

# Acts

## Lesson 9

# **James' Message to the Jerusalem Council**

# Who is his intended audience?

- **Apostles**
- **Elders**

*Act 15:6 The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter.*

# What Old Testament scriptures does James use?

Amo 9:11-12

*Amo 9:11-12 "In that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old, that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by my name," declares the LORD who does this.*

**What does the scripture explain?**

That the gentiles (nations) would come to  
Christ.

# *What information does James provide in his discourse?*

- Peters testimony

Paul & Barnabas' report.

## *What is James Judgement?*

Gentile do not have to be circumcised and keep the law (Become Jews) to be saved. .

**What action does he require of**

It would **be good if they?** showed outward change by abstaining from blood, strangled animals, food sacrificed to idols and sexual immorality.



*What surprises you about James'*

*message?*  
He honors Moses in that the "law" i.e. the books of Moses have been read in every synagogues since ancient times..

*(Act 15:21 For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues." )*

# What were the results of James' message?

It seemed good to all present.

*(Act 15:22 Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers)*

# **Acts Lesson 9**

## **Acts 15: Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup>**

### **Missionary Journey**

**Time Line: After AD 49**

**Jews expelled from Rome AD 49**

# 1.) (Acts 15:35-40) The problem with Mark

## What was the problem between Paul and Barnabas

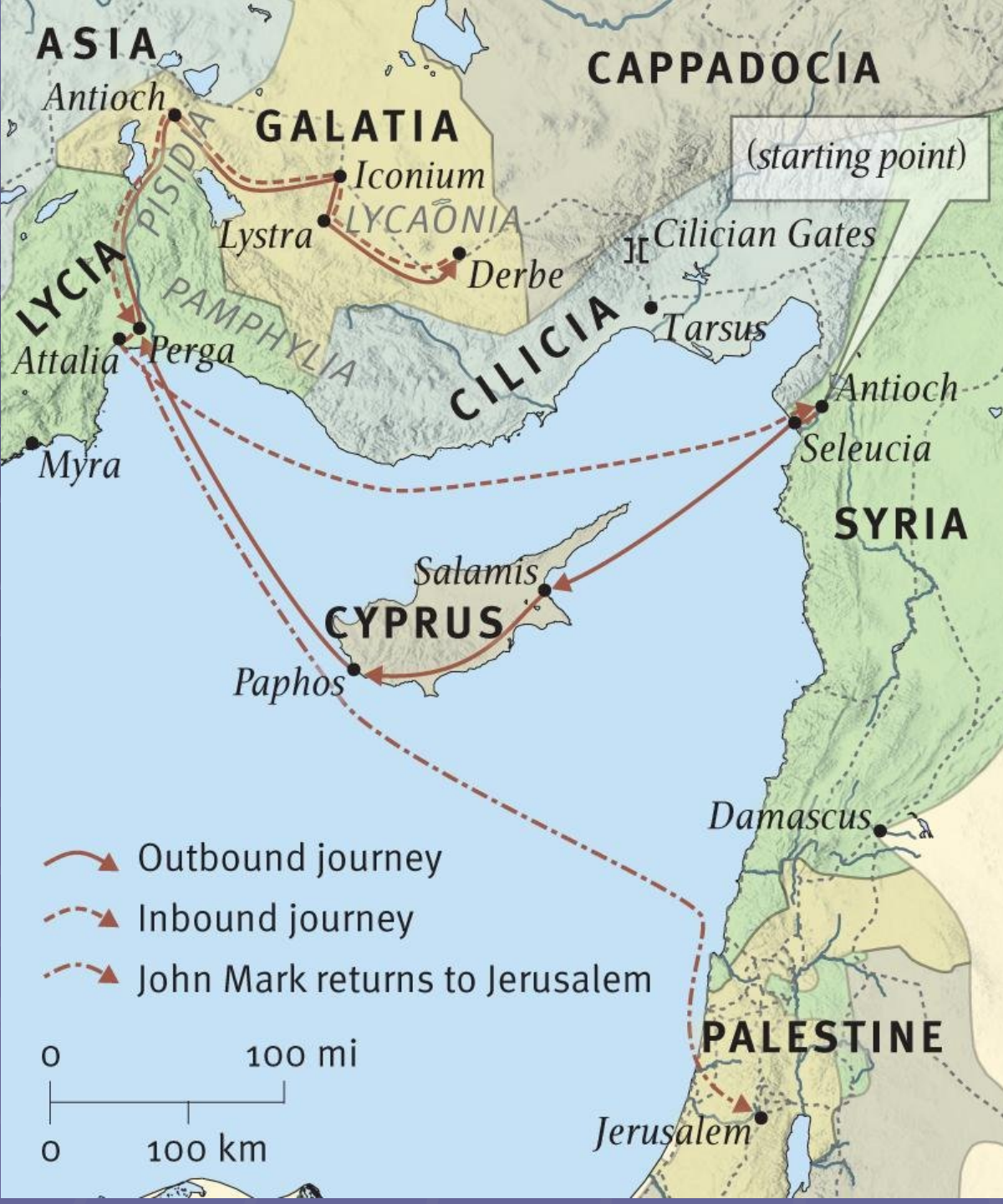
What to do with Mark, Barnabas' cousin.

*Act 15:36-39 And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." Now Barnabas take with them John called Mark. But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work.*

# What is the outcome of the dispute?

~~Barnabas and Paul split.~~  
Barnabas takes Mark with him to Cyprus, Paul chooses Silas and goes to Cilicia.

