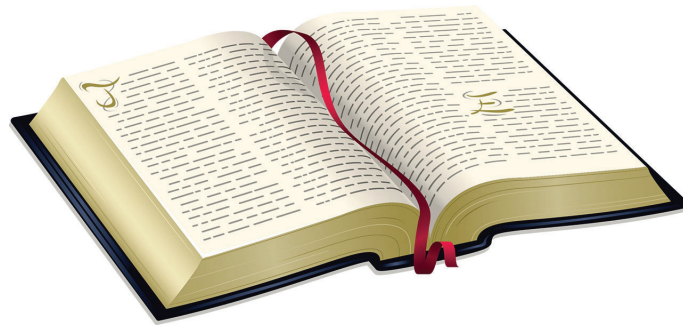


toServe Bible Study - WHS-11



Acts - Lesson 5 of 7

Answer Sheet for English Standard Version (ESV) Chapters 17 - 20

The 'Scriptures' in Paul's Day

Paul understood the "sacred Scriptures" to be those specific religious writings that tied the Jews to God. These books formed and influenced them for thousands of years. Those same books would support Timothy as he served Christ in the face of evil and apathy. This was not the Christian New Testament, as those books were not yet written. They were instead the section of our Bible we call the Old Testament.

Tenakh - The Jews called their holy writings the Tenakh, an abbreviation for the three sections of Scripture, Torah, Nebee-im, and Kebutim. The Torah consisted of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, also called the Five Books of Moses or the Pentateuch. The Nebee-im, (hebrew for "Prophets") consisted of the Former Prophets (Joshua; Judges; 1 and 2 Samuel; 1 and 2 Kings) and the latter Prophets (Isaiah; Jeremiah; Ezekiel; and the twelve short books we call the Minor Prophets).

The Kebutim or Collected Writings was an important but difficult-to-classify collection of poetry, proverbs, and wisdom that shaped worship and guided daily living. This section included Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, and 1 and 2 Chronicles. Paul and Timothy loved and used the Tenakh, the same sacred Scriptures we love and use today as the Old Testament.

First-century Greek-speaking Jews also had access to other religious writings that were part of the **Septuagint**. These included Judith; Tobit; four books of the Maccabees; Sirach, also called Ecclesiasticus; the Wisdom of Solomon; the Psalms of Solomon; Greek Ezra; the Odes; Baruch; the Epistle of Jeremiah; Susannah; and Bel and the Dragon.

Chapter 17

Please read all of Acts Chapter 17 ☐ Check

1. (v. 17:2) Here again we see Paul following the same path of spreading the gospel that he does in each town he comes to. In this verse it actually spells out how he goes about it. What is his method?

he reasoned with them from the Scriptures

Notes:

By some counts, more than 300 Old Testament prophecies point to Jesus Christ and were fulfilled by Him in His life on earth. These include prophecies about His unique birth (Isaiah 7:14), His earthly ministry (Isaiah 61:1), and even the way He would die (Psalm 22).

We have to believe that Isaiah 53 is a chapter that Paul used on every synagogue stop.

Please read Isaiah 53 and imagine how Paul may have used this scripture.

2. (v. 17:7) Why was Jason being persecuted by the not persuaded/ jealous Jews?

Jason had received them in his home, they said they were acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus."

3. (v. 17:11) How did the Berean Jews receive the teachings of Paul?

they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

4. (vs. 17:14-15) When the Jews from Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching in Berea, where did the Berean Jews send Paul? Athens

What did Silas and Timothy do? Silas and Timothy remained in Berea.

What was Paul's final command/instructions about Silas and Timothy?

for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible,

5. (vs. 17:16-17) Paul reasoned in the synagogue and marketplace with the Jews and Gentiles daily in Athens because of what?

he saw that the city was full of idols.

6. (v. 17:21) The people of Athens took Paul to Areopagus (Mars Hill) to speak, because they wanted to know about this new doctrine/teaching and they spent most of their time doing what?.

spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

Notes:

Mars Hill is the Roman name for a hill in Athens, Greece, called the Hill of Ares or the Areopagus (Acts 17:19, 22). Ares was the Greek god of war and according to Greek mythology this hill was the place where Ares stood trial before the other gods for the murder of Poseidon's son Alirrothios. Rising some 377 feet above the land below and not far from the Acropolis and Agora (marketplace), Mars Hill served as the meeting place for the Areopagus Court, the highest court in Greece for civil, criminal, and religious matters. Even under Roman rule in the time of the New Testament, Mars Hill remained an important meeting place where philosophy, religion, and law were discussed.

