



## DAILY STUDY

### Lesson 22: Paul Is Arrested in Jerusalem

Passage: Read Acts 21-22

Verse: Acts 21:13

#### DAY 1 LET'S BEGIN:

1. Where did Paul go according to Acts 21:1-3? Mark the places on Map 4.
2. What did the disciples keep telling Paul? (Acts 21:4)
3. How did the people send Paul away? (Acts 21:5-6)
4. Where did Paul go next? (Acts 21:7-8) Mark the place on Map 4.
5. Who did Paul stay with? (Acts 21:8-9)

#### DAY 2 VERSE ANALYSIS: Please fill in the missing words.

Acts 21:13

Then Paul answered, What men ye to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ mine heart? for I am \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_ only, \_\_\_\_\_ to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

1. Who was Agabus, and what did he tell Paul? (Acts 21:10-11)
2. What did those with Paul say to him, and what was Paul's response? (Acts 21:12-14)
3. What was their conclusion? (Acts 21:14)
4. What does this tell you about Paul? (Acts 21:13)

#### DAY 3 FIND the FACTS:

1. Where did Paul go, and who went with him? (Acts 21:15-16)
2. How was Paul received by the brethren? (Acts 21:17-18)
3. What did Paul relate to them, and how did they respond? (Acts 21:9-20)
4. What issue occurs in Acts 21:21-27, and what was their response?
5. What opposition came? (Acts 21:28-32)
6. What was done to Paul? (Acts 21:33)
7. Where did they take Paul? (Acts 21:34-36)
8. Who had they thought Paul was, and what did Paul explain? (Acts 21:37-40)



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## PASSAGE THOUGHTS

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### Lesson 22: Paul Is Arrested in Jerusalem

After Paul left the Ephesian elders, the ship sailed close to shore by day and anchored at a different port each night. Finally, Paul found a large ship crossing the Mediterranean with a favorable wind allowing him to reach Phoenicia more quickly. Paul kept the priority of reaching Jerusalem with the offerings clearly in mind.

With the faster transportation time, Paul was able to spend some time with the church in Tyre. With some people urging Paul not to go to Jerusalem, the question arises as to his obedience in doing so. According to Acts 20:22-23 Paul was warned about what would happen to him there, but he was not forbidden to go as he had been directed several times earlier to avoid certain areas at certain times. In Acts 20:24 Paul even described it as the ministry he had received from the Lord Jesus.

Nowhere in Scripture is Paul's going to Jerusalem questioned or maligned. In fact, in view of the coming persecution, it is to his credit that he went anyway. As Paul left the people in Caesarea, they gave him a send off with a statement of confident trust that the will of the Lord be done (Acts 21:14). Some even joined him on his courageous forty mile journey to Jerusalem.

Paul's actions show his determination and his humility in face of his clear understanding of God's sovereign grace in saving him. Paul had thought he was serving God in persecuting Christians, but he learned that he was actually going against God Himself. Paul never forgot his position.

At Jerusalem Paul and the others were well received. Paul's meeting with James and the elders is an indication that the other apostles had left the area. James the brother of John was already dead. The others were handling missionary work, and the church was being run by elders. James spoke for the elders this time.

The presentation of the offering is not even mentioned here, although it is alluded to in Acts 24:17. As Paul had done on his previous visit to Jerusalem he began recounting the various things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. This would have been Paul's heart throb, and he would have been blessed by their glorifying God in its knowledge.

And this joy was contrasted in their minds when they thought of the multitude of Jewish believers who were holding on to the various regulations and restrictions of their Jewish heritage.

The elders suggested a self-sacrificial humility designed to promote unity and understanding. Paul gladly agreed to the arrangements. There are those who question Paul's position here; however, negative results do not prove that Paul made a mistake contrary to what some would believe about a health and wealth gospel. For those who might find this offensive, what about Noah and his building of the ark.

God did not promise Paul a bed or roses. He promised him safety in the midst of the storm. Paul was often in the midst of a storm or one sort or another. But he was always in the hands of his gracious Lord.

Paul began carrying out the requirements of the purification process. Almost at the end of the process Paul

encountered some old enemies. They wasted no time in stirring up the people to seize Paul. They made three accusations: they accused him of being an enemy of the Jewish people and their religion; of opposing the law; and of speaking against or defiling the temple. They even said he had brought Greeks into the temple. Perhaps someone had seen Trophimus with him in the city, but Paul would not have endangered Trophimus by bringing him into the Temple. Besides, Paul was carrying out a purification process for the sake of the Jews and would not have jeopardized that in any way. These enemies were grasping at straws.

With the people in a frenzy, Paul was dragged outside the temple and was about to be stoned when the commander of the Roman cohort, Claudius Lysias, showed up with some two hundred or so soldiers to rescue him. Fort Antonia was located where it overlooked the temple so the soldiers had a ready eye for unrest. The mob was so riled up that Lysias thought Paul was an Egyptian terrorist. No wonder he acted so quickly and decisively.

