

LESSON 19: ACTS 18:23-21:15
JANUARY 18, 2017

OVERVIEW

- . Paul's departure from Antioch – Acts 18:22-23
- . Paul's ministry in Ephesus – Acts 18:24-19:41
- . Moving toward Jerusalem – Acts 20:1-21:15

PAUL'S DEPARTURE FROM ANTIOCH – ACTS 18:22-23

- . When Paul landed at Caesarea, at the conclusion of his second mission trip, he went to Jerusalem before returning to his home in Antioch
- . The total time that Paul was gone on his second mission trip was three years
- . Paul rested in Antioch during the winter before setting out on his third mission trip in the spring of 53
- . He begins his third trip following the same route as his second trip through Galatia
 - . He visits the Galatian towns of Derbe, Lystra, Iconium and Antioch
 - . In each of these towns he found the church to be alive and well
 - . While in Antioch, in Pisidia, he felt the prompting to travel the 200 miles to Ephesus in Asia
 - . He stopped in Ephesus briefly, at the end of the second trip, dropping off Priscilla and Aquila
 - . At the time he told the people of Ephesus that he didn't feel the calling of the Holy Spirit to stay but assured them he would be back

PAUL'S MINISTRY AT EPHEBUS – ACTS 18:24-19:41

- . Priscilla and Aquila's instruction to Apollos – Acts 18:24-28
 - . Shortly after Priscilla and Aquila arrived in Ephesus, they met Apollos, a disciple of John the Baptist, who was from Alexandria, Egypt
 - . Alexandria was a center for intellectual learning
 - . Apollos had a deep, intellectual understanding of scripture
 - . During Jesus' lifetime, Apollos visited Jerusalem and came under the influence of John the Baptist
 - . He was baptized as a sign of repentance
 - . At the same time John proclaimed Jesus as God's promised Messiah
 - . Apollos returned to Alexandria before Jesus' death and resurrection and knew nothing of the Holy Spirit or true meaning of Christ's death

- . Priscilla and Aquila invite Apollos in to their home and revealed to him the full personal work of the Lord, Jesus Christ
- . Apollos fully embraces the message and invites the Holy Spirit in to heart.
- . Apollos became a transformed man, offering a gift of eloquence and exceptional knowledge of scripture
- . Priscilla and Aquila encourage Apollos to go help Christians elsewhere
- . Apollos decides to travel to Corinth
 - . Apollos powerfully met the arguments of the Jews who had rejected Christ
 - . The Corinthians embrace Apollos and his style of teaching
 - . Apollos style of teaching was very different from Paul's
 - . Paul had a very simple approach whereas Apollos was more intellectual
 - . The Corinthians find themselves torn between the styles of Paul and Apollos and become split over who they gave their devotion to
 - . This creates a problem amongst the church of Corinth, which Paul addresses in his first letter to them
 - . Paul emphasizes the oneness between he and Apollos
 - . Despite Paul's pleas to the Corinthians, Apollos decides not to return to Corinth, in an effort to unify the church
 - . Out of this trial a warm friendship develops between Paul and Apollos
- . Paul and the disciples of John the Baptist – Acts 19:1-7
 - . Upon arriving at Ephesus, Paul meets disciples of John the Baptist who hadn't heard of the Holy Spirit
 - . They had received the baptism of repentance from John but knew nothing of the resurrection and of Pentecost
 - . After coming to the full recognition of Christ they were baptized again and received the gift of the Holy Spirit
 - . They were given the gift of tongues and began to speak in tongues
- . Paul's teaching ministry at Ephesus – Acts 19:8-10
 - . In the synagogue for three months
 - . Due to Priscilla and Aquila, the synagogue was alive with interest concerning the Messiah
 - . Paul continued the teachings there for three months
 - . After that time a large opposition began as Jews hardened their prejudice against this teaching on the true meaning of the cross
 - . As a result, Paul decides to leave the synagogue
 - . Paul teaches in the school of Tyrannus for two years
 - . Tyrannus was a local philosopher
 - . People that gathered here ranged in thought from disciples of Christ, to Jews to gentiles
 - . Paul concentrated his teachings here for two years
 - . Paul's teachings attracted people from all over the region

