

Acts 21:18 And the *day* following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present. <u>19</u> And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry.

<u>20</u> And when they heard *it*, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law:

<u>21</u> And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise *their* children, neither to walk after the customs.
<u>22</u> What is it therefore? the multitude must needs come together: for they will hear that thou art come.

23 Do therefore this that we say to thee: We have four men which have a vow on them;

24 Them take, and purify thyself with them, and be at charges with them, that they may shave their heads: and all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; but that thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the law. 25 As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written and concluded that they observe no such thing, save only that they keep themselves from things offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication.

<u>26</u> Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple, to signify the accomplishment of the days of purification, until that an offering should be offered for every one of them.

I. THE ORGANIZATION II. THE OPERATION III. THE OPERATIVES: THE FOUNDING EMPHASIS - SIMON, IV. THE OPERATIVES: THE FORWARDING EMPHASIS - STEPHEN, **VES: THE FOUNDATIONAL EMPHASIS – SAUL/PAUL THE** V. THE OPERA PIONEER, 13:1-21:26 A. The First Missionary Journey: Exploration, 13:1-15:35 B. The Second Missionary Journey: Expansion, 15:36-18:23a C. The Third Missionary Journey: Exhortation, 18:23b-21:26 1. Asia Minor: Be Strong, 18:23b 2. Ephesus: Be Saved, 18:24-20:1a 3. Europe: Be Steadfast, 20:1b-6b 4. Troas: Be Sincere, 20:6c-16 5. Miletus: Be Sober, 20:17-38 6. Caesarea: Be Sure, 21:1-17 a. Paul's Continuing Travels, 21:1-9 b. Paul's Coming Travails, 21:10-17 (1) The Deterring Prophecy, 21:10-11 (a) What Agabus Did, 21:10-11a (b) What Agabus Declared, 21:11b

(2) The Detaining People, 21:12

(3) The Determined Paul. 21:13-17

(a) His Passionate Fervor, 21:13

(b) His Patient Friends, 21:14-17

i. Accepting Him, 21:14

ii. Accompanying Him, 21:15-17

The Final Journey Recorded, 21:15-16

• The Fateful Jerusalem Reached, 21:17

7. Jerusalem: Be Submissive, 21:18-26

a. The Meeting with the Jerusalem Elders, 21:18-19

(1) The Presentation of the Gentile Saints, 21:18

Acts 21:18 And the *day* following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present.

Rom. 15:25 But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints.

<u>26</u> For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.

27 It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things. <u>1 Cor. 16:1</u> Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. <u>2</u> Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

<u>3</u> And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by *your* letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem. <u>4</u> And if it be meet that I go also, they shall go with me.

Gal 2:10 Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.

(2) The Proclamation of the Gentile Story, 21:19

Acts 21:19 And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry.

• Paul's emphasis is on what God had done, through his ministry.

<u>Mark 16:20</u> And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with *them*, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

<u>1 Cor. 12:6</u> And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

<u>2 Cor. 9:8</u> And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:

b. The Myopia of the Jerusalem Elders, 21:20-26

(1) Their Implied Disinterest in Paul's Remarkable Work, 21:20a "And when they heard *it*, they glorified the Lord..."

(2) Their Improper Discussion of Paul's Religious Walk, 21:20b-26

(a) The Pride They Exhibited, 21:20b
"...and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law:"

(b) The Presumption They Expressed, 21:21-22

i. That the Tales Surrounding Paul Were Correct, 21:21

<u>Acts 21:21</u> And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise *their* children, neither to walk after the customs.

- Too often people misunderstand that lack of support does NOT mean antagonism.
- Because we do NOT support something does NOT mean we are against it.
- Paul taught that Jewish customs were not necessary for spirituality. He did not instruct saints to follow the law in order for salvation nor justification.

ii. That the Trouble Surrounding Paul Would Continue, 21:22

<u>Acts 21:22</u> What is it therefore? the multitude must needs come together: for they will hear that thou art come.

(c) The Proof They Expected, 21:23-24

i. It Was Exacting, 21:23-24a

<u>Acts 21:23</u> "Do therefore this that we say to thee: We have four men which have a vow on them; <u>24</u> Them take, and purify thyself with them..."

ii. It Was Expensive, 21:24b "...and be at charges with them, that they may shave *their* heads: and all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; but *that* thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the law."

<u>Num. 6:5</u> All the days of the vow of his separation there shall no razor come upon his head: until the days be fulfilled, in the which he separateth *himself* unto the LORD, he shall be holy, *and* shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow. ... <u>8</u> All the days of his separation he *is* holy unto the LORD. <u>9</u> And if any man die very suddenly by him, and he hath defiled the head of his consecration; then he shall shave his head in the day of his cleansing, on the seventh day shall he shave it. <u>10</u> And on the eighth day he shall bring two turtles, or two young pigeons, to the priest, to the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: <u>11</u> And the priest shall offer the one for a sin offering, and the other for a burnt offering, and make an atonement for him, for that he sinned by the dead, and shall hallow his head that same day.

12 And he shall consecrate unto the LORD the days of his separation, and shall bring a lamb of the first year for a trespass offering: but the days that were before shall be lost, because his separation was defiled. 13 And this *is* the law of the Nazarite, when the days of his separation are fulfilled: he shall be brought unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation:

<u>14</u> And he shall offer his offering unto the LORD, one he lamb of the first year without blemish for a burnt offering, and one ewe lamb of the first year without blemish for a sin offering, and one ram without blemish for peace offerings,

<u>15</u> And a basket of unleavened bread, cakes of fine flour mingled with oil, and wafers of unleavened bread anointed with oil, and their meat offering, and their drink offerings.

## (d) The People They Excepted, 21:25

<u>Acts 21:25</u> As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written *and* concluded that they observe no such thing, save only that they keep themselves from *things* offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication.

<u>Acts 15:20</u> But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and *from* fornication, and *from* things strangled, and *from* blood. ...

<u>29</u> That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

(e) The Payment They Exacted, 21:26

<u>Acts 21:26</u> Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple, to signify the accomplishment of the days of purification, until that an offering should be offered for every one of them.

## **Conclusion**

<u>Col. 1:10</u> That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, **being fruitful in every good work**, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

<u>11</u> Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; <u>12</u> Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: <u>13</u> Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: <u>14</u> In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

Phil. 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

Phil. 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.