When Paul addressed Lysias in Greek, he was shocked. Greek was for cultured people not common criminals. Paul obtained permission to speak to the people. He gave them his testimony of what God had done. He gave the before and after along with his conversion itself. Paul was not only not anti-Jewish, he was a Jew educated by Gamaliel, the most revered rabbi at that time. He had been zealous for God just as they were. He had even received letters from the Council to gather prisoners in Damascus.

Paul recounted his conversion clearly. Then Paul told of how he was sent away to the Gentiles. This last statement reignited their fury. Again Paul had to be removed from the crowd. He had planned to have Paul beaten when he heard that Paul was a Roman citizen. Scouraging an uncondemned Roman citizen could have cost him his career. Thinking that Paul may have bought it through bribery, he soon learned that Paul was born a Roman citizen. Paul was immediately released because putting him in chains without a preliminary hearing was also illegal.

Paul had exemplified proper conduct in such adverse circumstances. He accepted the situation, he used the opportunity to communicate how God's saving power had transformed him, he was respectful, of them and their motives, he exalted the Lord, and he still loved his unsaved countrymen.

Lysias was perplexed as to why this man Paul had created such an uproar so he took Paul to the Council to find answers. And that is where this passage ends. Can you say what Paul was getting ready to say - that he had a good conscience before God? How have you responded to persecution?

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**PRAYER:** *Father, help us be able to say with Paul that we have a good conscience before You. Help us understand what that means.*


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**PREPARE to SHARE:** Review the passage, and use the questions to help draw the passage together in order to strengthen your relationship with God, your family and others.



**FOCUS:** Paul was ready to be bound in Jerusalem for the sake of the Lord Jesus.

**A. OBSERVE**   :

1. Who are the main and other characters?
2. Where is the action taking place, and what are the characters doing?
3. What words or phrases: a. occur frequently; b. should be defined for the students (include a definition)?
  - a.
  - b.
4. What qualities, promises and/or commands of God do you see in this passage?

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**B. SUMMARIZE**   :

1. Into what 2-4 sections would you divide this passage? Label the sections.
2. What information can be added by cross references?
3. Make a summary statement of ten words or less uniquely identifying the passage.

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**C. APPLY**   :

1. From this passage what can you:
  - a. praise God for?
  - b. thank God for?
  - c. pray for yourself, your family and your class?
2. To apply this passage you would:
3. To apply this passage a student would:
4. What applications can be made as questions?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.

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**D. SHARE**   :

1. What important points do you want to communicate to your class, and how?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.

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# PASSAGE SUMMARY

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## Lesson 22: Paul Is Arrested in Jerusalem

Paul and his companions left the Ephesian elders, and sailed to Cos, Rhodes and Patara. They found a ship going to Phoenicia and sailed to Syria where they landed at Tyre. There the ship unloaded its cargo.

Paul stayed there seven days. The disciples warned him not to go to Jerusalem. They and their families went with Paul to the ship to say goodbye. Everyone knelt on the beach to pray. Paul and his companions sailed to Ptolemais and stayed there for a day.

The next day they went to Caesarea. They stayed with Philip who was one of the seven. While they were there, Agabus arrived from Judea. Agabus took Paul's belt and bound his own hands and feet. **Agabus** said the same thing would happen to Paul in Jerusalem. Paul would be turned over to the Gentiles.

Everyone begged Paul not to go there. Paul said they were breaking his heart with their weeping. He was ready to die for the name of the Lord Jesus. Paul wanted to do the will of the Lord. He got ready to go to Jerusalem.

Some disciples from Caesarea took them to Mnason of Cyprus for a place to stay. The brethren in Jerusalem gladly received Paul and the others. The next day Paul went with them to James and the rest of the elders. Paul told them about what God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. The elders glorified God.

The elders told Paul about the many Jews who had believed but were following the law. They had heard that Paul taught Jews not to follow the customs of the law of Moses. The elders wanted to know what to do when the Jews heard that Paul had arrived.

The elders suggested that Paul go with four men who had taken a vow. Paul should purify himself with them and pay to have their hair cut as a fitting end to their vows. Then the people would know that he was not opposed to the law of Moses.

They had agreed that the **Gentiles** should not eat meat offered to idols, blood, or things strangled. They should also avoid fornication. Paul did as they asked. He went with the men the next day and purified himself with them. Paul announced that they had completed the days of purification. He offered a sacrifice for each of them. When the time was almost over, some Jews stirred up the crowd against him with false claims.

The crowd dragged Paul out of the temple. They were looking for a way to kill him. The chief captain of the garrison heard the confusion. He took some soldiers and centurions and ran to see what was happening. The chief captain ordered **Paul** to be bound.



