The Book of Acts - Chapter 17
NRSVA

The Uproar in Thessalonica
1 After Paul and Silas had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, **they came to Thessalonica**, where there was a **synagogue** of the Jews. 2 And Paul went in, as was his custom, and **on three sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures, 3 explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, 'This is the Messiah, Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you.'** 4 Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. 5 But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the market-places they **formed a mob** and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly, they attacked Jason's house. 6 When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some believers before the city authorities, shouting, **'These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also, 7 and Jason has entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus.'** 8 The people and the city officials were disturbed when they heard this, 9 and after they had taken bail from Jason and the others, they let them go.

Paul and Silas in Beroea
10 That very night the believers sent Paul and Silas off to **Beroea**; and when they arrived, they went to the Jewish synagogue. 11 **These Jews were more receptive than those in Thessalonica**, for they welcomed the message very eagerly and examined the scriptures every day to see whether these things were so. 12 Many of them therefore believed, including not a few Greek women and men of high standing. 13 But when the Jews of Thessalonica learned that the word of God had been proclaimed by Paul in Beroea as well, they came there too, to stir up and incite the crowds. 14 Then the believers immediately sent Paul away to the coast, but Silas and Timothy remained behind. 15 Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as **Athens**; and after receiving instructions to have Silas and Timothy join him as soon as possible, they left him.

Paul in Athens
16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of **idols**. 17 So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the market-place every day with those who happened to be there. 18 Also some **Epicurean and Stoic philosophers** debated with him. Some said,

'What does this babbler want to say?' Others said, 'He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.' (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) 19 So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, **'May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? 20 It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.'** 21 Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or **hearing something new**.

22 Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 **The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands,** 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. 26 From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27 so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed **he is not far from each one of us. 28 For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said,** "For we too are his offspring."

29 **Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. 30 While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,** 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

32 When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, 'We will hear you again about this.' 33 At that point Paul left them. 34 But some of them joined him and became believers, including **Dionysius the Areopagit**e and a woman named **Damaris**, and others with them.

The Book of Acts - Chapter 18
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Paul in Corinth
1 After this Paul left Athens and went to **Corinth**. 2 There he found a Jew named **Aquila**, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife **Priscilla**,

because **Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome**. Paul went to see them, 3 and, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them, and they worked together —**by trade they were tentmakers**. 4 Every sabbath he would argue in the synagogue and would try to convince Jews and Greeks.

5 When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with proclaiming the word, testifying to the Jews that the Messiah was Jesus. 6 W**hen they opposed and reviled him, in protest he shook the dust from his clothes and said to them, 'Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.'** 7 Then he left the synagogue and went to the house of a man named **Titius Justu**s, a worshipper of God; his house was next door to the synagogue. 8 **Crispus**, the official of the synagogue, became a believer in the Lord, together with all his household; and **many of the Corinthians who heard Paul became believers and were baptized**. 9 One night the Lord said to Paul in a **vision**, 'Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent; 10 for I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to harm you, for t**here are many in this city who are my people**.' 11 He stayed there for a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

12 But when **Gallio** was **proconsul** of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal. 13 They said, 'This man is persuading people to worship God in ways that are contrary to the law.' 14 Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to the Jews, 'If it were a matter of crime or serious villainy, I would be justified in accepting the complaint of you Jews; 15 but **since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves**; I do not wish to be a judge of these matters.' 16 And he dismissed them from the tribunal. 17 Then all of them seized Sosthenes, the official of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of these things.

Paul's Return to Antioch

18 After staying there for a considerable time, **Paul said farewell to the believers and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila.** At Cenchreae he had his **hair cut**, for he was under a vow. 19 When they reached **Ephesus**, he left them there, but first he himself went into the synagogue and had a discussion with the Jews. 20 When they asked him to stay longer, he declined; 21 but on taking leave of them, he said, 'I will return to you, if God wills.' Then he set sail from Ephesus.

22 When he had landed at **Caesarea**, he went up to Jerusalem and greeted the church, and then went down to **Antioch**. 23 After spending some time there he departed and

went from place to place through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

Ministry of Apollos
24 Now there came to Ephesus a Jew named **Apollos**, a native of Alexandria. He was **an eloquent man**, well-versed in the scriptures. 25 He had been instructed in the Way of the Lord; and **he spoke with burning enthusiasm and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John**. 26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue; but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained the Way of God to him more accurately. 27 And when he wished to cross over to Achaia, the believers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. On his arrival he greatly helped those who through grace had become believers, 28 for **he powerfully refuted** the Jews in public, showing by the scriptures that the Messiah is Jesus.