The Book of Acts - Chapter 11
NRSVA

Peter's Report to the Church at Jerusalem
1 Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had
also accepted the word of God. 2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the
circumcised believers criticized him, 3 saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men
and eat with them?' 4 Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 5 'I
was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something
like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it
came close to me. 6 As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey,
reptiles, and birds of the air. 7 I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill
and eat." 8 But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has
ever entered my mouth." 9 But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What
God has made clean, you must not call profane." 10 This happened three times; then
everything was pulled up again to heaven. 11 At that very moment three men, sent to
me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. 12 The Spirit told me to go
with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also
accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. 13 He told us how he had seen the
angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called
Peter; 14 he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be
saved." 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon
us at the beginning. 16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said,
"John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." 17 If then
God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus
Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' 18 When they heard this, they were
silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the
repentance that leads to life.'

The Church in Antioch
19 Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that took place over
Stephen travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they spoke the word
to no one except Jews. 20 But among them were some men of Cyprus and Cyrene
who, on coming to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists also, proclaiming the Lord Jesus.
21 The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number became believers and
turned to the Lord. 22 News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and
they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he came and saw the grace of God, he
rejoiced, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast
devotion; 24 for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great
many people were brought to the Lord. 25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for

Saul, 26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they associated with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called 'Christians'.

27 At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. 29 The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; 30 this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

The Book of Acts - Chapter 12
NRSVA

James Killed and Peter Imprisoned
1 About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. 2 He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. 3 After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) 4 When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. 5 While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

Peter Delivered from Prison
6 The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. 7 Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists. 8 The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.' 9 Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. 10 After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. 11 Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

12 As soon as he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many had gathered and were praying. 13 When

he knocked at the outer gate, a maid named Rhoda came to answer. 14 On recognizing Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the gate, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing at the gate. 15 They said to her, 'You are out of your mind!' But she insisted that it was so. They said, 'It is his angel.' 16 Meanwhile, Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the gate, they saw him and were amazed. 17 He motioned to them with his hand to be silent, and described for them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he added, 'Tell this to James and to the believers.' Then he left and went to another place.

18 When morning came, there was no small commotion among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. 19 When Herod had searched for him and could not find him, he examined the guards and ordered them to be put to death. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there.

The Death of Herod
20 Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon. So they came to him in a body; and after winning over Blastus, the king's chamberlain, they asked for a reconciliation, because their country depended on the king's country for food. 21 On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat on the platform, and delivered a public address to them. 22 The people kept shouting, 'The voice of a god, and not of a mortal!' 23 And immediately, because he had not given the glory to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

24 But the word of God continued to advance and gain adherents. 25 Then after completing their mission Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem and brought with them John, whose other name was Mark.

The Book of Acts - Chapter 13
NRSVA

Barnabas and Saul Commissioned
1 Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul. 2 While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' 3 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

The Apostles Preach in Cyprus

4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia; and from there
they sailed to Cyprus. 5 When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of
God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John also to assist them. 6 When
they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they met a certain magician,
a Jewish false prophet, named Bar-Jesus. 7 He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus,
an intelligent man, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and wanted to hear the word
of God. 8 But the magician Elymas (for that is the translation of his name) opposed
them and tried to turn the proconsul away from the faith. 9 But Saul, also known as
Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him 10 and said, 'You son of the
devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop
making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? 11 And now listen—the hand of the
Lord is against you, and you will be blind for a while, unable to see the sun.'
Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he went about groping for
someone to lead him by the hand. 12 When the proconsul saw what had happened, he
believed, for he was astonished at the teaching about the Lord.

Paul and Barnabas in Antioch of Pisidia
13 Then Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in
Pamphylia. John, however, left them and returned to Jerusalem; 14 but they went on
from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the sabbath day they went into
the synagogue and sat down. 15 After the reading of the law and the prophets, the
officials of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, 'Brothers, if you have any
word of exhortation for the people, give it.' 16 So Paul stood up and with a gesture
began to speak:

'You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen. 17 The God of this people Israel
chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt,
and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. 18 For about forty years he put up with
them in the wilderness. 19 After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of
Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance 20 for about four hundred and fifty
years. After that he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel. 21 Then
they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of
Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. 22 When he had removed him, he made David
their king. In his testimony about him he said, "I have found David, son of Jesse, to
be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes." 23 Of this man's posterity
God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised; 24 before his coming John
had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. 25 And as
John was finishing his work, he said, "What do you suppose that I am? I am not he.
No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on
his feet."

26 ‘My brothers, you descendants of Abraham’s family, and others who fear God, to
us the message of this salvation has been sent. 27 Because the residents of Jerusalem
and their leaders did not recognize him or understand the words of the prophets that
are read every sabbath, they fulfilled those words by condemning him. 28 Even
though they found no cause for a sentence of death, they asked Pilate to have him
killed. 29 When they had carried out everything that was written about him, they took
him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. 30 But God raised him from the
dead; 31 and for many days he appeared to those who came up with him from Galilee
to Jerusalem, and they are now his witnesses to the people. 32 And we bring you the
good news that what God promised to our ancestors 33 he has fulfilled for us, their
children, by raising Jesus; as also it is written in the second psalm,

“You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.”

34 As to his raising him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has
spoken in this way,

“I will give you the holy promises made to David.”

35 Therefore he has also said in another psalm,

“You will not let your Holy One experience corruption.”

