek mythology, daughter of Zeus-goddess of forests

agreed: believe what is said

riot: a crowd of people behaving violently

city clerk: an official in charge of keeping records

calm down: stop being excited

treated unfairly: to behavior poorly toward someone

settle: to end a disagreement

Paul went to Ephesus. He preached in the synagogues. The people did not believe. Paul left the synagogues. He began to teach in a lecture hall. God did many miracles through Paul.

Read Acts 19: 8-12

Some people in Ephesus became upset. Demetrius was a man who made things from silver. He made and sold models of temples. He made models of Artemis' temple. Demetrius made a lot of money. Now the people did not believe in Artemis.

Read Acts 19: 23-27

Other workers agreed with Demetrius. They all began to shout. Artemis is great! A big struggle began. Many people were shouting – there was a riot. One man named Alexander tried to calm the crowd. But he was a Jew. The people of Ephesus continued to shout about Artemis.

Read Acts 19: 28-34

The city clerk talked to the crowd. He told them that Artemis guarded the city. The clerk told the people to calm down. Paul never said anything bad about Artemis. Demetrius and the others thought they were being treated unfairly. If so, they should take it to the courts. The judges should settle the problem. Rioting will not help. The people finally left.

Read Acts 19: 35-41

Questions

1. Where did Paul go? (What city?)
2. Where did he preach or teach?
3. Who was Demetrius? Why was he upset?
4. Who was Artemis?
5. What did Demetrius and the workers do?
6. What did the clerk tell the people?

XIX. Paul says goodbye to the Ephesian elders

Vocabulary:

Troas: an area in Northwestern Turkey

midnight: 12:00 at night

fell asleep: went to sleep

accidentally: by accident, not on purpose

don't worry: do not be concerned or upset

Assos: a town in Troas

Mitylene: capital city of Lesbos, a Greek Island

Miletus: a city in South west Turkey

elders: men in authority

served: to work for someone

treated badly: to behave badly toward someone

turn from: to change behavior

dangerous: may be harmful

didn't matter: was not important

look after: take care of

guard: to protect

committed: dedicated to/ gave to

Paul went to Troas. One evening, Paul began to preach. He kept talking until midnight. A young man was at this meeting. His name was Eutychus. He was sitting in a window and fell asleep. Eutychus accidentally fell out of the window. He was dead. Paul went to the man. Paul said, "Don't worry. He's alive". Everyone ate together. Then Paul continued to preach until morning.

Read Acts 20: 7-12

There were other men with Paul. They sailed on a ship to Assos. There they met Paul and continued to Mitylene. They continued on to Miletus. At Miletus, Paul sent for some men. They were elders in the church at Ephesus. Paul reminded the elders about how he lived. Paul said that he served the Lord. He was treated badly. But Paul continued to preach about Jesus. He told the people they must turn from their sins. The people must have faith in Jesus.

Read Acts 20: 13-21

God told Paul to go to Jerusalem. Paul knew this was dangerous. He knew he might suffer. Paul could go to prison. This didn't matter to Paul. Paul must complete the work God gave him.

Read Acts 20: 22-27

Paul reminded the elders that they were leaders. They must look after the members of their church. Later, other men would come. They would try to turn people away from God. Even people in the church may have ideas that are not true. Paul told the elders to be on their guard.

Read Acts 20: 28-31

Paul committed the elders to God. Paul never received money from them. Paul showed the believers that they must work hard. They must help people in need. It is more blessed to give than to receive. Paul prayed with the elders. They kissed him and cried. They knew that they would never see him again.

Read Acts 20: 32-38

Questions

1. What happened to the young man when Paul was preaching?
2. Who did Paul send for?
3. Paul said that he _____.
He told the people that they must _____.
4. Where was Paul going? What may happen to him?

5. What did Paul tell the elders to do?

XX. Paul is arrested in Jerusalem

Vocabulary:

Asia Minor: Modern day Turkey

accused: said that someone did something (usually not true)

formed: came together

commander: an officer in charge of the army

attacked: to physically hurt someone

soldiers: members of an army (not officers)

fort: a strong building used by an army.

terrorist: a person who uses violence for political gain

grew up: lived someplace during one's childhood

trained: to be taught

persecuted: to treat cruelly or unfairly

opposing: to be against something or someone

Good news: that Jesus died for our sins and makes us right with God

Gentiles: non-Jews

whipped: struck with leather straps

Paul and his friends arrived in Jerusalem. Some Jews from Asia Minor saw them at the temple. The Jews from Asia Minor began to talk against Paul. Many people heard them and believed what they said. The people accused Paul of speaking against the Jews. They said that Paul was speaking against the Jewish laws and the temple. They accused Paul of bringing Greeks into the temple.

