Sermons in Acts

Embry Hills Church of Christ Winter, 2006

Sermons in Acts - Lessons List

#	<u>Title</u>	Text
1.	Introduction	
2.	Peter on Pentecost	2:14-40
3.	Peter at Solomon's Porch	3:11-26
4.	Stephen's Defense	7:1-53
5.	Peter at Cornelius' house	10:34-43
6.	Paul at Antioch of Pisidia	13:16-42
7.	Paul at Lystra & Athens	14:14-17; 17:22-31
8.	Paul at Miletus	20:17-35
9.	Paul before Agrippa & Festus	26:1-29

Lesson 1 Objectives

At the end of the study, the student will be able to:

- Name the author and recipient of Acts
- List the preachers we will be studying
- List a 5-point outline of Acts
- Give 2 reasons why this study is important
- List at least five themes we expect to find in the sermons in Acts

Why Study Sermons in Acts?

Cor 1:20-21 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

John 17:17-20 "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. ²⁰ I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word...

Heb 2:1-4 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. ² For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, ⁴ God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

Outline of Acts*

- I. Introduction (1:1-11)
 - Ascension & Coming of Holy Spirit
- II. Origin of the Church: Jerusalem (1:12-8:3)
 - Stephen's Death & Persecution
- III. Period of Transition: Samaria (8:4-11:18)
 - Gentile (Cornelius) Conversion
- IV. Expansion to the Gentiles (11:19-21:16)
 - Paul's Mission: Antioch & the Empire
 - Paul's Arrest
- V. Imprisonment & Defense of Paul (21:17-28:31)
 - Caesarea & Rome

Jesus' Parting Instructions

Luke 24:25-27 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Luke 24:44-47 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." ⁴⁵ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ Then He said to them, "Thus is it written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ And you are witnesses of these things."

Acts 1:3 ... to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

The Great Commission

The Message Preached

The Result/ Response The Continued Work

"The Gospel" (Mk 16:15)

Believe & Baptized, or Not Believe (Mk 16:16)

Teaching to Observe All Things... (Mt 28:20)

Repentance & Remission of Sins (Luke 24:47)

Make Disciples, Baptized (Matt 28:19)

Themes to Look For in Sermons

- Miracles & Signs of Jesus With Witnesses
- Rejection by the Jews
- Resurrection of Jesus With Witnesses
- Prophecies of the Christ (Messiah) Fulfilled in Jesus
 - Suffering Messiah
 - Resurrection
 - Coronation (Throne of David)
- Christ's Current Reign in Heaven
- Coming Judgment
- God's Control in Events
- Human Guilt Before God
- Forgiveness by Response to the Gospel
 - Requirement to Repent
 - Baptism
- Exclusivity of Truth
- Universality of the Gospel

Messages not Found

- An Appeal of Worldly Comfort or Success
- A Mission of Universal Benevolence
- A Call for Social Justice
- An Acceptance of All Religions
- Predictions of a Future Kingdom

Lesson 2 Objectives

At the end of the study, the student will be able to:

- Describe the occasion that led to the sermon.
- List what the Jewish audience knew and understood before the sermon began.
- List the three arguments Peter makes to prove that Jesus is the Messiah.
- Give the Old Testament reference for the three prophecies that Peter uses.
- List four themes found in the sermon.

Pentecost Sermon Outline Acts 2:14-40

- 14-21 Explanation of Tongue-speaking
- 22-24 Introduction of Jesus
- 25-36 Prophecy of Resurrection & Coronation
- 38-40 Instructions for Obedience

Two-step Proof...

The Prophets said the Messiah would...

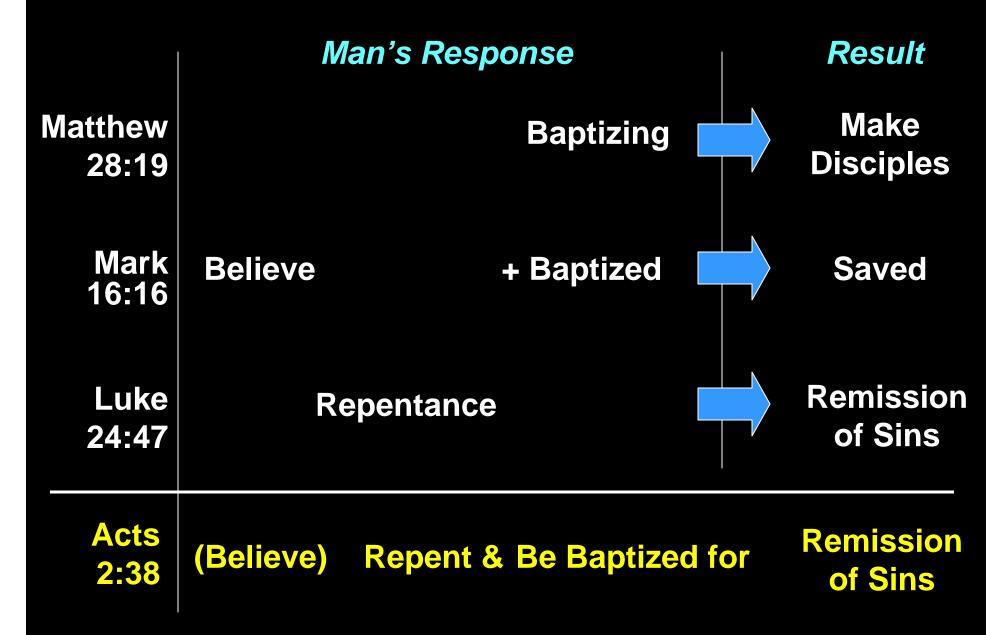
- Be Opposed by Rulers
- Suffer & Be Killed
- Be Raised from the Dead
- Be Exalted to David's Throne
- Provide Forgiveness of Sins
- Bring in All Nations

Jesus was...

- Opposed
- Crucified
- Raised the 3rd Day
- Exalted to David's Throne (God's right hand)
- Providing Forgiveness of Sins
- Bringing in All Nations

...Explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ." (Acts 17:3)