36 For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, died,
was laid beside his ancestors, and experienced corruption; 37 but he whom God
raised up experienced no corruption. 38 Let it be known to you therefore, my
brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you; 39 by this
Jesus everyone who believes is set free from all those sins from which you could not
be freed by the law of Moses. 40 Beware, therefore, that what the prophets said does
not happen to you:

41 “Look, you scoffers!
Be amazed and perish,
for in your days I am doing a work,
a work that you will never believe, even if someone tells you.’”

42 As Paul and Barnabas were going out, the people urged them to speak about these
things again the next sabbath. 43 When the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many

Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who spoke to them and urged them to continue in the grace of God.

44 The next sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. 45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy; and blaspheming, they contradicted what was spoken by Paul. 46 Then both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, 'It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken first to you. Since you reject it and judge yourselves to be unworthy of eternal life, we are now turning to the Gentiles. 47 For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,

"I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles,
so that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."'

48 When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and praised the word of the Lord; and as many as had been destined for eternal life became believers. 49 Thus the word of the Lord spread throughout the region. 50 But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, and stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their region. 51 So they shook the dust off their feet in protest against them, and went to Iconium. 52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

The Book of Acts - Chapter 14
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Paul and Barnabas in Iconium
1 The same thing occurred in Iconium, where Paul and Barnabas went into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks became believers. 2 But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. 3 So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who testified to the word of his grace by granting signs and wonders to be done through them. 4 But the residents of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles. 5 And when an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to maltreat them and to stone them, 6 the apostles learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country; 7 and there they continued proclaiming the good news.

Paul and Barnabas in Lystra and Derbe
8 In Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet and had never walked, for he had been crippled from birth. 9 He listened to Paul as he was speaking. And Paul, looking at him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, 10 said in a

loud voice, 'Stand upright on your feet.' And the man sprang up and began to walk. 11 When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, 'The gods have come down to us in human form!' 12 Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. 13 The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates; he and the crowds wanted to offer sacrifice. 14 When the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting, 15 'Friends, why are you doing this? We are mortals just like you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. 16 In past generations he allowed all the nations to follow their own ways; 17 yet he has not left himself without a witness in doing good—giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, and filling you with food and your hearts with joy.' 18 Even with these words, they scarcely restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.

19 But Jews came there from Antioch and Iconium and won over the crowds. Then they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. 20 But when the disciples surrounded him, he got up and went into the city. The next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe.

The Return to Antioch in Syria
21 After they had proclaimed the good news to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, then on to Iconium and Antioch. 22 There they strengthened the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith, saying, 'It is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God.' 23 And after they had appointed elders for them in each church, with prayer and fasting they entrusted them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

24 Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. 25 When they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. 26 From there they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had completed. 27 When they arrived, they called the church together and related all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles. 28 And they stayed there with the disciples for some time.

The Book of Acts - Chapter 15
NRSVA

The Council at Jerusalem

15 Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers,
'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.'
2 And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul
and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss
this question with the apostles and the elders. 3 So they were sent on their way by the
church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the
conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. 4 When they
came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders,
and they reported all that God had done with them. 5 But some believers who
belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, 'It is necessary for them to
be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.'

6 The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. 7 After there had
been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, 'My brothers, you know that in
the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom
the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. 8 And
God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit,
just as he did to us; 9 and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction
between them and us. 10 Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by
placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have
been able to bear? 11 On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the
grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.'

12 The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of
all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. 13
After they finished speaking, James replied, 'My brothers, listen to me. 14 Simeon has
related how God first looked favourably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a
people for his name. 15 This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

16 "After this I will return,
and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen;
from its ruins I will rebuild it,
and I will set it up,
17 so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—
even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called.
Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things 18 known from long
ago."

19 Therefore I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those Gentiles
who are turning to God, 20 but we should write to them to abstain only from things

polluted by idols and from fornication and from whatever has been strangled and from blood. 21 For in every city, for generations past, Moses has had those who proclaim him, for he has been read aloud every sabbath in the synagogues.'

The Council's Letter to Gentile Believers
22 Then the apostles and the elders, with the consent of the whole church, decided to choose men from among their members and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leaders among the brothers, 23 with the following letter: 'The brothers, both the apostles and the elders, to the believers of Gentile origin in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings. 24 Since we have heard that certain persons who have gone out from us, though with no instructions from us, have said things to disturb you and have unsettled your minds, 25 we have decided unanimously to choose representatives and send them to you, along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, 26 who have risked their lives for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. 27 We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth. 28 For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to impose on you no further burden than these essentials: 29 that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from fornication. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.'

30 So they were sent off and went down to Antioch. When they gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. 31 When its members read it, they rejoiced at the exhortation. 32 Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the believers. 33 After they had been there for some time, they were sent off in peace by the believers to those who had sent them. 35 But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, and there, with many others, they taught and proclaimed the word of the Lord.

Paul and Barnabas Separate
36 After some days Paul said to Barnabas, 'Come, let us return and visit the believers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.' 37 Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. 38 But Paul decided not to take with them one who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not accompanied them in the work. 39 The disagreement became so sharp that they parted company; Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. 40 But Paul chose Silas and set out, the believers commending him to the grace of the Lord. 41 He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

The Book of Acts - Chapter 16
NRSVA

Timothy Joins Paul and Silas
1 Paul went on also to Derbe and to Lystra, where there was a disciple named
Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer; but his father was a Greek. 2
He was well spoken of by the believers in Lystra and Iconium. 3 Paul wanted Timothy
to accompany him; and he took him and had him circumcised because of the Jews
who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. 4 As they
went from town to town, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had
been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. 5 So the churches
were strengthened in the faith and increased in numbers daily.