Read Acts 21: 27-29

People from all over the city came to the temple. A crowd formed and they dragged Paul out of the temple. The Roman commander heard that the people had attacked Paul. He sent soldiers to the temple area. When the people saw the soldiers, they left Paul alone. The commander arrested Paul. He talked to the crowd of people. He asked, "Who is this man? What has he done?" Everyone shouted. The commander couldn't understand. He told the soldiers to get Paul. The soldiers moved Paul to the fort. The crowd yelled, "Kill him."

Read Acts 21: 30-36

Paul started to speak to the commander. The commander was surprised. He thought that Paul was an Egyptian who was a terrorist. Paul said that he was a Jew from Tarsus. Paul wanted to speak to the crowd.

Read Acts 21: 37-40

Paul told the crowd the story of his life. He was born in Tarsus but grew up in Jerusalem. He was trained to be a teacher of the law (a Pharisee). Paul persecuted Christians. He was going to put Christians in prison in Jerusalem. On his way, Jesus spoke to him. Jesus said, "Why are you opposing me?" Paul asked, "What should I do?" The Lord told him to go to Damascus. Ananias would meet him there. Ananias told Paul that God had chosen Paul. God wanted Paul to tell people about Jesus. God wanted Paul to tell non-Jewish people (Gentiles) the Good News.

Read Acts 22: 3-21

The crowd got angry. They didn't like what Paul said about the Gentiles. They shouted, "Kill him". The commander ordered Paul to be whipped. Paul asked, "Is it right to whip a Roman citizen?" They didn't whip Paul. They were concerned. They didn't want to harm a Roman citizen.

Read Acts 22: 22-30

Questions

1. Who was speaking against Paul?

2. What was Paul accused of?

3. What did the crowd do to Paul?

4. Who arrested Paul?

5. Why was the commander surprised?

6. What did Paul say to the crowd?

7. Why did the crowd get angry after Paul's talk?

8. Why wasn't Paul whipped?

XXI. Paul and the Sanhedrin

Vocabulary:

Pharisees: a group of Jews who strictly follow the Jewish law

Sadducees: a group of Jews who follow the first 5 books of the bible.

argue: to disagree with someone – usually in anger

out of control: impossible to control

afraid for: afraid that something bad would happen

witness: to tell what you have seen or heard

took an oath: made a serious promise

in private: alone

pretend: to behave as if something is true but it isn't

armed soldiers: soldiers with weapons

plot: secret plan

hear the case: a judge will listen to the charges against someone and decide what should be done.

Paul talked to the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin was the Jewish court of law. Both Pharisees and Sadducees were members of the court. Paul said, "I'm a Pharisee. I believe in life after death." The Pharisees and Sadducees began to argue. The Sadducees did not believe in life after death. The Pharisees did. The Pharisees said there was nothing wrong with Paul. The arguing became loud and out of control. The commander of the army was afraid for Paul. The soldiers took Paul to the fort.

Read Acts 23: 6-10

The Lord appeared to Paul. He said, "Be brave". Paul was a witness for Jesus. Paul would also be a witness in Rome. Some Jews made plans to kill Paul. They took an oath. The Jews would not eat or drink until Paul was dead. The Jews talked to the chief priests and leaders. They wanted the chief priests to talk to the commander of the Roman army. The Jews wanted the commander to bring Paul to the Sanhedrin. The Jews would kill Paul as he came to the Sanhedrin.

Read Acts 23: 11-15

Paul's nephew heard about the plan to kill Paul. He told Paul about the plan. Paul asked an officer to take his nephew to the commander of the army. The commander spoke to Paul's nephew in private. The nephew told

the commander that the Jews wanted Paul taken to the Sanhedrin. The Jewish leaders will pretend to ask more questions about Paul. However, the Jewish leaders wanted to attack and kill Paul. The commander said to Paul's nephew, "don't tell anyone that you told me about this". The commander told his officers to get armed soldiers. The commander wanted to send Paul to Governor Felix. The soldiers must protect Paul until he reached the governor in Caesarea.