The Great Commission



Lesson 3 Objectives

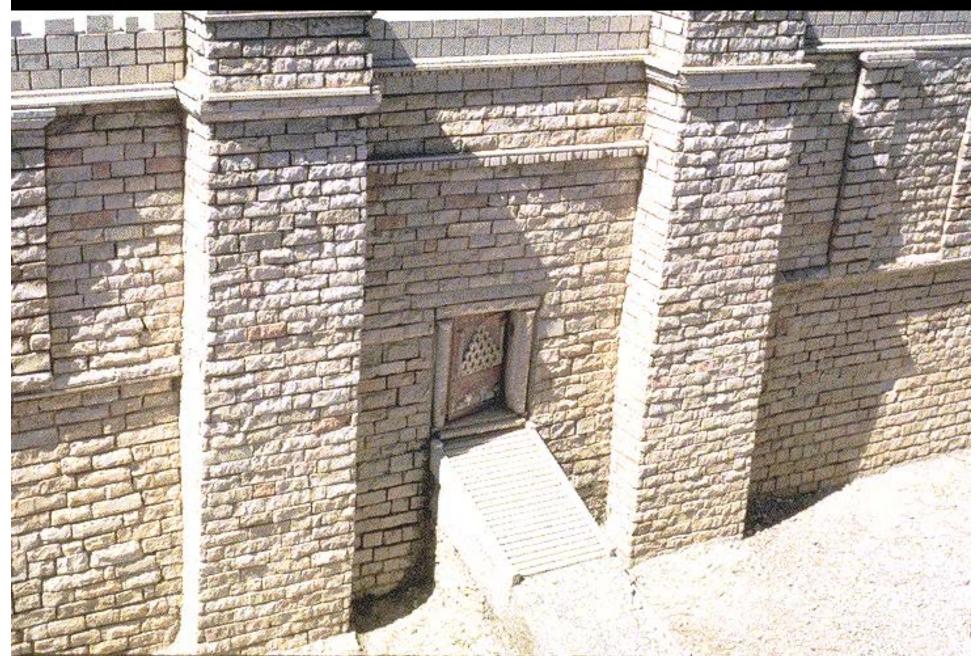
At the end of the study, the student will be able to:

- Describe the occasion that led to the sermon.
- List the two Old Testament references Peter uses to prove that Jesus is the Christ.
- List four similarities and 2 differences between this sermon and the one on Pentecost.
- List three ways Jesus is like Moses.
- List four of the themes found in this sermon.

Outline of Peter's Sermon (Acts 3:11-26)

- 3:12-16 Explanation of the Miracle (plus...)
- 3:17-21 Call to Repentance
- 3:22-24 Moses' Prophecy: A Prophet to Come
- 3:25-26 Prophecy to Abraham: Seed Blessing

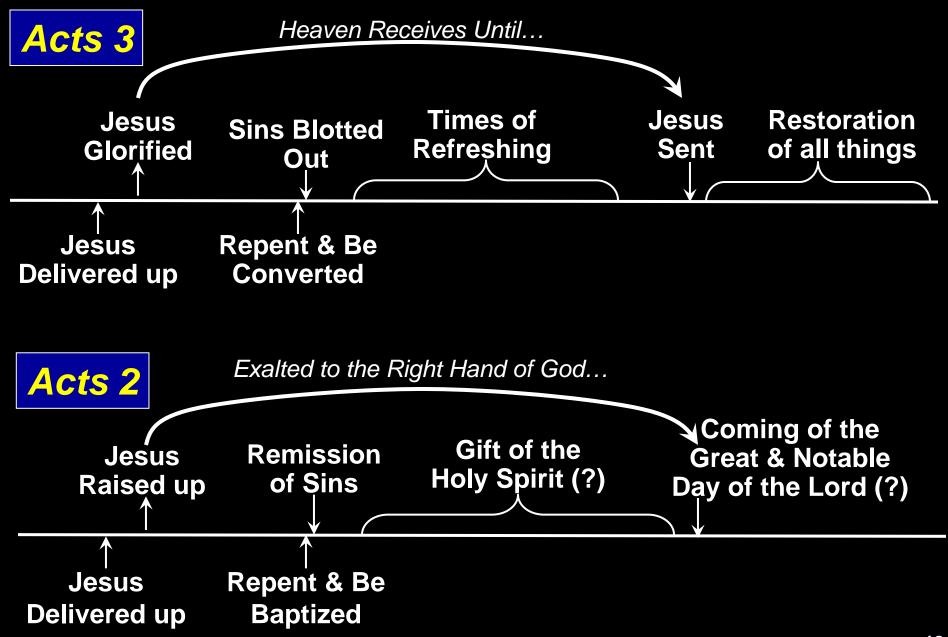
Beautiful Gate



Beautiful Gate



Timeline of the Kingdom



Both Jesus & Moses...

- Were Raised up by God from among Israel
- Were Prophets, Speaking for God
- Had to be Listened to... or God would punish.

Also...

- Were Rejected by Their own People.
- Led a Chosen People to Salvation.

"Mini Sermons"

of the people and elders of Israel: 9If we this day are judged for a good deed done to the helpless man, by what means he has been made well, 10let it be know to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. 11 This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' 12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:8-12)

²⁹Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. ³¹Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him." (Acts 5:29-32)

Lesson 4 Objectives

At the end of the study, the student will be able to:

- Describe the occasion that led to the sermon.
- List the charges made against Stephen.
- List the Old Testament leaders that Stephen mentions.
- List the underlying theme of the sermon.
- List 4 of the common themes found in this sermon.

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- IV. Expansion to the Gentiles (11:19-21:16)
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 - Paul's Arrest
- V. Imprisonment & Defense of Paul (21:17-28:31)
 - Caesarea & Rome

The Charges Against Stephen

- Blasphemy Against Moses & God (v 11)
- Blasphemy Against the Holy Place & Law (v 13)
- Said, "Jesus will:
 - Destroy this Place, and
 - Change the <u>Customs Moses Delivered</u>" (v 14)

Charges:

Moses (the Law)
This Place (Land & Temple)

Outline of Stephen's Defense

- 7:2-8 Call & Promise to Abraham
- 7:9-16 Joseph Brings Israelites to Egypt
- 7:17-36 Moses Delivers Israelites from Egypt
- 7:37-43 The Israelites Rebel Against Moses
- 7:44-50 The House of God
- 7:51-53 Israel's Consistent Rejection of God

Charges:

Moses (the Law)
This Place (Land & Temple)

The Promise to Abraham

Promise to Abraham about his descendants (Acts 7:5-7)

(Nation to come)

Sojourn in Foreign Land

In Bondage (400 years)

Delivered & Nation Judged

Serve God in "this Place"

Fulfillment of the Promise

Patriarchs born thru Isaac (v 8) Joseph leads family to Egypt (v 9-16)

Oppression in Egypt (v 18,19)

Moses brought them out with Power (v 36); Gave the Law Tabernacle brought into Land; Temple Built by Sol. (v 44-47)

Charges:

Moses (the Law)

This Place (Land & Temple)

The Underlying Message

Promise to Abraham about his descendants (Acts 7:5-7)

(Nation to come)

Sojourn in Foreign Land

In Bondage (400 years)

Delivered & Nation Judged

Serve God in "this Place"

Fulfillment of the Promise

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Oppression in Egypt (v 18,19)

Moses brought them out with Power (v 36); Gave the Law Tabernacle brought into Land; Temple Built by Sol. (v 44-47)

Rejected by Brethren (Went Away for a while) Exalted to Power by God Appeared Again as Savior

Rejected by Brethren
(Went Away for a while)
Selected & Made a Ruler by God
Appeared Again as a Savior
Fathers Disobeyed His Law

What about "the Place"

Promise to Abraham about his descendants (Acts 7:5-7)

(Nation to come)

Sojourn in Foreign Land

In Bondage (400 years)

Delivered & Nation Judged

Serve God in "this Place"

Fulfillment of the Promise

Patriarchs born thru Isaac (v 8)

Joseph leads family to Egypt (v 9-16)

Oppression in Egypt (v 18,19)

Moses brought them out with Power (v 36); Gave the Law

Tabernacle brought into Land; Temple Built by Sol. (v 44-47)