The crowd was shouting different things. The chief captain could not hear the facts in the noise. Paul spoke to the chief captain in Greek as they entered the barracks. Then he knew Paul was not the unruly Egyptian they had heard about.

Paul said that he was a citizen of Tarsus in Cilicia. He asked if he could talk to the people. The chief captain gave Paul permission to speak to them. Paul spoke in Hebrew, and the crowd got quiet.

Paul said he was a Jew born in Tarsus. He was raised in Jerusalem and was educated under Gamaliel. He had followed the law of their fathers zealously for God. He had persecuted the people of the Way diligently. He had even received letters to go to Damascus and take prisoners there.

On the way to Damascus Paul had seen a great light. It blinded him. Jesus had asked Paul why he was persecuting Him. Then Jesus sent Paul to Damascus to wait for Ananias to restore his sight. Ananias told Paul that he would be a witness for God of what he had **seen** and **heard**.

Paul returned to the **temple** in Jerusalem. God sent him away because the people would not accept Paul's witness. Paul had even stood by with approval while Stephen was stoned to death. Paul said God had sent him to the Gentiles. When the crowd heard this, they were ready to put Paul to death.


The chief captain took Paul inside. He thought they should beat Paul to find out the truth. Paul asked if it was lawful to beat an uncondemned Roman citizen. The centurion told the chief captain, and they quickly unbound Paul. The next day they released Paul and ordered the council to assemble. They brought Paul before the council.

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**QUESTIONS:** Where did Paul go after he left the Ephesian elders?  
What did Paul know was going to happen?  
What did Paul do, and what happened to him in this passage?

**BIBLE VERSE:** Acts 21:13 Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

**SUMMARY WORKSHEET:** Write answers and prepare well.


**BEGINNING:**  Statement and/or activity to begin getting the children's attention.

Use a word puzzle/color page. Help the children draw a picture of a ship. Give them some people stickers to put in the ship or help them draw some stick figure people for the ship.

SAY: We are going to find out what happened to Paul when he went to Jerusalem.

**TRANSITIONS:**  Use one or two during the week, keep them simple, positive and fun.


- Let's see what Paul says to do next. This is the way we clean up.

**VERSE:**  Locate it in the Bible. The goal is enjoyable association, participation and repetition.

Put the words of the verse on a ship shape and make it into a puzzle. Help the children assemble the verse and review it several times.

**SONGS and HYMNS:**  Sing together.

- "Fishers of Men," "Oh, How I Love Jesus," "Jesus Loves Even Me"
- **Say and Do:** Let's sing praises to God who prepared Paul for what was going to happen. Have one child be Paul. Have the other children try to warn Paul about danger. Have Paul tell that he wanted to serve God. He was not afraid of what the people would do to him.

**LARGE MUSCLE:**  Use when it is time for some guided action.

**Pack and Travel:** Have the children pretend to gather a few belongings. Have them travel around the room from place to place like Paul did.

SAY: Paul was finishing his travels by going to Jerusalem. He knew there would be danger there.

**THINK and DO:**  Look up, look around, look inside.

- **Passage Places:** Help the children say and match the names of places in this passage. Include as many as you think they can handle: Coos, Rhodes, Patara, Phoenicia, Syria, Tyre, Caesarea, Jerusalem. Show them some of these places on a map.  
SAY: Paul traveled through a number of places on the way to Jerusalem. He knew there would be danger there.
- **Passage People:** Write the names of people in this passage on two sets of cards. Help the children learn the names of people in this passage. Help the children say and match the names. Include as many as you think they can handle: Paul, Philip, Agabus, Mnason, James, Ananias, Stephen.  
SAY: Talk about what each of the people did.
- **Passage Scenarios:** Have the children act out some of the scenario of what happened to Paul in this passage.  
SAY: Paul met with the elders in Jerusalem. Many were believing, but some were still following the customs of the past. Some Jews were not believing, and they wanted to put Paul to death. God used the commander to protect Paul.

**TODDLER ACTIVITIES:**  Do one or more with each child some time during the week.


- **Passage People and Places:** Help the children say the names of some of the people and places in the passage. Show them what the words look like. Help them match some of them together.
- **Act It Out:** Help your child act out some of scenes in the passage.

**SNACK and SHARE:**  Parent's time to listen.

- **Snack:** Fish shaped crackers; water. Serve near a boat.
- **Questions:** What do you remember about Paul's life?

**STOP and CONSIDER:**  A time to think quietly.

Think about how Paul urged the people to follow God.

**REVIEW:**  An enjoyable time of remembering or practicing.

**Concentration Game:** See the instructions in Lesson 1 on page 7. Review the story of what had happened to Paul in the past. Paul told the people about how God had shown him the truth about Jesus Christ.