

Notes on Paul's Second Missionary Journey (part two)

Acts 17-18:22

Acts 17:1-9 – The Mission in Thessalonica (Paul, Silas, Timothy)

Paul goes first to the synagogue and teaches for three Sabbath days (weeks)

Teaches about the necessity of the Messiah's suffering and resurrection from Scriptures and then identifies that Messiah as Jesus

The jealousy of the Jews (because of the conversion of devout Greeks and leading women) leads to yet another mob

The house of Jason attacked

“These men have turned the world upside down!” – what a witness!

“They are acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king, Jesus”

Money taken from Jason, and then let go – A way of guaranteeing that Paul will leave?

Acts 17:10-15 – The Mission in Berea (Paul, Silas, Timothy)

Paul and Silas sent away by the brothers in Thessalonica

Again, to a synagogue, but here the Jews were more noble than in Thessalonica

They received the word with eagerness, examining the Scriptures, many believed (both Jews, but also Greeks and not a few women as well as men of high standing)

Jews from Thessalonica come and stir up trouble again

Paul sent away again, this time by sea, Silas and Timothy remain in Berea

Acts 17:16-21 – Paul goes to Athens (no Silas or Timothy)

What does Paul see? How does he feel as a result? What does he do?

Both in the synagogue and the agora (market-place)

- Epicureans – gods uninvolved, life is random, no afterlife; pursue pleasure, live without fear
- Stoics – a supreme god among many gods; it is virtuous to live in line with nature, using logic and reason (think Vulcans from Star Trek)

Paul as a “babbling” (a thought picker)

Paul preaching new divinities (Jesus and Anastasis)

Athenians loved hearing something new

Acts 17:22-34 – Paul's Mars Hill (Areopagus) Speech

Areopagus (Mars Hill) is both a place and a political body in Athens

Is this a sermon or a defense speech?

What did Paul say?

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- God is the Creator of all things
- God is the Sustainer of life
- God is the Ruler of all nations
- God is the Father of human beings
- God is the Judge of the world

The mention of the resurrection again attracts the attention of some

Acts 18:1-6 – Paul's Ministry to Jews in Corinth

Paul leaves Athens (peacefully?) and goes to Corinth

He meets Aquila and his wife Priscilla, Jews who had been evicted from Rome because of the Emperor Claudius' edict

Paul goes to the synagogues again, but persuading Greeks as well as Jews

Silas and Timothy reunite with Paul finally

Acts 18:7-11 – Paul's Ministry to Gentiles in Corinth

Once again, the opposition of the Jews forces Paul to turn to the Gentiles (cf. Acts 13:51; Luke 9:5; 10:11; Neh. 5:13)

Headquarters shifts from the synagogue to the house of Titius Justus

Crispus the synagogue ruler becomes a follower of Jesus! (see 1 Cor. 1:14)

Paul receives confirmation from Jesus in a vision to continue his ministry in Corinth

He stayed for 18 months!

Acts 18:12-17 – Paul's Ministry defended by Gallio, a Roman proconsul!

Paul brought before Gallio for persuading people to worship God contrary to the law

Gallio refuses to make a judgment, considering this an internal problem among Jews

But it wasn't all good (Sosthenes is beaten with impunity and Gallio looked the other way)

Acts 18:18-21 – Paul returns to Antioch, with a brief stop at Ephesus

Priscilla and Aquila now join Paul, Silias, and Timothy to go to Ephesus

Paul cutting his hair because of a vow (no one really knows what this is about)

Paul briefly goes to the synagogue in Ephesus, but promises to return if God so wills

Acts 18:22-23 – Paul returns to Antioch, but then heads right back out on the Third Missionary Journey (Acts 18:23-21:17)