Paul's Vision of the Man of Macedonia
6 They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the
Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. 7 When they had come opposite Mysia, they
attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; 8 so, passing
by Mysia, they went down to Troas. 9 During the night Paul had a vision: there stood
a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and
help us.' 10 When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to
Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to
them.

The Conversion of Lydia
11 We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day
to Neapolis, 12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of
Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. 13 On the
sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a
place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. 14
A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was
from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to
listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. 15 When she and her household were
baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come
and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

Paul and Silas in Prison
16 One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a
spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling.
17 While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, 'These men are slaves of the
Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.' 18 She kept doing this for

many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour.

19 But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities. 20 When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews 21 and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.' 22 The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. 23 After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. 24 Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. 27 When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.' 29 The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' 31 They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' 32 They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. 34 He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

35 When morning came, the magistrates sent the police, saying, 'Let those men go.' 36 And the jailer reported the message to Paul, saying, 'The magistrates sent word to let you go; therefore come out now and go in peace.' 37 But Paul replied, 'They have beaten us in public, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and now are they going to discharge us in secret? Certainly not! Let them come and take us out themselves.' 38 The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens; 39 so they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city. 40 After leaving the prison they went to Lydia's home; and when they had seen and encouraged the brothers and sisters there, they departed.

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 Areopagite 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 When 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 Justus, 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 there 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.

The Book of Acts - Chapter 19
NRSVA

Paul in Ephesus
1 While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to
Ephesus, where he found some disciples. 2 He said to them, 'Did you receive the
Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard
that there is a Holy Spirit.' 3 Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They
answered, 'Into John's baptism.' 4 Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of
repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is,
in Jesus.' 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When
Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in
tongues and prophesied— 7 altogether there were about twelve of them.

8 He entered the synagogue and for three months spoke out boldly, and argued
persuasively about the kingdom of God. 9 When some stubbornly refused to believe
and spoke evil of the Way before the congregation, he left them, taking the disciples
with him, and argued daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. 10 This continued for two
years, so that all the residents of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the
Lord.

The Sons of Sceva
11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, 12 so that when the handkerchiefs or
aprons that had touched his skin were brought to the sick, their diseases left them,
and the evil spirits came out of them. 13 Then some itinerant Jewish exorcists tried to
use the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, 'I adjure you
by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims.' 14 Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named

Sceva were doing this. 15 But the evil spirit said to them in reply, 'Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?' 16 Then the man with the evil spirit leapt on them, mastered them all, and so overpowered them that they fled out of the house naked and wounded. 17 When this became known to all residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks, everyone was awestruck; and the name of the Lord Jesus was praised. 18 Also many of those who became believers confessed and disclosed their practices. 19 A number of those who practised magic collected their books and burned them publicly; when the value of these books was calculated, it was found to come to fifty thousand silver coins. 20 So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.

The Riot in Ephesus

21 Now after these things had been accomplished, Paul resolved in the Spirit to go through Macedonia and Achaia, and then to go on to Jerusalem. He said, 'After I have gone there, I must also see Rome.' 22 So he sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, while he himself stayed for some time longer in Asia.

23 About that time no little disturbance broke out concerning the Way. 24 A man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the artisans. 25 These he gathered together, with the workers of the same trade, and said, 'Men, you know that we get our wealth from this business. 26 You also see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost the whole of Asia this Paul has persuaded and drawn away a considerable number of people by saying that gods made with hands are not gods. 27 And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be scorned, and she will be deprived of her majesty that brought all Asia and the world to worship her.'

28 When they heard this, they were enraged and shouted, 'Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!' 29 The city was filled with the confusion; and people rushed together to the theatre, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul's travelling-companions. 30 Paul wished to go into the crowd, but the disciples would not let him; 31 even some officials of the province of Asia, who were friendly to him, sent him a message urging him not to venture into the theatre. 32 Meanwhile, some were shouting one thing, some another; for the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come together. 33 Some of the crowd gave instructions to Alexander, whom the Jews had pushed forward. And Alexander motioned for silence and tried to make a defence before the people. 34 But when they recognized that he was a Jew, for about two hours all of them shouted in unison, 'Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!' 35 But when the town clerk had quietened the crowd, he said, 'Citizens of Ephesus, who is there that does not know that the city of

the Ephesians is the temple-keeper of the great Artemis and of the statue that fell from heaven? 36 Since these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. 37 You have brought these men here who are neither temple-robbers nor blasphemers of our goddess. 38 If therefore Demetrius and the artisans with him have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls; let them bring charges there against one another. 39 If there is anything further you want to know, it must be settled in the regular assembly. 40 For we are in danger of being charged with rioting today, since there is no cause that we can give to justify this commotion.' 41 When he had said this, he dismissed the assembly.

