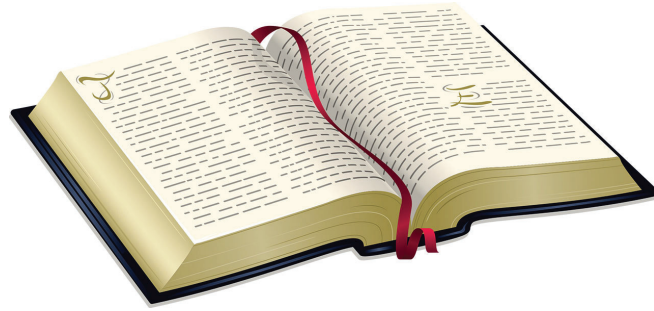


toServe Bible Study - WHS-12



Acts - Lesson 6 of 7

Answer Sheet for New International Version (NIV)

Chapters 21 - 24

After Paul's third missionary journey Paul traveled to Jerusalem, despite knowing he would be arrested. He first reported to James, the half-brother of Jesus, and head of the church in Jerusalem, as well as the elders. Paul also learned that some Jewish believers in Jerusalem had a warped idea of his work. They had been told that Paul pushed Jewish believers in Asia Minor and Macedonia to reject Jewish customs, including circumcision. In order to prove that Paul respected the laws of Moses, the elders asked him to participate in the ceremony for four men who were ending their vow (probably a Nazirite vow). Paul did as the elders requested, showing that he was not anti-Law or opposed to Jewish customs (Acts 21:17–26).

Part of the ceremony involved the men presenting themselves to the priests in the temple. That is where Jews from Asia found Paul and falsely accused him of bringing a Gentile into the temple. A mob dragged Paul out of the temple and beat him until the tribune, the leader of the Roman cohort, arrived with soldiers and centurions to break up the melee. The tribune arrested Paul—without charges—chained him, and confined him to the barracks. It turned out the tribune thought Paul was an Egyptian who had recently led a revolt and fled with a group of Sicarii (dagger-wielding assassins). Paul explained who he was and asked to address the crowd (Acts 21:27–40). The tribune agreed to his request.

Paul basically gave his testimony to the crowd in Jerusalem. The Jewish crowd listened quietly until he mentioned that God had sent him to reach the Gentiles. Then they started rioting again. The tribune, not understanding why the Jews were upset, pulled Paul back into the barracks and strung him up to be flogged, thinking a beating would encourage him to explain what was really going on. Paul escaped the flogging at the last minute by mentioning he was a Roman citizen. The tribune pulled back, knowing that he shouldn't have even bound Paul, let alone threatened him with flogging (Acts 22:1–29).

Chapter 21

Please read all of Acts Chapter 21 ☐ Check

1. (vs. 21:1-3) Luke listed seven places on the way back to Jerusalem, please list them.

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. <u>Cos</u> | 2. <u>Rhodes</u> | 3. <u>Patara</u> |
| 4. <u>Phoenicia</u> | 5. <u>Cyprus</u> | 6. <u>Tyre</u> |
| 7. <u>Syria</u> | | |

Which of the seven did they not stop at? Cyprus

2. (vs. 21:3-4) When they landed in Tyre, who did they look for/sought?

disciples

These that they were looking for advised them not to go to Jerusalem for what reason?

Through the Spirit they urged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.

Note on verse 21:8, please read this verse first:

Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven: Acts 8:40 tells us that after Philip's work in bringing the Ethiopian eunuch to faith, he preached through the costal region and ended up in Caesarea. Many years later he was still there. It's a wonderful title: ***Philip the evangelist***. He was known by the good news he presented to other people, the good news about who Jesus is and what He did for us. Throughout our lives, some of us will pick up 'nick names', can you think of one more honorable than Philip's?

3. (vs. 21:10-14) How did the prophet Agabus show Paul what would happen to him if he went to Jerusalem?

he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, "The Holy Spirit says, 'In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt"

What was Paul's response?

I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

When they realized Paul could not be persuaded, they gave up/ceased saying what?

"The Lord's will be done."

4. (vs. 21:18-20) After returning from his trip Paul went in to see James and the elders of the church. When he had greeted them, he told in detail those things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. When they heard this, how did they respond?

they praised God. Then they said to Paul: "You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law."

Note on verses 21:20-25, please read these verses first:

The elders of Jerusalem were happy for what God was doing among the Gentiles. Yet in Jerusalem the Christian community was almost entirely from a Jewish background, and these Christians still valued many of the Jewish laws and customs. They were still **zealous for the law**. The Christian community of Jerusalem heard bad, false rumors about Paul. They heard that he had become essentially anti-Jewish, and told Jewish Christians that it was wrong for them to continue in Jewish laws and customs.