*Act 15:40-41 And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.*



## Jerusalem and Antioch



**What do we know about Mark that shows Paul did not consider him totally washed up? He asks for Mark toward the end of his ministry.**

*2 Timothy 4:11 Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.*



## 2.) (Acts 16:1-6) Return to Galatia

**What cities do Paul and Silas visit?**

**Derbe and Lystra.**

*Act 16:1 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek.*

They were part of Galatia.

**What do we know about those cities?**  
*Act 16:1 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek.*

## Timothy

### Who do the apostles connect with there?

*Act 16:1-3 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.*

**What message do they bring to the  
The decision of the Jerusalem council.  
Calatians?**

*Act 16:4 As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem.*

The churches were strengthened in the  
**What is the result of the message?**  
faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

*Act 16:5 So the churches were strengthened in the  
faith, and they increased in numbers daily.*

### **3.) (Act 16:7-8) Guidance by the Holy Spirit: How does the Holy Spirit guide their journey?**

#### **Prophetic Word? Forbidden by the Holy Spirit**

*Act 16:6-8 And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. Act 16:7 And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas.*

**How does the Holy Spirit  
Paul Receives The Macedonia vision.  
eventually guide them into**

*Act 16.9-10 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.*

**Europe?**

## 4.) (Acts 16:10-40) Witness in Philippi

The riverside

### Where does Paul go in Philippi

### supposing a place of prayer?

*Act 16:13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.*



# Who does Paul meet and what happens.

Lydia, she and her household receive Christ and are baptized.

*Act 16:14-15 One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.*

Paul and Silas are thrown into prison  
because they cast a demon out of a slave  
girl who had a spirit of divination.  
**What troubles meet them there?**

*Act 16:16-18 As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.*

**What miracle happens and to what result?**  
Paul and Silas are released from prison by an earthquake that occurs while they are worshiping God, and the Jailer is saved.

*Act 16:25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.*

They were asked to leave the city by the magistrates.

*Act 16:39-40 So they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city. So they went out of the prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed.*

**5.) (Acts 17:1-9) Witness in  
Thessalonica:  
What causes them to stop in  
Discovery of a synagogue.**

*Act 17:1 Now when they had passed through  
Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica,  
where there was a synagogue of the Jews.*

Paul reasoned with them for three Sabbath days and some of them were persuaded.

**How long did this go on and what are the results?**

*Act 17:2-4 And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." And 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.*

The Jews were jealous, and formed a mob, set the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

What causes Paul and Silas to leave?

*Act 17:5-9 But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus." And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.*

## 6.) (Acts 17:10-14) Witness in Berea Where do the Synagogues go in Berea?

*Act 17:10-11 The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue.*



# What are the results?

Many of them believed

*Act 17:11 Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men.*

# What cause Paul to leave?

The Jews from Thessalonica came there agitating and stirring up the crowds.

*Act 17:13-14 But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds. Then the brothers immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there.*

# 7.) (Acts 17:15-34) Witness in Athens

## Where does Paul go in Athens?

The synagogue at first but eventually the Areopagus.

*Act 17:16-19 Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"--because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?"*

# What are the results?

Some of them believed

*Act 17:34 But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.*

## 8.) (Acts 17:22-32) Pauls Sermon at

the Areopagus  
They are very religious

### What does Paul notice about the

*Act 17:22 So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious.*

### people of Athens?

# What artifact does Paul use as a springboard to share the gospel? An altar to an unknown god

*Act 17:23 For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.*

# What does Paul use instead of scriptures to make his point

Their own poets

*Act 17:28-29 for "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring." Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.*

# What cause the people to stop Paul's

The resurrection of the dead.  
**discourse?**

*Act 17:30-32 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this."*



9.) (Acts 18:1-17) Witness in Corinth.  
A Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla.

**Who does Paul hook up with in Corinth?**

Act 18:1-3 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.

## Why are they there?

They had recently come from Italy because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome.

*Act 18:1-3 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.*

**Where does Paul go in Corinth?**  
The synagogue.

*Act 18:4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.*

## What are the results?

Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians believed in the Lord,

*Act 18:8 Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.*

# What happens to encourage Paul?

A vision of the Lord.

*Act 18:9-10 And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people."*

# How long did Paul stay there?

A year and six months

*Act 18:11 And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.*

# What actions lead to Paul's departure? More troubles

*Act 18:17-8 And they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this. After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had cut his hair, for he was under a vow.*

The synagogue.

## 10.) (Acts 18:19-28) The church in

*Act 18:19 And they came to Ephesus, and he left them there, but he himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.*

**Ephesus established**

**Where does Paul go in Ephesus?**



# What are the results?

Doesn't really say

*Act 18:20-21 When they asked him to stay for a longer period, he declined. But on taking leave of them he said, "I will return to you if God wills," and he set sail from Ephesus.*

**Where does Paul eventually return  
to?**  
Antioch

*Act 18:22 When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church, and then went down to Antioch.*

## *Some final thoughts:*

- The Holy Spirit is active in directing the team
- God speaks words of encouragement
- Other part of the team are added
- Persecution does not hinder the message
- Paul usually starts with the spiritually minded

# **Homework:**

**Read: Acts 18-21**

**Analyze Paul's message to the  
Areopagus (Acts 15:22-29)**