

This study sheet belongs to:

Study 1. The Third Missionary Journey

READ: Acts 18: 23;
19: 1, 8-20, 23-41;
20: 1-6;
21: 1-3, 15-17



KEY VERSE: Acts 19: 20
“So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.”

After spending some time at Antioch, Paul set out again! Towards the end of his second missionary journey, he had called at Ephesus, and had given the Jews there a promise that he would come again, in the will of God. **(See Acts 18: 19-21)** Having made such a promise, he was now anxious to fulfil it. So he came to Ephesus.

This city was to be his base for evangelism for nearly three years. First in a Jewish synagogue, and then in a school, he proclaimed and taught **“the things of the kingdom of God”**. **(19: 8)**

Ephesus was a great heathen city, noted in particular, for:-

1. The worship of the goddess Diana (or Artemis, to use her Greek name). The Temple of Diana, at Ephesus, is classed as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. It was a most magnificent building, and annually thousands of worshippers came to it from all over the Mediterranean world. There were many evil and sinful practices linked with the worship of this false god.
2. The practice of magic. Ephesus was well-known as a city where witchcraft abounded. There were many men who claimed to have contact with, and power over evil spirits, or demons. Such people are known as exorcists, and in Ephesus, they plied their trade! **(See 19: 13-17)**

The Gospel of the Lord Jesus had a powerful impact on both these features of Ephesian life. So many people were forsaking the worship of Diana that the silversmiths, who made small souvenir shrines of the goddess, began to fear that they soon would be out of work! **(See 19: 27)** Indeed, there was even the possibility of the magnificent Temple becoming a ruin! Under the passionate words of Demetrius, the silversmiths' leader, **“the whole**

city was filled with confusion”. **(v. 29)** A near riot situation had developed! This showed clearly the success of the Gospel in causing people to turn **“from idols to serve the living and true God”**. **(1 Thessalonians 1: 9)**

The section from **Acts 19: 13-20** demonstrates the power of God in the dark world of the occult. The bonfire **(v. 19)** is evidence of how people who had heard and believed the gospel, were given strength by God to break completely with their former evil way of living. They quickly learned that **“No one can serve two masters”**. **(Matthew 6: 24)**

Ephesus was the capital of the Roman province of Asia. As Paul continued his work in the city for more than two years, the Gospel spread to the surrounding areas, so that **“all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks”**. **(19: 10)** Not only in Ephesus did a Christian church become established, but also in the outlying towns. We read in **Revelation 1: 11** of **“the seven churches which are in Asia”** and it is most likely that all of these were founded as a result of the Gospel coming to Ephesus at this time. What great success the message of good news had!

Eventually Paul moved on. He went to Macedonia and Greece, as well as to other less well-known parts. We can be sure that he was delighted to find that many people who had been saved on his previous visit were still trusting the Lord and living their lives to please God. In every place, the believers were encouraged by his good words! **(Read Acts 20: 2)**

His return to Jerusalem is recorded in **Acts 21: 15-17**. The third missionary journey, which had concentrated mainly on Ephesus, was finished! Even Paul himself sensed that great changes were just ahead of him! **(See 20: 22-24 & 21: 10-14)** We shall discover in Study 2 what happened!

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WorkSheet

Study 1. The Third Missionary Journey

1 A. READ ACTS 18: 19-21, THEN ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS BRIEFLY:-
 i. What city is named in these verses? _____
 ii. What did the Jews ask Paul to do? _____
 iii. What promise did he make to them? _____

B. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR CHRISTIANS, IN PARTICULAR, TO KEEP ANY PROMISES WHICH THEY MAKE? _____

4

2 A. NAME TWO BUILDINGS AT EPHESUS, USED BY PAUL FOR MAKING KNOWN "THE THINGS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD" AND FOR WHAT LENGTH OF TIME DID HE USE EACH OF THEM? (19: 8-10)
 i. _____ Length of time _____
 ii. _____ Length of time _____

B. EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHY HE LEFT THE FIRST ONE AND MOVED TO THE SECOND. _____

5

3 A. WRITE A FEW SENTENCES ABOUT DEMETRIUS, EXPLAINING WHO HE WAS, WHAT HIS CONCERN WAS AND WHAT ACTION HE TOOK. _____

B. EXPRESS, IN YOUR OWN WORDS THE ADVICE GIVEN BY THE CITY CLERK TO THE MOB. _____

5

4 TRUE OR FALSE:-
 a. God enabled Paul to do very special miracles at Ephesus. _____
 b. The books of magic, which were burned, were worth thirty thousand pieces of silver. _____
 c. Alexander was responsible for stirring up the citizens of Ephesus. _____
 d. For about two hours the crowd shouted, "**Great is Diana of the Ephesians!**" _____
 e. Aristarchus, Secundus, Gaius and Timothy were some of Paul's helpers on this journey. _____
 f. The Third Missionary Journey ended at Antioch. _____

3

5 A. WRITE OUT THE KEY VERSE. _____

B. EXPRESS, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, WHAT IT MEANS. _____

4

6 ACCORDING TO ACTS 20: 17-38, PAUL SENT TO EPHESUS FOR THE ELDERS OF THE CHURCH TO MEET HIM AT MILETUS, WHERE HE ADDRESSED THEM.

A. READ VS. 22-25, AND SAY WHAT FEELINGS HE HAD ABOUT HIS FUTURE LIFE. _____

B. WHY WERE TEARS SHED FREELY AS THEY LED PAUL TO HIS SHIP? (SEE VS. 36-38) _____

4

Total marks
for this study

25

This study sheet belongs to:



KEY VERSE: Acts 22: 21
“Then He said unto me, ‘Depart, for I will send you far from here to the Gentiles.’”

On his arrival in Jerusalem, Paul was warmly welcomed by the Christians. He had a meeting with James and the other elders, and told them, in detail, of the conversion of many non-Jews (or Gentiles). They praised God for such good news.

Not everyone, however, was so friendly to Paul! There were some Jews who accused him of urging their people to disregard the ancient laws and customs of the Jewish religion. The Christian leaders suggested to Paul that he could very easily silence these accusations by associating himself with four men who were, just then, undertaking a Jewish Temple vow. If Paul joined with them, and indeed paid all their expenses, then everyone would know that the charges made against him were entirely without foundation.

Such was their plan, and Paul agreed to it, but it failed to save him from the rage of Jews from Asia, where he had spent nearly three years. They recognized him in the Temple, and immediately began shouting. A crowd gathered as they accused Paul of bringing an ‘unclean’ Gentile into the ‘holy’ Temple, thereby defiling it. Paul was physically attacked, dragged out of the Temple and the doors firmly closed behind him!

For Paul, it was a moment of grave danger, for they were intent upon killing him. Only the prompt intervention of Roman soldiers from the nearby army barracks prevented him from being murdered. **(See Acts 21: 31 & 32)**

The arrival of the troops put an end to the mob’s attack on Paul. The commander, however, had to investigate what had happened, so he ordered Paul to be put in chains and brought into the barracks. The crowd was so hostile that the soldiers had literally to carry Paul as the mob pursued them, shouting, **“Away with him!”**

When they reached the steps leading up to the

Study 2. Violent Opposition at Jerusalem

READ: Acts 21: 17-36 & 22: 1-29

barracks, Paul asked permission to address the crowd. It was a surprise to the commander to discover that this man whom he had just rescued from angry Jews was himself a Jew, and that he could speak to the people in their own language! Perhaps even more surprising was the fact that the angry, screaming mob became as quiet as mice as Paul began to address them!

What did he say to them? He began by recounting the details of his early life, his opposition to Jesus and to all who believed in Him. Then he went on to tell of his conversion, near Damascus. Although perhaps 25 years had passed, he recalled clearly the details of that wonderful event.

