

## Chapter 9

Paul's 5<sup>th</sup> Trip to Jerusalem – His Arrest**Acts 21:17-23:32****A. From Caesarea to Jerusalem.** (About 70 miles)

1. Certain disciples from Caesarea accompanied Paul to Jerusalem. Acts 22:16
2. Mnason of Cyprus, an elderly Christian, accompanied Paul and company from Caesarea to Jerusalem and provided lodging for them in Jerusalem.  
**Acts 21:16** – “some of the disciples from Caesarea went with us and brought with them a certain Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we were to lodge.”

**B. The Brethren Received Them Gladly.** **Acts 21:17** – “And when we had come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly.”

1. The day after the arrival, Paul visited James, the Lord's brother. **Acts 21:18**
  - a. “All the elders were present.” **Acts 21:18**
  - b. Paul reported about how God had used him in working among the Gentiles. **Acts 21:19**
  - c. The Response: Upon receiving the report, the brethren glorified the Lord. Acts 21:20
  - d. The brethren told Paul about the believing Jews. **Acts 21:20-22**
  - e. The brethren's recommendation: **Acts 21:23-24** – “Therefore do what we tell you: We have four men who have taken a vow.  
24 Take them and be purified with them, and pay their expenses so that they may shave their heads, and that all may know that those things of which they were informed concerning you are nothing, but that you yourself also walk orderly and keep the law.”
    1. A Nazarite vow was a vow taken in gratitude for some special blessing.
    2. It involved abstention from meat and wine for thirty days.
    3. During the thirty days the hair had to be allowed to grow.
    4. It appears that least the last seven days had to be spent entirely in the Temple courts.
    5. At the end of the vow, certain offerings had to be offered:
      - a. A year-old lamb for a sin offering.
      - b. A ram for a peace offering.

- c. A basket of unleavened bread cakes.
  - d. Cakes of fine flour mingled with oil.
  - e. A meat offering.
  - f. A drink offering.
  6. The hair had to be shorn and burned on the altar with the sacrifice.
  7. It is obvious that this was a costly business.
  8. his would mean he would have to take part in the purification ceremony for entering the temple. Numbers 6:9-20
  9. Paul submitted himself to this Jewish custom to keep peace in the Jerusalem church.
2. Gentiles excluded from such observations. **Acts 21:25** – “But concerning the Gentiles who believe, we have written and decided that they should observe no such thing, except that they should keep themselves from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality.”

### C. The Events in the Temple Resulted in Paul's Arrest.

#### **Acts 21:26-36**

1. The seven days of purification were almost over.
  - a. **Acts 21:27**
  - b. **Numbers 6:2, 13, 18**
2. Jews from Asia.
  - a. Saw Paul in the temple. **Acts 21:27** – “when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him.”
  - b. Stirred up the people. **Acts 21:27**
  - c. Apprehended Paul. **Acts 21:27**
  - d. Made accusations against Paul. **Acts 21:28** - “Crying out, ‘Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against the people, the law, and this place; and furthermore he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.’”
    1. Made accusations that Paul taught against:
      - a. “The people.” **Acts 21:28**
      - b. “The law.” **Acts 21:28**
      - c. “This place.” **Acts 21:28**
    2. Made accusation that Paul had brought Greeks into the temple, thereby polluting it.
      - a. **Acts 21:29** – “(For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.)”
      - b. The Jews from Ephesus apparently recognized Trophimus from Ephesus.