God doesn't Dwell in Temples!
"The Place" is Lost by Disobedience!
God Wants Humble Obedience!
(Isaiah 66)

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 - Caesarea & Rome

Lesson 5 Objectives

At the end of the study, the student will be able to:

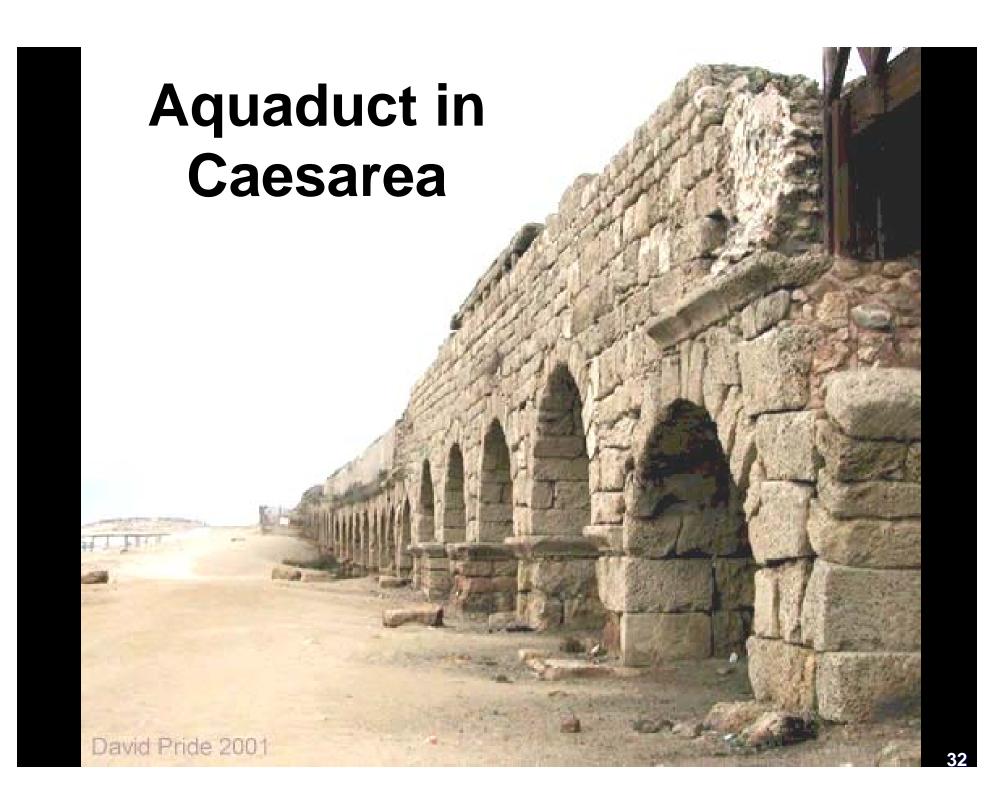
- Describe the circumstances and preparation God made to bring Peter to Cornelius' house.
- Explain the significance of the Holy Spirit falling on Cornelius and his household.
- List at least four of our themes found in the sermon.

Herodian Ampitheatre in Caesarea



Ruins in Caesarea





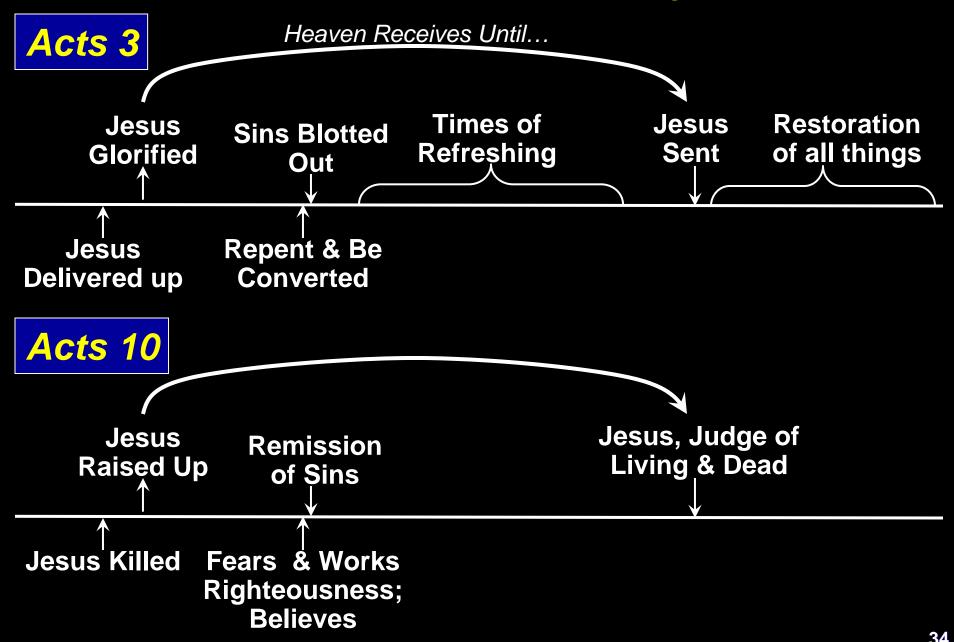
Outline of Peter's Sermon (Acts 10:11-26)

10:34,35 God's Impartiality10:36-38 The Word of Jesus' Ministry10:39-41 Witnessed Death & Resurrection

10:42,43 Message of Judgment & Forgiveness

10:47 Instructions for Obedience

The Same Story



Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:5 – "You shall be...Baptized in the Holy Spirit Not many Days Hence" Acts 11:15,16 – "...the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' "

Acts 2:33 – ... "has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear"

Acts 10:44 – "While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message"

Acts 15:7 - "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. 8God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. 9He made no distinction between us and them...

Themes in Acts Sermons							
chapter	2	3	7	10			
Miracles	22	16		38			
 Rejection by Jews 	23,36	4:11	51,52	39			
 Resurrection 	24	15	(56)	40			
Prophecies		24	37	43			
Suffering Messiah	27	18	52				
Resurrection	24,31	(24)	(56)				
Coronation	33,34	4:11	(56)				
Reign in Heaven	36	21	(56)	42			
Judgment	20,40	21		42			
God's Control	17-on	15,18	-all-	36,38,40,42			
Human Guilt	36,40	26	51-53				
 Forgiveness 	38,40	19	(60?)	36, 43			
Repentance	38	19		11:18			
Baptism	38			47			
Exclusivity	40	4:12		6 "must do"			
Universality	39	25,26		34,35			

Lesson 6 Objectives

At the end of the study, the student will be able to:

- Describe the setting and audience for this sermon.
- List the events in Israel's history that Paul mentions.
- List at least three OT references made in the sermon.
- Explain how the sermon is suited for Jews & Gentiles.