He was given a quiet hearing until he mentioned that the Lord had told him - not long after his conversion - to take the message of the Lord Jesus to the GENTILES. The idea of the Gospel being for GENTILES triggered a violent reaction! They began to scream, **“Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he is not fit to live!” (22: 22)** Once again, a serious situation had developed!

The officer in charge quickly brought Paul inside and ordered that **“he should be examined under scourging”**. (v. 24) The Romans believed that if a man received a severe beating, he would confess to whatever wrong he had done. As Paul was being tied up, in preparation for scourging, he declared his Roman citizenship, under the terms of which he was not allowed to be scourged! The commander and the other officers quickly untied him, realizing that they had almost done something which would have got them into deep trouble with their superiors!

What an outstanding servant of the Lord Jesus was Paul! We refer to him as **“the apostle to the Gentiles”**. **Read Romans 11: 13, 1 Timothy 2: 7 and 2 Timothy 1: 11**. In an age of extreme prejudice, and even hatred, on the part of the Jews against Gentiles, he suffered a great deal as he pressed on with his God-given task. It was largely through his preaching of the Gospel that God **“opened the door of faith to the Gentiles”**. **(Acts 14: 27)** He always counted it a great honour to serve the One who had given Himself for him! **Read Acts 20: 24.**

Study 2. Violent Opposition at Jerusalem

1 PAUL WAS ACCUSED OF TEACHING THAT JEWS WHO BECAME CHRISTIANS SHOULD “FORSAKE MOSES” (ACTS 21: 21) AND NO LONGER PRACTISE JEWISH RITUALS AND CUSTOMS.

A. IN THIS STUDY, WHAT DID HE DO IN AN EFFORT TO PUT A STOP TO THESE ACCUSATIONS?

B. IS IT NECESSARY FOR A PERSON TO FOLLOW THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE LAW OF MOSES IN ORDER TO BE SAVED? WRITE OUT ROMANS 3: 28, AS THE BIBLE’S ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION.

4

2 WRITE A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LED TO PAUL BEING TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY THE ROMAN AUTHORITIES.

3

3 IN HIS SPEECH TO THE CROWD PAUL MENTIONED SEVERAL PEOPLE AND PLACES. WRITE A FEW WORDS AFTER EACH OF THESE WORDS TO EXPLAIN ITS SIGNIFICANCE:-

- 1. Tarsus _____
- 2. Gamaliel _____
- 3. Damascus _____
- 4. Ananias _____
- 5. Stephen _____

5

4 THE JEWS OF JERUSALEM WERE VERY BITTERLY OPPOSED TO PAUL. (ACTS 21: 31 & 22: 22). WHY WAS THIS SO?

4

5 A. IN WHAT WAY DID THE ROMAN COMMANDER ALMOST VIOLATE PAUL’S RIGHTS AS A ROMAN CITIZEN?

B. READ JOHN 19: 1, AND WRITE A SHORT SENTENCE TO SAY WHAT THE ROMAN GOVERNOR, PILATE, DID TO JESUS.

C. IN WHAT WAY DID JESUS DIFFER FROM PAUL, IN THIS MATTER?

3

6 PAUL’S SPECIAL APPOINTMENT BY GOD WAS TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO NON-JEWS, OR GENTILES.

A. THE KEY VERSE CONFIRMS THIS STATEMENT. WRITE IT OUT.

B. TODAY, SALVATION IS OFFERED, TO BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES, ON EXACTLY THE SAME TERMS. IN SUPPORT OF THIS, READ AND WRITE OUT ROMANS 10: 12 & 13.

6

25

This study sheet belongs to:

Study 3. From Jerusalem to Caesarea

READ: Acts 22: 30 & 23: 1-35



KEY VERSE: Acts 23: 11

“ . . . 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.’ ”

Having discovered that Paul held the rights of Roman citizenship, the commander decided that his case should be investigated fairly by the Jewish council, or Sanhedrin. Accordingly, the very next day, Paul was set before this very important body of 70 men, made up of the High Priest, chief priests and many others. Some of them were very strict Jews, called Pharisees, while others were more liberal minded Jews, called Sadducees. This was the same council that had tried both Jesus and Stephen, many years before. (See Luke 22: 66 & 67; Acts 6: 12) Neither of them had received a fair trial!