- c. Trophimus had traveled to Jerusalem with Paul. **Acts 20:4** – “And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia -- also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.”
- d. Supposing it so did not make it so!
- 3. The Jewish Mob grew.
  - a. **Acts 21:30** – “all the city was disturbed; and the people ran together, seized Paul, and dragged him out of the temple; and immediately the doors were shut.”
  - b. The mob was about to kill Paul. **Acts 21:31** – “Now as they were seeking to kill him, news came to the commander of the garrison that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.”
- 4. Roman soldiers intervened. **Acts 21:31**
  - a. The chief captain, centurions, and soldiers. **Acts 21:32**
  - b. The people stopped beating Paul when the soldiers arrived. **Acts 21:32** – “He immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down to them. And when they saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul”
  - c. The chief captain was Claudius Lysias, the senior Roman official in Jerusalem. He:
    - 1. Commanded that Paul be bound with two chains. **Acts 21:33** - Then the commander came near and took him, and commanded him to be bound with two chains; and he asked who he was and what he had done.
    - 2. Demanded to know what Paul had done. **Acts 21:33**
    - 3. Unable to determine what had caused the riot, commanded that Paul be brought into the castle. **Acts 21:34** - “And some among the multitude cried one thing and some another. So when he could not ascertain the truth because of the tumult, he commanded him to be taken into the barracks. “
    - 4. The soldiers had to keep the mob away from Paul. **Acts 21:35** – “When he reached the stairs, he had to be carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the mob.”
    - 5. The mob was not giving up. **Acts 21:36** – “For the multitude of the people followed after, crying out, “Away with him!””
      - a. The mob would cry out again after Paul’s stairway address. **Acts 22:22** – “And they listened to him until this word, and then they raised their voices and said, “Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he is not fit to live!””
      - b. Jewish mobs had cried out similarly against Christ.
        - 1. **Luke 23:17** – “. . . Away with this Man . . . “

2. **John 19:15** – “But they cried out, ‘Away with him, Away with Him! . . .’”
6. Paul asked permission to speak with the commander. **Acts 21:37-40** – “Then as Paul was about to be led into the barracks, he said to the commander, ‘May I speak to you’ He replied, ‘Can you speak Greek?’
  - 38 Are you not the Egyptian who some time ago stirred up a rebellion and led the four thousand assassins out into the wilderness?’
  - 39 But Paul said, ‘I am a Jew from Tarsus, in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city; and I implore you, permit me to speak to the people.’”
    - a. The Jewish historian Josephus wrote of an Egyptian who led a revolt of 4,000 people in Jerusalem in A.D. 54.
    - b. Claudius Lysias thought that perhaps Paul was that rebel.
7. When Paul requested, and was granted permission to address the crowd, he spoke in Hebrew. **Hebrews 2141** – “So when he had given him permission, Paul stood on the stairs and motioned with his hand to the people. And when there was a great silence, he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, saying”,

## Acts 22

### A. Paul's Stairway Address. **Acts 22:1-21**

1. Paul recounted his Jewish background. **Acts 22:3**
2. Paul recounted his persecution of Christianity. **Acts 22:4-5**
3. Paul recounted his conversion to Christ. **Acts 22:6-16**
  - a. The bright light about noon. **Acts 22:6**
  - b. The Lord's voice and question. **Acts 22:7**
  - c. Paul's question and the Lord's answer. **Acts 22:8**
  - d. The men traveling with Paul. **Acts 22:9**
  - e. The Lord's instructions for Paul. **Acts 22:10**
  - f. Paul's blindness and having to be led by the hand. **Acts 22:11**
  - g. Ananias came to Saul. **Acts 22:12**
    1. Restored Saul's sight. **Acts 22:13**
    2. Revealed god's will for Saul. **Acts 22:14-15**
  - h. Saul was baptized for the remission of sins.
    1. **Acts 22:16** – “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

2. **Acts 9:18** – “. . . And he arose and was baptized.”
- i. The Lord's appearance to Saul in Jerusalem. **Acts 22:17-21**
  1. Paul was praying in the temple. **Acts 22:17**
  2. Paul was in a trance. **Acts 22:17**
  3. Jesus warned Paul to “. . . Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me.” **Acts 22:18**
  4. Paul mentioned his former life as a persecutor. He specifically mentioned his role in Stephen's death. **Acts 22:19-20** – “So I said, ‘Lord, they know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believe on You.

20 And when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by consenting to his death, and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.”

5. Jesus said, “. . . Depart, for I will send you far from here to the Gentiles.” **Acts 22:21**

D. **The Mob's Reaction. Acts 22:22-23** – “And they listened to him until this word, and then they raised their voices and said, ‘Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he is not fit to live!’

