

## ACTS CHAPTER 20

### ***Paul in Macedonia and Greece (Acts 20:1-12)***

After the uproar had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and when he had exhorted them and taken his leave of them, he left to go to Macedonia. When he had gone through those districts and had given them much exhortation, he came to Greece. And there he spent three months, and when a plot was formed against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. And he was accompanied by Sopater of Berea, the son of Pyrrhus, and by Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. But these had gone on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas. We sailed from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and came to them at Troas within five days; and there we stayed seven days.



Map 10. Shows the location of Macedonia, Greece, Syria, Berea, Derbe, Asia, Troas and Philippi

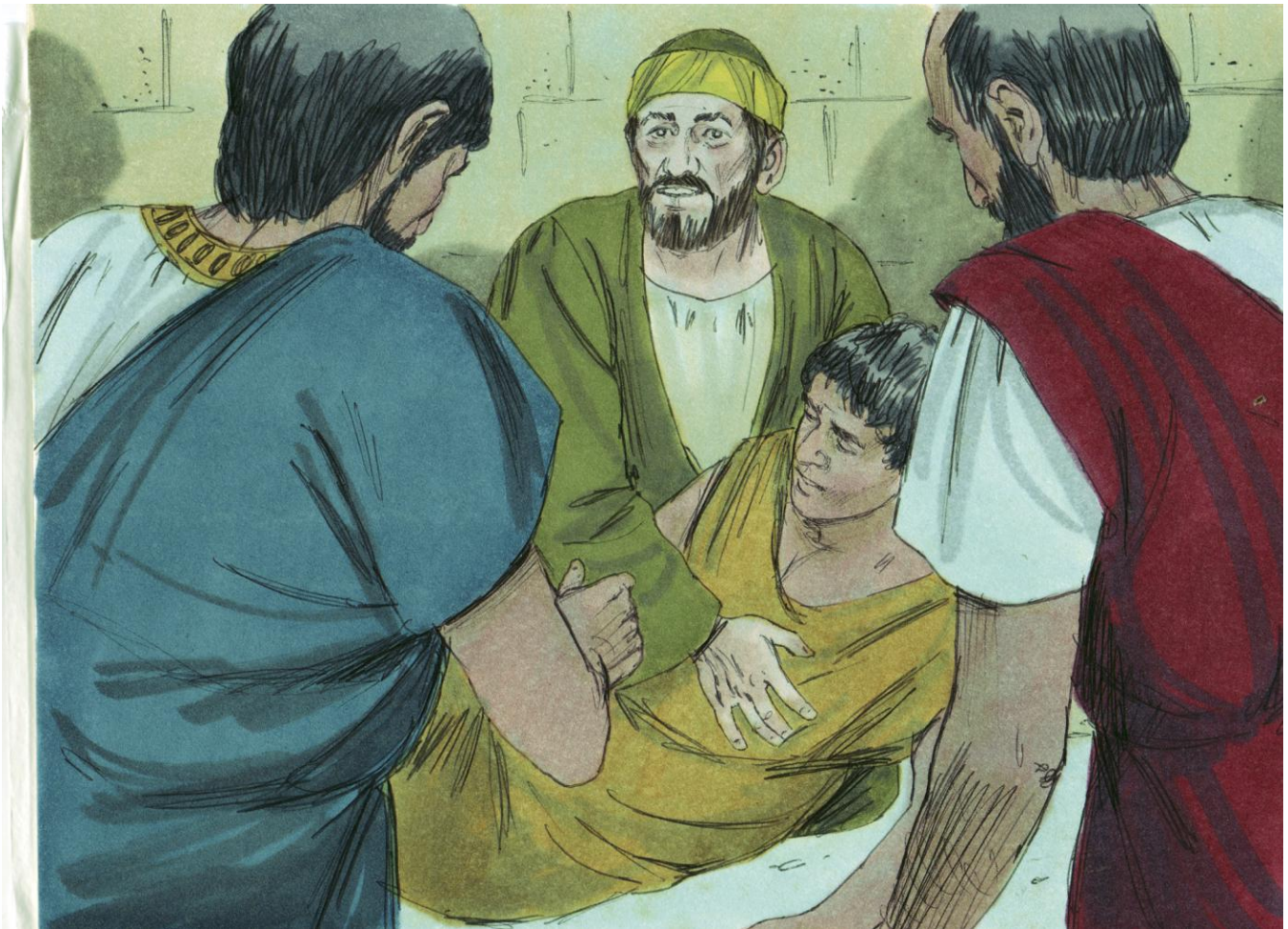
*Why do we see a change of person to “us” and “we” in this passage and to the end of Acts? It indicates that Luke, the beloved physician (Colossians 4:14) who is the writer of the book of Acts, had again joined the apostle and stayed with him until his imprisonment in Rome.*

On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight. *Probably the Christian believers met on our Saturday night, since according to Jewish reckoning sundown on Saturday evening marked the close of the Sabbath and the beginning of the next day.* There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered together. And there was a young man named Eutychus sitting on the window sill, sinking into a deep sleep; and as Paul kept on talking, he was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor and was picked up dead.



But Paul went down and fell upon him, and after embracing him, he said, “Do not be troubled, for his life is in him.”