7. (vs. 17:22-23) When Paul spoke to the men of Athens in Areopagus, the first thing he talked about was how religious they were, that he even found an altar with an inscription to whom?

'To the unknown god.'

8. (v. 17:24) After making the point about the "UNKNOWN GOD" inscription on the altars, Paul tells them, "This God whom you worship without knowing, is the one I'm telling you about. What does Paul say God made and what is He Lord over?

The God who made the world and everything in it,

9. Paul's preaching lasts through verse 31. He finishes by saying that He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man who He ordained. Who is this Man who is going to judge them? Jesus

10. (v. 17:34) Luke writes: "*some men joined Paul and became believers*".

Two are mentioned by name. Who are they?

1. Dionysius

2. Damaris

Chapter 18

Please read all of Acts Chapter 18 ☐ Check

1. (vs. 18:1-3) After leaving Athens Paul goes to Corinth where he founds/meets a Jewish man and his wife. What were their names? Aquila, Priscilla
Why were they in Corinth? Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome

What was their occupation? tentmakers
2. (vs. 18:5-6) When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. But when they opposed him and became abusive, what did Paul then do and say?
he shook out his garments and said to them,
"Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

3. (v. 18:8) What became of Crispus, the synagogue ruler/leader, his household, and many of the Corinthians?
Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household.
And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.

4. (vs. 18:9-10) Why was Paul able to speak so boldly after he received a vision from the Lord? The Lord told Paul "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent,
for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you,

5. (v. 18:11) How long did Paul stay in Corinth on this trip? a year and six months
6. (v. 18:13) While Gallio was proconsul (Roman Governor) of Achaia, the Jews of Corinth made a united attack on Paul and brought him to the place of judgment. What charge did the Jews have against Paul?
They said that Paul was worship God contrary to the law.

7. (vs. 18:12-16) In your own words, for what reason did Gallio not want to have anything to do with the charges that the Jews were using against Paul?

Verse 18: *He had his hair cut off:*

It's unclear what kind of vow Paul was under, but probably a Nazirite vow. A Nazirite vow was a tradition from the time of the Mosaic law where Jews would refrain from alcohol, let their hair grow, and dedicate themselves to a period of intense devotion to God (Numbers 6:1–21). Since Paul cut his hair right after he left Corinth, it was probably for his work there. Although the text says he is going to Syria, meaning Syrian Antioch, he lands in Caesarea Maritima on the Judean coast and goes to Jerusalem first. The resolution of a Nazirite vow requires an offering at the temple. "Nazirite" means consecrated, devoted, or untrimmed; it doesn't have anything to do with Nazareth. John the Baptist and Samson were to be Nazirites for their entire lives (Judges 13:5; Luke 1:15).

8. (v. 18:21) On his way back to Jerusalem Paul stopped in Ephesus and went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews, When they asked him to spend more time with them, he declined, but left them with what promise?

"I will return to you if God wills,"

9. (v. 18:23) On Paul's return trip to Antioch of Syria, why did he travel throughout Galatia and Phrygia?

He wanted to strengthen all the disciples.

- 10.(v. 18:26) What was the importance of Aquila and Priscilla to the ministry of Apollos?

explained to him the way of God more accurately.

11. (v. 18:28) Once Apollos arrived in Achaia he vigorously refuted his Jewish opponents in public. What method did he use?

showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.

Chapter 19

Please read all of Acts Chapter 19 ☐ Check

1. (vs. 19:2-3) While passing through Ephesus Paul found some disciples and asked them, *“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”*

What response did Paul get? we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.

What was Paul’s response? “Into what then were you baptized?”

2. (vs. 19:4-6) Paul then explains that John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, Jesus Christ. What did the people do after hearing this? _____

they were baptized in[b] the name of the Lord Jesus.

Then, what happened after Paul placed his hands on them?

the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.

The Way:

“The Way” is mentioned several times in the book of Acts (Acts 9:2; 19:9, 23; 22:4; 24:14, 22) in connection with early followers of Christ. It was to take prisoner men and women who *“belonged to the Way”* (Acts 9:2; 22:4) that Saul of Tarsus went to Damascus. After Saul was converted, he became a missionary and went by the name of Paul. In Ephesus, Paul met some in the synagogue who *“became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way”* (Acts 19:9). Paul left the synagogue and continued to preach the gospel where it would be heard rather than remain with those who denigrated the Way.

During his trial before Felix, Paul said, *“I admit that I worship the God of our ancestors as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect”* (Acts 24:14). We are also told that Felix knew about the Way (verse 22). It seems that the Romans considered the Way to be a sect of Judaism rather than a separate religion.