23 Then, as they cried out and tore off their clothes and threw dust into the air.”

E. **Paul's Roman Citizenship Saves Him from Scourging. Acts 22:24-29**

1. The chief captain had purchased his citizenship. **Acts 22:28**
2. Paul was born a Roman citizen. **Acts 22:28**
3. The chief captain was afraid when he learned he had bound a Roman citizen. **Acts 22:29**
4. The following day Paul was released from his bonds and taken before the council (Sanhedrin) in order to determine the Jewish charges against him. **Acts 22:30**
  - a. The chief captain “. . . commanded the chief priests and all their council to appear.” **Acts 22:30**
  - b. Paul was brought in and set before them. **Acts 22:30**

## Acts 23

F. **Paul's Defense Before the Sanhedrin. Acts 23:1-8**

1. Paul claimed to". . . I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." **Acts 23:1**
  - a. Ananias, the high priest, commanded that Paul be slapped on the mouth. **Acts 23:2**
  - b. Jesus had been struck in the face while appearing before Ananias. John 18:22
2. Paul's claim to be a Pharisee divided the assembly. **Acts 23:6-9**
  - a. Paul declared, ". . . I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee; concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged!" **Acts 23:6**
  - b. **Acts 23:8** – "For Sadducees say that there is no resurrection -- and no angel or spirit; but the Pharisees confess both."
  - c. The scribes, who were of the Pharisees, said, ". . . We find no evil in this man; but if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him, let us not fight against God." **Acts 23:9**
  - d. The chief captain, fearing that Paul would be injured in the dissension that ensued, ordered Roman soldiers to go down and take Paul by force from among the combatants. **Acts 23:10** – "Now when there arose a great dissension, the commander, fearing lest Paul might be pulled to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him by force from among them, and bring him into the barracks."
3. Paul was returned to the castle, the Fortress of Antonia. Acts 23:10

**G. The Lord Appeared to Paul at Night. Acts 23:11**

1. **Acts 23:11** – "But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, 'Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome.'"
2. In Acts 9:4 the Lord had addressed him as "Saul." Now the Lord addresses him as "Paul."

**H. The Jews Plotted to Kill Paul. Acts 23:12-22**

1. The conspiracy consisted of more than forty men who said they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. **Acts 23:12-13**
2. The plotting began the morning of the day following the uproar of the council. **Acts 23:14-15**
3. They reported their plot and requested the assistance of the chief priests and elders. **Acts 23:14-15**
4. Paul's nephew (his sister's son) learned of the conspiracy and reported it to Paul. **Acts 23:16**
5. Paul had one of the centurions take his nephew to report to the chief captain. **Acts 23:17-22**
6. The decision was made to take Paul to Caesarea, departing that very night.

**Acts 23:23** – “And he called for two centurions, saying, “Prepare two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at the third hour of the night.”

- I. **Paul was Taken to Caesarea. Acts 23:23-23** (Some 65-70 miles away)
  1. Paul's large escort of 470 included: **Acts 23:23**
    - a. 200 soldiers
    - b. 70 horsemen
    - c. 200 spearmen
  2. The group departed the third hour of the night (9:00 p.m.) to take Paul to Felix, the governor of Caesarea. **Acts 23:23-30**
  3. Claudius Lysias drafted a letter to Felix. **Acts 23:25-30**
  5. Traveled to Antipatris that night. **Acts 23:31**
    - a. The 200 soldiers and the 200 spearmen left them and returned to Jerusalem. **Acts 23:32**
    - b. The 7 horsemen continued on to Caesarea with Paul. **Acts 23:32**
    - c. From Jerusalem to Antipatris (38 miles) was rough hill country with valleys, etc. Such terrain would allow for an ambush.
      1. Once the detail reach Antipatris, they would be traveling in more open level country.
      2. Once they were beyond the most dangerous areas, the detail of 200 soldiers, 200 spearmen, and 70 horsemen, was reduced to the 70 horsemen for the remainder of the trip to Caesarea (26 miles).