After a tense introduction to the proceedings, Paul declared himself to be from a Pharisee background. This, of course, gained him the support of the Pharisees on the council. He then went on to say that the main point at issue, in the accusations being brought against him, was resurrection, and life beyond death. As the Sadducees did not believe in such things, a fierce row broke out between the Pharisees and the Sadducees. There was much shouting and disorder, as the one section tried to defend Paul while the other denounced both him and his belief in resurrection!



Once again, it fell to the Romans to rescue Paul! Once more he owed his physical safety to the timely intervention of the soldiers. We can be sure he heaved a sigh of relief when he was safely back inside the barracks! (v. 10)

In the stillness of the night the Lord gave him the comfort he needed. Read the **Key Verse** again. God was revealing to him that he was to be a witness for Him at Rome, the capital of the powerful Roman Empire, just as he had been in Jerusalem, the Jewish capital.

Step by step, God was making known to Paul His plan for his future. Several years would pass, before he would actually be in Rome. There would be many hardships and much suffering, but Paul was so committed to the Lord Jesus that he was unafraid. His life presents a strong challenge to us who suffer so little for our Lord!

Jewish hatred of Paul knew no bounds! The conspiracy by more than forty of them to ambush and murder him between the barracks and the council chambers was foiled only by the courageous action of Paul's nephew.

As soon as news of the plot became known to the commander, it was his responsibility, once again, to ensure that no harm came to this Roman citizen! His plan was to move Paul, by night and under a heavy military guard, to Caesarea, where the Roman governor, Felix, had his headquarters. The letter which he wrote to Felix (vs. 26-30) explained briefly why Paul was being handed over. It was now up to the governor to decide what was to be done! Wisely, he postponed making any decision on the matter until he had heard what Paul's accusers had to say. (See v. 35)

Paul's heart was at peace. His new circumstances prevented him from preaching and founding churches, as he had done for years. Now, while being held in protective custody, he had contact with army officers, ordinary soldiers, Roman governors, and people of high rank, as we shall see. To all of these he had the great honour of telling the wonderful message of the Gospel. He was still being useful to his Lord, and was fulfilling His plan for his life. Paul is an excellent example for all of us!

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Study 3. From Jerusalem to Caesarea

1 THE COMMANDER “COMMANDED THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND ALL THEIR COUNCIL TO APPEAR, AND BROUGHT PAUL DOWN AND SET HIM BEFORE THEM”. (ACTS 22: 30)
A. WHAT NAME IS OFTEN USED FOR THIS COUNCIL? _____
B. APPROXIMATELY, HOW MANY MEMBERS DID IT HAVE? _____
C. NAME TWO OTHERS WHO HAD BEEN TRIED BY THIS COUNCIL. _____
D. WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME IN BOTH OF THOSE CASES? _____

4

2 **A. NAME THE TWO MAIN RELIGIOUS GROUPINGS IN THE JEWISH COUNCIL.**

B. WRITE A SENTENCE EXPLAINING THE MAIN DIFFERENCE IN THE BELIEFS OF THESE TWO GROUPS. _____
C. WHAT HAPPENED IN THE COUNCIL WHEN HE TOLD THEM TO WHICH PARTY HE HAD BELONGED? _____

4

3 WHEN PAUL TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT HE WAS BEING JUDGED “CONCERNING THE HOPE AND RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD” (23: 6), HE WAS THINKING OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS, AND OF THE HOPE WHICH THAT GREAT EVENT GIVES TO ALL WHO TRUST IN HIM. READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15: 12-14, AND EXPLAIN, AS CLEARLY AS YOU CAN, WHY THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS IS SUCH AN IMPORTANT CHRISTIAN BELIEF.