The Book of Acts - Chapter 20
NRSVA

Paul Goes to Macedonia and Greece
1 After the uproar had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples; and after encouraging them and saying farewell, he left for Macedonia. 2 When he had gone through those regions and had given the believers much encouragement, he came to Greece, 3 where he stayed for three months. He was about to set sail for Syria when a plot was made against him by the Jews, and so he decided to return through Macedonia. 4 He was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Beroea, by Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, by Gaius from Derbe, and by Timothy, as well as by Tychicus and Trophimus from Asia. 5 They went ahead and were waiting for us in Troas; 6 but we sailed from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we joined them in Troas, where we stayed for seven days.

Paul's Farewell Visit to Troas
7 On the first day of the week, when we met to break bread, Paul was holding a discussion with them; since he intended to leave the next day, he continued speaking until midnight. 8 There were many lamps in the room upstairs where we were meeting. 9 A young man named Eutychus, who was sitting in the window, began to sink off into a deep sleep while Paul talked still longer. Overcome by sleep, he fell to the ground three floors below and was picked up dead. 10 But Paul went down, and bending over him took him in his arms, and said, 'Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him.' 11 Then Paul went upstairs, and after he had broken bread and eaten, he continued to converse with them until dawn; then he left. 12 Meanwhile they had taken the boy away alive and were not a little comforted.

The Voyage from Troas to Miletus
13 We went ahead to the ship and set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul on board there; for he had made this arrangement, intending to go by land himself. 14 When he

met us in Assos, we took him on board and went to Mitylene. 15 We sailed from there, and on the following day we arrived opposite Chios. The next day we touched at Samos, and the day after that we came to Miletus. 16 For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; he was eager to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

Paul Speaks to the Ephesian Elders
17 From Miletus he sent a message to Ephesus, asking the elders of the church to meet him. 18 When they came to him, he said to them:

'You yourselves know how I lived among you the entire time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, 19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears, enduring the trials that came to me through the plots of the Jews. 20 I did not shrink from doing anything helpful, proclaiming the message to you and teaching you publicly and from house to house, 21 as I testified to both Jews and Greeks about repentance towards God and faith towards our Lord Jesus. 22 And now, as a captive to the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and persecutions are waiting for me. 24 But I do not count my life of any value to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the good news of God's grace.

25 'And now I know that none of you, among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom, will ever see my face again. 26 Therefore I declare to you this day that I am not responsible for the blood of any of you, 27 for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. 28 Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son. 29 I know that after I have gone, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Some even from your own group will come distorting the truth in order to entice the disciples to follow them. 31 Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to warn everyone with tears. 32 And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified. 33 I coveted no one's silver or gold or clothing. 34 You know for yourselves that I worked with my own hands to support myself and my companions. 35 In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

36 When he had finished speaking, he knelt down with them all and prayed. 37 There was much weeping among them all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, 38 grieving especially because of what he had said, that they would not see him again. Then they brought him to the ship.

The Book of Acts - Chapter 21
NRSVA

Paul's Journey to Jerusalem
1 When we had parted from them and set sail, we came by a straight course to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. 2 When we found a ship bound for Phoenicia, we went on board and set sail. 3 We came in sight of Cyprus; and leaving it on our left, we sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre, because the ship was to unload its cargo there. 4 We looked up the disciples and stayed there for seven days. Through the Spirit they told Paul not to go on to Jerusalem. 5 When our days there were ended, we left and proceeded on our journey; and all of them, with wives and children, escorted us outside the city. There we knelt down on the beach and prayed 6 and said farewell to one another. Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home.

7 When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais; and we greeted the believers and stayed with them for one day. 8 The next day we left and came to Caesarea; and we went into the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the seven, and stayed with him. 9 He had four unmarried daughters who had the gift of prophecy. 10 While we were staying there for several days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. 11 He came to us and took Paul's belt, bound his own feet and hands with it, and said, 'Thus says the Holy Spirit, "This is the way the Jews in Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles."' 12 When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. 13 Then Paul answered, 'What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.' 14 Since he would not be persuaded, we remained silent except to say, 'The Lord's will be done.'

15 After these days we got ready and started to go up to Jerusalem. 16 Some of the disciples from Caesarea also came along and brought us to the house of Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we were to stay.

Paul Visits James at Jerusalem

17 When we arrived in Jerusalem, the brothers welcomed us warmly. 18 The next day
Paul went with us to visit James; and all the elders were present. 19 After greeting
them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles
through his ministry. 20 When they heard it, they praised God. Then they said to him,
'You see, brother, how many thousands of believers there are among the Jews, and
they are all zealous for the law. 21 They have been told about you that you teach all
the Jews living among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, and that you tell them not to
circumcise their children or observe the customs. 22 What then is to be done? They
will certainly hear that you have come. 23 So do what we tell you. We have four men
who are under a vow. 24 Join these men, go through the rite of purification with
them, and pay for the shaving of their heads. Thus all will know that there is nothing
in what they have been told about you, but that you yourself observe and guard the
law. 25 But as for the Gentiles who have become believers, we have sent a letter with
our judgement that they should abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols and
from blood and from what is strangled and from fornication.' 26 Then Paul took the
men, and the next day, having purified himself, he entered the temple with them,
making public the completion of the days of purification when the sacrifice would be
made for each of them.