We have four men who have taken a vow (verse 23). Take them and be purified with them, and pay their expenses (verse 24):

They advised Paul to both join and sponsor these four Christians from a Jewish background. (The particular vow of consecration was probably similar to Paul's Nazirite vow mentioned in Acts 18:18-21)

The Jerusalem elders believed this would convince everyone that Paul did not preach against Jewish laws and customs for those Christians who wanted to observe them.

Paul agreed to do this, to demonstrate that he never taught Christian Jews to forsake Moses and not to circumcise their children, and that they were required to ignore Jewish customs, as he had been falsely accused of by some among the Jerusalem Christians.

The Jerusalem elders understood that this had nothing to do with Gentiles who believe in Jesus. It didn't mean that they had to perform any Jewish rituals to be right with God. Paul could agree to this and sponsor the four men taking the vow of consecration because there was never a hint that such things would be required of Gentiles as a test of righteousness.

5. (v. 21:25) James and the elders had written and decided that the Gentiles believers should keep themselves from/abstain from three items, what are they?

1. food sacrificed to idols
2. from blood, from the meat of strangled animals
3. sexual immorality

Note on verses 21:27-30, please read these verses first:

Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd (verse 27):

They claimed that Paul was against the people [Israel], the law, and this place [the temple], but these accusations were unfounded. Paul simply rejected trust in any of these as a basis for righteousness before God, which comes only through Jesus Christ.

The charges against Paul in Acts 21:28 were an echo of the charges Stephen was executed for (Acts 6:13). Paul helped preside over that execution; now he is accused in a similar way.

All the city was disturbed; and the people ran together (verse 30):

The crowd was enlarged because it was feast-time (Acts 20:16). It was enraged because they believed Paul not only preached against the people, the law, and the temple, but also profaned the temple by bringing Gentiles into its inner courts (they said, *“he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place”* (verse 28).

Trophimus the Ephesian... whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple (29):

It was absolutely prohibited for Gentiles to go beyond the designated “Court of the Gentiles” in the temple grounds. Signs were posted which read (in both Greek and Latin): “No foreigner may enter within the barricade which surrounds the temple and enclosure. Any one who is caught trespassing will bear personal responsibility for his ensuing death.” The Romans were so sensitive to this, that they authorized the Jews to execute anyone that offended in this way, even if the offender was a Roman citizen.

6. (v. 21: 34) It was obvious that the Jewish mob wasn’t even sure what Paul had done wrong, based on the answer they gave the commander when asked what Paul had done .

What was the answer they gave him? Some in the crowd shouted one thing
and some another

7. (v. 21:40) After the uproar about Paul, he asks the commander if he can speak to the mob. After granting him permission Paul starts off telling the crowd who he is, where he is from and speaking in Hebrew. In your own words, why was this important?

Chapter 22

Please read all of Acts Chapter 22 ☐ Check

1. (vs. 22:1-3-4) When Paul started speaking to the crowd he wanted them to know he was a strong Jew. Name four statements that he makes about himself to prove this point?

1. I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city

2. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors

3. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today.

4. I persecuted the followers of this Way

2. (v. 22:3) When Paul is making his plea to the crowd, he says, “brought up in this city”. What is the name of the city ? Jerusalem

3. (v. 22:4) Paul said that he persecuted the Way. In your own words, who was the Way?

4. (v 22:5) Who does Paul say could back up his story of how he persecuted the Way ?

the high priest and all the Council can themselves testify.

5. (v. 22:5) As Paul was telling the story of going to Damascus, what did he say he took with him, and where did he get it, to prove to the brethren/associates who he was?

I even obtained letters from them to their associates in Damascus,

6. (v. 22:6) As Paul was making his way to Damascus, what was the first sign of his encounter with Jesus?

suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me.

7. (v. 22:7) As Paul fell to the ground he heard a voice accusing him of what?

Why do you persecute me?

Note:

As you read through this verse, understand that 'Saul' is Paul's name in Aramaic/Hebrew

8. (v. 22:8) After Paul asks who's voice it was , the voice give His name and where He is from. What are they?

I am Jesus of Nazareth,

9. (v. 22:9) As Paul explains his experience on the way to Damascus, what did he say the people traveling with him heard and saw?

My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.

10.(v. 22:10) When Paul realized that it was Jesus; what did He direct Paul to do next?

'Get up,' the Lord said, 'and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.'

11. (v. 22:12) Jesus told Paul; "After you get to Damascus look for a man named Ananias". Why do you think Jesus used this Ananias ?

He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there.

12. (vs. 22:13-14) After Paul/Saul was led to Ananias, he stood beside him and said 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!'. And at that moment he was able to see. After that what instructions did he give Paul?

'The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth.'

13. Who is the 'Just One/Righteous One' in verse 22:14? Jesus

14. (v. 22:16) What did Ananias tell Paul to do after he gave him instructions ?

Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'

15. (vs. 22:17-18) Paul tells the crowd that he fell into a trance and saw a vision of Jesus who told him to quickly/immediately/make haste to do what?