3

4 **A. WRITE OUT FROM THE KEY VERSE WHAT THE LORD SAID TO PAUL WHEN HE “STOOD BY HIM”.** _____
B. WRITE OUT, FROM THE END OF HEBREWS 13: 5, HIS PROMISE TO ALL WHO RELY UPON HIM:-
 “I will _____.”

2

5 READ AGAIN ACTS 23: 12-22, THEN WRITE SHORT ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS:-
 i. How many conspirators were there? _____
 ii. What oath had they sworn? _____
 iii. Who became aware of their plot? _____
 iv. To whom did he first tell what he had discovered? _____
 v. To whom else did he tell it? _____
 vi. Why do you think the commander (or, chief captain) commanded him to “**tell no one that you have revealed these things to me**”?

6

6 **A. WRITE A COUPLE OF SENTENCES EITHER ABOUT A CHRISTIAN WHO HAS SUFFERED FOR HIS/HER FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS OR A COUNTRY WHERE CHRISTIANS, IN GENERAL, ARE PERSECUTED.** _____

B. UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES MIGHT A YOUNG CHRISTIAN TODAY BE CALLED UPON TO SUFFER FOR HIS FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS? _____

C. IN WHAT WAYS COULD PAUL’S EXPERIENCES BE A HELP TO PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS TODAY?

6

Total marks
for this study **25**

This study sheet belongs to:

Study 4. Two years at Caesarea

READ: Acts 24, 25 & 26



KEY VERSES: Acts 26: 22
“Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing to both small and great . . .”

Felix, the Roman governor, lost no time in arranging a formal hearing of Paul’s case. Representatives of the Sanhedrin, including the High Priest himself, made the sixty mile journey from Jerusalem to Caesarea. They hired the services of Tertullus, a professional orator, to present their case against Paul. When Tertullus had spoken, it was Paul’s turn to defend himself. He denied all the accusations made against him, at the same time courageously acknowledging that he was a believer in the Lord Jesus - a follower of ‘The Way’. (See 24: 14) He also stated unashamedly his belief in the resurrection - not only that of Jesus, but eventually of all men. (24: 15 & 21)

After listening to both Tertullus and Paul, Felix postponed reaching a verdict. He felt it would be better to wait until he had heard what the Roman commander had to say about the events in Jerusalem. This postponement marked the beginning of a two year waiting period for Paul at Caesarea. As he had not been found guilty of any offence, he was allowed certain privileges. (24: 23) Nevertheless, it must have been a difficult time for him, especially when it became clear to him that Felix would speedily release him if he gave him a bribe!

At the end of two years, Felix was replaced by Porcius Festus. When the new governor visited Jerusalem, the Sanhedrin quickly raised with him the matter of Paul. Jewish hatred of him was as strong as ever, and indeed, they were plotting to kill him! (25: 3)

Festus, however, insisted that Paul’s case would be dealt with at Caesarea, so a hearing was arranged. Once again, the Sanhedrin **“laid many serious complaints against Paul, which they could not prove”**. (25: 7) Paul firmly denied all the charges, but he realized that he would never get a fair hearing from the Jewish council. What was he to do? He made a very big decision! He appealed to Caesar Augustus in Rome! As a Roman citizen, he had the right to have

his case transferred from the provincial governor’s court in Judea, to the emperor in Rome.

Having appealed to Caesar, he now had to await transportation to distant Rome. In heart and mind, he must have been at ease, recalling what the Lord had said to him just before he left Jerusalem. (Read again **Acts 23: 11**)

During this waiting period, the governor Festus had ‘royal visitors’, in the persons of King Agrippa II and Bernice, both of whom were members of the well-known Herod family. Festus arranged for ‘the royals’ to meet Paul. It was quite an elaborate occasion! **“With great pomp”**, Agrippa and Bernice entered the auditorium where commanders and prominent men of the city were assembled. At Festus’ command, Paul, in chains, was brought in and after being introduced by the governor, he was given permission to address the distinguished audience.