Paul Arrested in the Temple
27 When the seven days were almost completed, the Jews from Asia, who had seen
him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd. They seized him, 28 shouting, 'Fellow-
Israelites, help! This is the man who is teaching everyone everywhere against our
people, our law, and this place; more than that, he has actually brought Greeks into
the temple and has defiled this holy place.' 29 For they had previously seen Trophimus
the Ephesian with him in the city, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into
the temple. 30 Then all the city was aroused, and the people rushed together. They
seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple, and immediately the doors were shut.
31 While they were trying to kill him, word came to the tribune of the cohort that all
Jerusalem was in an uproar. 32 Immediately he took soldiers and centurions and ran
down to them. When they saw the tribune and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.
33 Then the tribune came, arrested him, and ordered him to be bound with two
chains; he inquired who he was and what he had done. 34 Some in the crowd shouted
one thing, some another; and as he could not learn the facts because of the uproar, he
ordered him to be brought into the barracks. 35 When Paul came to the steps, the
violence of the mob was so great that he had to be carried by the soldiers. 36 The
crowd that followed kept shouting, 'Away with him!'

Paul Defends Himself

37 Just as Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he said to the tribune, 'May I say something to you?' The tribune replied, 'Do you know Greek? 38 Then you are not the Egyptian who recently stirred up a revolt and led the four thousand assassins out into the wilderness?' 39 Paul replied, 'I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of an important city; I beg you, let me speak to the people.' 40 When he had given him permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned to the people for silence; and when there was a great hush, he addressed them in the Hebrew language, saying:

The Book of Acts - Chapter 22
NRSVA

1 'Brothers and fathers, listen to the defence that I now make before you.'

2 When they heard him addressing them in Hebrew, they became even more quiet. Then he said:

3 'I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, educated strictly according to our ancestral law, being zealous for God, just as all of you are today. 4 I persecuted this Way up to the point of death by binding both men and women and putting them in prison, 5 as the high priest and the whole council of elders can testify about me. From them I also received letters to the brothers in Damascus, and I went there in order to bind those who were there and to bring them back to Jerusalem for punishment.

Paul Tells of His Conversion
6 'While I was on my way and approaching Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone about me. 7 I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" 8 I answered, "Who are you, Lord?" Then he said to me, "I am Jesus of Nazareth whom you are persecuting." 9 Now those who were with me saw the light but did not hear the voice of the one who was speaking to me. 10 I asked, "What am I to do, Lord?" The Lord said to me, "Get up and go to Damascus; there you will be told everything that has been assigned to you to do." 11 Since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, those who were with me took my hand and led me to Damascus.

12 'A certain Ananias, who was a devout man according to the law and well spoken of by all the Jews living there, 13 came to me; and standing beside me, he said, "Brother Saul, regain your sight!" In that very hour I regained my sight and saw him. 14 Then he said, "The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will, to see the

Righteous One and to hear his own voice; 15 for you will be his witness to all the world of what you have seen and heard. 16 And now why do you delay? Get up, be baptized, and have your sins washed away, calling on his name."

Paul Sent to the Gentiles
17 'After I had returned to Jerusalem and while I was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance 18 and saw Jesus saying to me, "Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me." 19 And I said, "Lord, they themselves know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. 20 And while the blood of your witness Stephen was shed, I myself was standing by, approving and keeping the coats of those who killed him." 21 Then he said to me, "Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

Paul and the Roman Tribune
22 Up to this point they listened to him, but then they shouted, 'Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live.' 23 And while they were shouting, throwing off their cloaks, and tossing dust into the air, 24 the tribune directed that he was to be brought into the barracks, and ordered him to be examined by flogging, to find out the reason for this outcry against him. 25 But when they had tied him up with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, 'Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen who is uncondemned?' 26 When the centurion heard that, he went to the tribune and said to him, 'What are you about to do? This man is a Roman citizen.' 27 The tribune came and asked Paul, 'Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?' And he said, 'Yes.' 28 The tribune answered, 'It cost me a large sum of money to get my citizenship.' Paul said, 'But I was born a citizen.' 29 Immediately those who were about to examine him drew back from him; and the tribune also was afraid, for he realized that Paul was a Roman citizen and that he had bound him.

Paul before the Council
30 Since he wanted to find out what Paul was being accused of by the Jews, the next day he released him and ordered the chief priests and the entire council to meet. He brought Paul down and had him stand before them.

The Book of Acts - Chapter 23
NRSVA

1 While Paul was looking intently at the council he said, 'Brothers, up to this day I have lived my life with a clear conscience before God.' 2 Then the high priest Ananias ordered those standing near him to strike him on the mouth. 3 At this Paul said to him, 'God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting there to judge me

according to the law, and yet in violation of the law you order me to be struck?' 4 Those standing nearby said, 'Do you dare to insult God's high priest?' 5 And Paul said, 'I did not realize, brothers, that he was high priest; for it is written, "You shall not speak evil of a leader of your people."'

6 When Paul noticed that some were Sadducees and others were Pharisees, he called out in the council, 'Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. I am on trial concerning the hope of the resurrection of the dead.' 7 When he said this, a dissension began between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. 8 (The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, or angel, or spirit; but the Pharisees acknowledge all three.) 9 Then a great clamour arose, and certain scribes of the Pharisees' group stood up and contended, 'We find nothing wrong with this man. What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?' 10 When the dissension became violent, the tribune, fearing that they would tear Paul to pieces, ordered the soldiers to go down, take him by force, and bring him into the barracks.

11 That night the Lord stood near him and said, 'Keep up your courage! For just as you have testified for me in Jerusalem, so you must bear witness also in Rome.'