Read Acts 23: 16-24

The commander wrote a letter to the governor. He told the governor that the Jews had attacked Paul. The commander saved Paul. He learned that Paul was a Roman citizen. The commander learned that the charges against Paul were about Jewish law. There was no reason to kill him. The commander told the governor about the plot against Paul. The commander was sending Paul to Governor Felix. The governor would hear the case against Paul.

Read Act 23: 25-35

Questions

1. What is the Sanhedrin?
2. Why were the Pharisee and Sadducees arguing?
3. Why did the soldiers take Paul to the fort?
4. What did the Lord say to Paul?

5. What oath did the Jews take?

6. What did Paul's nephew hear about? What did he do?

7. What did the commander do after he talked to Paul's nephew?

XXII. Paul's trial.

Vocabulary:

flattery: complimenting or giving praise but not really meaning it.

wise: natural knowledge as well as book knowledge

proceeded: continued

troublemaker: someone who causes trouble

stir up: to cause a group of people to become excited and angry

the Way: believers in Christ

cult: a group of religious people thought to be extreme or false

put off: delay

judge: to determine guilt or innocence

Jewish priests and elders went to Caesarea. They brought charges against Paul. They came before Governor Felix. The priests and elders brought a lawyer with them. The lawyer began with words of flattery. He said that Felix was a wise leader and the nation was better with him as leader. The lawyer proceeded to talk against Paul. He said Paul was a troublemaker. The lawyer told Felix to question Paul himself.

Read Acts 24: 1-8

The governor told Paul to speak. Paul said, "I went up to Jerusalem to worship twelve days ago. I did not argue with anyone at the temple. I didn't stir up any crowds in the temple or the city. I worship God. I am a follower of the Way of Jesus. The priests say that believers are part of a cult. But I believe in the Jewish law, and the prophets. I believe in the same God as the priests do. I had been away from Jerusalem for several years. I returned to bring some gifts to the poor. I also came to offer sacrifices."

Read Acts 24: 9-18

Paul continued to speak. Paul said the Jews from Asia Minor brought charges against him. Paul said, "Let the Jews who came tell you what crime I am guilty of. I was put on trial by the Sanhedrin. I said that I believe people will rise from the dead. That's why I'm on trial." Governor Felix wanted to put off the trial. Felix ordered Paul to be held under guard. Felix allowed Paul's friends to take care of his needs.

Read Acts 24: 19-23

Felix and his wife Drusilla visited Paul. Drusilla was a Jew. Paul told them about faith in Jesus Christ. Paul told them how to live right and have self-control. Paul also said that God would judge the world. Felix became afraid. He sent Paul away. Felix and Paul talked together often over the next two years. A new governor named Porcius Festus became the new governor.

Read Acts 24: 24-27

Questions

1. Why did the priests and elders go to Governor Felix?
2. What did the lawyer say about Paul?
3. Why did Paul go to Jerusalem?
4. What did the priests say about the believers?
5. What did Paul believe?

6. Why was Paul put on trial by the Sanhedrin?

7. What did Paul tell Felix and his wife Drusilla?

XXIII. Paul's trial before Festus

Vocabulary:

presented: to give something to someone

charges: a official statement about someone's guilt

prove: to show that something is true

state their case: present their charges

opinion: to get someone's idea about something

Festus, the new Governor, went to Jerusalem. He met with the chief priests and Jewish leaders. The Jewish leaders presented their charges against Paul. The leaders wanted Festus to bring Paul back to Jerusalem. They were planning to kill him. Festus said Paul would stay in Caesarea. Festus was going to Caesarea. He said the Jewish leaders could come to Caesarea. They could bring charges against Paul there.

Read Acts 25: 1-5 (page 1183)

Festus returned to Caesarea. The Jewish leaders went with him. Festus had Paul brought to the court. The Jewish leaders brought their charges against Paul. But they couldn't prove the charges. Paul said, "I've done nothing wrong." Festus asked Paul, "Will you go to Jerusalem? Will you appear on trial in Jerusalem? Paul said, "I'm standing in Caesar's court. This is where I should be on trial. I have done nothing wrong. If I were guilty, I would die gladly. I want to go before Caesar."