Outline of Acts*

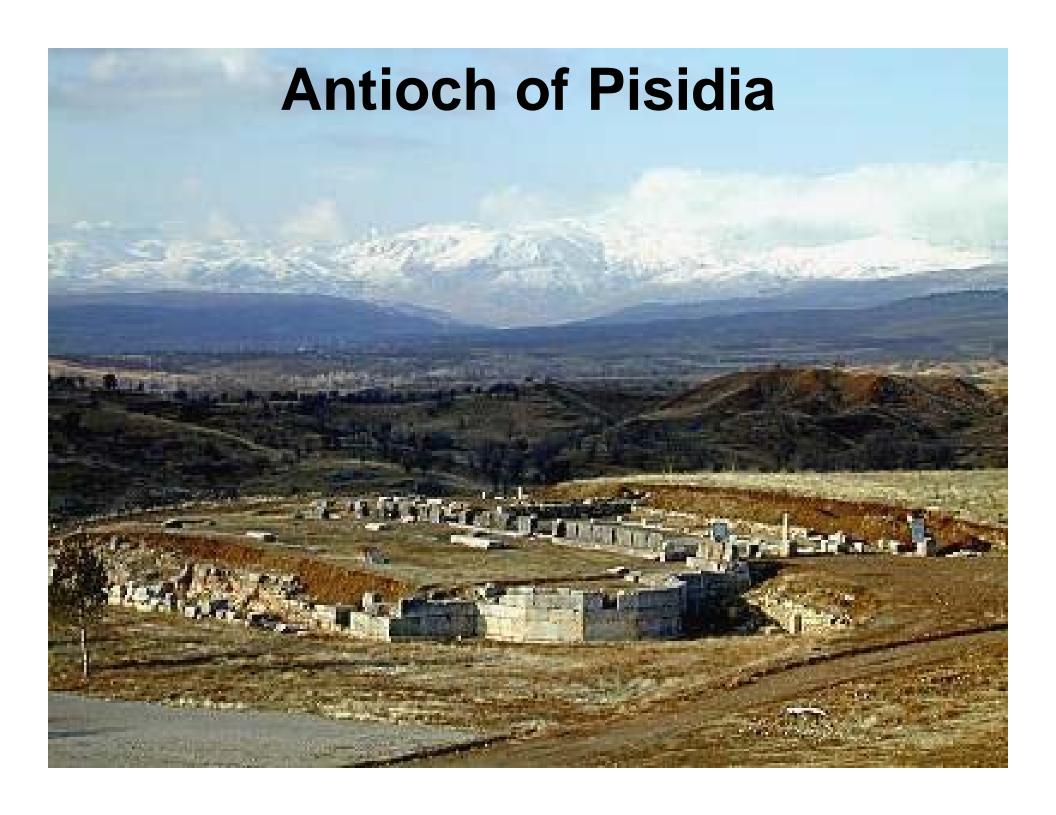
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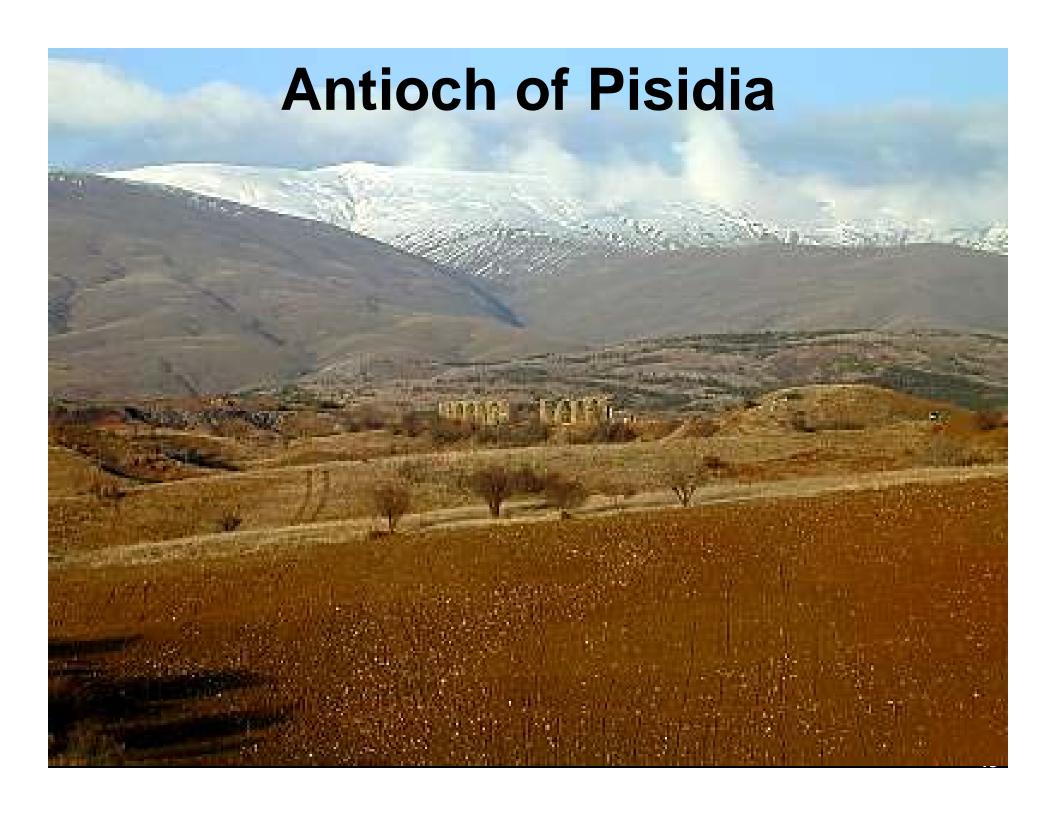
A Brief "Life of Paul"

<u>Year</u>	Event	Reference	<u>Letters</u>
36	Conversion	Acts 9	
40	*First Jerusalem Visit (w/ Barnabas)	Acts 9:26-30	
41-43	In Tarsus	Acts 9:30	
44-45	In Antioch with Barnabas	Acts 11:25, 26	
45	*Second Jerusalem Visit (w/ Gifts)	Acts 11:27	
46-47	First Journey (w/ Barnabas)	Acts 13,14	
48-49	In Antioch	Acts 14:26-28	
50	*Third Jerusalem Visit (Conference)	Acts 15	
50-53	Second Journey (w/ Silas & Timothy)	Acts 15-18	I, II Thess
53	*Fourth Jerusalem Visit (the Church)	Acts 18:22	
	(To Antioch)		I, II Corinthians
54-58	Third Journey	Acts 18:23-21:14	Galatians
			Romans
58	*Fifth Jerusalem Visit (Imprisoned)	Acts 21:15-23:30	
58-60	Imprisoned in Caesarea	Acts 23-26	
60-61	Taken to Rome	Acts 27,28	∫ Col., Philemon,
61-63	Early Imprisonment in Rome	Acts 28:16-31	Eph., Philipians
63-67	?? Release, Journey to Spain, etc.??		l Tim, Titus
67-68	Later Imprisonment in Rome, Death		II Timothy









Antioch of Pisidia



Street in Antioch of Pisidia



Outline of Paul's Sermon (Acts 13:16-48)

- 13:16-22 History of Israel (Jacob to David)
- 13:23-25 The Coming of Jesus, the Savior
- 13:26-31 Jews Fulfilled Prophecies of Jesus (Condemnation, Death, Burial)
- 13:32-37 Resurrection Prophecies Fulfilled
- 13:38-41 Remission of Sins, Apart from Law