The Plot to Kill Paul

12 In the morning the Jews joined in a conspiracy and bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. 13 There were more than forty who joined in this conspiracy. 14 They went to the chief priests and elders and said, 'We have strictly bound ourselves by an oath to taste no food until we have killed Paul. 15 Now then, you and the council must notify the tribune to bring him down to you, on the pretext that you want to make a more thorough examination of his case. And we are ready to do away with him before he arrives.'

16 Now the son of Paul's sister heard about the ambush; so he went and gained entrance to the barracks and told Paul. 17 Paul called one of the centurions and said, 'Take this young man to the tribune, for he has something to report to him.' 18 So he took him, brought him to the tribune, and said, 'The prisoner Paul called me and asked me to bring this young man to you; he has something to tell you.' 19 The tribune took him by the hand, drew him aside privately, and asked, 'What is it that you have to report to me?' 20 He answered, 'The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though they were going to inquire more thoroughly into his case. 21 But do not be persuaded by them, for more than forty of their men are lying in ambush for him. They have bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink until they kill him. They are ready now and are waiting for

your consent.' 22 So the tribune dismissed the young man, ordering him, 'Tell no one that you have informed me of this.'

Paul Sent to Felix the Governor
23 Then he summoned two of the centurions and said, 'Get ready to leave by nine o'clock tonight for Caesarea with two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen. 24 Also provide mounts for Paul to ride, and take him safely to Felix the governor.' 25 He wrote a letter to this effect:

26 'Claudius Lysias to his Excellency the governor Felix, greetings. 27 This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them, but when I had learned that he was a Roman citizen, I came with the guard and rescued him. 28 Since I wanted to know the charge for which they accused him, I had him brought to their council. 29 I found that he was accused concerning questions of their law, but was charged with nothing deserving death or imprisonment. 30 When I was informed that there would be a plot against the man, I sent him to you at once, ordering his accusers also to state before you what they have against him.'

31 So the soldiers, according to their instructions, took Paul and brought him during the night to Antipatris. 32 The next day they let the horsemen go on with him, while they returned to the barracks. 33 When they came to Caesarea and delivered the letter to the governor, they presented Paul also before him. 34 On reading the letter, he asked what province he belonged to, and when he learned that he was from Cilicia, 35 he said, 'I will give you a hearing when your accusers arrive.' Then he ordered that he be kept under guard in Herod's headquarters.

The Book of Acts - Chapter 24
NRSVA

Paul before Felix at Caesarea
1 Five days later the high priest Ananias came down with some elders and an attorney, a certain Tertullus, and they reported their case against Paul to the governor. 2 When Paul had been summoned, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying:

'Your Excellency, because of you we have long enjoyed peace, and reforms have been made for this people because of your foresight. 3 We welcome this in every way and everywhere with utmost gratitude. 4 But, to detain you no further, I beg you to hear us briefly with your customary graciousness. 5 We have, in fact, found this man a pestilent fellow, an agitator among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader

of the sect of the Nazarenes. 6 He even tried to profane the temple, and so we seized him. 8 By examining him yourself you will be able to learn from him concerning everything of which we accuse him.'

9 The Jews also joined in the charge by asserting that all this was true.

Paul's Defence before Felix
10 When the governor motioned to him to speak, Paul replied:

'I cheerfully make my defence, knowing that for many years you have been a judge over this nation. 11 As you can find out, it is not more than twelve days since I went up to worship in Jerusalem. 12 They did not find me disputing with anyone in the temple or stirring up a crowd either in the synagogues or throughout the city. 13 Neither can they prove to you the charge that they now bring against me. 14 But this I admit to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our ancestors, believing everything laid down according to the law or written in the prophets. 15 I have a hope in God—a hope that they themselves also accept—that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous. 16 Therefore I do my best always to have a clear conscience towards God and all people. 17 Now after some years I came to bring alms to my nation and to offer sacrifices. 18 While I was doing this, they found me in the temple, completing the rite of purification, without any crowd or disturbance. 19 But there were some Jews from Asia—they ought to be here before you to make an accusation, if they have anything against me. 20 Or let these men here tell what crime they had found when I stood before the council, 21 unless it was this one sentence that I called out while standing before them, "It is about the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you today."'

22 But Felix, who was rather well informed about the Way, adjourned the hearing with the comment, 'When Lysias the tribune comes down, I will decide your case.' 23 Then he ordered the centurion to keep him in custody, but to let him have some liberty and not to prevent any of his friends from taking care of his needs.

Paul Held in Custody
24 Some days later when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him speak concerning faith in Christ Jesus. 25 And as he discussed justice, self-control, and the coming judgement, Felix became frightened and said, 'Go away for the present; when I have an opportunity, I will send for you.' 26 At the same time he hoped that money would be given to him by Paul, and for that reason he used to send for him very often and converse with him.

27 After two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus; and since he wanted to grant the Jews a favour, Felix left Paul in prison.

The Book of Acts - Chapter 25
NRSVA

Paul Appeals to the Emperor
1 Three days after Festus had arrived in the province, he went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem 2 where the chief priests and the leaders of the Jews gave him a report against Paul. They appealed to him 3 and requested, as a favour to them against Paul, to have him transferred to Jerusalem. They were, in fact, planning an ambush to kill him along the way. 4 Festus replied that Paul was being kept at Caesarea, and that he himself intended to go there shortly. 5 'So', he said, 'let those of you who have the authority come down with me, and if there is anything wrong about the man, let them accuse him.'