Read Acts 25: 6-11

Festus said Paul could go before Caesar. King Agrippa was visiting Caesarea. Governor Festus told him about Paul. He told the king that the Jewish leaders brought charges against Paul. The Jewish leaders wanted Paul to be found guilty. Festus allowed the Jewish leaders to state their case. Festus told the king that the charges were about their beliefs. Festus didn't know what to do. Paul wanted to go before Caesar. King Agrippa said, "I want to hear from this man Paul."

Read Acts 25: 12-22

King Agrippa came to the courtroom. He had many important men with him. Paul was brought into the room. Festus said, “The Jewish leaders want this man to die. He has not done anything wrong.” Festus said, “Paul wants to see the Emperor. I will send him to Rome.” Festus wanted everyone to hear Paul. He wanted to get their opinion so he could write to Caesar.

Read Acts 25: 23-27

Questions

1. Who was the new governor?
2. Why did the Jewish leaders want Festus to bring Paul to Jerusalem?
3. What did Paul say about the charges against him?
4. Who did Paul want to “go before”?
5. What did King Agrippa say about Paul?
6. Why did Festus want King Agrippa’s opinion about Paul?

XXIV. Paul sails to Rome

Vocabulary:

transferred: to remove from one place to another place.

coast: land of a country beside the ocean

dangerous: not safe

advice: someone's opinion (what they think)

pilot: person steering the ship

harbor: a place where ship can stop and tie up

gentle: light

anchor: a very heavy metal object used to keep a ship from moving

hurricane: severe storm with winds from 60 – 140 mph

lifeboat: small boat used if the ship is in danger of sinking

crew: sailors and others who work on ships

avoided: prevented

spare: keep from harm

Agrippa and Festus sent Paul to Rome. Paul and his friends were put on a ship. They were guarded by Julius, a Roman guard. The ship stopped at Sidon. Julius allowed Paul to visit his friends in Sidon. They continued to sail on to Lycia. At Lycia, they transferred Paul and those with him to another ship going to Italy.

Read Acts 27: 1-6

It was very windy. They had to sail along the coast of Crete. The weather became dangerous. Paul warned the men on the ship that their lives were in danger. Julius wouldn't listen. He followed the advice of the pilot and ship owner. The harbor wasn't a good place to stay in winter. They decided to continue sailing. They were hoping to reach Phoenix.

Read Acts 27: 7-12

A gentle wind began to blow. The sailors pulled up the anchor and began to sail toward Phoenix. A very strong wind started. It was as strong as a hurricane. The lifeboat was almost lost. The sailors had to bring it on board. They even had to tie the ship together with ropes. They lowered the anchor again and let the wind carry them. The next day, the crew began to throw containers into the sea. They even threw the ship's gear overboard. The storm was horrible.

Read Acts 27: 13-20

The storm was so bad that the men could not eat. Paul said, “ You should have listened to me before. You would have avoided this loss. Now, be brave. You will survive. However, this ship will be destroyed. An angel of God appeared to me. The angel said, “ Don’t be afraid. You will go on trial before Caesar. God will spare the lives of all the men on this ship.” Paul said, “ Be brave. I have faith in God. But we must sail the ship onto the beach of an island”.

Read Acts 27: 21-26

Questions

1. What happened to Paul and his friends?
2. What did Paul say when the weather became dangerous?
3. Who did Julius listen to?
4. The wind became like a hurricane. What did the sailors do? (List everything they did.)
5. What did Paul say about the people on the ship? Would they survive? Would the ship survive?

XXV. The ship is destroyed

Vocabulary:

approaching: getting near to

water's depth: how deep the water is

dropped the anchors: put anchors into the water

secretly: without anyone knowing

gain strength: get stronger

survive: to live through a dangerous time

food supply: food stored in a container

bay: part of the ocean where it meets the curved land

rudder: a part of the boat used to change directions

sandbar: a raised area of sand in the ocean near land

dysentery: severe diarrhea

The sailors thought they were approaching land. They measured the water's depth. It was 120 feet. A short time later, the depth was 90 feet. The sailors were afraid that the ship was too close to the rocks. They were afraid the ship would crash against the rocks. The sailors dropped the anchors. They prayed for daylight. The sailors were so afraid that they tried to leave the ship secretly. They lowered a lifeboat. But they pretended that the boat was another anchor. Paul said, "Don't let the sailors leave. If they leave, everyone will die". The soldiers cut the ropes to the lifeboat.