Brief History of Messianic Hope

GOC... Raised up David (with a promise)

(after John)

Gave Saul, then removed him

Gave Judges, Until Samuel

Distributed Land

Destroyed Nations in Canaar

Put up with them in the Wilderness

Exalted/Brought out of Egypt

Chose the Fathers

Lord, where are Your former lovingkindnesses, which you swore to David in Your truth? (Ps 89:49) Raised up for Israel, a Savior: Jesus

- Greater than John
- Fulfilled Prophecy in His Death (27)
- God Raised from the Dead (30)
- God's Son (33)
- Fulfilled Promises to David (34-36)
- Brings Forgiveness (38)
- Must Be Believed to Escape Judgment (40,41)

47

Themes in Acts Sermons

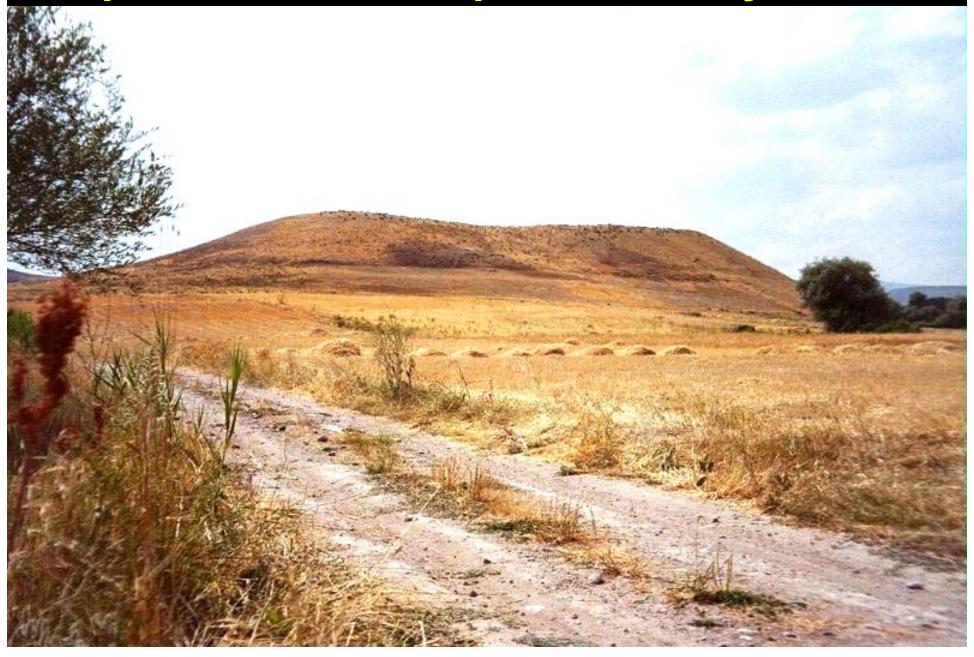
chapter 13 – Paul at Antioch of Pisidia

Miracles 27 - Jews ... Condemned Him Rejection by Jews Resurrection 30, 31 - God Raised Him...witnesses Prophecies... 32 - Promise made to the fathers Suffering Messiah 27,28 – Condemned though no cause Resurrection 35 – "...not allow Holy one to see... 33 – "...Today I have begotten You" Coronation 33,34 - "You are my son..." Reign in Heaven **Judgment** 40,41 - "I will work ... in your days... God's Control 17-23 - God < did lots of things>... **Human Guilt** 39 - Could not be justified by the Law **Forgiveness** 38 - Thru this Man is preached... 24 - (John's baptism of repentance) Repentance 24 - (John's baptism of repentance) Baptism 46 – Reject→Unworthy of everl. life... **Exclusivity** 47 - ...A light to the Gentiles 39 - By Him, everyone who believes... Universality





