

LESSON 7

PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY (PART 4)—AND HIS ARREST IN JERUSALEM

ON TO JERUSALEM BY WAY OF TYRE, PTOLEMAIS, AND CAESAREA (21:1–17)

As Paul headed for Jerusalem, he knew for certain one thing about his future: At the end of this third missionary journey, there would be trouble. Chapter 20 closed with Paul's tearful farewell to the Ephesian elders. Chapter 21 begins with the voyage of Paul and his companions from Miletus on their way to Jerusalem.

1. Why did Paul go to Jerusalem knowing trouble awaited him?
2. What is the biblical history of Tyre, and how was a church most likely established there?
3. For what two reasons can we doubt that the Spirit led the brethren to beg Paul not to set foot in Jerusalem?
4. What is the major theme of this section, and what is its minor theme?
5. Why was it so remarkable for Philip to welcome Paul into his home?
6. What does the word translated "evangelist" mean, and why was this part of Philip's name?
7. Why did Luke mention that Philip's daughters had the gift of prophecy?
8. What purposes could God have had in Paul's going to Jerusalem and being arrested there?

PAUL TRIES TO AVOID CRITICISM (21:18–26)

We now come to one of the most perplexing sections in the Book of Acts—the story of Paul’s participation in sin offerings in the temple in Jerusalem (21:18–26).

9. How could Paul, who wrote that Christians are no longer under the Law, still participate in sacrificing sin offerings?
10. What error has sprung up because of the phrase “James, and all the elders” in 21:18?
11. What does the phrase translated “they have been told” in 21:21 tell us about the rumor against Paul?
12. How did Paul’s actual words differ from the accusations made against him in the rumor?
13. What “solution” did the Jerusalem elders offer Paul, and whose will did it support?
14. What would have been involved in Paul’s purification?

PAUL ARRESTED (21:27–36)

The Day of Pentecost had passed, but the streets were still thronging with people from all over the world who had come to Jerusalem for the feast. Some lingered with a deadly motive: Their evil eyes scrutinized Paul’s every move, looking for any excuse to harm him. Soon they would find that excuse; then Paul would have to face one of the most dangerous moments of his life.

15. How well did the elders’ solution work?
16. What were the exact charges against Paul, and was there any truth to them?
17. Why was the Roman cohort able and anxious to act so quickly against the mob that sought Paul’s life?
18. For what purpose was the commander so anxious to know what Paul had done to cause the riot?

**PAUL'S OPPORTUNITY
TO DEFEND HIMSELF (21:37-40)**

In the midst of confusion, one had remained calm—the man covered with his own blood. Observing military etiquette, he asked permission to speak.

19. Why was the officer startled to find that Paul spoke Greek, and why was he so quick to think Paul was an Egyptian?
20. What request did Paul make of the officer, and why was it surprising?