*What means Eutychus? Eutychus means Fortunate, and fortunate he was that Paul was the preacher that night, for by goodness and power of God the apostle restored him to life. As it was Paul who was used to restore Eutychus to life, so it is Paul who has been used to restore the Church of this dispensation to life. In the raising of Dorcas (meaning Gazelle) by Peter, the emphasis is upon her activities and good works. In the raising of Eutychus by Paul, no such emphasis is found. He was simply "Fortunate." Thus, symbolically, God's dealings with Israel and with the Body of Christ are compared.*

When Paul had gone back up and had broken the bread and eaten, he talked with them a long while until daybreak, and then left. They took away the boy alive, and were greatly comforted.

## Troas to Miletus (Acts 20:13-16)

But we, going ahead to the ship, set sail for Assos, intending from there to take Paul on board; for so he had arranged it, intending himself to go by land. Assos is on the opposite side of the peninsula from Troas. Thus Paul was not far behind the ship that sailed around the peninsula. And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene. Mitylene is the port and current capital of the Greek island of Lesbos. Sailing from there, we arrived the following day opposite Chios; and the next day we crossed over to Samos; and the day following we came to Miletus. For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

*Paul well knew that he could not appear on the scene among so many converts, friends and co-workers without being detained for a considerable length of time. He would therefore disembark instead at Miletus, and from there summon only the elders of the church for a farewell message of encouragement and exhortation.*



Map 10. Shows the location of Troas, Assos, Mitylene, Chios, Samos, Miletus, Ephesus and Jerusalem



## ***Farewell to Ephesus (Acts 20:17-38)***

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church.



And when they had come to him, he said to them, “You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

“And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. “But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

*In the last verse the apostle makes it clear that the particular ministry he had received of the Lord Jesus was “to testify solemnly the gospel of the grace of God.” This was his special ministry. But this does not mean that he would not confirm what Peter and the twelve taught about the Messiah-ship of Christ. So it is also that he declares that he had testified to both Jews and Greeks, “repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.” Now it is quite true that as repentance was the message of John the Baptist, Christ and the twelve, so grace is the message for today. But this does not mean that repentance has no place today. Repentance is not penitence; much less is it penance. It is rather a change of mind and attitude.*

“And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face. “Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. “For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

*It must be remembered that “the kingdom” is a very broad one. We find it used in both the opening and closing verses of the Acts and in each case the context must be kept in view.*



Photo 36 Ancient Greek theatre in Miletus



“I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. “Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

“And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. “I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or clothes. “You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me. “In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

When he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And they began to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him, grieving especially over the word which he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they were accompanying him to the ship.



## **QUESTIONS OF ACTS CHAPTER 20**

ALL ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND IN THE TEXT OF CHAPTER 20

1. What did Paul give the brethren in the districts of Macedonia?

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2. Why did Paul decided to return to Macedonia after spending three months in Greece?

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3. By whom was he accompanied?

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4. What were there in the upper room where the Christian believers gathered together in Troas?

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5. Why did a young man named Eutychus sitting on the window sill, fell down?

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6. How did Paul restore Eutychus to life?

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7. Why had Paul decided to sail past Ephesus?

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8. From what place did he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church?

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9. What ministry had Paul received from the Lord Jesus?

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10. What had the apostle Paul shown the elders of the church in Ephesus to do?

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## **ACTS CHAPTER 20 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)**

### ***Paul in Macedonia and Greece***

**1**After the uproar had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and when he had exhorted them and taken his leave of them, he left to go to Macedonia. **2**When he had gone through those districts and had given them much exhortation, he came to Greece. **3**And *there* he spent three months, and when a plot was formed against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. **4**And he was accompanied by Sopater of Berea, *the son of Pyrrhus*, and by Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. **5**But these had gone on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas. **6**We sailed from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and came to them at Troas within five days; and there we stayed seven days.

**7**On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul *began* talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight. **8**There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered together. **9**And there was a young man named Eutychus sitting on the window sill, sinking into a deep sleep; and as Paul kept on talking, he was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor and was picked up dead. **10**But Paul went down and fell upon him, and after embracing him, he said, "Do not be troubled, for his life is in him." **11**When he had gone *back* up and had broken the bread and eaten, he talked with them a long while until daybreak, and then left. **12**They took away the boy alive, and were greatly comforted.

### ***Troas to Miletus***

**13**But we, going ahead to the ship, set sail for Assos, intending from there to take Paul on board; for so he had arranged it, intending himself to go by land. **14**And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene. **15**Sailing from there, we arrived the following day opposite Chios; and the next day we crossed over to Samos; and the day following we came to Miletus. **16**For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

### ***Farewell to Ephesus***

**17**From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. **18**And when they had come to him, he said to them,

"You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, **19**servicing the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; **20**how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, **21**solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. **22**"And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, **23**except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. **24**"But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

**25**"And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face. **26**"Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. **27**"For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. **28**"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. **29**"I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; **30**and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. **31**"Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to

admonish each one with tears. **32**“And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build *you* up and to give *you* the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. **33**“I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or clothes. **34**“You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my *own* needs and to the men who were with me. **35**“In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

**36**When he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. **37**And they *began* to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him, **38**grieving especially over the word which he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they were accompanying him to the ship.

Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE(r),

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