What had he to say for himself? Accurately he related his life story, from his early years as a fanatical Pharisee who persecuted Christians, right up to the point of his conversion. He went on to explain that from that time onwards, he had busied himself spreading the Gospel - Read again his words in the **Key Verse**.

Eventually Festus interrupted him loudly, **“Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!”** (26: 24) Needless to say, Paul rejected such charges!

Turning to King Agrippa, Paul challenged him directly about his beliefs. Apparently, the king had been deeply impressed by what he had heard.

“You almost persuade me to become a Christian,” was his reply. (26: 28) Sadly, there is nothing to make us think that he took the all important steps of repenting and believing in the Lord Jesus!

When the hearing ended, the king and the governor discussed the case. **“This man might have been set free,”** said the king, **“if he had not appealed to Caesar.”** (26: 32) However, preparations were already in hand for the long journey to Rome!

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Study 4. Two years at Caesarea

1 THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE ARE MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE READING FOR THIS STUDY; WRITE A FEW WORDS TO EXPLAIN WHO EACH OF THEM IS:-

i. Ananias _____ ii. Tertullus _____ iii. Felix _____

iv. Lysias _____ v. Festus _____ vi. Drusilla _____

3

2 A. THE JEWS' CHARGES AGAINST PAUL ARE FOUND MAINLY IN 24: 5 & 6. EXPRESS THEM, AS CLEARLY AS YOU CAN, IN YOUR OWN WORDS.

B. HOW DID PAUL REPLY TO THEIR CHARGES, IN 24: 12 & 13?

C. THE BIG POINT OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT PAUL BELIEVED AND WHAT THE SANHEDRIN BELIEVED MAY BE EXPRESSED IN ONE WORD FOUND IN BOTH VS. 15 & 21. WRITE THE WORD HERE:- _____

5

3 A. WHAT THREE SUBJECTS DID PAUL SPEAK ABOUT, WHEN HE ADDRESSED FELIX AND DRUSILLA? _____

B. WHY DO YOU THINK FELIX "WAS AFRAID" (OR TREMBLED) WHEN HE HEARD PAUL?

C. MANY TODAY ACT LIKE FELIX, IN THAT THEY PUT OFF "UNTIL A CONVENIENT TIME" THE DECISION TO FOLLOW CHRIST. WHAT REASONS WOULD YOU GIVE FOR THEM DOING SO? (SEE 24: 25) _____

4

4 A. GIVE SHORT ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS:-

i. Near what city did his conversion take place? _____

ii. At what time did it happen? _____

iii. In what language did the "voice" speak to him? _____

B. IN 26: 16-18, WE READ ABOUT GOD'S PURPOSES IN SAVING PAUL. WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE GOD'S PURPOSES IN SAVING YOU? (REFER TO BIBLE VERSES, IF POSSIBLE.) _____

5

5 A. WHAT DID KING AGRIPPA SAY TO PAUL WHEN HE QUESTIONED HIM PERSONALLY?

B. SUGGEST SOME REASONS WHY AGRIPPA WAS ALMOST, BUT NOT TOTALLY, PERSUADED TO BE A CHRISTIAN. _____

4

6 IN THIS STUDY, PAUL HAD OPPORTUNITIES TO SPEAK ABOUT THE LORD JESUS TO GOVERNORS, ROYAL PERSONAGES, COMMANDERS, AND PROMINENT MEN OF THE CITY. GOD WAS USING HIM, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS A PRISONER! SUGGEST SOME WAYS IN WHICH GOD COULD USE EACH OF US, EVEN THOUGH WE DO NOT TRAVEL FAR FROM HOME.

4

IF YOU HAVE 'BECOME A CHRISTIAN', WRITE BRIEFLY ABOUT HOW THIS TOOK PLACE. (USE A SEPERATE PIECE OF PAPER.)

100

Total marks for this Unit

Return your study sheets to:
PBS Centre or to:

25

Total marks for this study

Grand Total

(office use only)