Read Acts 27: 27-32 (page 1186)

Paul told everyone to eat some food. They had not eaten for 14 days. Paul said, "You must eat. You need to gain strength to survive." Paul gave thanks to God for the food. The people saw Paul and began to have hope. Everyone ate as much food as they could. They threw the rest of the food supply overboard. They needed to make the ship lighter.

Read Acts 27: 33-38

The sailors saw a bay with a beach. They decided to run the ship onto the beach. They cut the anchors. They used the rudder to direct the ship to the beach. The ship hit a sandbar and got stuck. The waves crashed against the back of the ship. The ship began to break apart. The soldiers on board were planning to kill the prisoners. However, the commander wanted to save Paul. He did not allow the soldiers to kill anyone. The people who

could swim jumped into the water. The others used boards from the ship to get to the beach. Everyone reached the beach safely.

Read Acts 27: 39-44

The beach was on the Island of Malta. The people on the Island were kind. They started a fire so everyone could get warm. Paul helped gather sticks for the fire. A poisonous snake came out. It bit and attached onto Paul's hand. The people from Malta saw the snake. They thought Paul must be a murderer. They thought Justice would make him die. Justice was the name of a goddess.

Read Acts 28: 1-4

Paul shook the snake off of his hand. Paul was not harmed. The people expected Paul to die but he didn't. The people said Paul was a god. Publius was an official on the Island. He took care of Paul and his friends. Publius' father was very sick. He had a fever and dysentery. Paul prayed for him. Paul placed his hands on Publius' father and healed him. Many other sick people came to Paul. They were healed. The people on the Island gave the crew, soldiers, Paul, and his friends all the supplies they needed for their journey.

Read Acts 28: 5-10

Questions

1. What were the sailors afraid of?
2. What did the sailors try to do?
3. What did Paul say about the sailors?

4. Why did Paul want everyone to eat?

5. What happened to the ship?

6. What did the people of Malta do for the members of the ship?

7. What happened when the poisonous snake bit Paul?

8. What did Paul do for the people of Malta?

XXVI. Paul arrives in Rome

Vocabulary:

crew: sailors and others who work on ships
coastal town: a town beside the ocean
called a meeting: asked to meet with someone
handed over: given
authorities: people in control
appealed: to ask for a higher court
Israel's hope: fulfillment of prophecies
Law: God's Commandments
Gentiles: non-Jewish people

After three months, the crew, soldiers, and Paul and his friends sailed from the Island of Malta. They landed at Syracuse (in Sicily) and stayed for 3 days. They sailed on to Puteoli, a small coastal town in Italy. Paul and his friends stayed there with some Christian believers for one week. Finally, the ship arrived in Rome. Many believers came to meet Paul. Paul was allowed to live by himself in Rome. However, a soldier guarded him.

Read Acts 28: 11-16

Paul called a meeting of the Jewish leaders. He told them that he had done nothing against the Jewish people. He had done nothing against their traditions. Paul was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans. The Roman authorities did not find Paul guilty. But the Jews wanted Paul punished. Paul appealed to Caesar. Paul said, "I share Israel's hope".

Read Acts 28: 17-20

The Jewish leaders said, "We have not received any reports against you." They wanted Paul to tell them about his ideas. They met with Paul. Many other people also came to hear from Paul. He told them about Jesus using the Law and the Prophets. Some people believed. Others did not. Paul reminded them of Isaiah. The Holy Spirit spoke through Isaiah. He said, "People will hear but not understand. They will see but not know what they were seeing. Their hearts have become stubborn. Now, God will send his salvation to the Gentiles." Paul stayed in Rome for two years. He continued to preach the gospel of Christ.

Read Acts 28: 21-31

Questions

1. How long did Paul stay on Malta?
2. Who did Paul meet in Puteoli? How long did Paul stay there?
3. Was Paul placed in prison in Rome? If not, where did he stay?
4. Who did Paul meet with in Rome? What did he tell them?
5. What did the Jewish leaders say to Paul?
6. What did the Holy Spirit say through Isaiah?