'Quick!' He said. 'Leave Jerusalem immediately,

16. (v. 22:21) Paul explained to the crowd that he reasoned with Jesus, trying to understand why the people will not receive his testimony. Paul ends his speech with what instructions that Jesus gave him?

'Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.' "

17. (v. 22:25) The commander brought Paul inside and ordered him lashed with whips to make him confess his crime. When they tied Paul down to lash him, what did Paul say to them to make them rethink what they were about to do?

"Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen who hasn't even been found guilty?"

18. (v. 22:28) How was Paul a citizen? born a citizen.

and ordered the chief priests and all the members of the Sanhedrin to assemble. Acts 22:30

Paul received what he probably thought of as a dramatic second chance. The opportunity to preach to the mob on the temple mount ended in another riot, but he would speak before the Sanhedrin (their council) the next day.

19. (v. 22:30) The commander released Paul and ordered the chief priest and all the members of the Sanhedrin to assemble. Then he brought Paul and had him stand before them. Why did the commander want to bring everyone together?

He wanted to find out exactly why Paul was being accused by the Jews.

Chapter 23

Please read all of Acts Chapter 23 ☐ Check

1. (vs. 23:1-2) What did the high priest command/order after Paul said , *"My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience before God until this day."* ?

the high priest Ananias ordered those standing near Paul to strike him on the mouth.

2. (vs. 23:2-3) What did Paul say to the high priest after the high priest commanded/ordered that he be struck I the mouth?

You sit there to judge me according to the law,
yet you yourself violate the law by commanding that I be struck!"

3. (v. 23:5) Paul a replied, *'Brothers, I did not realize that he was the high priest'*. Right after that Paul quotes from Exodus 22:28; what does he say?

'Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people.

4. In verses 7 and 8 what do we learn one of the big differences is between the Sadducees and the Pharisees ?

The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits,
but the Pharisees believe all these things.

5. (v. 23:9) *There was a great uproar, and some of the teachers of the law who were Pharisees stood up and argued vigorously. "We find nothing wrong/no evil with this man,"* What are they basing their findings on?

"We find nothing wrong with this man," they said.

"What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?"

6. (v. 23:11) *The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, "Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem".* After the Lord tells Paul this, He tells him where he is going to testify later. This reassures Paul will live through this ordeal.

Where is the Lord sending him?

the Lord stood by him and said - so you must also testify in Rome.

7. (v. 23:14) Some of the Jews banded together and bound themselves under an oath against Paul. What was this oath?

not to eat anything until we have killed Paul.

8. (vs. 23:15-16) The Jews that banded together were going to make a trap for Paul. Together with the council, they suggested to the commander that Paul be brought down to them tomorrow, as though they were going to make further inquiries concerning him. We are ready to kill him before he comes near. How did this plan fail?

when the son of Paul's sister heard of this plot, he went into the barracks and told Paul.

9. (v. 23:23) The commander had plans to send Paul to Felix, the Governor, who was in Caesarea. He called two of his centurions and ordered them to put together three types of escorts. What three types did the commander order?

1. two hundred soldiers

2. seventy horsemen

3. two hundred spearmen

10. (v. 23:26) What was the name of the commander? Claudius Lysias
-

11. (v. 23:35) After the governor read the letter he asked what province Paul was from. He said from Cilicia; Felix then said, *"I will hear your case".*

But they had to wait for what?

"I will hear your case when your accusers get here."

Chapter 24

Please read all of Acts Chapter 24 ☐ Check

1. (v. 24:1) When Paul's accusers show up and the trial begins, who do we read that the high priest brings with him and what is his title/job?

a lawyer named Tertullus

2. (v. 24:5) Without any proof whatsoever, what was the first accusation against Paul that the high priest had?

We have found this man to be a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world.

3. (v. 24:5) They accused Paul of being a ringleader of what sect?

a ringleader of the Nazarene sect

4. (v. 24:12) When the governor gives Paul a chance to speak, what are the three points he brings up that they are accusing him of, that he has not done?

1. My accusers did not find me arguing with anyone at the temple

2. did not stirring up a crowd in the synagogues

3. did not stirring up a crowd anywhere else in the city.

5. In verse 14 Paul gets down to the real reason for all the disturbance and what the Jews are accusing him of. What is it called and what do the Jews consider it to be?

the Way, which they call a sect.

6. (v. 24:17) What reason does Paul give that, after many years, he was in Jerusalem?

I came to Jerusalem to bring my people gifts for the poor and to present offerings

7. (v. 24:21) What did Paul state the reason was he was being judged or was on trial for?

It is concerning the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you today.

8. (v. 24:25) As Paul would witness to Felix, how did Felix respond?

Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave."

9. (v. 24:26) What was the real reason Felix would send for Paul to come see him?

he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe,

10. (v. 24:27) When Governor Felix was being succeeded by Porcius Festus, what favor did he grant the Jews?

he left Paul in prison.

A verse to underline and memorize

*if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves,
and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways,
then I will hear from heaven,
and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV)

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