

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**ACTS 21****Acts 21**

Acts 21 is a landmark in the history of the early church and in the life of the Apostle Paul. After a teary farewell to his beloved Elders at Miletus with the leaders from Ephesus, Paul boards a ship to make his way to Jerusalem, taking with him an offering he had gathered from around the Greco-Roman world of Asia Minor, Greece, and the other provinces. You will need a map of the Mediterranean and the Aegean Sea in order to follow the journey of Paul from Miletus, the port city of Ephesus, to Jerusalem. The Aegean Sea is a northern finger of the Mediterranean Sea that skirts the modern countries of Turkey and Greece. During the days of Paul, modern-day Turkey was all different Roman provinces. You can and should follow the route the Apostle Paul took. Many study Bibles have the route highlighted, and if not, it would be a good exercise for you to do. Follow the route on your maps, speak the names of the places as they are listed in Acts 21, and you will become familiar with the geography of the Mediterranean.

In Acts 21:7, Paul left the ancient city of Tyre and came to Ptolemais, which is modern-day Akko, Acco, Acre, which is the northern end of Haifa Bay. From Ptolemais, they left and came to Caesarea Maritima (by the sea),

which was the capital of the Roman province of Judea, built by Herod the Great. While in Caesarea, they stayed with Philip, who had four young daughters who were preachers. That is right; if prophesying is preaching in the New Testament, then they were preaching. It does not say they held the office of "Pastor/Elder/Bishop/Shepherd," but it does say they were preaching. We all have to deal with that fact. There is a time and place for everything, and that is another issue, but you have to deal with the words of Scripture, not as we might like or think, but as they are.

A prophet named Agabus urged Paul not to go to Jerusalem, as only trouble awaited him there. Luke also says that all who were with Paul pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. It was dangerous, but Paul insisted that he was going, even if it meant that he would die there. When he got to Jerusalem, he was arrested, and the arrest gave him the opportunity to preach to his fellow country about the Lord Jesus and why he had come back to the mother church where it all began. He preached to them in Hebrew, a dialect all in the Temple would have recognized, and they listened intently as he proclaimed the gospel.



ON THE WAY

Prayer and Action Steps

Lord, thank You for the example of the Apostle Paul, who was willing to be arrested and to die for the message of hope in the gospel of Jesus. May my life be a constant testimony of that same commitment. Amen