

The Acts of the Apostles

Act 7 in God's Story

Expanding the New Community

The Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 28:23-31



The Acts of the Apostles

Recap Paul's Story:

1. *Born a decade or so after birth of Jesus*
 2. *Born in the Roman Province of Cilicia in Tarsus = dual citizenship*
 3. *Benjamite*
 4. *Moved to Jerusalem at a young age*
 5. *Pharisee*
 6. *Hated Christianity*
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Brief History:

1. *Headed to Damascus to hunt down Christians*
2. *Struck by a flashing light*
3. *Risen Jesus meets him – “Why are you persecuting Me?”*
4. *Falls before Him, apologizes, gives Him his pledge to follow Him*
5. *3 long rough missionary journeys*
6. *Returns to Jerusalem – arrested, tried, held for over 2 years by the Romans*

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Brief History:

7. *Shipped off to Rome to stand trial before Caesar*
 8. *After a BRUTAL trip on sea arrives finally in Rome*
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- Acts 28:23-27
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Prophetic book of Isaiah:

Roughly 700 BC

Israel had undergone Civil War – Israel in the North & Judah in the South

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Book of Isaiah: Really 3 books

1st Isaiah

Ch. 1-39 – Anticipation of the Exile to Babylon

2nd Isaiah

Ch. 40-55 – Words to Judah while IN Exile

3rd Isaiah

Ch. 56-66 – Words to Judah AFTER Exile

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- Acts 28:28-29



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Promise to Abraham in Genesis 15:

To build a Nation - Israel

To work THROUGH that Nation to bless the world

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- Acts 28:30-31



The Acts of the Apostles

1. *What drives someone to this deep a level?*

- *Riots in Antioch*
 - *Stoned in Lystra*
 - *Beatings, tied, jailed w/out trial in Philippi*
 - *Riots in Thessaloniki*
 - *Run out of town in Berea*
 - *Court cases/anti-Jewish revolts in Corinth*
 - *25,000 pagans calling for his head in Ephesus*
 - *Rejected by his community*
 - *Brutal experiences in his travels*
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The Acts of the Apostles

II Cor. 11:21-29 But in whatever respect anyone else is bold—I speak in foolishness—I am just as bold myself. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. Are they servants of Christ?—I speak as if insane—I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep.

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II Cor. 11:21-29 I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches. Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern?

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1. What drives someone to this deep a level?

2. What changes someone so deeply?



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Phil. 3:7-11 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.