- . As a result of Paul's teachings churches formed in six other towns throughout Asia, including Smyrna, Sardis and Philadelphia
 - . Later, the apostle John wrote his letter of Revelation to these seven churches
- . Paul is given extraordinary powers to perform miracles during this period
 - . Handkerchiefs and aprons that Paul touched were brought to the sick that healed them
 - . These works not only had a powerful impact on the ministry but also created frauds and false prophets who tried to exploit their own sorcery and witchcraft
- . Paul's ministry creates opposition that leads to riots
 - . Ephesus was the home to the temple of the goddess Artemis
 - . It was the place where she fell from heaven
 - . A great trade was built around the temple and the goddess
 - . Silversmiths crafted jewelry that was sold to traveling pagans representing good luck
 - . These people now claimed Paul was endangering their livelihood
 - . An angry mob seized Paul's companions and rushed in to the theater to get Paul
 - . Paul stays out of the way until the mob settles down at which time Paul decides to move on to Macedonia

MOVING TOWARD JERUSALEM - ACTS 20:1-21:15

- . Leaving Ephesus, Paul travels through Macedonia eventually arriving in Greece
 - . Not much is said or known about this leg of the journey.
 - . Other than saying he spoke many words of encouragement, the author moves him quickly to Greece
 - . He spends three months in Corinth where he stayed at a friend's house and wrote the book of Romans
- . In the spring of 58 he decides to return to Jerusalem
 - . He was originally planning to travel by water leaving from the port of Corinth
 - . Learning of a secret plot to kill him when he boarded his ship he decides to walk back through Macedonia
- . Through Macedonia and Greece - Acts 20:1-6
 - . Paul travels with at least eight other deputies, representatives of the churches founded by him
- . At Troas - Acts 20:7-12
 - . Paul gathers with his followers in a third story cramped apartment
 - . He talked long in to the night

- . A young man, Eutychus, sitting on an open window ledge, fell asleep while listening and fell three stories to the street
- . They rushed down and tried to save him but he was dead
- . Paul dropped down on top of him, putting his arms around him and revived him
- . It's important to note that the author of Acts, writing this, is a doctor

- . Near Ephesus with Ephesus elders – Acts 20:13-38
 - . Instead of going back in to Ephesus and stirring up the opposition, Paul met with elders near Ephesus
 - . Paul's meeting with the elders is emotional because he knows he'll never see them again
 - . This is the only speech given to the Christians in the Book of Acts
 - . He talks about striving to have great humility
 - . He talks about diligence and the need to finish the race
 - . He talks about preparing oneself to teach
 - . We see Paul's tenderness and love for each of his fellow believers
 - . He finishes by praying for them, then they all wept

- . He sails for Tyre – Acts 21:1-6
 - . The ship he sailed on needed a week to unload its cargo so Paul and friends sought out Tyrian Christians
 - . During this time the Holy Spirit was revealing to many of them the dangers that await in Jerusalem
 - . Although they were begging Paul not to go, Paul comforted them by saying he was ready for whatever awaited him

- . At Caesarea – Acts 21:7-15
 - . They finally sail from Tyre down the coast to Caesarea
 - . There they meet and stay at home of Philip the Evangelist
 - . He was one of seven chosen by Stephen in Acts 6
 - . He was the one that led the Ethiopian to the Lord in Acts 8
 - . Luke probably got much of the materials used in the early chapters of Acts from Philip
 - . The prophecy of Philip's daughter confirms the trouble awaiting Paul in Jerusalem
 - . We witness here another very emotional gathering of believers and the deep love Paul had for them as well as their love for him
 - . The story ends with Paul and some of the disciples from Caesarea starting on their way to Jerusalem

NEXT LESSON: FEBRUARY 1, 2017 – I CORINTHIANS 1-7



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Footnotes from Paul's Third Journey

Priscilla and her husband Aquila attend an Ephesian synagogue and hear a man named Apollos. Born a Jew in Alexandria, he had a special talent as an eloquent and forcible speaker. He was likely trained in the rhetorical schools near the city of his birth. The scriptures state that he was "mighty" in regard to understanding and explaining the