(Unexcavated) Site of Lystra

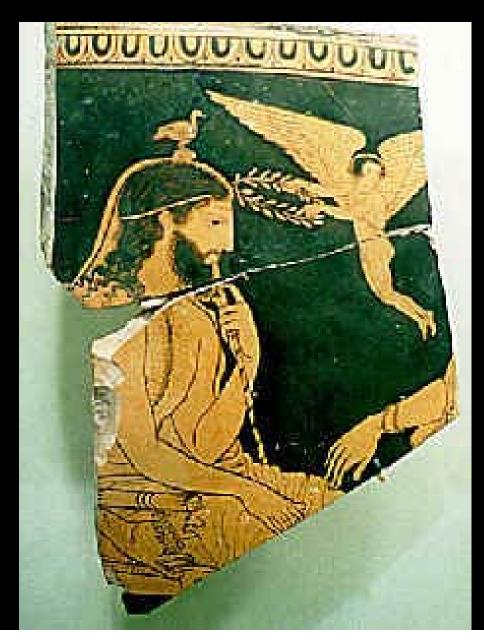


(Unexcavated) Site of Lystra



Zeus

Hermes





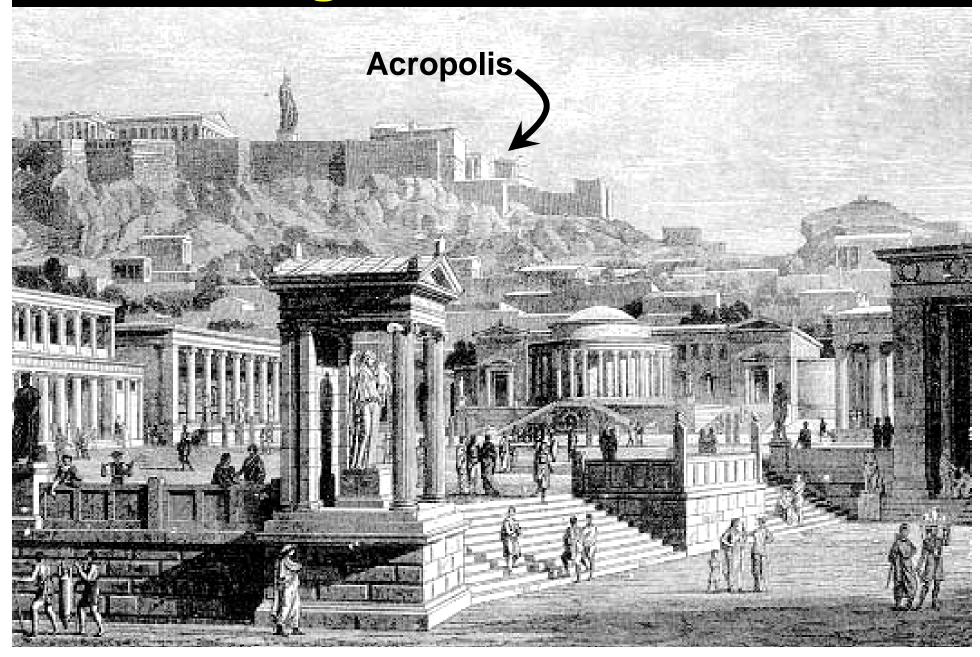


Lesson 8 Objectives

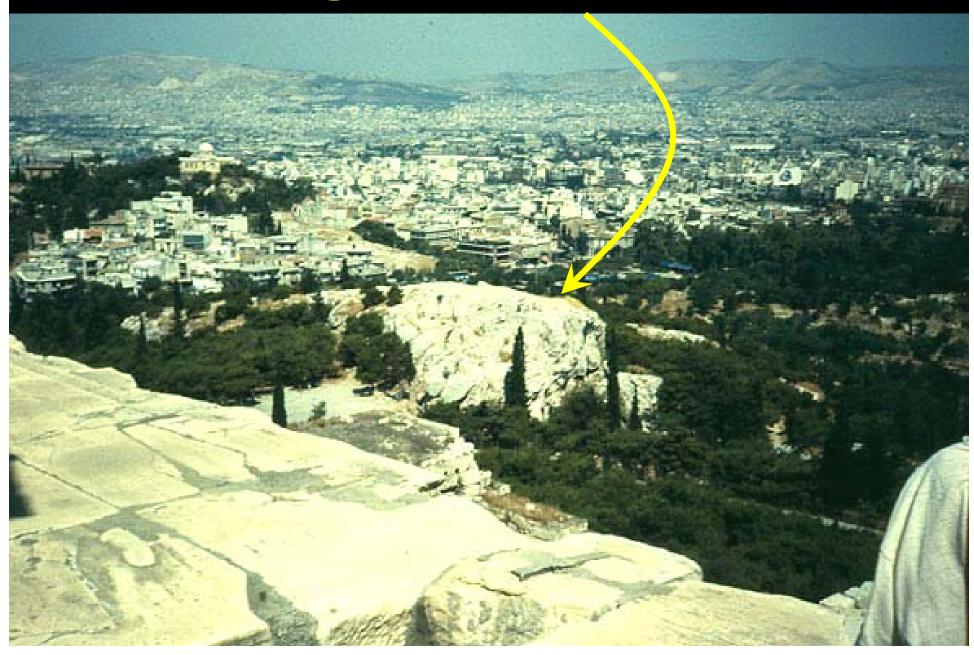
At the end of the study, the student will be able to:

- Describe the circumstances and settings of both sermons.
- List arguments made for the non-physical nature of God.
- List at least one sin for which pagans will be judged.

Agora of Athens



Areopagus = "Hill of Mars"



Philosophers of Athens

 Zeno & Epicurus' teaching grew out of Socrates & Plato's emphasis on development of the "Inner Self".

Epicureanism

- Taught by Epicurus (340-272 BC)
- Atheistic / materialistic (physical-only world, formed by chance)
- Mocked the popular mythology of the gods
- Highest aim of life: gratification (pleasure, not duty)
- No life after death (body reabsorbed into the physical elements)
- No values exist to place one form of gratification over another

Stoicism

- Taught by Zeno (336-260 BC) at the "Porch" (Stoa)
- Pantheists (disapproved of images & temples—as other than art)
- God is the Universe's "Spirit of Reason", inseparable from matter
- After Death: Man's soul is (re)absorbed into "God" (or burned)
- Moral Code: Be superior to passions, above pain & pleasure
- Human Reason is the only guide for good & evil

Misconceptions of God

- No God
- Physical God: Exists only in nature
- Distant God: Not involved in affairs of men
- Limited God: Confined in space & time
- Subservient God: Dependent on man's actions, or accountable to man's expectations
- Imaginary God: Product of man's devising
- Morally Neutral God: Unconcerned with, & non-responsive to man's character & behavior

Outline of Paul's Sermon in Athens (Acts 17:22-31)

17:22-23 — Introduction of Unknown God

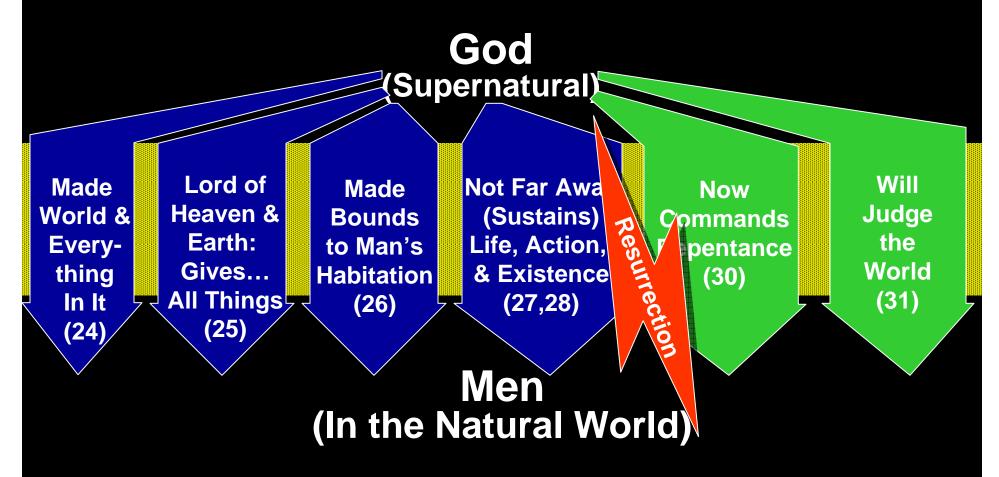
17:24-28 - God & His Relation to Men

17:29-31 - Responsibility of Man to God

The God Made Known by Paul

- Made the world & everything in it.
- Is Lord (Owner/Master) of Heaven & Earth.
- Is not confined by space or time.
- Is not dependent on man.
- Made men:
 - Dependent on Him.
 - Of one type (nature).
 - Bounded in space & time.
 - To seek Him.
- Is not far from us.
- Controls all life, action, & existence.

Can God Break Through?