Presumably, the early followers of Christ referred to themselves as followers of the Way because of Jesus’ statement in John 14:6 that He is *“the way and the truth and the life.”* Luke says that Aquila and Priscilla explained to Apollos *“the way of God”* more fully (Acts 18:26). Peter refers to Christianity as *“the way of truth”* (2 Peter 2:2). And the writer of Hebrews says that Jesus’ broken body is the *“new and living way”* for us to enter the Most Holy Place (Hebrews 10:19–20).

3. (v. 19:9) As a result of Paul speaking boldly of the kingdom of God for three months in the synagogue while in Ephesus, what was the result from some of the listeners?

when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief,
speaking evil of the Way before the congregation

Tyrannus was the owner of a lecture hall or school in Ephesus. He is mentioned only once in Scripture, in conjunction with Paul's ministry in Ephesus during his third missionary journey.

4. (v. 19:12) While Paul preached the word of God in Ephesus, what extraordinary miracles did God do through Paul?

handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched Paul's skin were carried away to the sick,
and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.

5. (vs. 19:15-16) Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were trying this. How did the evil spirit respond to them?

"Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?"

6. (vs. 19:-23-41) ***In your own words***, briefly explain what was causing the great disturbance/commotion in Ephesus over the goddess Artemis.

Chapter 20

Please read all of Acts Chapter 20 ☐ Check

1. (v. 20:4) After the uproar had ended in Ephesus, Paul departed for Macedonia. He traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece, where he stayed three months. Because some Jews had plotted against him just as he was about to sail for Syria, he decided to go back through Macedonia. Who were the seven men that accompanied him?

1. <u>Sopater</u>	4. <u>Gaius</u>	6. <u>Tychicus</u>
2. <u>Aristarchus</u>	5. <u>Timothy</u>	7. <u>Trophimus.</u>
3. <u>Secundus;</u>		

2. (v. 20:5) For the first time since the start of this book someone is mentioned as “us”. Who is this “us”? Luke, referring to him and others. Same as the “we” in verse 7. Why is he mentioned as “us”? Luke was there, and the one writing this down.

3. (v. 20:7) On the first day of the week they came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and because he intended to leave the next day, he kept on talking until when? midnight

4. (vs. 20:9-10) On the first day of the week when they came together to break bread, Paul started speaking to the people. He kept talking until midnight. What became of the young man named Eutychus that was seated in a window listening?
being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead.

What happened after Paul put his arms around him?

“Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him.”

5. After Paul went down to check on Eutychus after he fell out of the window listening to him, Paul put his arms around him and said “Don’t be alarmed, He’s alive!” . After that he kept talking until when? until daybreak

6. (v. 20:16) Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus because he was in a hurry to get to Jerusalem for what reason?
for the day of Pentecost.
7. (vs. 20:22-23) Paul was warned by whom about prison/chains and hardship once he got to Jerusalem? the Holy Spirit
8. (v. 20:24) In a speech to his disciples Paul, compelled by the Spirit, says he is going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to him there.
How does Paul consider/count his life?
But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.
9. (v. 20:25) During his farewell speech to the disciples, Paul gave them a disturbing statement that is brought up at the closing of this speech.
What is this disturbing statement?
none will see my face again.
- 10.(v. 20:28) In this part of Paul speech, what responsibility does he tell his disciples the Holy Spirit has placed on them?
and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers,
And to do what with the church of God?
to care for the church of God
And how did God obtain it?
He obtained with His own blood.
- 11.(vs. 20:29-30) Paul warned his disciples of what to be looking out for. One is in the form of a metaphor, the other an exact accuracy. What were these two?
A metaphor:
fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;
Exact accuracy:
your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

12. Starting in verse 33; through verse 35 Paul explains to the disciples his humbleness, and how his own hands supplied his own needs. By laboring like this you must support the weak.

As an example, what words from Lord Jesus does he share with them?

'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Note:

Given the strength of Paul's warning to these leaders, it is fair to wonder how the Christian community in Ephesus fared after this. Some 30 to 40 years later, Jesus sent a letter to this church in Ephesus, found in Revelation 2:1-7. He complimented them on many things:

- * Their hard work for the kingdom of God.
- * Their endurance through difficult times.
- * Their dealing with those who are evil, and with false apostles.
- * Not giving up when they were weary.

A verse to underline and memorize

*Now these people were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica,
for they received the word with great eagerness,
examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.*

Acts 17:11 (NASB)

Paul's Third Missionary Journey

Acts 18:22—21:17

Took place between AD 54-58



What Bible Version/Translation did you use for this Lesson?

ESV ☐, KJV ☐, NIV ☐, NKJV ☐, NLT ☐, Other: _____

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