6 After he had stayed among them for not more than eight or ten days, he went down to Caesarea; the next day he took his seat on the tribunal and ordered Paul to be brought. 7 When he arrived, the Jews who had gone down from Jerusalem surrounded him, bringing many serious charges against him, which they could not prove. 8 Paul said in his defence, 'I have in no way committed an offence against the law of the Jews, or against the temple, or against the emperor.' 9 But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favour, asked Paul, 'Do you wish to go up to Jerusalem and be tried there before me on these charges?' 10 Paul said, 'I am appealing to the emperor's tribunal; this is where I should be tried. I have done no wrong to the Jews, as you very well know. 11 Now if I am in the wrong and have committed something for which I deserve to die, I am not trying to escape death; but if there is nothing to their charges against me, no one can turn me over to them. I appeal to the emperor.' 12 Then Festus, after he had conferred with his council, replied, 'You have appealed to the emperor; to the emperor you will go.'

Festus Consults King Agrippa
13 After several days had passed, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to welcome Festus.

The Book of Acts - Chapter 26
NRSVA

Paul Defends Himself before Agrippa

1 Agrippa said to Paul, 'You have permission to speak for yourself.' Then Paul
stretched out his hand and began to defend himself:

2 'I consider myself fortunate that it is before you, King Agrippa, I am to make my
defence today against all the accusations of the Jews, 3 because you are especially
familiar with all the customs and controversies of the Jews; therefore I beg of you to
listen to me patiently.

4 'All the Jews know my way of life from my youth, a life spent from the beginning
among my own people and in Jerusalem. 5 They have known for a long time, if they
are willing to testify, that I have belonged to the strictest sect of our religion and lived
as a Pharisee. 6 And now I stand here on trial on account of my hope in the promise
made by God to our ancestors, 7 a promise that our twelve tribes hope to attain, as
they earnestly worship day and night. It is for this hope, your Excellency, that I am
accused by Jews! 8 Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the
dead?

9 'Indeed, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things against the name of
Jesus of Nazareth. 10 And that is what I did in Jerusalem; with authority received
from the chief priests, I not only locked up many of the saints in prison, but I also
cast my vote against them when they were being condemned to death. 11 By
punishing them often in all the synagogues I tried to force them to blaspheme; and
since I was so furiously enraged at them, I pursued them even to foreign cities.

Paul Tells of His Conversion
12 'With this in mind, I was travelling to Damascus with the authority and
commission of the chief priests, 13 when at midday along the road, your Excellency, I
saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my
companions. 14 When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in
the Hebrew language, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts you to kick
against the goads." 15 I asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The Lord answered, "I am Jesus
whom you are persecuting. 16 But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared
to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and testify to the things in which you
have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you. 17 I will rescue you from
your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you 18 to open their eyes
so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so
that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified
by faith in me."

Paul Tells of His Preaching

19 ‘After that, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, 20 but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout the countryside of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and do deeds consistent with repentance. 21 For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. 22 To this day I have had help from God, and so I stand here, testifying to both small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would take place: 23 that the Messiah must suffer, and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.’

Paul Appeals to Agrippa to Believe
24 While he was making this defence, Festus exclaimed, ‘You are out of your mind, Paul! Too much learning is driving you insane!’ 25 But Paul said, ‘I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking the sober truth. 26 Indeed the king knows about these things, and to him I speak freely; for I am certain that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this was not done in a corner. 27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe.’ 28 Agrippa said to Paul, ‘Are you so quickly persuading me to become a Christian?’ 29 Paul replied, ‘Whether quickly or not, I pray to God that not only you but also all who are listening to me today might become such as I am—except for these chains.’

30 Then the king got up, and with him the governor and Bernice and those who had been seated with them; 31 and as they were leaving, they said to one another, ‘This man is doing nothing to deserve death or imprisonment.’ 32 Agrippa said to Festus, ‘This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to the emperor.’

The Book of Acts - Chapter 27
NRSVA

Paul Sails for Rome
1 When it was decided that we were to sail for Italy, they transferred Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan Cohort, named Julius. 2 Embarking on a ship of Adramyttium that was about to set sail to the ports along the coast of Asia, we put to sea, accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica. 3 The next day we put in at Sidon; and Julius treated Paul kindly, and allowed him to go to his friends to be cared for. 4 Putting out to sea from there, we sailed under the lee of Cyprus, because the winds were against us. 5 After we had sailed across the sea that is off Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra in Lycia. 6 There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship bound for Italy and put us on board. 7 We sailed slowly for a number of days and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus, and as the wind was against us,

we sailed under the lee of Crete off Salmone. 8 Sailing past it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near the city of Lasea.

9 Since much time had been lost and sailing was now dangerous, because even the Fast had already gone by, Paul advised them, 10 saying, 'Sirs, I can see that the voyage will be with danger and much heavy loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives.' 11 But the centurion paid more attention to the pilot and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul said. 12 Since the harbour was not suitable for spending the winter, the majority was in favour of putting to sea from there, on the chance that somehow they could reach Phoenix, where they could spend the winter. It was a harbour of Crete, facing south-west and north-west.

