

Acts 21:27-40

Paul's Arrest

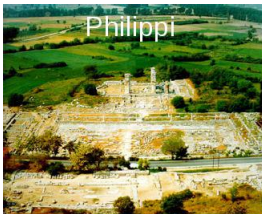
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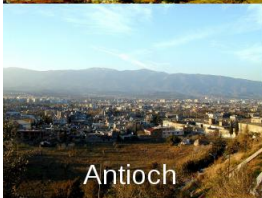
26 October 2014

Road to Jerusalem

- 20:16-17 – sailing to Jerusalem from Miletus
 - He wanted to be in Jerusalem for Pentecost
 - From Miletus he sent his letter to Ephesus (20:17-38)
- 21:1-16 – Arrives in Syria
 - Sails from Cos to Rhodes to Patara to Tyre
 - Travels through Ptolemais and Caesarea to Jerusalem
- 21:17-26 – Meeting with James and other elders in Jerusalem
 - Report on Paul's ministry (21:19)
 - Discussion of the Jews (21:20-22)
 - Paul encouraged to take a vow (21:23-25)



Philippi



Antioch



Lystra

Paul's Third Missionary Journey



A city stirred

27 When the seven days were almost over, the Jews from Asia, upon seeing him in the temple, began to stir up all the crowd and laid hands on him,

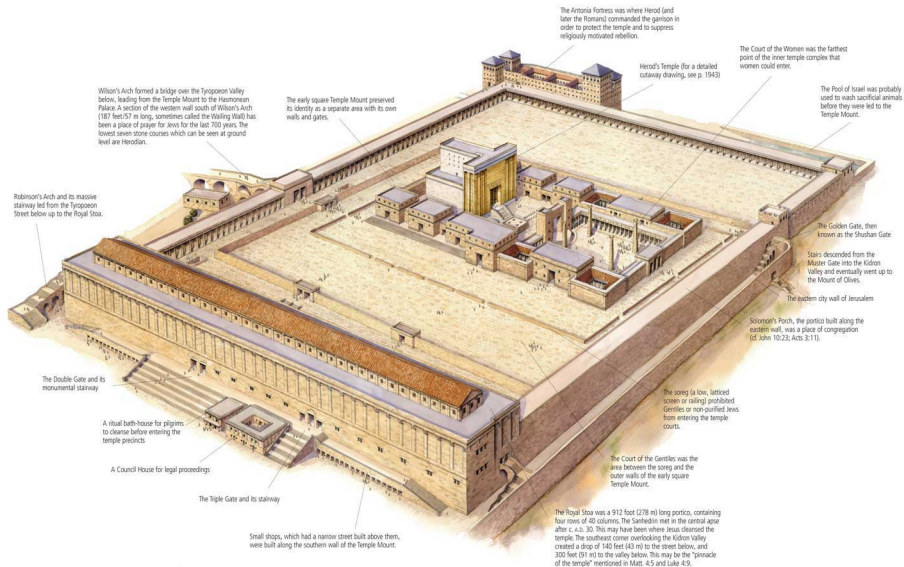
- *When the seven days were almost over*
 - The seven days of purification from vs.26
 - Was this issue at hand about the Law, or about the culture?
- *The Jews from Asia*
 - Are these the Jews from 19:9?
 - Are these Jews believers?¹
- *This is the man who preaches to all men everywhere against our people and the Law and this place*
 - Same accusations as against Stephen in 6:8-14

¹Constable says they are “obviously” not

You don't belong here

29 For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with him, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple.

- *Besides he has even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place*
 - Gentiles were allowed in the outer court, but forbidden inside the wall
- *They had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with him*
 - Trophimus is also mentioned in 20:4 and 2 Timothy 4:20
- *They supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple*
 - Some form of confirmation bias?
- *The people rushed together, and taking hold of Paul they dragged him out of the temple*
 - They wanted to keep the bloodshed outside the temple



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What has he done?

31 While they were seeking to kill him, a report came up to the commander of the Roman cohort that all Jerusalem was in confusion.

- *While they were seeking to kill him*
 - Defiling the temple was a serious offense in Jewish eyes
 - Apparently, they intended to beat Paul to death (v.32)
- *A report came up to the commander of the Roman cohort*
 - This commander was Claudius Lysias (23:26)
 - Stationed at the Fortress of Antonia
 - The Romans strongly disliked civil disorder
 - Sixth time Paul had caused a riot
 - See 14:19; 16:19-22; 17:5-8, 13; 19:25-34
- *He took along some soldiers and centurions and ran down to them*
 - This put a stop to the beating

Arrested and chained

33 Then the commander came up and took hold of him, and ordered him to be bound with two chains; and he began asking who he was and what he had done.

- *The commander came up and took hold of him*
 - He immediately targets the guy that everyone else is targeting
- *He began asking who he was and what he had done*
 - No one was able to say definitively what he had done
 - He has Paul sent to the barracks (the Fortress of Antonia)
- *When he got to the stairs, he was carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the mob*
 - Recalls the anger regarding Jesus – Luke 23:18 & John 19:15
 - See also Acts 22:22

A citizen of no obscure city

37 As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he said to the commander, "May I say something to you?" And he said, "Do you know Greek?"

- *As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he said to the commander, "May I say something to you?"*
 - Why does the commander ask Paul if he could speak Greek?
 - He assumed Paul was an Egyptian who had previously stirred up revolt
 - This guy said he would defeat the Romans in Jerusalem
 - Many of his followers, called Assassins, were killed by the Romans
- *I am a Jew of Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no insignificant city*
 - Being a Jew, he had a right to be in the temple
 - Tarsus was one of three major centers of learning and a free city
- *I beg you, allow me to speak to the people*
 - He proceeds to speak to the people in Hebrew