

Paul on Trial - Part 02 - Acts 20-21

The Jerusalem Riot and Arrest

1. Paul Goes to Jerusalem

- a. After Damascus he did not go to Jerusalem for 3 years - Gal 1:18, 2:1-2
- b. Going to Jerusalem was not in resistance to God - Acts 22:18, Acts 21:4
- c. Paul's purpose in the spirit when he writes Corinth and Romans - Acts 19:21
- d. "Now I go to Jerusalem..." - Rom 15:25-31, Acts 20:16, 20:22-23,
- e. The Spirit prophesied of his being bound in Jerusalem - Acts 21:11-14
- f. Paul goes to Jerusalem to be given up, much like the Lord - Phil 3:10-11, Col 1:24
 - i. Jesus went up to Jerusalem to be killed - Matt 20:17-19

2. Paul's Message

- a. Paul wrote about the mystery already - Rom 11:25, 16:25, 1 Cor 2:7, 4:1, 2Cor 5:20
- b. Bullinger said Paul knew the mystery, but didn't tell them - what? Acts 20:18-20
- c. Ephesians were saved by hearing the gospel of grace - Acts 20:21-24; Eph 1:13, 3:2
- d. He preaches the kingdom of God/the church of God - Acts 20:25-28
- e. "the word of his grace", "inheritance among all them" - Col 1:12-13
- f. Paul received his course from Christ, and he is finishing, not starting a new one.

3. Paul Takes a Vow

- a. Paul declares to the Jerusalem saints about his Gentile ministry - Acts 21:17-19
- b. "thousands of Jews... zealous of the law" - This is not Paul's territory, it is James'
- c. The issue James has is not with his Gentile message, but his message to Jews...
 - i. 1) Forsake Moses? Rom 7:4-6; 2) Circumcision? Gal 5:6; 1 Cor 7:18;
 - ii. 3) Walk not after the customs - Acts 15:19-20, 24-29, 21:25; 1 Cor 8:7-13
- d. These were not true: Grace is against fornication, idolatry, disorder in assembly
- e. The weaker brothers (Jews) were to be persuaded in their own mind - Rom 14:5
- f. Paul uses his liberty to minister to Israel - 1 Cor 9:17-22
 - i. He uses his liberty to keep the customs, to preach his gospel to Jews.
 - ii. Not for his own spiritual profit or of commandment - 1 Cor 10:33, Ro 9:3
- g. Acts 21:23 - This is not the first vow Paul has taken - Acts 18:18, Phil 3:5, Gal 1:14
- h. "keepeth the law" - Grace establishes the law - Rom 3:31, 8:4; 1 Tim 1:8; Acts 25:8
 - i. The law is not unrighteous; the law is not the enemy, worldliness, or sin.
- i. Why is this important? It is proof of Paul's innocence, his defense toward Israel.

4. Paul's Arrest

- a. The Jews were waiting to capture him, bringing lies against him - 21:27-28
- b. Even in their lies, Luke tries to justify their accusations - Acts 21:29
- c. "all the city" was going to stone Paul to death - Acts 21:30-32
- d. Paul is murderously rejected by Israel and is delivered to the hands of Gentiles
- e. The prophecy is fulfilled, and Paul's incarceration for Israel begins - Acts 21:33-36