The Storm at Sea

13 When a moderate south wind began to blow, they thought they could achieve their purpose; so they weighed anchor and began to sail past Crete, close to the shore. 14 But soon a violent wind, called the northeaster, rushed down from Crete. 15 Since the ship was caught and could not be turned with its head to the wind, we gave way to it and were driven. 16 By running under the lee of a small island called Cauda we were scarcely able to get the ship's boat under control. 17 After hoisting it up they took measures to undergird the ship; then, fearing that they would run on the Syrtis, they lowered the sea-anchor and so were driven. 18 We were being pounded by the storm so violently that on the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard, 19 and on the third day with their own hands they threw the ship's tackle overboard. 20 When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest raged, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned.

21 Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul then stood up among them and said, 'Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and thereby avoided this damage and loss. 22 I urge you now to keep up your courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. 23 For last night there stood by me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, 24 and he said, "Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before the emperor; and indeed, God has granted safety to all those who are sailing with you." 25 So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. 26 But we will have to run aground on some island.'

27 When the fourteenth night had come, as we were drifting across the sea of Adria, about midnight the sailors suspected that they were nearing land. 28 So they took soundings and found twenty fathoms; a little farther on they took soundings again and found fifteen fathoms. 29 Fearing that we might run on the rocks, they let down four

anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come. 30 But when the sailors tried to escape from the ship and had lowered the boat into the sea, on the pretext of putting out anchors from the bow, 31 Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, 'Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.' 32 Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the boat and set it adrift.

33 Just before daybreak, Paul urged all of them to take some food, saying, 'Today is the fourteenth day that you have been in suspense and remaining without food, having eaten nothing. 34 Therefore I urge you to take some food, for it will help you survive; for none of you will lose a hair from your heads.' 35 After he had said this, he took bread; and giving thanks to God in the presence of all, he broke it and began to eat. 36 Then all of them were encouraged and took food for themselves. 37 (We were in all two hundred and seventy-six persons in the ship.) 38 After they had satisfied their hunger, they lightened the ship by throwing the wheat into the sea.

The Shipwreck
39 In the morning they did not recognize the land, but they noticed a bay with a beach, on which they planned to run the ship ashore, if they could. 40 So they cast off the anchors and left them in the sea. At the same time they loosened the ropes that tied the steering-oars; then hoisting the foresail to the wind, they made for the beach. 41 But striking a reef, they ran the ship aground; the bow stuck and remained immovable, but the stern was being broken up by the force of the waves. 42 The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, so that none might swim away and escape; 43 but the centurion, wishing to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and make for the land, 44 and the rest to follow, some on planks and others on pieces of the ship. And so it was that all were brought safely to land.

The Book of Acts - Chapter 28
NRSVA

Paul on the Island of Malta
1 After we had reached safety, we then learned that the island was called Malta. 2 The natives showed us unusual kindness. Since it had begun to rain and was cold, they kindled a fire and welcomed all of us round it. 3 Paul had gathered a bundle of brushwood and was putting it on the fire, when a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. 4 When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, 'This man must be a murderer; though he has escaped from the sea, justice has not allowed him to live.' 5 He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. 6 They were expecting him to swell up or

drop dead, but after they had waited a long time and saw that nothing unusual had happened to him, they changed their minds and began to say that he was a god.

7 Now in the neighbourhood of that place were lands belonging to the leading man of the island, named Publius, who received us and entertained us hospitably for three days. 8 It so happened that the father of Publius lay sick in bed with fever and dysentery. Paul visited him and cured him by praying and putting his hands on him. 9 After this happened, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and were cured. 10 They bestowed many honours on us, and when we were about to sail, they put on board all the provisions we needed.

Paul Arrives at Rome

11 Three months later we set sail on a ship that had wintered at the island, an Alexandrian ship with the Twin Brothers as its figurehead. 12 We put in at Syracuse and stayed there for three days; 13 then we weighed anchor and came to Rhegium. After one day there a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli. 14 There we found believers and were invited to stay with them for seven days. And so we came to Rome. 15 The believers from there, when they heard of us, came as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns to meet us. On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage.

16 When we came into Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him.

Paul and Jewish Leaders in Rome

17 Three days later he called together the local leaders of the Jews. When they had assembled, he said to them, 'Brothers, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our ancestors, yet I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans. 18 When they had examined me, the Romans wanted to release me, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case. 19 But when the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to the emperor—even though I had no charge to bring against my nation. 20 For this reason therefore I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is for the sake of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain.' 21 They replied, 'We have received no letters from Judea about you, and none of the brothers coming here has reported or spoken anything evil about you. 22 But we would like to hear from you what you think, for with regard to this sect we know that everywhere it is spoken against.'

Paul Preaches in Rome

23 After they had fixed a day to meet him, they came to him at his lodgings in great
numbers. From morning until evening he explained the matter to them, testifying to
the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the law of
Moses and from the prophets. 24 Some were convinced by what he had said, while
others refused to believe. 25 So they disagreed with each other; and as they were
leaving, Paul made one further statement: 'The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your
ancestors through the prophet Isaiah,

26 "Go to this people and say,
You will indeed listen, but never understand,
and you will indeed look, but never perceive.
27 For this people's heart has grown dull,
and their ears are hard of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes;
so that they might not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and understand with their heart and turn—
and I would heal them."

28 Let it be known to you then that this salvation of God has been sent to the
Gentiles; they will listen.'

30 He lived there for two whole years at his own expense and welcomed all who came
to him, 31 proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ
with all boldness and without hindrance.