"He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

Themes in Acts Sermons

chapter 17 – Paul at Areopagus

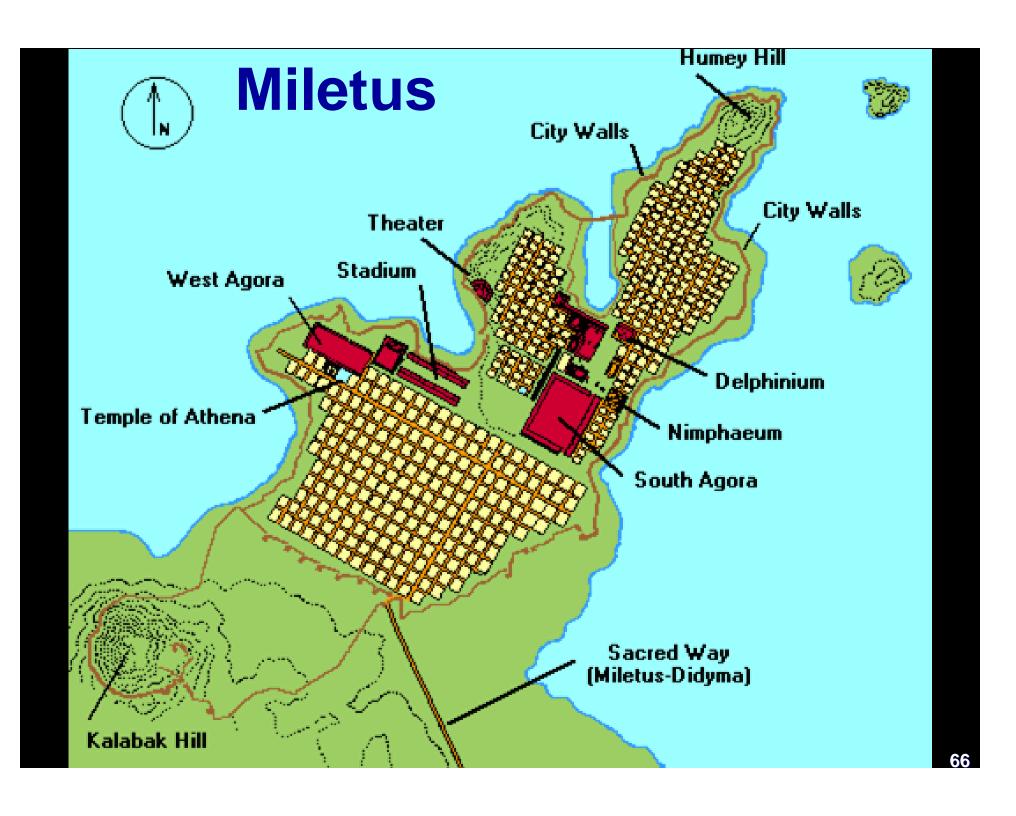
Miracles Rejection by Jews Resurrection 31 – Given Assurance: Resurrection Prophecies... Suffering Messiah Resurrection Coronation Reign in Heaven **Judgment** 31 – Appointed a Day to Judge... 26 – Determined Seasons & Bounds God's Control **Human Guilt** 30 – Ignorance formerly overlooked **Forgiveness** 30 - Commands men to repent Repentance Baptism **Exclusivity** 29 – Ought not to think... 30 – Times of Ignorance → Repent! 30 – Commands all men, everywhere **Universality** 31 – Will judge the World...

Lesson 9 Objectives

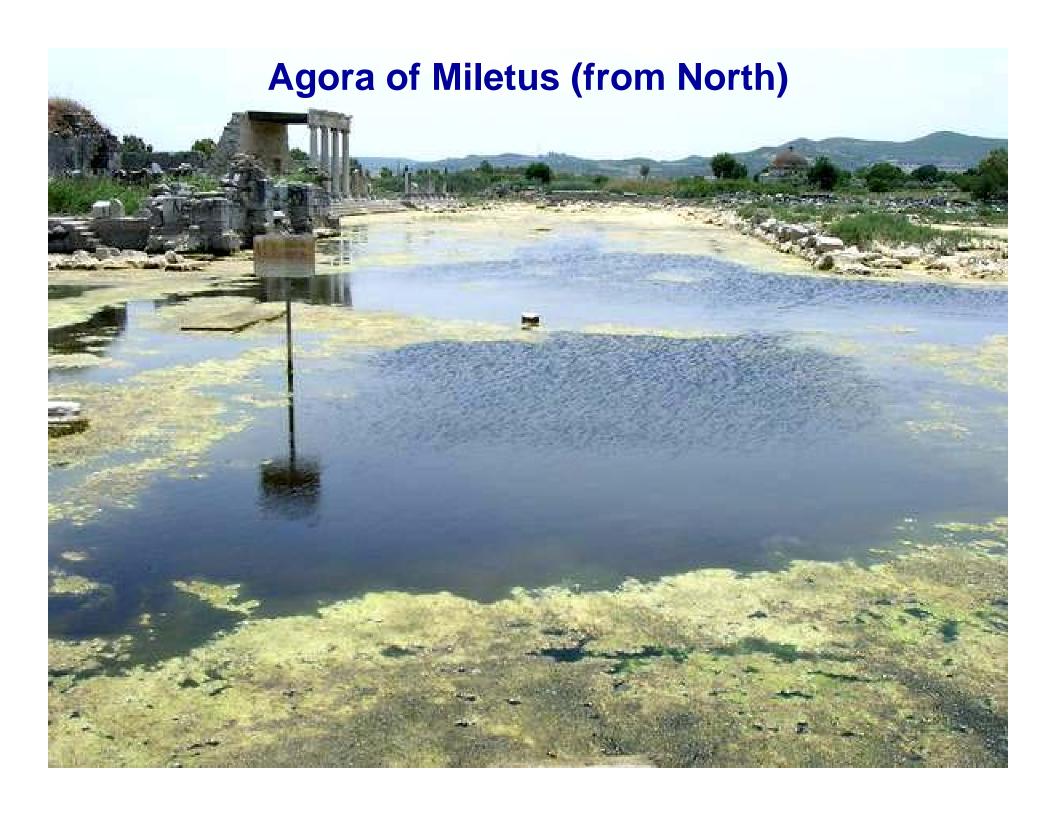
At the end of the study, the student will be able to:

- Describe the circumstances, location, & audience of the sermon.
- List the two dangers Paul predicted would be coming upon the Church.
- List the life examples Paul set among the Ephesians.





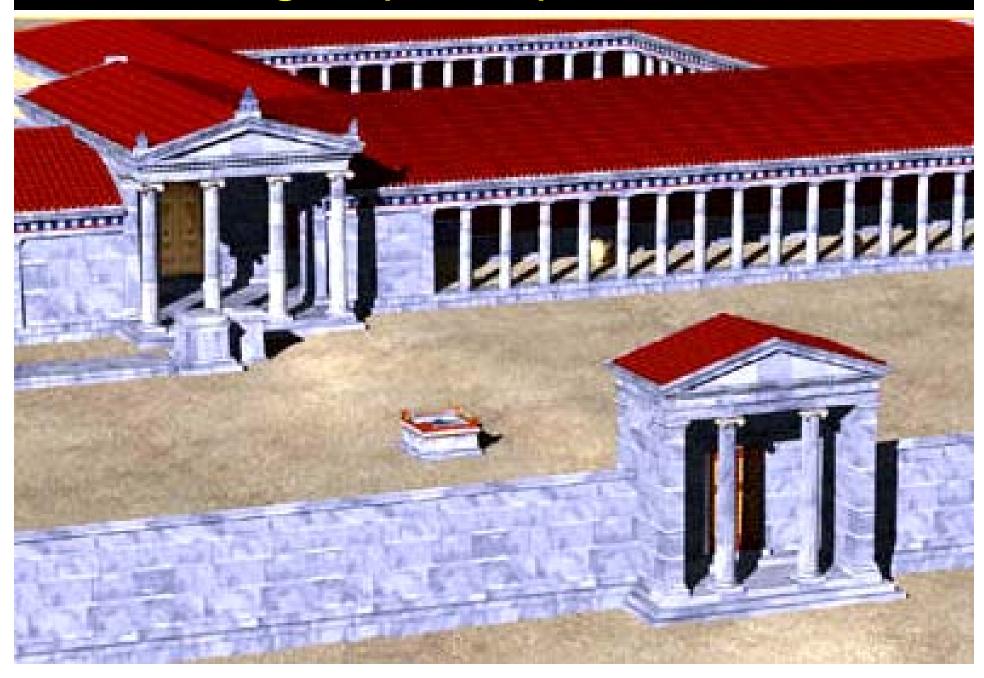




North Agora (Miletus) – from the East



North Agora (Miletus) – from the East



Outline of Paul's Discussion in Miletus (Acts 20:17-35)

- 20:18-21 Paul's Work (Retrospective)
- 20:22-27 Paul's Future
- 20:28-31 Their Future: Danger
- 20:32-35 Exhortation to Follow Paul's Example & Teaching

Description of Paul's Teaching to the Ephesians

- 20 [Everything] Helpful
- 21 Repentance toward God and Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ
- 24 Gospel of the Grace of God
- 25 The Kingdom
- 27 The whole Counsel of God
- 32 The Word of His Grace

Paul's Example

- 19 Served with Humility, Tears, Trials
- 21 Kept Back Nothing; Proclaimed it Taught Publicly & House to House
- 24 Did not Value Own Life; Worked to fulfill ministry: to testify
- 27 Shunned not to Declare the Whole Council of God
- 31 Watched & Warned Everyone, Night & Day, with Tears
- 33 Supported Self & Others
- 34 Supported the Weak

Themes in Acts Sermons

chapter 20 - Paul at Miletus (Ephesian Elders)

Miracles Rejection by Jews 19 – ... the plotting of the Jews Resurrection Prophecies... Suffering Messiah Resurrection Coronation Reign in Heaven 21 – Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ 26 – I am innocent of the blood of all... **Judgment** God's Control 32 – I commend you to God .. Able to... **Human Guilt Forgiveness** 24 – Gospel of the Grace of God 28 – He purchased with His own blood 21 – testifying...repentance toward God Repentance Baptism **Exclusivity** 30 – perverse things... draw away... **Universality** 21 – Testifying to Jews & Greeks

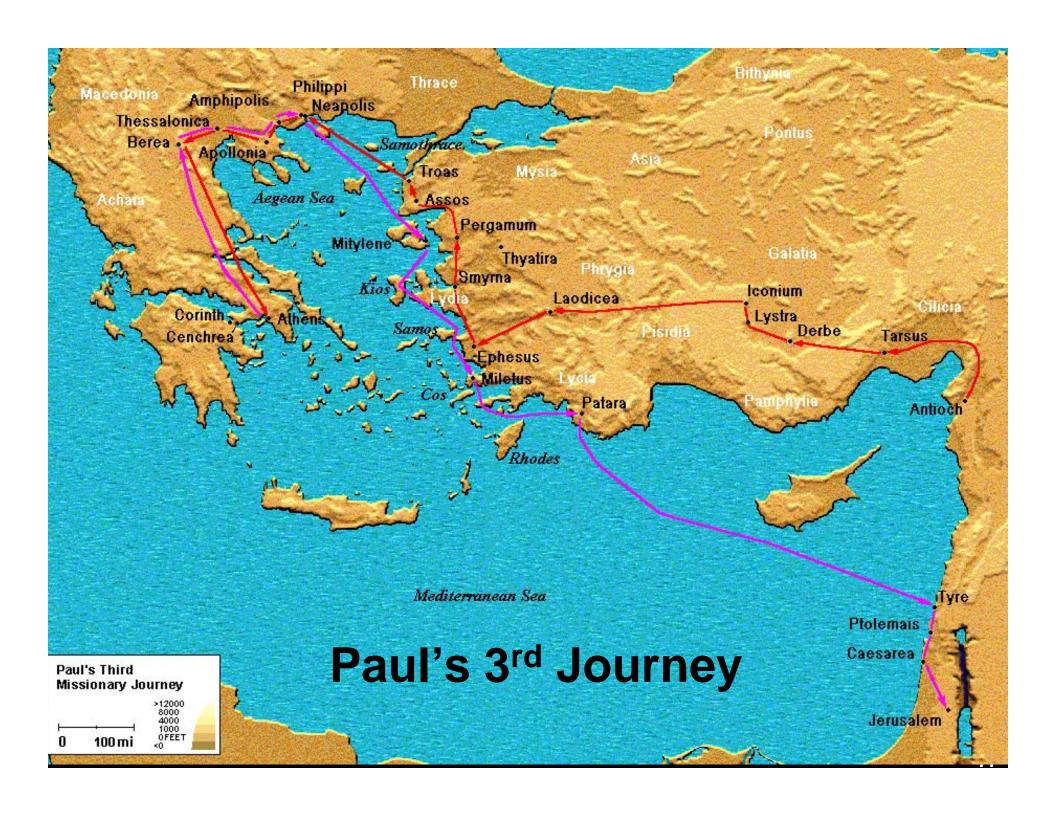
Lesson 9 Objectives

At the end of the study, the student will be able to:

- Describe the circumstances, location, & audience.
- List the key points of Paul's autobiography given.
- List the evidence Paul presents to Agrippa.

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Timeline of Paul's Incarceration

Acts 20:23; 21:10,11	 Prophecies of Coming Arrest in Jerusalem
Acts 21:26	 Paul Arrested on 7th Day in Temple, after Jews recognized him and sought to kill him.
Acts 21:31-36	 Paul Rescued by Roman Soldiers
Acts 22:22	 Paul speaks to Jews, who called for his death upon his mention of Gentiles
Acts 23:1-10	 Paul Examined by Commander, with Sanhedrin Present
Acts 23:11-35	 Plot of Jews to kill Paul foiled by trip to Antipatris, Caesarea by Night
Acts 24:1-21	 Paul's hearing before Felix (Tertullus prosecuting)
Acts 24:22-27	 Two years of Procrastination by Felix
Acts 24:27	 Felix Replaced by Festus
Acts 25:1-12	 Attempt by Jews to get Paul back to Jerusalem foiled by Paul's appeal to Caesar.
Acts 25:13-27	- Herod Agrippa II Visits Festus, asks to hear Paul's

case. Paul addresses Agrippa, Bernice, & group



Paul's
Journey
to
Caesarea

Acts 23:1-35

Caesarea Street



Pontius Pilate Headquarters (?) -- Caesarea



Paul before Agrippa & Festus (Acts 26:1-29)

- **26:2,3 Salutation**
- 26:4-11 Paul's Pre-Conversion Life
- 26:12-18 Paul's Conversion
- 26:19-23 Paul's Post-Conversion Life
- 26:25-29 Paul's Appeal to Agrippa

Themes in Acts Sermons

chapter 26 – Paul to Agrippa at Caesarea

Miracles 13 – Paul's vision (light, voice, etc.)

Rejection by Jews 17 – ...deliver you from Jewish people

Resurrection 8 – Why is it incredible that God raises...

Prophecies... 22 – prophets & Moses said...

Suffering Messiah 23 – the Christ would suffer

Resurrection 24 – He would be the first to rise...

Coronation 24 – the "Christ"

Reign in Heaven 13ff – a light from heaven…I am Jesus…

Judgment -- (but see 24:25, to Felix)

God's Control 22 – having obtained help from God

Human Guilt 20 – repent, do works befitting...

Forgiveness 18 – they may receive forgiveness...

Repentance 20 – repent, do works befitting...

Baptism -

Exclusivity 22 – saying no other thing than...

Universality 20 –in all Judea, ...then to Gentiles